#### Police repulse attack F.P. Report

MIANWALI: Mianwali police repulsed a terrorist attack on its checkpost in Qabool Khel, a bordering area with KP, on Monday. An unusual movement of around 10 to 12 terrorists equipped with rocket launchers was spotted with the thermal cameras on Monday night near check post in Qabool Khel and other advanced arms were spotted attacking the police stations of Ghazni & Shehbaz Khel in Lakki Marwat.

# Frontier Post

Three men shot dead F.P. Report

D I KHAN: At least three people were killed while three others got seriously injured in a firing incident in Dera Ismail Khan district on Monday. According to police, the firing incident took place due to personal enmity between the two families in DI Khan's Budh area. Three people died on the spot from firing, while three others got

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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar talking to national and foreign media in a press conference.

# **PML-N** wants coveted slot of PM

### Zardari seeks top post for Bilawal

F.P. Report

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) have deliberated on the possibility of appointing prime ministers from their parties for a three- and two-year term under a power-sharing for-

their first huddle on Sunday following the February 8 elections as part of their efforts to form a coalition government in the Centre and provinces, according to sources privy to the development. The same power-sharing formula was chalked out by the PML-N and the National Party (NP) in Balochistan in 2013 when two chief ministers from the two parties held office for half of the five-year term.

In the meeting at the Bilawal House in Lahore, the two sides agreed in principle to cooperate for the country's political stability following the general election. The meeting was attended by PPP-Parliamentarian President Asif Ali Zardari, PPP Chairman Bilawal-Bhutto Zardari and

cordial environment, which expressed commitment to putting the nation's interest and well-being above everything. The leaders of both parties engaged in substantive discussions regarding the prevailing political landscape and the imperative of collaborative efforts for the betterment of the country.

The PML-N delegation included Azam Nazir Tarar, Ayaz Sadiq, Ahsan Iqbal, Rana Tanvir, Khawaja Saad Rafique, Malik Ahmad Khan, Marriyum Aurangzeb and Sheza Fatima. The joint statement said key points of discussion were the assessment of Pakistan's overall situation, deliberations on future political strategies and the exchange of recommendations aimed at promoting stability and progress across the board. Both parties affirmed their dedication to steering Pakistan away from political instability and towards a path of prosperity and resilience. The statement said that the majority of the country had given mandate to the two parties and they would not disappoint them. The leaders of the two parties underscored their unwavering commitment to fulfilling the aspirations of people and ensuring their voices were heard and heeded.

According to the inside story of the meeting, the PML-N officially offered the PPP to ally to form a coalition govern-

the insiders added.

The PML-N leadership demanded that LAHORE/ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan it would retain the covered slot of prime Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the minister, while former president Asif Zardari maintained that the PPP's Central Executive Committee (CEC) has already nominated Bilawal for the post of prime minister. After which, the leadership of the two parties explored the possibility of The idea of appointing a prime minister appointing prime minister of their parties for half the term was discussed during for half of the five-year term, as per the

They said the major parties have agreed to form coalition governments in the Centre, Punjab and Balochistan, sources said. They have floated the proposal to devise a five-year roadmap in light of the Charter of Democracy that the two signed in 2006. "The PPP will present proposals for power sharing in the CEC meeting today," the sources added.

The meeting came hours after the PML N and MQM-P leaders agreed on political cooperation for the formation of future governments. PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui from the MQM-P led their party delegations. The PML-N delegation included former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif from the PML-N.

Shehbaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz, Ishaq Dar, Ahsan Iqbal, Rana Sanaullah, Ayaz According to a joint statement issued Sadiq, Khawaja Saad Rafique, Marriyum after the huddle, the meeting was held in a Aurangzeb and Rana Mashhood, while the MQM delegation included Governor Kamran Tessori, Dr. Farooq Sattar and Mustafa Kamal.

According to PML-N Spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb, Nawaz Sharif and the MOM leadership agreed in principle to work together for the benefit of the country and the nation, and in this regard, the main issues had been settled between the two parties. She said there was a detailed consultation on the situation during the one-hour meeting and suggestions were exchanged. They took each other into confidence on the overall political situation and the developments so far.

Earlier, on arrival at Jati Umra, Nawaz Sharif and PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif, along with the party leaders, welcomed the MQM leaders. However, soon after the meeting ended, MQMP Convener Khalid Magbool Siddigui said no talks were held about cooperation for government formation in the Centre.

He also rejected reports that the party had demanded Sindh governorship in return for its support to the PML-N for making the next federal government Meanwhile, PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif telephoned JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and discussed the political situation in the backdrop of the efforts to form a coalition government. Sources said ment. The PML-N leadership also they exchanged views on the formation of apprised the PPP of its contacts with independent lawmakers and MQM-Pakistan, provinces.

# PM surprised at polls rigging allegations

# — level playing field enabled independent candidates to emerge as single largest group in general elections

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday reiterated that the caretaker set-up had provided a level playing field to all political parties during the currently concluded polls and being a 'free and fair' process, a large number of independent candidates backed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf emerged as the largest single group on the national and provincial assemblies seats.

He stressed that allegations of rigging were generated through social media which were based upon misconceptions and contrary to the ground realities, and said that throughout the country's democratic history, people had always questioned the electoral process. Such results indicated the transparency and non-interference by any quarters, he emphasised.

prime minister said that there might be shortcomings or other minor issues, but by and large, the elections were held in a manner in which the entire nation and the law enforcement agencies deserved kudos despite various security challenges. "Where the PTI has public support, it got that and they have results never dreamt of during 2018," he said, adding that the loyalists of jailed PTI leaders were emerged as returned candidates in the general elections but no one was appreciating that aspect of the neutrality of the caretaker government.

The prime minister, to a question, said that despite various threats prior to the February 8 election day and two terrorist attacks in the Balochistan province, all the stakeholders deserved appreciation over the 'big achievement' for peaceful conduct of the polls. He also brushed aside any threats to integrity of the country due to certain protests and agitations held by certain parties, saying "it is an absurd chronology" to relate the situation with Dhaka during 1971. "These are the mere rhetoric. Pakistan is a very stable and responsible country. Holding of a peaceful protest is the democratic right of the people," he said, however, hastened to add that no government could allow the situation leading to chaos or anarchy. Responding to a query, he maintained that over 60 million voters had exercised their constitutional right to

free environment'. The prime minister said that the delay in the announcement of official results were caused by the specific procedures regarding compiling of results at 92,000 polling stations and credited the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for conducting the massive exercise in a smooth manner. He said that the official results were announced within 36 hours while during the 2018 elections, it took almost 66 hours. There might be irregularities but the relevant forums were available to address those

In Sweden, the similar exercise almost took 10 to 11 days while in Indonesia, almost a month was consumed to furnish results, he added. To another question, the prime minister said that mobile phone services were suspended on the polling day due to security threats as the govern-Addressing a presser at the PM House, the ment could not compromise on the security of people. On the other hand, the broadband internet services were available on that day, enabling the people to get connected, he said and rebuffed the allegations that the move was aimed at managing the social media. He said there were other occasions throughout the year, when the mobile services had been suspended to avert security

Prime Minister Kakar, responding to a question regarding the statements of certain countries over the recently held elections, said that if there were any allegations, they would look into them according to the laws of the land and not on the demands of any country. "We will do it if is required under the country's laws," he said, adding that the demands of his countrymen were more important to the government and advised that the statements by certain US Congressmen should not be taken as 'sacrosanct' or gospel truth as they were not speaking on part of the government. The elections in Pakistan were held in a tional mechanism to favour any group, he stressed. Responding to a query about the prospects of forming a commission to investigate the polls allegations, he maintained that it would be up to the upcoming elected government to make assessments over such demands

elect their favourite candidates under 'a pressure were credible reports of terrorist attacks in the country prior to the election date which could not be divulged in the public domain. A leader of the banned Daesh was neutralized during an operation in Qilla Saifullah who was involved in terrorist attacks in Balochistan. The caretaker prime minister also agreed with the President's views over the need of introduction of electronic voting machines (EVMs) and said that according to his personal view, the political parties should hold threadbare discussions in the next parliament over the issue and legislate if required so that the new electoral system could be more acceptable to all. He expressed the optimism that after the current transitional period was over and the new government was formed, there would be a positive wave hitting the markets and businesses, adding that economic challenges would still await the next government. The prime minister also hailed the entry of new voters and said that they would make positive contributions to the democratic process in the future.

To a question, he said that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had no issue with the privatization process of the caretaker government. Restructuring of the PIA (Pakistan International Airlines) had almost been done, and it was in the implementation process, however, it was up to the upcoming government to decide either way,

Expressing his disapproval of the incidents of political confrontation in the recent years, he said that all the political parties and society should move beyond such negative trends leading to animosity and tiffs. "We should get rid of this vicious circle of confrontation by changing attitudes. Political differences should not lead to rifts within the society," he added. He also wished speedy recovery to Mohsin Dawar, a candidate in North Waziristan and said that violent way of protest and agitation should not be free and fair manner and there was no institu- taken to a point of anarchy and chaos. About formation of the new government, the prime minister said that they were eager to hand over reigns of the government to the elected representatives of the people. The speaker of the National Assembly would initiate the required process and he thought that the exercise could take eight and decide, but he would not speculate about it.

About the security threats, he said that there negotiations of the political parties.

#### 2 terrorists killed in Mardan IBO F.P. Keport

RAWALPINDI: Two ter-

rorists were killed by security forces in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Mardan District on Monday, according to the military's media wing.

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the security forces conducted the operation based on the reported presence of terrorists in the area. "During the conduct of the operation, after intense fire exchange, two terrorists were sent to hell,' read the statement.

The ISPR said that weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the slain terrorists, adding that militants remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area. The ISPR also said that a sanitisation operation was being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists found in the

"Local populace appreciated the operation and expressed their full support to security forces in eliminating the menace of terrorism," said the ISPR. A day earlier, security forces eliminated a "high-value target" Surat Gul aka Saif Ullah of Daesh in an IBO in KP's Khyber district. On the reported presence of a high-profile terrorist, secuforces swung into action immediately and carried out a raid in the tribal district, ISPR said in a communique.

### Six bodies recovered

recovered from the mountainous area in Oila Saifullah, Quetta According to details, the bodies of six people recovered from a mountainous area in Qila Saifullah were shifted to a nearby hospital The process of identification of the bodies was underway.

discovered by the police in the Bolan district Balochistan.

# Siraj steps down as JI Amir; Jahangir Tareen quits politics

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Siraj-ul-Haq stepped down as Jamaat-e-Islami Amir on Monday following the defeat and worst performance of JI in the Elections 2024. JI secured no seats in the National Assembly and got only two seats in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Assembly.

In 2014, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's senior minister and leader of the Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq, was elected as the new ameer of the party. Sirajul Haq replaced the then-outgoing chief Syed Munawar Hassan. The elections were at JI Headquarters Mansoora. Out of 31,311 office-bearers of the party, 25,533 people voted which Sirajul Haq managed to secure a majority of votes in 2014.

Siraj ul Haq remained party chief for a tenure of five years and he was re-elected in 2019. Now after serving the JI for 10 years, Siraj ul Haq resigned from his post.

Meanwhile, the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party Patron-in-Chief Jahangir Khan Tareen has decided to quit politics and also step down from the party office.

Tareen announced his decision in a post on X while thanking everyone for their support during the recent election and felicitating his oppo-

Therefore, I have decided to resign from my position as Chairman IPP and step away from politics altogether," Tareen posted

He expressed his gratitude to all the members of the party and wished them the best, I will continue to serve my country to the best of my ability in a private capacity," the post added further. The IPP leader had contested the recent general election from NA-149 Multan, where he was defeated by independent candidate Amir Dogar, as well as NA-155 Lodhran, where he lost to PML-N candidate Siddique Khan Baloch.

Reacting to this announcement, nents. "I have immense respect for IPP President Abdul Aleem Khan over his competitor, Ali Ejaz Buttar, the will of the people of Pakistan. expressed sadness, saying Tareen will who garnered 31,586 votes.

always be the patron-in-chief for the IPP and all of them. He further said that Tareen's presence in any government was an honour for that government. "As a younger brother and IPP president, I pay tribute to him and his philanthropic activities. May them with health, safety and success. Amen," he added in a post on X.

Aleem Khan had emerged victori ous in both NA-117 and Lahore's provincial assembly constituency PP-149, securing a significant mandate from the electorate. According to the official tally, in NA-117, Aleem Khan secured a resounding victory with 72,519 votes, establishing a clear lead

# JI's Naeem withdraws from PS-129 seat

F.P. Report

KARACHI: In a significant development, Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Karachi Hafiz Naeemur Rehman on Monday abdicated his provincial assembly seat PS-129 (Karachi) saying PTI-backed Independent candidate had secured more votes than him.

JI's Naeemur Rehman returned successful on PS-129 (Karachi Central-VIII) by bagging 26,296 votes. Out of the seven provincial assembly seats of Korangi district three were won by independent candidates, two by MQM-P and one each by the PPPP and the JI. Addressing media persons, he said they were giving me the seat in charity. He said worst rigging was made in recent

elections. Naeem said his party had reservations over the results. He said seats were doled out in Karachi. He further alleged that MQM leaders including Mustafa Kamal faced defeat in elections but they were declared winners. The JI emir said his opponents were hell bent destroying Karachi. The JI leader said he had the moral courage to accept the defeat. He notice, he asked, "Chief justice sahib, urged the ECP to declare the real winners as returned candidates.

(ECP) to release results as per Form-45. The JI leader said his party did not want to take people towards violence and extremism. He alleged that MQM candidate secured 6000 votes but these were enhanced to 20,000. We don't want a seat in charity. We want our said Jamaat-i-Islami Karachi chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman at a press conference in Karachi where he forfeited his Sindh Assembly seat.

He said he knew that the heart of Karachi "beat with the JI". Acknowledging that some may not consider his decision to be the right one, he said, "Even if they have erased us, they can't erase us from people's hearts. We will fight for the people, democratically, hold peaceful demonstrations." He further said that the nation "knew everything" due to social media and a "fake mandate" could not be imposed on the people. He called for making the election results in Karachi null and void and for holding the exercise afresh. Calling on the chief justice of Pakistan to take where do the people go?

PTI independents in Karachi chal-He said he had written to the chief lenge election results: PTI supported justice of Pakistan to take notice of the runner-up candidates have filed petirigging in election. He demanded of the tions against election results in Karachi,

Election Commission of Pakistan says in media reports. A lawyers group headed by Jibran Nasir Advocate has filed petitions in Sindh High Court seeking suspension of winning candidates' notifications. Petitioners said that according to Form 45, they have bagged more votes than the candidates declared winners in election.

PTI-supported candidates Aftab Jahangir, Tariq Hussain, Rabistan Khan, Ataullah, Salehzada, Khurram Sherzaman, Ramzan Ghanchi, Murad Shaikh, Dawa Khan Sabir, Ghulam Qadir, Faheem Khan, Syed Faisal Ali, Shakeel Ahmed, Bashir Sodhar, Abdul Qadeer, M. Yasir and Shafeeq Shah have challenged the election results. The victories of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan's Mustafa Kamal and Dr Farooq Sattar on MNA seats were challenged in the Sindh High Court (SHC) earlier on Monday. PTIbacked independent candidates, Dawa Khan Sabir and Aftab Jahangir, who lost to Mustafa Kamal and Farooq Sattar, challenged election results. Khan in his plea said according to Form 45, he won the election with 53,000 votes, but the result was allegedly changed in Form 47 and Kamal was declared winner from NA-242. Jibran Nasir, the counsel of the PTI-backed candidate, pleaded to the SHC to nullify the Form 47.

#### in Punjab, KP and Centre F.P. Report casting votes on February Punjab Assembly, and 130 8. "PTI will resist unethical seats of the Sindh The efforts to hand over Assembly. ISLAMABAD: PTI-backed Independent Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Pakistan to criminals," it (PTI) has started mulling said. PTI demanded the candidates consolidated over a strategy to form gov- immediate resignation of their lead in the general

ernments in Centre, Punjab Chief and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commissioner (KP) after independent can- Sikandar Sultan Raja. didates secured lead in Feb 8 general elections.

According to a state- ECP ment issued after the immediately resign from party's core committee their posts for violating the meeting, the PTI has con- constitution. stituted special committees spokesperson stated that to strategise on govern- after gaining a majority in ment formation in the the general election 2024, Centre, Punjab and Khyber PTI has the right to form Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

The committee agreed to the committees.

and democratic maturity by 296 out of 297 seats of the seats each.

(CEC)

PTI mulls plan to form govts

PTI According spokesperson, the CEC and members should

government in the center. He maintained that

the early completion of the PDM-2 is being imposed nomination process for on Pakistan after rigged important government and elections but people have parliamentary positions as rejected the dishonest parper the recommendations ties through their vote. and strategies proposed by Voting took place on 51 seats of the Balochistan The party lauded the Assembly, 128 out of 130 stituencies, JUI-F in four, people of Pakistan for seats of the Khyber PML-Q in three, while showcasing' their political Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, IPP and BNP won two

Election elections 2024 over mainstream political parties, especially in the National and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assemblies, throughout the announcement result process. According to the results announced so far, independent candidates have managed to win 101 seats. It is worth mentioning

that out of these 101 inde pendent candidates, 92 are supported by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf nine are general independent candidates. PML-N is in the second position with 75 seats, while the PPP has won 54 seats. The MQM-P won in 17 con-

F.P. Report QUETTA: Six bodies were

Last year, bullet-riddled bodies of three men were



# CM inaugurates medicine warehouse up-gradation project

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inaugu- minister stressed the importance of rated the expansion and up-gradation maintaining stability for Pakistan's

During his visit, he inspected the facility and reviewed the process of medication storage.

Secretary Health provided a comexpansion and upgradation, emphasizing the importance of maintaining international standards in medicine storage for safe and timely distribution. The CM commended the performance of Health Secretary and his team, affirming the optimal utilizahealthcare sector. He highlighted the significant results achieved through government initiatives aimed at improving the health sector.

Addressing the media, Mohsin Division, and other officials con-Naqvi emphasized a zero-tolerance cerned were also present. policy towards incidents akin to May 9, stating preparedness to swiftly address any such occurrences.

He encouraged individuals with complaints regarding the Election Commission's procedures to exercise their legal rights and seek redressal

Medicine Warehouse at Gurumangat citizens, expressing hope for ongoing Road, Gulberg here on Monday. incoming administration.

Mohsin Naqvi underscored the storing medicines. He expressed his importance of bureaucratic efficiensatisfaction over the meticulous cy, acknowledging the collective strated by them. The provincial govattention to international standards in effort of his team in achieving success. He highlighted the substantial cost savings anticipated through the prehensive briefing on the project's establishment of new warehouse, emphasizing the need for robust storage facilities to mitigate risks such as fire incidents witnessed in various hospitals. With the new warehouse boasting 1.740m square feet of space, the province is poised to effectively manage its annual procurement of tion of resources for enhancing the medicines valued at Rs 40 billion, he added. Provincial Ministers- Dr. Jamal Nasir, Amir Mir, Secretary Health, Secretary Communication

> Mohsin Naqvi has paid rich tributes to the courageous policemen who had In a statement issued on Monday, space, he maintained.

played by the policemen, adding that the nation was proud of the brave project of the state-of-the-art development and the welfare of its policemen who have, once again, etched a remarkable chapter of courage and gallantry.

He hailed the police jawans as the heroes of the nation, emphasizing that the nation reveres the bravery demonernment would fully encourage the brave policemen, he added.

inaugurates **Commissioner Office:** Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Monday inaugurated the new office of Commissioner Lahore housed in the former naval war college building in GOR-1.

The CM inspected different sections of the refurbished building and noted that the office had been relocated to an easily accessible location. He urged the government officials to maintain an open-door and Works, Commissioner Lahore policy, fostering accessibility and transparency for the public. The commissioner informed that a CM pays tributes to policemen: state-of-the-art monitoring and Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister control room had also been set up. Previously situated in a rented building, the commissioner's office thwarted a terrorist attack on the had faced challenges such as park-Qabool Khel checkpost in Mianwali. ing constraints and limited office



KARACHI: Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam, Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani and Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori cut the cake on occasion of the 45th anniversary of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

# Sindh govt organized a three day Boot Camp program

F.P Report

KARACHI: The College in shaping educational poliorganized a three day Boot M&E framework develop-Camp program with different activities scheduled for each of the three days. On its first day, boot camp was organized with students today on 12th February, Khatoon-e-

Pakistan Govt. Girls Degree College Karachi, bringing together male and female students from various colleges across the city. The primary objective was to engage students in the pivotal task of shaping a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework. This event served as a platform for students to actively contribute their perspectives and insights toward the development of this essential framework. Recognizing the significance of student input, the department

emphasized the invaluable ment aims to ensure that it commitment to fostering a role that young minds play accurately reflects the collaborative approach to Education Department, cies and practices. By those directly impacted by Government of Sindh has involving students in the educational initiatives.

ment process, the departscores department's

needs and experiences of educational development, empowering students to influence positive change This initiative under- within their educational

#### Passerby killed by robbers during escape attempt

was killed in Jamshed Quarters area here on Monday as a passerby lost life in a robbery attempt.

The police said that the victim identified as Jibran 42 fell victim to the gunfire unleashed by two unidentified robbers who were attempting to flee the scene on a motorcycle.

The assailants callously opened fire on the public in their bid to escape. The police shifted the body to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital and

### LESCO upgrades website to solve complaints timely

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Electric (Network) Tanveer Supply Company (LESCO) has Additional Manager (MIS) Durdana upgraded the official website on mod- Yousaf played a pivotal role in the ern lines to solve the problems of the website up-gradation. customers in a timely manner.

tate the provision of information and upgrading the website by LESCO is to timely redressal of customers' com- provide accurate information to the plaints, asserting that now it would be easy to have access to relevant infor- information related to bills would be mation and grievances.

General (IT) Tahir Director

He said that IT officials briefed the According to LESCO spokesman LESCO CEO Engineer Shahid Haider here Monday, the company has about the up-gradation of the website. upgraded the official website to facilicustomers in a timely manner. All redressal of their available on the website, while complaints could also be registered on the website, while the information about Nadeem, Director (Credit Management power shutdown and load-shedding Unit) Rai Masood Kharl, Manager schedule would also be available on (MIS) Wasim Iqbal, Manager the website, he mentioned.

# Speech of Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the Glorious victory of the Islamic republic of Iran

F.P. Report

our Excellency Mr. Jilani,

Honorable Minister of the Islamic inaugurated last year with the Republic of Pakistan, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for giving us the manifestation of the economhonor of attending this cere- ic relations' enhancement and mony on the occasion of the constitutes a fundamental 45th anniversary of the victo- development to connect the ry of the Islamic Revolution important ports of Karachi

Excellencies, Olamay-e Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear guests;

Assalam-u-alaykum, would like to extend my sin-tries aim to reach the figure cere gratitude to all of you for of 5 billion dollars. Dear attending this ceremony.

It is an honor to celebrate this occasion in the friendly, the most important event of brotherly, and neighbourly the 20th century and brought country of Pakistan. The existence of numerous historical, geographical, ethnic, linguistic cultural, and religious commonalities and links has created deep and unbreakable relations between Iran and Pakistan. Iran was the first country to recognize the independent Pakistan. On the other hand, Pakistan was the first country to recognize the Islamic Republic of Iran after the victory of the revolution. The ties between the two countries have been established in such a way that there has been no territorial and border dispute between the two, and now we have strong relations in various

Having been built upon such solid foundations and given Iran's foreign policy to accord priority to neighbors. ephemeral incidents can never fluctuate the relations between the two countries.

Our two countries have close viewpoints on many regional, international, and Islamic world issues, and closely cooperate and mutually support each other in the regional and international

organizations and forums. Considerable steps have been taken in bilateral economic and trade relations over the recent years. The approach of developing relations with the neighbors by H.E. Dr. Raiisi, Honorable President of the

these relations. The opening of common border crossings points and common border Foreign markets, one of which was presence of the heads of the two governments, was a and the National Day of Iran. and Gwadar with the strategic port of Chabahar in Iran. Last year, the trade value between the two countries You are most welcome. I last year, and the two coun-

exceeded 2.5 billion dollars the Islamic guests, Revolution of Iran was called

a new discourse to the politi

Islamic Republic of Iran, has cal literature of the world. scientific, industrial, cultural given more momentum to Self-confidence, and politi- medical, and technological cal, cultural, and economic independence were the gifts of the Islamic Revolution and the main elements of the said

discourse

Based upon this discourse, my country at the national despite the obstacles created level has made tremendous by arrogant powers.

achievements, including nanotechnology and fundamental cells, nuclear technology for peaceful uses, and aerospace technology for peaceful uses of outer space.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

(Loss of Allocation Letter)

Allocation, Intimation, Allotment and Transfer Letter of Plot 943-723-490 Phase XIII Measuring 10 Marla issued by Defence Housing Authority, Lahore Cantt. In the name of Murtaza Nooruddin Daud S/o Nooruddin F. Daud R/o 24B Jimah Lane Peshawar Cantt. has been lost. Finder may return the same to Secretary, Defence Housing Authority,

Main Office Complex, Phase-6, Lahore Cantt. Otherwise after 7 days original Allocation, Intimation, Allotment and Transfer Letter shall be treated as cancelled

# NOTICE FORINVITING TECHNICAL &

Public Health Engineering Division Karak-II intends to invite Technical & Financial Proposals on the basis of single stage two envelope systems from the pre-qualified firms notified vide Chief Engineer South (Chairman of the Committee) Notification no. 08/E-9/PHE dated Peshawar the 18/03/2020 for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of the solar based pumping machinery to be installed on the water supply schemes under various Programme Detail of scheme is as under: -

S.NO	DESCRIPTION	NO OF SCHEMES
1	Solar Based DWSS Under ADP No 258/210473	01 No

Scheme wise list, Technical Specification and the design parameters of pumping machinery for each of the water supply scheme all other terms and condition are given in the bidding documents. Bidders may obtain bidding documents and further information from office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Karak-II on any working day before the closing date. General Terms and Conditions:

Technical Design should be based on Hydraulic Parameters of the scheme provided in the bidding documents and rates should be quoted accordingly in financial bid. Last date of bid submission is 27/02/2023 at 1200 Hours. Technical Bids will be opened at 1400 hours on the same day

by the bids evaluation/Procurement committee in the office of Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Karak-II, in the presence of bidders or their representative opted to attend. Date of financial bid opening shall be intimated The contractors quoting their bids more than 10% below upto 20% below on Engineers Estimate, shall submit. along

with their bids 8% Additional Security of Engineers Estimated cost in addition to 2% bid security in light of KPPRA

Notification No.SRO(14)/Vol:1-24/2021-22/6158-71 dated 10/05/2022, in case the bidder quotes. more than 10% below than Engineer Estimate and bid is not accompanied by detail rate analysis and/or required amount of Additional Security then the said bid shall be considered as non-responsive and all the securities submitted along with such non responsive bid shall be forfeited in favor of Govt, and the 2nd lowest bidder and so on will be considered accordingly. If a contractor quoting bid more than 20% below shall submit with his bid an additional security on Engineers Estimated cost equal to the differential amount of submitted bid and Engineers estimate along with detailed rate analysis. In case of

more than 20% below bids, if the bid is not accompanied by the detailed rate analysis and/ or required amount of additional security, then the said bid shall be considered as non-responsive and thus all the securities submitted along with such non-responsive bid shall be forfeited in favour of Government and the 2nd lowest bidder and so on will be considered accordingly. In case detailed rate analysis submitted with the bid is in view of the Procuring Entity, not convincing, the Head of the Procaring Entity may declare such bid Non-

Bidding Tender documents fee of Rs. 2000/- as per Govt, rules shall be payable through demand draft or pay order (non-

refundable) in the name of Executive Engineer PHE division Karak-II. Bidders must be registered with KPRA and shall have renewed their registration.

This tender notice is also available on PHED wabsite www.phedkp.gov.pk Other terms & condition can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on any working day, before last date of submission of bids.

9. The tender form fee @ Rs. 0.03% shall be accompanied with tender documents in shape of CDR. 10. The Firm shall commence the work within 15-days after receipt of work order if funds are available

Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Karak-II.

#### Yasir demonstrated exceptional honesty F.P. Report

Multan International Airport, Yasir, demonstrated exceptional honesty when he discovered a jewelry box at the International Briefing Area around 01:15 p.m. This incident occurred during the briefing for the Multan-Bahrain flight of Gulf Air GF 789. Without hesitation, Yasir promptly informed the Terminal Manager (DTM) about the finding. Utilizing the airport's CCTV system, the DTM successfully located the rightful owner within approximately twen-

# PFA launches crackdown on sale of unsafe food

LAHORE (APP): On the directions of sary records of oil change to the raiding have been stepped up to curb the sale and purchase of unsafe food in Punjab including Lahore. PFA DG Muhammad Asim Javaid said

that PFA's enforcement teams inspected 16 breakfast points and 44 milk carrier vehicles in Data Ganj Bakhsh Town and Sagiyan, respectively and penalized seven total fine of Rs105,000 and served warning notices to nine eateries for improverusty vessels, failing to present the necesplaints or suggestions.

Punjab Food Authority (PFA) Director teams and unhygienic working environ-General Muhammad Asim Javaid, efforts ment. Apart from that, workers of the food points did not have medical certificates, he added. He further said the food safety teams issued notices to nine FBOs for making improvements. Moreover, he said that dairy safety teams examined 44 milk carrier vehicles loaded with more than 44,000 litres of milk.

The director general made it clear that food business operators (FBOs) with a compromising the quality of food items won't be tolerated at all, while food points were being closely monitored by the PFA. ment. He said the authority took action He said that citizens could contact PFA on against FBOs for preparing breakfast in its Helpline-1223 for food-related com-



ty-five minutes

Government of Pakistan Ministry of Interior NADRA Regional Head Office Peshawar



#### File# Auction/Vehicle-Motorbikes/2023-24/16 **AUCTION OF 7 × VEHICLES AND 21 × MOTORCYCLES OF NADRA RHO PESHAWAR** FOR FY 2023-24

National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) Regional Head Office, Peshawar invites Sealed Offers for auction of condemned vehicles as per details mentioned below

Vehicles for Auction					
S #	Vehicle No.	Make & type	Model		
1.	A-1754	Suzuki Pickup	2011		
2.	A-4634	Suzuki Pickup	2004		
3.	A-4644	Suzuki Pickup	2004		
4.	A-5079	Suzuki Pickup	2005		
5.	A-5602	Suzuki Pickup	2005		
6.	A-5603	Suzuki Pickup	2005		
7.	AA-2649	Master Foreland	2011		
	Mot	orbikes for Auction			
S #	Vehicle No.	Make & type	Model		
1.	IDK-5842	Honda CD-70	2000		
2.	GL-153	Sohrab CD-70	2003		
3.	F-2588	Sohrab CD-100	2003		
4.	A-5247	Sohrab CD-70	2006		
5.	A-7946	Honda CD-70	2006		
6.	AA-5651	Honda CD-70	2009		
7.	AA-6566	Yamaha YD-100	2009		
8.	AA-6544	Yamaha YD-100	2011		
9.	AA-6598	Honda CG-125	2002		
10.	AA-5223	Sohrab CD-70	2006		
11.	AA-7949	Sohrab CD-70	2006		
12.	AA-5656	Honda CD-70	2011		
13.	AA-6435	Yamaha YD-100	2011		
14.	AA-6436	Yamaha YD-100	2011		
15.	AA-6437	Yamaha YD-100	2011		
16.	AA-6439	Honda CG-125	2011		
17.	AA-6640	Honda CG-125	2011		
18.	AA-6641	Honda CG-125	2011		
19.	AA-6716	Honda CG-125	2012		
20.	AA-6717	Honda CG-125	2012		
21.	AA-6730	Honda CG-125	2012		

- The vehicles will be disposed off "as and where it is" basis. The vehicles can be inspected between 09:00 AM to 04:00 PM from 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024 except Saturday and Sunday in the presence of
- Documents containing detailed terms & conditions for auction can be purchased by the interested parties from 09th February 2024 to 11th March 2024 upon a written request on official letter head addressed to the Procurement Section, NADRA Regional Head Office, Peshawar at given address from 09:00 AM to 04:00 PM (Monday to Friday) & upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs.1000/- before closing date.
- The Sealed Bids prepared in accordance with the instructions of the bidding documents must reach at below mentioned address on or before 11:00 AM on 11th March 2024. Received Bids will be opened on the same day at 11:30 AM.
- This advertisement is also available on PPRA website at www.ppra.gov.pk.

PID(I) 4784/23

NADRA reserves the right to accept or reject all the bids as per Rule 33 of PP Rules, 2004.

Rizwan Shamim Assistant Director (Procurement) Regional Head Office, NADRA Plot # 31-B, EOBI Building Phase V,



# **Petitioners in Peshawar** challenge election results in 8 constituencies

hawar reached the Pesh- in Form 47, suggesting ulating the final results. awar High Court (PHC), potential manipulation. with eight petitioners chalrespective constituencies.

During the proceedings, representing the petitioners final Form 47 (constituen- cases is limited, and direct-

PESHAWAR (INP): The contended that while Form cy-level declaration). They ly ordering the electoral

a bench consisting of Mahmood Jan, argued that Article

PESHAWAR: Secretary Finance Amir Sultan Tareen giving bouquet to

Mohsin Dawar recovering

from injury: Dr Farid Ullah

Former Member National recovery however due to However, he said he was

Waziristan, Mohsin Dawar suffering from fever adding will soon be among his

and his condition was out Talking to the media, Mohsin Dawar and his of danger, said Surgeon Dr Mohsin Dawar said he went three friends had sustained

rid Ullah. through an operation and bullet injuries during a The doctor said Mohsin was feeling weak due to protest in North Waziristan.

PESHAWAR: A vendor displaying and selling oranges to attract customers

who was injured during a his condition would soon

protest was fast recovering be normalized.

(APP): Dawar was on track to excessive blood loss

people after a complete

recovery.

from North the deep wound, he was gradually feeling better and

retiring officers Syed Akbar and Hidayatullah of Finance Department.

battle over alleged election 45 results favored them, accused Election Commresult manipulations in Pes- discrepancies were evident ission of Pakistan of manip- falls outside their purview.

However, the ECP's Lawyers representing legal counsel objected to responses from the Election lenging outcomes in their the petitioners, including the admissibility of the Commission till February prominent political figures application, citing constitu- 15. Notable petitioners inclike Taimur Jhagra and tional provisions under lude Taimur Jhagra, Kam-Mahmood Jan, argued that Article 225 and Section 9 ran Bangash, Mahmood Justice Shakeel Ahmed and results initially declared in of the Election Act. Justice Jan, Arbab Justice Arshad Ali presided Form 45 (polling station Arshad Ali remarked that Muhammad Asim, Ali over the hearing. Advocates results) were altered in the their jurisdiction in such Zaman, Shahab, and Sajic

watchdog to recount votes

**Peshawar City** 

Consequently, the hearing was adjourned pending



channel.

ndana Gulzar Khan has achieved a remarkable milestone by becoming the first elected female MNA from KP on a general seat.

With an impressive victory in the recent elections, she secured a staggering 78,971 votes, solidifying er position as a represen tative of the people.

Expressing her grati-tude, Khan took to social media platform X to share her sentiments, stating, "Alhamdolilah. Honoured to be the first elected female MNA returning to the National Assembly on a general seat from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa." Her victory marks a significant moment for women's representation

Reflecting on past instances of female representation, it is noteworthy that in 1977, Begum Nasim Wali Khan was elected. although she couldn't take the oath.

#### Kundi opines PDM 2 could not work well

Pakistan People's Party leader and spokesperson Faisal Karim Kundi said that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is the party's candidate for prime minister.

"If Bilawal does not become the PM, then the PPP should sit in opposition. We may also support the PML-N prime minister and sit in opposition. The final decision will be made by the CEC," he said while speaking to a private TV

He said: "The decision regarding the CM in Sindh will also be made by the CEC. The PPP holds a majority in Balochistan. If we support the PML-N in Punjab, then the PML-N should support us in Balochistan." He opined that the Pakistan Democratic Movement part two could not work well.

#### Shandana first elected female MNA from KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Sha-

in KP's political landscape.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (R) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah inaugurating newly installed MRI machine in Khyber Teaching Hospital.

# **GIKI** hosts moot on climate change, emerging trends

PESHAWAR (APP): The ference would help to build and Emerging Trends in climate change.
Civil Engineering Prof Dr. Tau (CCETC-2024) began in Ghulam Ishaq Institute of civil engineering in the Engineering Sciences and integration of climate Technology on Monday.

in the context of Civil tion measures. Engineering. The event brought together scholars, researchers, industry leaders, and policymakers to discuss the challenges posed by climate change in civil engineering.
The Executive Director

of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Sciences and Technology in (SOPREST) Shakil Durrani was the chief guest of the conferwhereas Chancellor of Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro Prof. Dr. Tauha Hussain Ali Vice Chancellor, Karakoram International University Prof. Dr. Atta Ullah Shah were the guests of honor.

The inaugural day featured keynote speeches, panel discussions, workshops, and setting the stage for important knowledge knowledge-sharing

The speakers talked about the urgency of civil engineering to respond the climate change challenges and stressed the need for new and innovative solutions to protect the environment for sustainable development.

Shakil Durrani emphasized the harmony to make engineering solutions more climate-friendly.

The Rector of GIK Prof. Dr. Fazal Ahmad Khalid highlighted the significance of the conference in addressing climate change challenges, and its impacts on infrastructure. He mentioned that the discussions

1st International Confe- infrastructure that would rence on Climate Change withstand the challenges of Prof Dr. Tauha Hussain

Ali emphasized the role of resilience into infrastruc-The conference marked ture projects. He explained an important gathering the advanced techniques for where experts from around assessing natural hazards, the world participated to modeling their impacts, and talk about climate change implementing risk mitiga-

the first day of the confer-He said that the collec- rienced professionals.

participation and enthusi-

asm of the participants on

rbayev University Kazak-

speakers on the occasion.

The Chair, Prof. Dr. M.

neering community would Mehran University Dr. Aneel Kumar and Dr. Shazhelp in tackling climate im Ali Memon from Nazachange.

Throughout the day, parhstan also spoke as keynote ticipants had the chance to connect with others, learn from experts, and explore Ashraf Tanoli expressed his new technologies and solusatisfaction over the active tions. The conference also provided a platform for young researchers and students to showcase their work and learn from expe-



PESHAWAR: Supporters of PTI block Peshawar-Islamabad Motorway as part of their protest against results of general elections.

### Hamza secures 2nd position in Outstanding Diplomacy Award

PESHAWAR (APP): Lect- to 29, 2024, said a press Medical College, Dr Amir Hamza Khan achieved second position among 200 delegates, securing the Outstanding Diplomacy Award for his simulation representation of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The event, organized by the renowned US-based organization and NGO, Best Diplomats, took place Ƙuala and ideas shared in the con- Malaysia, from January 25

urer in Community Health release issued here on by the World Health Sciences at Peshawar Monday. It featured intense Organization as a youth competition among over delegate. In the past, he has 200 participants from 60 attended the Best Diplomat different nationalities.

> nized for bringing together and participated in four top diplomats and experts online Model United Natioworldwide, provided a plat- ns (MUN) simulations. form for participants to showcase their talents with a diverse array of topics.

The event proved to be an arena for intellectual dis- ons at the Best Diplomate Lumpur, course and diplomatic

Dr Khan was sponsored Conferences held in Dubai, The conference, recog- Egypt, Turkey, Thailand,

> Dr Khan achieved the position first Diplomat Award) out of 300 delegates and 60 nati-Conference in June 2023, held in Dubai.

# **PESCO** announces power suspension on various feeders

Shahibagh, inconvenience.

will remain suspended pended from Rehman Baba from Jamrud Grid Station Grid Station on 14th and on 13th, 15th and 20th 19th February from 9:00 February from 9:00 a.m. to a.m. to 3:00 p.m. resultant-3:00 p.m. resultantly, con- ly consumers of Kachori, sumers of Taj Abad 2 feed- Shalozai, Safdar Abad, ers will face inconven- Khanmust, New Hazar ience. The power supply Khwani, Surizai, Phandu will also remain suspended Baba, Urmar 2, Hazar from Peshawar University Khwani, Yakatoot, New Grid Station on 14th and Chairman Daftar, Jameel 19th February from 9:00 Colony, Ring Road, Beri a.m. to 3:00 p.m. resultant- Bagh, Rashid Ghari, ly consumers of New Surizai, Akhon Abad, Ring Hayatabad 5 and Ring Road 2, SIDB feeders will Road feeders will face face inconvenience.

Monday notified that due a.m.to 3:00 p.m. resultantly to maintenance work consumers of University power supply will remain Campus, Canal Town, suspended from 500 KV Malakandher, Engineering, Sheikh Muhammadi- Regi, Taj Abad, Taj Abad 2, Tarbela Grid Station on Agriculture, Mera Achini, 13th and 14th February HMC, Ring Road, Danish from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Abad, Ghrib Abad, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Abad, Consequently, it said Rahatabad 1, CMB and that consumers of load Abdara feeders will face management will be car- inconvenience. The power ried out on 132 KV supply will remain sus-Peshawar University, pended from RMT Grid Peshawar Cantt, Peshawar Station on 13th, 15th and Industrial, Kohat, KDA, 20th February from 9:00 Hangu, a.m. to 3:00 p.m. resultant-Warsak, Rajar, Peshawar ly consumers of Safdar City, Sakhi Chashma, Abad 2, RMT, Professor Shabqadar, Rehman Baba, Model Town, Durrani Rajar, Mattani grid con- Media Colony, Sheikh nected feeders will face Yaseen feeders will face inconvenience. The power It said that power supply supply will remain sus-Rashid Ghari,

The power supply will The power supply will also remain suspended NCB, Airport, PAF Base, ers were main suspended from from Kohat Road Grid Saddar Road, Mall Road, ience.

PESHAWAR (APP): Peshawar University Grid Station on 14th and 19th MES 1, 2, Old MES, Babu Peshawar Electric Supply Station on 13th, 15th and February from 9:00 a.m. to Ghari, Marble Industry, Company (PESCO) on 20th February from 9:00 3:00 p.m. resultantly, con-SAA, Palosi 1, Behari sumers of PAF Express, Colony, Tehkal Payan feed-Kohat Road, Wazir Bagh, ers will face inconven-Sonehri Masjid, Bana ience. The power supply Mari, Nothia, Murshad Abad, from Pesco Colony Grid Abasin, Old Deh Bahadar, Station on 13th, 15th and Deh Bhadar, Wazir Abad, 20th February from 9:00 Ameen Nodhya Payan, Murshid Dora Ababad, Nodiya Bahadar, Lundi Darmangi, Warsak Road Arbab 1, 2, 3, Sheikh and Jail feeders will face Muhamadi, Pishtakhara, inconvenience. The power Swati Gate, Gulbarg, supply will also remain Scheme Chowk, Chairman suspended from Shahi Daftar feeders will face Bagh Grid Station on inconvenience. The power 13th,15th and supply will remain sus- February from 9:00 a.m. to pended from Peshawar 3:00 p.m. resultantly, con-City Grid Station on 14th sumers of KSM, Industrial and 17th February from Naguman, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Bypass, resultantly consumers of Ghari Sikhandar Abad, Zaryab, Naguman, Shah Phandu Road, City Home, Latif Abad, Dalazak Mari, Bana Islamabad, Faqir Abad, Bagh, New Takht Abad Sheikh Abad, Molvi G, New Naguman and Nishtarabad, NHA feeders Khazana feeders will face will face inconvenience.

Civil Quarter, will remain suspended ColonyJ Bara, a.m. to 3:00 p.m. resultantly consumers of Bank of Road, Khyber, Scarp 1, ICF, Bakhsho Pull, Hamza, Alam, Urmar, Sarbuland Pura, Transmission

inconvenience. The power The power supply will supply will remain sus-remain suspended from pended from Haripur -Peshawar Cantt Grid Havelian Transmission Station on 13th, 15th and Line on 15th February 20th February from 9:00 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. a.m. to 3:00 p.m. resultant-ly consumers of Tehkal, 132 KV Tank, Gomal Islamia College, KTH, AMC, Nathiagali, Commercial, Jahangir Abbottabad and Kholian Abad, University Town, Bala grid connected feed-NCB, Airport, PAF Base, ers will face inconven-

#### Two women elected in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa polls

PESHAWAR (APP): Two independent female candidates have emerged victorious in the recent elections, securing general seats from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Suraya Bibi, contesting on PK-1 provincial assembly seat, clinched victory with an impressive margin, secur-ing 18,914 votes. Her closest competitor, a candidate from JUI-F, trailed behind with 10,533 votes.

Similarly, Shandana Gulzar Khan made waves by securing a landslide victory on the National Assembly seat NA-30, garnering a remarkable 78,971 votes.

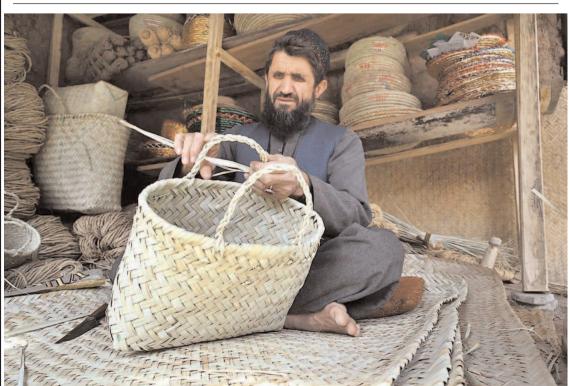
Her nearest rival, representing JUI-F, managed to secure only 20,950 votes.

#### 3 money launderers held, Rs 25.6mln recovered

PESHAWAR (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Commercial Banking Circle here Monday held three money launderers and recovered Rs 25.6 million from their custody.

According to FIA spokesman, the accused including Samiullah, Hamza Khan and Ali Khan were arrested from Batkhela Malakand. The FIA team recovered 25.6 million Pakistani rupees from the accused who failed to produce a money trail.

Records related to Hundi reference were also recovered from the accused. A case has been registered against the accused and further investigation was underway.



PESHAWAR: A craftsman busy in making a basket from dried date palm leaves at his shop in Dabgari

Civil Judge

turndowns

status quo

against NPC
Syed Waliullah Shah

NOWSHERA: Civil Judge

Poon Hameed Awan vacated

status quo against Nowshera

Press Club (NPC) annual

elections and declared the

polling for electing cabinet

concluded as per the consti-

The election process was challenged by Tafhim-u-Rehman along with eight

outsiders at the civil court of

Madam Poon Hameed Awan

on 23rd December while the

nomination procedure con-

cluded on 22nd December

Muhammad Riaz and Naeem

Khan advocates argued that

the applicant had also chal-

lenged 2023 elections and the

plea is rejected by the con-

cerned court. They added

that the applicants neither

members of NPC nor eligible

for contest the club elections.

Civil Judge Nowshera Poon

Hameed Awan turndown sta-

tus quo against NPC's elec-

tions after conclusion of

lawyers

tution, on Monday.

NPC's



#### In brief

Free medical camp held F.P. Report

GHALANAI: In a dedicated effort to extend services to remote communities, the Pak Army and Frontier Corps North collaborated to host a Free Medical Camp in Kamangara, Mohmand. A team comprising doctors and nursing staff offered complimentary medical check-ups to a total of 498 patients, encompassing 120 male, 180 female, and 188 children. Additionally, 10 patients received specialized dental examinations, ensuring comprehensive care for attendees. The initiative received accolades from the local community, acknowledging the commitment of the Pak Army and Frontier Corps North towards enhancing healthcare accessibility in underserved areas.

#### Death anniversary held F.P. Report

Speakers paid rich tributes to the late human rights activist and former district Pakistan People's Party (PPP) general secretary Sardar Muhammad Younis Bali on the eve of his 19th death anniversary in a simple function held at here his residence Dera Bali in locality. Barianwala Former district and sessions judge Riazul Hasan Awan and leaders of different political parties and office bearers of human rights NGOs said in their speeches on the occasion that Bali was a brave human rights worker who fought his whole life for the cause of poor people. The participants added that as a political activist who served the people of the area for which he was imprisoned while he was also forced to leave Pakistan and stay in exile in England. Ouran khawani was also held

#### Man killed, two women injured

MUZAFFARGARH (INP): Bike rider was killed with two women were injured by hitting with truck coming behind at Mian Wali road near pathan hotel. The rescuer said the motorbike got crashed with the truck was hit with the car first of all which was ahead of it. M. Shakeel, 45, son of Bashir Ahmad, succumbed to head injuries on the spot. His both of legs got multiple fracture as well. The injured including Naseem Akhtar, 42, w/o Shakeel Naseem Ahmad, and Shaista, w/o Munawar wounded at knee joint of the left leg and both of legs fractured respectively. The victims were removed to Nishtar Hospital Multan after giving them emergency treatment on the location. Police of the concerned jurisdiction were informed which started the investigation.

#### Anti polio drive in Khanewal

KHANEWAL (INP) About 614,789 kids will be given anti-polio doses during the five-days campaign commencing from February 26 in district Khanewal. This was disclosed by officials in a meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Waseem Hamid Sindhu, here on Monday. The deputy commissioner directed officials to comall plete possible arrangements for vacci nating maximum kids He also directed officials to initiate special awareness campaign to motivate parents to get their kids vaccinated against the crippling disease. Two drops of anti-polio vaccination were of vital importance, he added. The meeting was also attended by CEO Health Dr Majeed Bhatti and representatives of World Organization



NOWSHERA: Students of Nowshera Medical College in a group photo with members of BoG during

# Third party audit of election need of hour

**Anees Taker** 

MARDAN: Former Federal Minister and central leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Nawabzada Khawaja Mohammad Khan, shows his concerns over the transparency of elections held on 8th February. He expressed dismay over the manipulation of hundreds and thousands of votes, with candidates winning national seats despite polling stations being devoid of voters. Khawaja Mohammad

Khan cited instances where one candidate would win in the evening, only for another to emerge victorious by morning, undermining the integrity of the electoral process. He warned that such elections could spell economic disaster for the region. Referring to the province of Khyber province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Khawaja Mohammad Khan urged authorities to refrain from experimenting with different political parties, emphasizing the need for stability at the federal level.

noted that a coalition gov-

F.P. Report

MARDAN: There is fear of

eserted and crowded pub-

lic spheres, due to the neg-

ligence of the staff respon-

sible for cleaning the canal,

people are thinking of the

canal as a pile of dirt and

putting all the garbage in

the canals and the irrigation

staff wears a cloak of

to which the residents liv-

ing near the canal are suf-

fering from various dis-

notice from the district gov-

ernment. According to the

absent instead of paying

Mardan Katlang Road are this regard.

Mardan Katlang Road canal. Shankar Canal. Both the Acc



maintenance of the canal by Emergency Officer (DEO)

eating for free and running of Mardan Rescue 1122,

anal. instructions of Mardan According to the media Rescue 1122 Director Dr.

representatives that the their services according to

duty, due to which the peototal of 405 accidents.

canal staff do not do their international standards in a

garbage in the canals near- road accidents, 292 medical

by residents are suffering accidents, 15 fire accidents,

The public sector told 8 firing and fighting acci-

the media representatives dents. In these incidents

money from the people due Transferred from one hos-

to which the Shankar canal pital to another. 51 patients

has become a pile of dirt. were transported to the dis-

Rescue 1122 releases open and avoid unneces-

their business by accepting Imran Yousafzai, while pre-

and others, had failed to sustain for more than 16 address, he advocated for months at the center. the formation of a federa-Highlighting the low voter tion where all provinces turnout in areas like Lahore and communities are repreand Karachi compared to sented equally.

Mardan, he questioned However, he expressed whether voters in Mardan doubts about the feasibility had also cast their votes.

Khawaja Mohammad Khan underscored the need the hands of one communifor transparent elections, ty would only worsen the suggesting that a victory for country's situation. He the Pakistan Tehreek-e- appealed to the Army Chief Insaf would have been to conduct a transparent Former Federal Minister acceptable had the elections inquiry into electoral irregbeen fair. He called on sen- ularities and to punish those ernment comprising vari- ior politicians to reconsider involved.

various diseases due to bribes by giving open leave senting the weekly report, piles of dirt and filth in the to those who litter the said that in the light of the

employees working on the report, 80 percent of the Khateer Ahmed, the expert canal are missing due to public held the canal staff and diligent young men of

which the canal has become guilty and told the media Mardan Rescue performed

ple and shopkeepers throw

silence and is content to that the canal staff appear and accidents, 16 people

while receiving bribes due pose of bribery and extort the hospital or on the way.

from various diseases.

fight with the violators after months for the pur-

the Shankar Canal on take immediate notice in gency

attention to cleaning and weekly report: District sary and fake calls.

ous parties, including the their participation in elec-Pakistan Muslim League- tions, warning against turn-N, Pakistan People's Party, ing elections into mere spectacles. Concluding his

> of such a vision, fearing that concentrating power in

> > According to details, 77

13 miscellaneous accidents,

lost their lives on reaching

ambulance

### SHO injured due to fire in Swabi Public facing viral diseases threats in Mardan F.P. Report

SWABI: SHO Parmoli Police Station district Swabi Fawad Khan received a gunshot injuries to the head during the exchange of fire between two rival groups on Monday. Fawad Khan, currently in critical condition, has been swiftly transported to Bacha Khan Hospital for medical attention.

The incident unfolded as tensions escalated between two groups, leading to the unfortunate confrontation in which Fawad Khan was caught in the crossfire. The assailants managed to flee the scene successfully after the shooting. The police are now conducting an investigation to identify and apprehend the individuals responsible for the incident.

#### Dead body recovered F.P. Report

The public sector in trict hospital, while one People demand to take Mardan. The district gov- patient was transferred out-THATTA: A decomposed ernment and the high side Mardan district. The body of a youth was recovauthorities of irrigation public is requested for full ered from a water channel details, the staff working on have been demanded to cooperation. The emernear Gharo town of district Thatta on Monday. The requested to keep the traffic deceased identified as Abdul Ghafoor Ghaban drowned in KDA water channel while saving his brother around two months

Both brothers were taking bath in the water channel when his brother was trapped in the shallows. He saved the life of his brother but drowned after trapping in the water flow. The relatives of the deceased started searching for the body with help of local divers and the Pakistan navy but could not succeed and

eventually lost hope. After around months they received information from local villagers that a body was found entangled in the nets. The relatives of the deceased identified the body through clothes last worn by him. The body was in a tainted condition with a foul smell emitting out. The body was then taken to the native village of the deceased for

#### Elected MNA, MPA greeted F.P. Report

TANK: Tank Bar Association on Monday felicitated the newly elected MNA Dawar Khan Kundi and MPA Usman Khan Bettani.

President Tank Bar As-Pir Abdul sociation, Ghaffar Shah and his cabinet congratulated both elected members and expressed hope that they will work for the development of district and welfare of people.

# Another blast victim breaths his last, laid to rest in Lower Dir

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: A youth injured in the yesterday blast at Shago Kas identified as Basit, 17 son of Zar Kamin, a resident of Shago Kas succumbed to injuries and laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard here on Monday. A large number of local residents, government officials, social and politi-cal activists attended the funeral prayer.

The deceased was a student of Class 10 and according to his relatives he had topped last year's annual examination. Talking to this reporter the deceased's uncle Zamin Khan said that it was the second such incident at the same place. He said that an official of the bomb disposal squad Sabzi Ali was martyred and another cop Ajmal had injured when an explosive device went off at the same spot a week ago. The BDS staff was there to defuse the device on the bank of the Panjkora River at Shago Kas area.

The area elders meanwhile demanded of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to include the deceased in the Shuhada package and compensate the injured youths who are under treatment Peshawar hospital.

The Lower Dir deputy commissioner Wasil Khan Jamaat-i-Islami district take notice of the matter along with district police chief Izazul Mulk Afkari on and satisfy the teachers'

the deceased Basit and ernment and high ups of the offered fateha for the departed souls. They expressed grief over the tragic incident and condoled the deaths. The officials also prayed for the said that four police offispeedy recovery of the injured children. Talking to the deceased's relatives the DC said that an expert team had been called from Peshawar to clear the site from the explosives which had been dumped there years ago.

Meanwhile the PPP district secretary information advocate Alam Zeb blamed the Lower Dir police for the incident. Talking to local journalists at Timergara he demanded a high level inquiry into the matter. He said that two children were killed while three others were injured when the explosive device exploded near the Panjkora River. The PPP activist said that a week ago a BDS staff member had also embraced martyrdom at the same site device. He alleged the police left the area without clearing it from the mines and explosives. The newly elected MPA of the PTI Shafiullah also demanded an immediate

expressed his grief on the killings of young children. Ban demanded: The

probe into the matter and

police department to strictly ban the deployment of police officials outside the district. Talking to local journalists at Timergara he cials belonging to Lower Dir were martyred in DI Khan bomb blast on polls' day. He said that police officials belonging to one district were unaware of the ground situation in other districts, so the high ups should ban their deployment in far off districts.

Teachers' grievances: The teachers' organizations of Lower Dir on Monday complained that female teachers were misbehaved and ill-treated on polls' day. In a joint statement the All Secondary School Teachers' Association general secretary Muhammad Rashid Khan, district president of All Primary Teachers' Association Qazi Habibullah and Malgari Ustazan district president Wazir Zada alleged that the while defusing an explosive election commission local officials misbehaved with female teachers on Feb 8

during their election duties. They said that female teachers were appointed as presiding officers, assistant presiding officers and polling officers in far off areas due to which they suffered hard. They demanded the deputy commissioner to officer Ziaud Din and other Monday demanded of the organizations in that officials visited the hujra of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa gov-regard.

### Ex-general secy of District Bar Association shot dead

SHIKARPUR (PPI): Muhammad Usman Khan, the robbers in day light Former General Secretary of District Bar Association Shikarpur and senior advocate Jalaldin Soomro was shot dead within the jurisdiction of New Faujdari clash between the two Police Station here on brothers over the matter of Monday.

by his brother Athar Ali Soomro in Shikarpur area.

SSP Shikarpur Dr Muh- story. mmad Imran Khan while receiving the information about the incident directed City Muhammad Usman Khan to respond to the incident immediately and arrest the involved murderer at earliest.

Later, a big police party, ed by ASP City

reached the spot, collected entered the evidence and started the Microfinance Bank Service search of the killer. The Centre, deprived the bank cause behind the murder staff of their mobile was said to be an ongoing phones, Rs60,000 cash, and brothers over the matter of property, police added. Further police investigation According to police, the senior advocate Jalaldeen into the matter was in Soomro was gunned down process. Neither FIR was registered nor arrest could

> Microfinance Service Centre: Robbers looted Microfinance Bank Service Centre at main busy area of Hathi-Gate within the jurisdiction of heinous offences, including Stuart Ganj Police Station in Shikarpur on Monday. According to a report, on the rise.

Bank

outlaws fled to unknown destination after swift oper-Muhammad Soomro, the manager of Microfinance Bank Service be made till filing of this Centre, said that they were sitting in their Center as usual when two armed men entered there and deprived them looted them at gun-

two official laptops. The

point. The law and order situation Shikarpur has worsened as murders, robberies, and kidnapping for ransom is



QUETTA: Security forces blocked road due to protests of political parties against alleged rigging in elections.

# French delegation visits Moin Jo Daro

F.P. Report

LARKANA: A French delegation visited Moin Jo Daro, the historical heritage of Sindh headed by Martin Nicoli including D-K Area, HR, Stupa Great Bath, Museum and various his-

torical parts of the site. The delegation said while talking to the media on this occasion, the head of the French delegation, Martin Nicoli, said that Moin Jo Daro is an ancient historical heritage which can be estimated by looking at the masterpiece historical parts. He said that it can be inferred from the fact that the people living here used to live in spacious houses, while the intellect remains stunned when looking at the archaeological parts, we feel very

happy to come here, on this ago, there was a tension occasion foreign tourists. On between the gazetted offithe security arrangements were tightened.

Meanwhile, teachers district and protested for the fourth day. A symbolic brought hunger strike was held in front of Press Club on the fourth day after the teachers locked the schools of the district against the filing of filed which we strongly a case against the district condemn, he added that president OF Graduate G.M. Abro is an education-School Teachers Association (GSTA) in which teachers union lead-

ers participated. Addressing the protesters on the occasion, Mazhar Shahani, Nazar Muhammad Mugheri and others said that five days

the arrival of the delegation, cers over the appointment of the Taluka Education Officer, due to which the former Taluka Education locked the schools of the Officer Ali Gul Shaikh, without civil against President of GSTA Union, GM Abro, in the jail. A false FIR has been

friendly teacher who is always trying to popularize education, filing cases against him is anti-education and There is a conspiracy to violate the rights of Hussain Soomro, Mumtaz teachers and suppress the voice of teachers. And will be imposed on the adminis-

# held in Hyderabad

Hajj training workshop

demonstrate their behav- administrative training.

also urged pilgrims to facilities as compare to H Y D E R A B A D: make special prayers for past. Along with reducing Caretaker Minister for the stability and security the Hajj expense, a spe-Religious Affairs Aneeq of the country in Arafat cial mobile app has been Ahmed has urged the Hajj field. In the Hajj training created for the guidance pilgrims to pay special workshops, special of pilgrims. The Ministry attention in preserving the arrangements have been of Religious Affairs will prestige of their country made for the guidance of provide free mobile phone in Saudi Arabia and Hajj rituals as well as SIMs and a briefcase to each

ior as civilized citizens. The training is manda-While addressing the tory for all Hajj pilgrims. women pilgrims will be provided free abayas as first Hajj training work- This year, pilgrims are well.

shop in Hyderabad, he being provided better Hajj pilgrim while

OUETTA: Ex-provincial minister Meetha Khan addressing a press conference.

Death toll rises

to 54 in southern

#### Tuesday, February 13, 2024

# Candidates struggle with Indonesian election costs

BALI: For the last few months, 47year-old Erfin Dewi Sudanto has been trying to sell his kidney. One of thousands of candidates running in Indonesia's regional legislative council elections on February 14, he had hoped to raise \$20,000 to help fund his political campaign. "This is not just a sensation. I am serious. I am minus, no property. The only way [to fund my campaign] is selling my kidney," Erfin, standing for the National Mandate Party in Banyuwangi in East Java, told Al Jazeera after his social media appeal went viral.

With campaigning continuing for two months, the cost of running in Indonesia's election is expected to be higher than ever this year. While political parties usually provide some support for logistics and witnesses to oversee the count, candidates must find money for the rest - from stump speeches to campaign T-shirts and memorabilia. Erfin estimates he because the continued vote buying is the change islative candidates. With the high cost needs as much as \$50,000 and reveals of a proportional representation systhat much of that will go to providing tem from closed to open-list. what he describes as "tips" to secure the support of potential voters. In other words, vote buying.

imum fine of \$3,000 and three years in jail. But the practice remains pervasive. "I personally don't want to society. At least [a candidate] prepares 50,000 rupiah to 100,000 rupiah (\$3-7) for each voter [to win]," Erfin said. He says vote buying continues due to the lack of monitoring by officials and that he has been left with no choice but to join in.

"No one is enforcing the law. The General Election Supervisory Agency (BAWASLU) seems to fall on deaf ears," he said. BASWALU did not respond to Al Jazeera's request for comment on the allegations. Burhanuddin Muhtadi, a leading researcher and executive director of Indikator Politik Indonesia, told Al Jazeera that, based on his research, at least a third of Indonesian voters had oil, either 'very often', 'often' or

ducted nationwide surveys on vote buying in relation to the campaign for the national legislature. In the 2019 ed in that way would have been Indonesia equivalent to 63.5 million out of the total 192 million voters.

rate is around 20,000-50,000 rupiah as 10 billion rupiah, or about respected daily newspaper. \$683,000, just to buy votes. The price is even higher in oil and gas-rich the world in terms of money politics after Uganda and Benin, which is \$63m allegedly sourced from illegal begins the last week before the voting double the average of money politics mining and gambling activities ahead day. The candidate will massively globally. "It is like a new normal," of the 2024 elections. Last month, it distribute the money to gather vot-



Under the closed-list system, which was in place before 2008, the party determined who would get the Vote buying is illegal under seats it had won. With open-list, can-Indonesian law. The penalty is a max-didates win seats according to the number of votes they get. "Before the system was applied, there was only limited money in political practice. buy the vote. [But] it's rooted in our But after it applies, every candidate competes to win the personal vote. Even between them in the same party," he said. Rian Ernest Tanudjaja, 36, a legislative candidate from the Golkar Party, spent \$83,000 on his campaign in 2019. "I needed the budget mostly for canvassing door to door, volunteers' incentives, printing calendars and ballot samples," he said.

Ernest is opposed to vote buying but says the reasons it persists are not related to the voting system. "We cannot only blame the proportional openlist system. Although we change the system, the mentality of the candidates still wants to win at any cost. The vote buying will still be carried been offered voting incentives, such out," he said. He says eradicating the as money, or food like rice or cooking practice is not only about enforcing the law but also about educating voters. "People should not vote for a can-During the last two elections in didate who gives [money] staple 2014 and 2019, Burhanuddin confood, because this person will only focus on earning the money back through corruption [once he is elected]," he said. Habiburokhman, the election, the number of voters affect- deputy chairman of the Great Movement Party (Gerindra), said in December that the al 192 million voters. cost of campaigning this year could "For the legislative candidate, the reach as much as \$1.5 million in some seats. Most of the money will (up to \$4) per vote," he said. As a go towards campaign props and souresult, some candidates, particularly venirs to "guard and gather" the vot-in densely-populated islands like ers, he was reported as saying by the annoyed with it," he said. In the last Java, might have to prepare as much Kompas daily, Indonesia's most

corruption agency said it was investiregions. One vote in those places can gating reports from the Indonesian many as 10 years in prison. In the cost \$150, according to Burhanuddin. Financial Transaction Reports and The figures place Indonesia third in Analysis Center (INTRACT) on lack of cash may have left him at a Burhanuddin said in his report, said it was investigating suspicious ers," he said. — Aljazeera

islative candidates. With the high cost of campaigning, some have tried crowdfunding, but it is an uphill battle. Manik Marganamahendra, a legislative candidate from the Perindo Party in Jakarta, has secured \$12,700 through crowdfunding. "I invited my former classmate in campus, high school and colleague in office to an event, where I pitched them my campaign [budget plan] and eventually, they donated," said the former chief of the student executive board of University Indonesia, who once called the parliament a "Council of Traitors". He has used the money mostly to print banners. On the campaign trail, Manik openly discusses money politics. While some voters were aware it was wrong, most still asked for the "tip". "For them, elections are only a momentum to earn money," he said.

Adiguna Daniel Jerash, 23, a pariamentary candidate in Jakarta with the Indonesian Solidarity Party, has been leaning on Instagram, TikTok and other social media platforms to raise funds for his campaign. "I was inspired by Obama, Bernie Sanders, Alexandria Ocasio Cortez," he told Al Jazeera. "They are a trendsetter and a proof that crowd-funding can be done." However, it has proved a challenge for Jerash. "Indonesia is not yet ready to crowdfund a politician," he said. After weeks of campaigning on Instagram, he said he had only collected \$1,000. The first-time politician is not giving up and is also using his social media platforms to campaign against vote buying. educated my voters about money politics that candidates should not use a tip [to buy votes]," he said. Some of his audience supports his idea. "But week before the election, Erfin had not found a buyer for his kidney. The same month, Indonesia's anti- Under Indonesian law, the sale of organs is illegal and punishable by as scramble for votes, he fears that his begins the last week before the voting

# Famine looms in Sudan

Sudan's capital Khartoum. She solicited overseas three times a week.

Forces (RSP), who looted the property and savings of hundreds of thousands of people. In Abdel Hay's neighbourhood, many Sudanese fell into poverty and relied on her meals to survive. "When we started, about 70 people would come to us for food

from several neighbourhoods," Abdel Hay told Al Jazeera from Khartoum. "Eventually, we started to see more than 200 people coming each time we cooked.

Ten months into Sudan's civil war between the RSF and the Sudanese army, the country is facing acute added. Water-borne diseases are about three or four times a week hunger, aid groups and famine experts told Al Jazeera. The United Nations estimates that about 18 million people are facing emergency levels of hunger - double the figure from last year. A recent internet blackout across the country compounded the crisis by suspending east. money transfers, which the diaspora relies on to support loved ones in the country. As famine looms, aid agencies are calling for \$4.1bn in funding to avert a catastrophe in Sudan refugees. "Even if [hunger levels stay where they are], hundreds of thousands of children will die by next year," said Alex de Waal, an expert on famines and the executive Foundation at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. "That's what a year-long [food] emergency for millions of people will cause," he told Al ernment-backed militias

KHARTOUM: In September, nomadic "Arab" tribes fought Soulayma Abdel Hay started a soup against mostly "non-Arab" sedentary groups. Before the current war, the camp was home to about donations to buy rice, beans and 400,000 people. Emmanuel Berbain, eggs and to cook for hungry families an MSF medical team leader, said civilians in Darfur have suffered Khartoum had mostly fallen to from rising levels of hunger after the paramilitary Rapid Support many UN agencies and global relief groups terminated operations in the region at the start of the war due to lawlessness and insecurity.

> people fleeing recent violence in South and Central Darfur have sought refuge in Zamzam, Berbain, who recently visited the camp, said.

Amid that shortfall, thousands of

"Civilians in Darfur have been left with nothing," Berbain told Al Jazeera. "Many people have also not been able to harvest their crops due to displacement or after their land was ravaged [due to the war]," he also causing extreme levels of malnourishment across the country, especially among children. In December, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), declared a cholera outbreak in Gadarif, a state in the far

Berbain said that Darfur is likely dealing with a similar or even worse crisis. "Children suffering from diarrhoea [brought on by cholera] for weeks and weeks will suffer and countries hosting Sudanese extreme malnutrition. That's why water and sanitation is one of the key drivers of the crisis," he told Al Jazeera. Sudan is running out of time to mitigate a food crisis exacerbated by the conflict, according to a director of the World Peace recent policy brief by the Clingendael Institute, a think tank in the Netherlands. The report found that the war has acutely affected food availability and people's ability to buy it. In West Darfur, the RSF Jazeera. Malnourishment is already and allied militias conducted an ethaffecting millions of people in nic cleansing campaign - possibly Darfur, according to Doctors with- genocide - by driving "non-Arab" out Borders (Medecins sans communities from their land. The Frontieres or MSF in French). On RSF has also systematically looted February 5, the aid group declared aid warehouses, banks, cars, homes that hunger kills two children every and jewellery from across the counhour in the Zamzam displacement try while, to make matters worse, camp in North Darfur. Zamzam was the army is restricting aid to regions with them or with HAC, which is an established during Darfur's first under RSF control and cracking arm of the [security forces] and major civil war in 2003, where gov-down on grassroots initiatives trying whose very purpose is to steal aid? from to feed their communities. "By ...

preventing people from accessing food, the [army] and RSF may be perpetrating starvation crimes," stated the Clingendael report. "What is clear is that both generals show every sign of intensifying the war with reckless disregard for the humanitarian consequences.' Experts and Sudanese activists

say Western states and UN agencies should streamline funding to Emergency Response Rooms (ERRs), grassroots committees that are supporting hundreds of soup kitchens across the country. In Khartoum alone, the ERR is divided into seven districts and they split their funding - raised from remittances and donations - to activists running soup kitchens in their respective areas. Some sour kitchens feed hundreds of people daily, while others feed people according to Hajooj Kuka, the spokesperson for the Khartoum ERR. "The kitchens are divided into small, medium and large. Large kitchens produce food for between 100 or 150 families... the small ones serve about 40 and the medium

ones around 80," he told Al Jazeera There are many people that eat at these kitchens every day because that's their main or only source of food," he added. Despite the vital role that ERRs play in feeding their communities, the global community is failing to support them. De Waal said Western donors are hesitant to directly finance ERRs because they will struggle to trace how each dol lar is spent. He added that the global community willingly cooperates with the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), which many experts and aid agencies believe is a front for military intelligence. Al Jazeera previously uncovered how HAC controls, profiteers, diverts and confiscates aid in areas under the army's control, according to multiple aid groups, experts and activists "ERRs are people who are accountable to their communities,' De Waal told Al Jazeera. "Would [the global community] rather deal

#### Ukraine intelligence 'confirms' Russian forces using Starlink

International

KYIV: Ukrainian intelligence said it has confirmed that Russian forces are using satellite internet service Starlink on the battlefield in occupied areas in the east of the country. Releasing what it said was proof, Ukraine's military intelligence said it has confirmed earlier reports that of the "systemic" use by Russian troops of terminals of Elon Musk's satellite communications system.

Starlink systems have been vital for Ukraine's battlefield communications in Russia's nearly two-yearold invasion as Kyiv has faced a larger and betterequipped military. The personal control of Starlink by the US billionaire, who has regularly repeated Kremlin talking points regarding the conflict, remains a concern for Kyiv and its allies. The terminals were rushed in to help Ukraine after Russia's February 2022 invasion and have been vital to Kyiv's battlefield communications. Following reports in Ukraine, Space X said last week that it "does not do business of any kind with the Russian government or its military". However, the Ministry of Defence's Main Directorate of Intelligence (GUR) posted an audio clip on Telegram which it said featured Russian troops discussing setting up the terminals in eastern Ukraine.

"Cases of the Russian occupiers' use of the given devices have been registered. It is beginning to take on a systemic nature," GUR quoted spokesman Andriy Yusov as saying. In a statement, the agency said the terminals were being used by units like Russia's 83rd Air Assault Brigade, which is fighting near the embattled towns of Klishchiivka and Andriivka in the partially-occupied region of Donetsk. Reports from Ukraine last week claimed that Russia has sourcing Starlink equipment in spots such as Dubai. Western tech components have regularly been found among Russia's arsenal as Moscow has become more skilled at evading sanctions, often importing goods via third countries. – Aljazeera

#### Stubb elected Finland's next president

FINLAND: Former Prime Minister Alexander Stubb has won the election runoff against ex-Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto to become Finland's next president, and take on the task of steering the Nordic country's foreign and security policy now that it is a member of NATO. With all votes counted, the centre-right Stubb of the National Coalition Party had 51.6 percent of the votes. while independent candidate Haavisto from the green left got 48.4 percent of the votes. Initial voter turnout was 70.7 percent. Stubb, who started his

political career as a lawmaker at the European Parliament in 2004, won the first round on January 28 with 27.2 percent of the vote ahead of Haavisto with 25.8 percent. He has also led Haavisto in surveys, most recently by 6-8 percentage points. Haavisto, 65, conceded defeat after a projection by the Finnish public broadcaster YLE showing a win for Stubb was released. He shook Stubb's hand and congratulated him at Helsinki City Hall, where the candidates and the media were watching the results come in. "This has been a fair, great race," Stubb told Haavisto after the result was clear. "I'm proud that I have been able to run with you in these elections. Thanks for a good race." The vote marks a new era in Finland, which for decades has elected presidents to foster diplomacy, in particular with neighbouring Russia, and opted not to join military alliances in order to soothe tensions between Moscow and NATO. But Finns changed their minds about playing that role after Russia began its full scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. and the country joined NATO in April last year. Now under the Western alliance's security umbrella, the new president will replace Sauli Niinisto, who is retiring after two six-year terms in which he earned the nickname "the Putin Whisperer' for his previous close ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin. — Aljazeera

#### Philippines landslide from a landslide that hit a gold-mining village in the official from Davao de Oro, southern Philippines has said more than 300 people risen to 54 people and 63 were involved in the resothers are missing, authorities have said. The landcue, but operations were being hampered by heavy slide hit the mountain vilrain, thick mud and the lage of Masara in Davao de

tial rains. Davao de Oro's provincial government said in a Facebook post that 54 bodies had been recovered, raising its previous death toll of 37 earlier in the day as rescue workers found more bodies. At least 32 residents survived with injuries but 63 remained missing, it said. Among those missing were gold

Oro province on Tuesday

night after weeks of torren-

he told the Reuters news agency. Rocks, mud and trees slid more than 700m (2,300 feet) down a steep mountainside near the Apex Mining Co concession, burying an 8.9-hectare (22-

concrete

Edward Macapili, an what rescuers described as "miracle". More than 1,100 families have been moved to evacuation centres for their safety, disaster response officials said. Rain has pounded parts of threat of further landslides. the southern region on and Rescue work resumed, Macapili said. Asked if off for weeks, triggering dozens of landslides and there were still survivors, floods that have forced tens of thousands of people into he said it was already "unlikely", but the search emergency

Earthquakes also damaged

houses and buildings in the

region in recent months,

officials said. Landslides are a frequent hazard across much of the archipelago nation due to the mountainous terrain, heavy rainfall and widespread deforestation from miners who had been wait-ing in two buses to be driv-en home when the landslide old girl was pulled alive mining, slash-and-burn farming and illegal logging.
— Aljazeera

## Stoltenberg criticises Trump's Nato comments

would continue."The res-

cue team is doing its best,

even if it's very difficult,"

BRUSSELS: Top Western weighed in on Trump's mer United States President Donald Trump after he suggested the US might not protect NATO allies who aren't spending enough on defence from a potential Russian invasion. "Any suggestion that allies will not defend each other undermines all of our security, including that of the US, and puts American and European soldiers at increased risk," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said in a written statement.

"Any attack on NATO will be met with a united and forceful response," he added. At a political rally in South Carolina in the US, Trump, who is likely to be the Republican nominee in this year's US presidential election, had said that as president, he warned NATO allies that he "would encourage" Russia "to do whatever the hell they want" to countries that are 'delinquent". Trump's remarks come as Ukraine money to the country as it Internal struggles with stalled coun- Commissioner Minister

NATO," he wrote on social platform X. media European said: "Reckless statements on #NATO's security and Vladimir] Putin's interest." Article 5 of the NATO treaty says that an armed attack against an alliance member will be considered an attack against them all, triggering collective self-defence. During the political rally, Trump appeared to recount a meeting with NATO leaders, and quoted the president of "a big country" that he did not name as asking, "Well sir, if we don't pay, and we're attacked by Russia - will you protect us?" "I said: Republicans in the US hell they want. You gotta vital it has ever been". Congress have become pay." "We have heard that "Rather than calling for

was actually a female presofficials have criticised for- comments. "NATO's motto ident, not of a country, but 'one for all, all for one' is a of the European Union," commitment. Breton said, referring to Undermining the credibili-European ty of allied countries means President Ursula Von der weakening the entire Leyen and a conversation she had with Trump in 2020. "We cannot flip a Council coin about our security President Charles Michel every four years depending on this or that election, namely the US presidential Art 5 solidarity serve only election," Breton said, [Russian President adding EU leaders understood the bloc needed to boost its own military spending and capacities. Asked about Trump's

comments, White House spokesperson Bates said: "Encouraging invasions of our closest allies by murderous regimes is appalling and unhinged - and it endangers American national security, global stability and our economy at In a statement home." issued, Bates said current US President Joe Biden, a 'You didn't pay? You're Democrat seeking re-elec-delinquent?' He said: 'Yes, tion in November, had let's say that happened.' No, restored US alliances after remains mired in its efforts I would not protect you. In taking office in 2021, to stave off Russia's 2022 fact I would encourage ensuring that NATO was invasion and as them to do whatever the now "the largest and most increasingly sceptical of before ... Nothing new wars and promoting providing additional aid under the sun", said EU deranged chaos, President Market Biden will continue to bol-Thierry ster American leadership teroffensives and weapons Breton in an interview with and stand up for our shortfalls. Polish Defence France's LCI television, national security interests -Wladyslaw adding: "He maybe has not against them," Bates also issues with his memory. It said. — Aljazeera

### What's happening in Rafah as Israel threatens to attack?

Israeli ground "operation", and the impact on more than a million trapped civilians are top headlines. But what is Rafah and what are the details around announced Israeli "operation"? Rafah straddles the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt.
On the Palestinian side, it

Kosiniak-Kamysz

is the name of Gaza's southernmost governorate and its capital city, as well as of the crossing into Egypt's Sinai. On the Egyptian side, it is a city in the North Sinai governorate. Palestinian Rafah is 64sq km (25sq miles) and, as Israel assaulted Gaza these past four months, more and more people have been herded into it by Israeli forces who keep promising safety "further south"

which never materialised. Approximately 1.4 million Palestinians have now been pushed into Rafah by relentless Israeli bombing that has killed nearly 30,000 Palestinians. People are in dense clusters in the limited space not filled with debris or being bombed by Israel. Conditions are dire, with severe shortages. Tel Aviv claims four Hamas brigades are present within Rafah, using their presence there to justify the ongoing attacks by air as well as a planned land assault. Israel also claims plans for the evacuation of the city - to where is unclear - are being prepared, leaving those sheltering in Rafah paralysed. Because the trapped civilians are pressed up against the border with Egypt, analysts say it seems likely Israel wants to push them into Sinai. This raises concerns over Egypt's internal security and the

than a million traumatised

GAZA: Rafah, a looming Palestinians forced into its flee to," said territory. Egypt has reportedly moved 40 tanks and armoured personnel carriers to the Gaza border to halt any potential spillover from Egypt has warned that any Israeli ground assault on Rafah would have "disastrous consequences" and that Israel's aim to force the Palestinians out of their land would threaten the 40-yearold Camp David peace accord between the two countries. Cairo has beefed up border security since October 7.

Palestinians have faced

mass displacement in the not-too-distant past: the Nakba. In 1948, some 750,000 Palestinians were ethnically cleansed from their homes and lands to make way for the establishment of the state of Israel. Many in Gaza are the leave Palestine because they know it will be impossible to return - Israel won't let them. Arab countries, like Egypt, also object to any displacement as Palestinian Right of Return has been a main demand since 1948. No. Israel is already killing more than 100 people a day in air attacks on Rafah. Those who survive the attacks live in unspeakable conditions in tents that fill with water whenever it rains, or under as captives, Israel's declared whatever scraps they find to make a shelter. Many Palestinians in Rafah have been displaced many times over and say they will not move again, no matter what. Like Jihan al-Hawajri who told US broadcaster PBS that she would stay in her

Norwegian Council. Satellite images obtained by Al Jazeera show an Israeli land assault. an area already at breaking point. Some 22,000 people are crowded into each of Rafah's 64sq km. Before the war, 275,000 people lived in those 64sq km, making Rafah one of the most densely populated parts of Gaza, itself among the world's most overcrowded parts. The displaced crowd into UNRWA facilities, hoping the agency that was set up to help them would be able to. But nearly 150 of UNRWA's staff were killed in Israeli attacks, aid is being stopped by Israel, and Western governments withdrew funding when Israel alleged - with no proof yet that 12 UNRWA staff participated in the October 7 descendants of Nakba attack. Overcrowding has refugees and do not want to resulted in the spread of disease, with health officials reporting an outbreak of hepatitis A - which flourish-

Caredda, Middle East and

North Africa director for the

With isolating patients impossible, there is little hope of stopping this outbreak or others, like scabies and lice, worsened by a lack of showers or hygienic toilets. When the October 7 attack happened - killing 1,139 people in Israel - and Palestinian armed fighters took 240 people into Gaza aims were to return the captives Hamas". Since then, the narrative has shifted back and forth. First claiming to only be targeting armed fighters. Israel soon imposed a complete starvation siege on Gaza, killing civilians with prospect of having more tent, come what may every passing minute. -"There is nowhere left... to Aljazeera

es in close contact.

#### The Frontier Post Rehmat Shah Afridi (Late)

Founder
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### The global ostracism against Afghanistan

THE Russian Federation has voiced support for Afghanistan's representation in the upcoming international climate change summit commonly known as the COP 29, scheduled to be held in Azerbaijan's Baku. The Special Presidential Envoy for Climate Change of the Russian Federation, has recently visited Kabul and discussed the Russian Federation's bilateral relations with the Islamic Emirate in the fields of economy, trade, and cooperation in the area of climate change. The Islamic Emirate urged the Russian Federation to cooperate in providing training to the Afghan staff in environmental protection and forestation to coup the grave risks associated with global warming.

Afghanistan has been left out of the multiple UN-hosted global Climate talks in recent years after the Taliban took control of the country in August 2021. The Islamic Emirate had been barred from participating in COP 26, COP27, and COP 28 Summits held in recent years even though Afghanistan is one of the world's most vulnerable countries to climate change, due to worsening droughts, recurrent earthquakes, and flash floods. Afghanistan has gone through a large-scale humanitarian and environmental crisis over the past years. The country's economic issues further deeper by the prolonged droughts, whereas, the changes in rain, snow, and heat patterns caused water shortages, damage to farming, and a lack of livelihood as more than 80% population depends on agriculture in one or the other way. The rising temperature triggered glacier melt that prompted water scarcity and greatly affected water resources and agrarian communities in the country. However, Kabul was not invited by the UN Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC) to various climate Change summits held in the past two years

Historically, the Afghanistan interim rulers have experienced deep diplomatic and political isolation from the global community after they regained power in Kabul. The political boycott of the Islamic Emirate seriously hurt the Afghan people and businesses and largely undermined the economic development and social uplift of the country. The Central Bank of Afghanistan (DAB) is unplugged with the global Banking and Financial System commonly known as SWIFT, whereas, the interim government failed to secure a single recognition from the global community so far. The reasons for the global no recognition and noncooperation with Taliban rulers are mostly political as the United States and its allies have linked their diplomatic recognition, bilateral trade, economic ties, and Humanitarian aid with the human and women rights situation and terrorism issues that are also important clauses of the famous Doha agreement, which pave the way for US withdrawal and Taliban return to power in that country.

In fact, Climate change-induced disasters are neither restricted to geographical regions nor do they impact communities based on religion or political affiliation. If Afghanistan experiences a humanitarian crisis or a natural calamity this can spill over onto other regions, triggering displacement, political instability, and insecurity. The multilateral global forums like the UN, and the Global Climate Change Summits are aimed at the Universal protection and well-being of mankind, which act as knowledge-sharing, and resource adaptation platforms to tackl grave challenges relating to human survival on the earth. Despite no contribution to global carbon emissions, Afghanistan is one of the biggest victims of climate change and is seriously vulnerable to the worst effects of global warming. Hence, permanently blocking Afghanistan's access to those global forums is not only disastrous for the country and its people but conversely jeopardises the global efforts against global warming. It is a sane idea that if the global community does not recognize Taliban rulers on a bilateral level, it must not resist Afghanistan's presence at the multilateral forums including the UN Global Climate Summit to carry forward the universal agenda in their country. So, the global endeavour regarding climate change is not undermined due to mutual differences and political tussles of the nations in the world.

#### **Malicious** anti-state propaganda

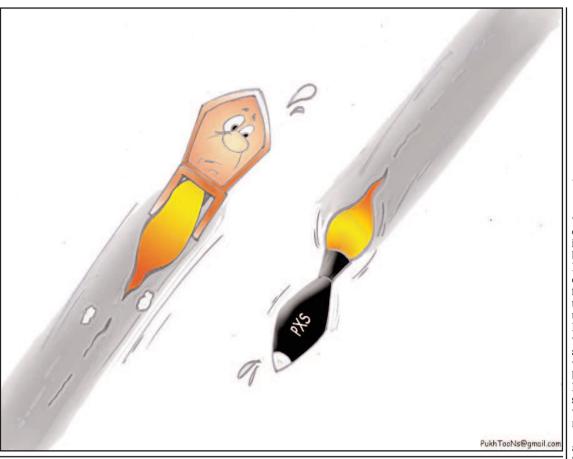
HE fabricated and malicious propaganda related to the army deployment on election duty has been exposed. According to the reports, some malefactor political elements are misguiding their supporters for political gains, while referring the security troops deployed for election duty, the recorded videos of riots, and anti-army propaganda are being posted on social media to effect anti-state propaganda. Various anonymous propaganda accounts have been spreading lies, disinformation, and rumors, to create chaos, agitation, and instability in the country since Election Day. As said, absconder YouTubers, sitting outside abroad are leading this anti-Pakistan disinformation campaign.

An offensive online battle began against the state institutions including the ECP, the Pakistan Army, and the caretaker government before the nationwide polls, and this heinous business continued on social media, certain Whatsapp groups, and individuals' YouTube channels of misguided political workers and so-called media men. This nefarious campaign is less political than a deliberate defamation campaign against the Armed Forces of Pakistan. The Pakistan Army troops' deployment on election duty is being portrayed in a negative sense linking with alleged rigging and manipulation of electoral results in the constituencies where a specific political party or its back candidates faced defeat in the recent election.

Although Pakistan's constitution categorically protects civil liberties, freedom of expression, and the right to peaceful assembly of its citizens but such blatant anti-state propaganda and defamation campaigns do not come under the fundamental rights of the citizens but constitute a serious crime and treason against the nation and the state. Previously, the FIA Director of Cybercrimes reached out media and made tall claims about the FIA's achievements particularly claiming the FIA's success against anti-state elements on social media. Days after that claim, a fresh wave of vicious online subversion unhindered spreading nefarious propaganda against the state. Multiple laws govern social media and regulate online traffic, hence strict legal action needs to be taken against those who are involved in this malicious anti-state crusade, so no political pandit, any criminal or crook ever dare to target Pakistan and its institutions any time in the future.

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# Western narcissism and support for genocidal Israel go hand in hand

**Donald Earl Collins** 

OR more than four months now, the United States, the United Kingdom, and not alone in his self-deluother Western countries sion. At the Conservative have been staunchly sup- Friends of Israel gathering porting Israel's war on in London last month, UK Gaza. As of now, the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak Israeli army has killed showed unwavering support than 28,000 for Israeli attacks on Gaza Palestinians, including and the West Bank. "There more than 12,000 children. is a horrific irony in Israel, On January 26, the of all countries being aternational Court of accused of genocide,"

International Justice ruled that "at least Sunak said, labelling South some of the acts and omissions alleged by South Africa to have been committed by Israel in Gaza appear to be capable of falling cannot be accused of genowithin the provisions of the [Genocide] Convention," and that South Africa's can only be non-Western claim that Israel is commit- (really, non-white) nations, ting genocidal acts is "plau- such as South Africa. Biden, West continued to stand by

Then when Israel alleged understandable that employees of the choices when they are fight-United Nations Relief and ing wars and killing people (UNRWA) were linked to ing "terrorism". Hamas, the US, the UK, dozen other countries sus- around the world and the pended their funding, as deaths of tens of thousands Palestinians in Gaza faced of Palestinians, the razing of starvation.

behaviour. selves as "the good guys". "I book for saying you don't have to be a Jew to be a Zionist, and Massachusetts in early December, when the death toll in Gaza already stood at 16,200. "We've [Americans] never thought anything is beyond our capacity, from curing cancer this time n't understand about the around to everything we've ever done. I really mean it," he added.

narcissism for a world era of the 1990s. They are a leader to declare himself a response to the trail of 50-year-long adherent to a death, white supremacist ideology devouring of resources that that excuses apartheid, settler-colonialism, and geno- ever since Christopher cide and then to turn to the Columbus made his way to greatness of the US and all the Western Hemisphere its "possibilities", as if the and Vasco da Gama found a pixie dust around the world and not intervening with brutal military and economic power over the past 130

But the US president is Africa's case against Israel "completely unjustified".

The "horrific irony" is that Israel, as a Western ally, cide because it is one of "the good guys". The "bad guys" Nevertheless, the Sunak et al still believe that as the leaders of the developed world, they are making rational Works Agency for Palestine in the name of self-defence Refugees in the Near East or under the guise of fight-

Despite the protest of Germany, and more than a tens of millions people Gaza and other crimes Despite Western com- against humanity, the disreplicity in actions the world's gard for the ongoing war in top court is recognising as Sudan and the conflict in the Western and democratic institutions countries still honour them- will save the world. In his The Clash got in trouble many times Civilizations (1996), the late political scientist Samuel Huntington warned about I am a Zionist. I make no the dangers of the Western apologies for that. That's a delusion that the rest of the reality," President Joe Biden world should embrace its said in a speech at a private purported values. "The surcampaign reception in vival of the West depends on Americans reaffirming their Western identity Westerners accepting their civilization as unique not

universal," he wrote. But what Huntington did-West's quest for a one-world civilisation is that today's resentments toward it didn't It takes a special kind of start in the post-Cold War destruction, and Westerners have left behind Asia, both in the 1490s.

The rest of the world has pillage of gold, silver, and in the past year, despite evi-

gems from newly invaded lands, then through the enslavement of millions of Indigenous, African, and Asian peoples, and finally through the conquest of the old empires of the East. This belief in Western civilisation Indigenous people, wiping as superior and righteous out up to 90 percent of the because of its whiteness is population within 100 years so ingrained in its culture that young people in the West grow up without anyone in their lives ever questioning it. That is, until someone like me as a history professor comes along and confronts this funda-

mental belief. In my many years of the estimated 10 million teaching history, my own Congolese who Belgians students have often gotten into it with me over my supposition that "Western civilisation" is a contradictory term. "But the Aztecs practiced human sacrifice!" one student yelped, while a rationality remained strong calmer student, with a raised hand, said, "It's unfortunate that atrocities happened to the natives, but it's insulting flicts, as many as 90 million compare what the Spanish did to what happened to Rome.'

That was the strong push-annihilated in the US back I received from a few nuclear bombing of students in one of my world history courses a few years back when I spoke of the exactly why my students barbarity of the Spanish have difficulty accepting genocidal, the West still Democratic Republic of the conquests of the Aztecs and that Western civilisation assigns itself all manner of Congo, Western leaders still the Inca in the 16th century contradicts itself at every superiority in civilised socibelieve Western capitalism and the similarities between those invasions and the nial scholar Edward Said Vandal and Visigoth tribes who helped end the Western Roman Empire. I pointed out the achievements of the civilisations destroyed and the conquistadors and the civilisation] Spanish priests burning nearly all Mayan writings, desecrating Mexica, Mayan, and Inca temples, and forcing the population into slav-

ery and Christianity. I have also endured vitriol from students unwilling to even consider the possibility that the US and the West, having engaged in barbaric behaviour with their own populations and across the globe, might do so in the near future. "It isn't possible, because...no civilised society wants it means the US and West happening to them," one student said years ago. "Americans would never take up arms against the government, especially with roughly half of Americans our military, it isn't rational. We wouldn't be stupid Israel is committing geno-

again. been the West's source of any insurrection," is what plunder, first through the another student blurted out Israel's crimes.

dence of the opposite with the insurrection at the US Capitol Building on January

Some students were too deep in the belief of the West as a positive force to consider the apocalypse it visited upon 60 million of Columbus's first contact. We couldn't even discuss the other genocides wrought in the name of empire, colonialism, and capitalism: the 165 million South Asians the British starved, murdered, or worked to death between 1880 and 1920; or exterminated; or the geno cide of up to 100,000 Herero and Nama people by German forces in Namibia between 1904 and 1908. My students' belief in Western even when the carnage of World Wars I and II was brought up. In those concivilians and service members were killed - among them more than 200,000 nuclear bombing Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Western narcissism is turn. As the late post-cold wrote in Orientalism (1978). "It can be argued that the major component European culture is precisely what made [Western hegemonic both in and outside Europe: the idea of European identity as a superior one in com parison with all the non-European peoples and cul-

This belief in Western superiority means always being on the right side of history, even though there are plenty of examples of Western irrationality, barbarism, and brutality in its interventions in the Middle East and the rest of the world. Western narcissism will only lift a finger to support the Palestinians if forced to by the world and by their own citizens. That ages 18-29 believe that US has only been sprinkling route around Africa to South enough to make this mistake cide in Gaza is encouraging, but by itself not Our military would crush enough to end US and Western complicity

### West's crisis of confidence feeding Putin's tyrannical delusions

**Janet Daley** 

**7LADIMIR Putin got** the sale of gas and oil which opposite of what everybody in the West has been led to Russia was the victim of a conspiracy by imperial forces which took advanthe Soviet Union collapsed. But the Communist era was itself a treachery against Mother Russia, whose historic identity had been betrayed by the Bolshevik decision to create separate republics out of what had been Russian ter-

its leader, as Putin himself noted, is Jewish) and being courted by Nato. It was bizarre. Somehow, the Russian state as it existed in the 11th century was evidence for the injustice that now prevailed in a world which refused to acknowledge his country's rightful claim to the ancient Russian homelands. But woven into this mythic narrative were more recent - and clearly personal - examples of the rejection of Putin's peace-loving Russia by the American deep state, which had prohibited sympathetic US presidents from achieving any fraternal bonds with his emerging country. The overriding theme of blood-and-soil nationalism was undisguised and horrendously familiar: this could have been Germany demanding the right to reclaim the Sudetenland. But, in Putin's fable, it was Ukraine that was run by Nazis. Perhaps none of this should be startling. Apart from the visceral shock of seeing a seemingly sane man utter such things, it has been Russia's public stance since the annexation of Crimea in 2014. The only what made you decide to go further into Ukraine after that initial success? (To which the honest answer would be that, as the West did not raise a finger to protect Crimea, we thought we had an open

of mystic religious destiny alongside a war which is blood and treasure. Within moments of Putin expounding on his nation's sacred embodiment of the Eastern Church, he was proclaiming its triumph over Western Europe in economic growth. You might expect that this blend of archaic, almost superstitious, religious reverence with ultramodern market competitiveness would most educated strike Russians as questionable. Apparently not. We have Russian friends (including some who have spent a good deal of time in the West) who accept with unalloyed faith and enthusiasm, Putin's particular blend of theocratic statehood and ruthless pursuit of profit. The liars and deceivers are all - they believe - in the West. Mother Russia is having a glorious rebirth and is now more prosperous than its Western rivals whose attacks are motivated by gratuitous spite. They ignore the most fundamental fact of that apparent economic miracle - that it depends on

But perhaps the very odd-

g wholesale a weird blend

to tell his side of the are Russia's most marketable story last week. It commodities - and they diswas, of course, the precise regard entirely the demographic doom toward which as been led to
Peace-loving
ulation is heading. (Average life expectancy is roughly ten years lower than in Western Europe. Alcoholism and its tage of its weakness after consequences are rampant.) But the educated professional classes of Russia living in Moscow and St Petersburg are largely sheltered from this hopelessness and despair - not unlike our own dear urban elites here in Britain. Their young men are not being conscripted for Putin's crusade in Ukraine and they All of this infamy and are enjoying the benefits of a abandonment somehow jusconsumer society for the first tifies the invasion of Ukraine time in the modern era. They tell us proudly that they have which is now somehow promoting Nazism (even though beaten the West at its own game in the global market economy. Warnings have little effect because this is a nation of novice capitalists: they are unfamiliar with the cycles and volatility which are inherent in the free market system. Those downturns and recoveries to which we are accustomed inevitably afflict all non-command economies. All it would require to bring an end to Russia's new prosperity is for potential competitors in the West to decide that their selfdenying ordinance on the production of oil and gas had to end. (The US is already a net exporter of energy.) Those happy Russians who believe their wealth and bourgeois comforts are permanently secure seem oblivious to the fact that they are dependent on political decisions made by foreign governments. That is what it means to be a player in the

reliance on what Russia's leaders believe to be China's inevitable emergence as the new all-conquering commercial power. Putin referred reverentially to his friend Xi Jinping's stupendous success practical question could be, in making China the dominant economy of the new world order. He seemed oblivious to the crisis which is now undermining Chinese growth brought about by its own demographics and, ironically, by a debt problem remarkably like the one that nearly took Western capitalest thing about this is that the ism down. The Chinese Belt population of Russia is buy- and Road loan programme which was designed the developing world in and rapacious capitalism, unpayable indebtedness has turned out to be similar in its becoming very expensive in consequences to the subprime mortgage scheme in the US. China has now loaned out a lot of money which it will never get back. There is a recurrent theme that runs in the Putin interview and comments we hear from our interlocutors in Russia: the West is finished, broken by its own hubris and complacency.

global game.

Alarming as well is their

This may sound familiar to you. Indeed, some of the words we hear repeated back to us from those sublimely confident Russians are clearly borrowed from the apocalyptic commentary which has become commonplace in our own discourse. Every piece of news analysis which declares the death of the Western way of life is doing Putin's work for him. Perhaps it would be helpful to ask why there are not hordes of people risking their lives to get into Russia and China. The West's selfloathing is not only having a demoralising effect on its own people: it is feeding the delusion of a dangerous enemy.

The Telegraph

# Trump does the impossible. He sinks even lower

**TORMER President** him at Mar-a-Lago along Donald February 24 Republican presidential Trump first alarmingly 'whatever the hell they didn't meet the alliance's military spending guide-

lines. He then turned his attention to his GOP presidential opponent Nikki Haley. That is when Trump did somein the US military - told the insinuating the major left for her love for her husband -

Trump with her husband, Maj. reminded us again Michael Haley, and had this weekend that there's allegedly assured him that no bottom to his vileness. she would never run against This latest installment in him. Trump - who is cur-Trump sinking to new rently out on bail in conneclows came on Saturday tion with criminal charges when he was campaigning he faces in Georgia (he in South Carolina in denies any wrongdoing) advance of that state's then declared to the crowd, "Where's her husband? Oh, primary. he's away. He's away. Trump then leaned into the stated that he would mocking, quipping, "What encourage Russian to do happened to her husband? What happened to her huswant" to NATO allies that band?! Where is he?! He's gone. He knew. He knew." What exactly Michael "knew" is anyone's Haley especially given guess, Trump's recent mental gaffes and confusion, such as bizarrely claiming Nikki thing we've never seen from Haley was in charge of a major political party can-security for the US Capitol didate: Use the active mili- on January 6, 2021 when tary deployment of a spouse she didn't hold any position to ridicule an opponent. in government. Some have Trump - who never served suggested that Trump was at campaign events about

Dean Obeidallah second of his career - to "escape" Haley. The desperation of the attack suggests Haley has gotten deep under Trump's thin skin. In recent weeks, she repeatedly has called out his gaffes - even going as far as handing out mental comrecent rally - as she bucks paign for the Republican nomination. husband, whom

Haley responded swiftly to Trump's attack on her she's described as her "rock," by posting on social media, 'Michael is deployed serving our country, something you know nothing about." She added, "Someone who between humans and anicontinually disrespects the mals? Animals would never sacrifices of military famiallow the dumbest ones to lies has no business being commander in chief." Haley - who has frequently spoken

ments at a rally in her home state. "If you mock the service of a combat veteran, you don't deserve a driver's license, let alone being president of the United States," she told the audience. The former US ambassador to the United Nations then petency tests to voters at a challenged Trump to show the nation whether he has him by continuing her cam- any guts, saying, "Donald, if you have something to say, don't say it behind my back; get on a debate stage and say it to my face." Even Michael Haley, who typically does not make comments to the media, responded on social media to Trump's words, posting a meme that read, "The difference

lead the pack. Trump has a long history of ridiculing veterans and those in the military if he doesn't like what they have us as much Sunday morning crowd that Haley had visited full time deployment - the also addressed the comsaid about him. We saw that

GOP Sen. John McCain during the 2016 campaign, when he stated, "He's not a war hero. He was a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't cap-Then there were tured." Trump's more recent comments appearing to accuse former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley of treason and threatening execution because Milley had given reassurances to his Chinese counterpart that the US was '100 percent steady" in the days after the January 6 attack. However, the criticism of Haley is different. Trump

This time, attacked the spouse of a candidate who is an active-duty service member. Will Trump lose support for his attack on Haley and her husband? If history is any guide, the answer is no. GOP Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida told while appearing on CNN

with his infamous com- Did Rubio say there is no ments about late Arizona place for using service women and men as props for political attacks? Nope. Instead, Rubio gave Trump a pass, saying, this is simply part of the nastiness of American politics, noting that Haley has called Trump a "grumpy old man" so it's okay that "Trump gives as good as he gets. After years of firestorms

over Trump's revolting remarks, from mocking a disabled reporter to smears of Gold Star parents to ridiculing Paul Pelosi - former Speaker House Pelosi's husband, who suffered a skull fracture after being brutally attacked in his home - it appears that cruelty and vileness might even be the reason that so many in the GOP base support him. While that can be debated, one thing is certain: Trump will make even more cruel and despicable comments before the 2024 campaign is over.

CNN

# The power of small and smart states

THEN the modern state came into existence roughly 150 small states - a sevwhose order, institutions and norms are being torpedoed by the velocity of political, geopolit-

If there is an overwhelming priority or a paramount preoccupation common to all small states, it is survival. The world has never been structured to facilitate the survival of small states and treating small states as disposable has been the norm through most of recent history. Survival, therefore, has largely depended on the will and skill of small states themselves.

transformation.

To preserve themselves, small states must be agile, adaptable and adroit. Internally, as Aristotle said of the city-states of the 4th century B.C., they must train their populations to be jacks of all trades. Externally, they must exert themselves to mobilize an international order reinforced by institutions and equipped with the means to uphold its rules. In short, small states must also be smart states.

In international relations, as the Harvard political scientist Joseph Nye argues, there are three kinds of power: hard power, which involves coercion; soft power, which flows from a nation's cultural output; and what I would call "smart power." The last of these amalgamates components of both hard and soft power but also, crucially, makes an effort to bolster itself by leveraging technology intelligently.

Unlike conventional approaches, smart power actively embraces and harnesses emerging tools such as artificial intelligence, aiming not only to adapt but also to derive significant advantages from these innovations. The essence of smart power lies in its ability to synergize traditional sources of influence with cutting-edge technologies, positioning itself strategically to navigate and capitalize on the everevolving landscape of power dynamics.

In the course of my career, I have seen the improbable rise of small states that were born in has eroded the capacity of large a world in flux.

have been arguing for a long time that the Democratic

wrong and cruel, and that I was

their minds.

**Armen Sarkissian** 

Westphalia in 1648, there were off before they could learn to 400 small states. Hundreds of crawl. The UAE, for instance, was them were extinguished by the dismissed even before its visionary antecedents of today's great and founder, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan middle powers. Today, there are Al-Nahyan, had unified the dusty emirates that made up the Trucial enfold increase since the estab- States. Today, more than five lishment of the postwar order in decades after its inauguration in **1945.** But their survival can 1971, the UAE is not only an interscarcely be taken for granted in national cultural hub and a center an increasingly multipolar world of commerce, it is also home to the world's unlikeliest green city. Meanwhile, Qatar, capitalizing on its gas reserves and the strategic ical, social and technological American airbase it hosts, contributes uniquely to global diplomacy by serving as both a mediator and a negotiator.

similarly in grave doubt once research and development and Britain withdrew its forces in 1971, innovation. It has more technolo-

the Peace of impossible conditions and written powers to remain the predominant ures in these nations. Not every centers of progress and achieve-

> Eight of the top 10 nations on the Bloomberg Innovation Index are small states. Singapore, a consistently high-ranking state on the index, is a world leader in medical innovation. Despite being home to the equivalent of only 7 percent of Germany's population, it accounts for more patents in healthcare than its European counterpart. It has converted its curses - its location and limited resources - into opportunities to become one of the most prosperous countries in the world.

Sweden, home to fewer than 11 million citizens, has emerged as a The future of Singapore was captain in the fields of technology, exposing it to the whims of the gy hubs per capita than any part of

An individual with a smartphone is possessed with the power to break news and small states tend for the most part shape trends. A small, tech-savvy state can compete with large states. Technology has eroded the capacity of large powers to remain the predominant centers of progress and achievement.

great and middle powers surrounding it. Lee Kuan Yew, the city- Even the stars are no longer state's father, reacted to this crisis beyond the reach of small states. Singapore's transformation into an over 9 million people, successfuleconomic force in the world and a ly orbited its rover around Mars diplomatic troubleshooter in the

At its independence in 1966, Botswana had exactly 8 miles (12 km) of tarred road in the entire country. Its land was shrouded with sand and its people scraped a living from agriculture. Today, Botswana is a model of economic prudence and efficient governance in Africa. With a population under 2 million, its low taxes, high income (at \$6,000, its per capita income is larger than Malaysia's), excellent healthcare and openness to foreign talent have made it the envy of oth-

We inhabit a world in which, for the first time, long-marginalized voices have acquired the capability to amplify themselves and be heard. An individual with a smartphone is possessed with the power to break news and shape trends. A small, tech-savvy state can compete with large states. Technology (and even large) states operating in

the world save Silicon Valley. by aggressively superintending In 2021, the UAE, home to just catapulting itself into an exclusive league once occupied by great

> Stability, constancy, the rule of law, peace and predictability are imperative for the success of small states. And a club of such states would help smaller nations exert greater influence in cultivating the climate essential for global security, progress and prosperity. In doing so, it would also temper the aggression and destructive impulses of large powers.

> 'The Small States Club" tells the compelling story of eight small countries that dot Europe, Asia and Africa that would qualify as founding members of such a club. There are, of course, others that merit attention, but I selected these states because I have studied them closely and their travails and successes, individually and collectively, carry

Often, I have interacted extensively with the leaders and key figcountry I have examined features every virtue prized by every society. But despite their shortcomings. they can teach us something valuable about surviving and succeed ing in an inhospitable world.

As an Armenian diplomat and later as president, I often reflected on the need for a consortium of smaller states, a collective that might be nimbler and more effective than the sluggish giants that currently dominate international relations. This "S20," as one might call it, would be a club of nations from Singapore to Switzerland and Botswana to Arab states - unburdened by the weight of empires, ready to learn from past errors and earnestly seek to arbitrate conflicts with fairness and foresight.

Small states live on the knifeedge of survival; peace is not a luxury for them but the precondition of their existence. This is why to be averse to conflict: war imposes a disproportionate toll on them. There will always be exceptions to the rule, but small states generally tend to promote peace - or at least strive to create conditions to avert the outbreak of fighting. Therefore, minimizing, if not altogether eliminating, bloody conflict is not a noble ideal for them - it is a neces-

Even though a club of small states would take responsibility for their fates and help foster peace through collective action and mutual support, the idea of such a collaborative body has met with resistance from the larger states, whose preeminence depends on the status quo. They look upon any new institution that might affect the scales of influence with suspicion and skepticism.

But I am pleased to note that the publication of The Small States Club has stirred a discussion. Representatives of key small states have shared their enthusiasm for a so-called S20 grouping. There is much work to be done, but the idea is catching on. If peace and progress are to be more than impossible dreams, we must reduce if not cease our dependence on big powers and obsolete institutions and instead harness the survival instinct of small states to create a body that values dialogue over discord and collaboration and indispensable lessons for small peace over conquest and perpetual

### Why members of Russia's anti-war opposition aren't punished equally

Boris Kagarlitsky, a and professor at the Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences, was fined 600,000 rubles (\$6,600) for "justifying terrorism." During a video on his left-wing YouTube channel Rakbor, Kagarlitsky said that 'from a military point of view, the Ukrainians' decision to blow up the Crimean Bridge is understandable." I also commented on the news in the same video. On the same day as his arrest, my house, as well as the homes of other channel staff, were searched by

police. In contemporary Russia, following the start of the conflict in Ukraine, repression against those expressing anti-war sentiments or criticizing government actions has not just intensified, but become a monstrous norm. Expressing opinions that deviate from the official statements of the Russian Ministry of Defense puts people at risk of arrest and unjustifiably long prison sentences of 7 to 25 years.

that the Kremlin regime lacks a concrete ideology. However, are all members of the opposition persecuted equally, regardless of their ideological beliefs? The full-scale invasion of Ukraine has divided all political movements into two groups: supporters and opponents of the war. Yet, according to the Kremlin's logic, neither side is immune from repression. Among Russian right-wing activists, positions on the war in Ukraine greatly vary. Some, like the members of the Rusich paramilitary, associated with the Wagner Group, actively support military actions. This group, known for using neo-Nazi symbolism including swastikas and the code 14/88, represents the extremist faction of the right that not only supports the war but is an active participant, fighting on the side of separatists in Ukraine. On the other hand, there are right-wing nationalists such as Dmitry Demushkin who have the Kremlin's policies. anti-state statements, he openly declared a loss of faith in the ideals of the Russky mir (Russian world) promoted by the Kremlin. Demushkin's criticism of state policy and his subsequent persecution highlight that even among right-wing activists who do not support the war, there is a high risk of repression.

the musical group Russian Banner who, alongside accusations of neo-Nazism, claims to fight for "our future and the future of our white children." His words reflect the position of some right-wing activists who see the war as defending Russian speakers Ukraine from being forced to adopt a "false Ukrainian, Russophobe identity.' Another intriguing case is that of Igor Strelkov, otherwise known as Girkin. Strelkov is known for his right-wing, nationalist views and his support for the Russky mir, which advocates for the protection of Russian-speaking populations outside Russia and the expansion of Russia's influence in the post-Soviet space. In his public speeches and writings, Strelkov has repeatedly expressed monarchist beliefs and ideas of imperial patriotism. His criticism of the present Russian govern-President and ment Vladimir Putin often stems from his belief that the authorities are not going far enough to promote the Russky mir. This places him in a unique position among right-wing activists, where he simultaneously supports the idea of expanding Russian influ-

Additionally, there is

to achieve this goal. In 2023, Strelkov was arrested on charges of public calls for extremism, sparking widespread discussions about freedom of speech in Russia and how authorities handle criticism. His arrest underscores the risks faced by even those right-wing activists who appear to share some of the government's objectives. Thus, Strelkov represents a

politics. On the one hand,

ence but criticizes the

methods the state employs

December, Alexander Archagov

Marxist sociologist he is an advocate for ing a police officer. These expanding the Russky mir, aligning his position with right-wing and nationalist ideas. On the other hand, his criticism of the existing power and subsequent arrest demonstrate that even such views do not protect from repression if they do not fully align with the Kremlin's official line. Right-wing activists in Russia can be conditionally divided into three categories: those who support the war and actively participate in it, those who support the war but criticize ruthless repression. Public the methods of its conduct, and those who do not support the war at all. The latter two categories of repression. Despite supactivists may be subject to repression. Essentially, crit- and other leftist activists can lead to punishment, Udaltsov was charged with regardless of ideological terrorism for supporting beliefs, though the severity members of a Marxist of repression may be linked group arrested in Ufa. It to ideology, with some lib- seems repression can be

and then arrested for 15 days on charges of disobeygroups, whose leadership primarily supported the war, saw many rank-andfile members and minorities within the leadership quit in protest against their leaders' pro-war stance. Budraitskis emphasizes that such leftists see the war in Ukraine as a fight against Western liberal capitalism, which they believe would bring Russia closer to socialism. However, reality shows that any form of opposition, regardless of its ideological motives, faces support for the war in Ukraine does not grant immunity against political porting the war, Udaltsov icism of the government also faced repercussions.

However, this could be because the CPRF effectively purged its ranks, removing all those disloyal to It is sometimes argued the current government. Historian Ilya Budraitskis has highlighted that while the leadership of the CPRF openly supported the war, the only members of the Russian parliament openly disagreeing with the invasion were three members of the Communist Party. This indicates polarization within the Communist Party, especially among rank-and-file members activists, many of whom disagree with their leaders' positions. For instance, Mikhail Lobanov, who ran for the State Duma from the CPRF and is known for his criticism of the war, faced numerous repressions.

erals receiving longer sen- based on the class solidari-

The liberal faction seems Russia. to have been affected the least by the split. Almost all enforcement charges one for which they faced severe rorism, anyone spreading "fakes" about the Russian army. His arrest and sentence sent shockwaves through Russia and beyond, serving as a strik-ing example of how the state uses legislation to suppress dissent. Vladimir Kara-Murza, another wellknown liberal activist, was arrested and charged with state treason and spreading "fakes" about the armed Yevgeny Dolganov from forces. Kara-Murza was an active opponent of the war criticized the authorities for repression and corruption

> and campaigned for human rights. Alexei Gorinov, municipal deputy from Moscow, was sentenced to 7 years of imprisonment for a speech that was interpreted as "discrediting" the Russian army. These cases are just the tip of the iceberg of persecution targeting liberal activists, journalists, and government critics who dare to express their opposition to the war and authoritarianism. The deployment of charges like spreading fakes, discrediting the armed forces, and even treason has become a way to eliminate opposition and silence advocates for freedom of speech and democratic values. Leftwing activists have also been split over the war. The Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF) and the Left Front are leftwing groups that support the war. However, this could be because the CPRF effectively purged its ranks, removing all those disloyal to the current government. Historian Ilya Budraitskis has highlighted that while the leadership of the CPRF openly supported the war, the only members of the Russian parliament openly disagreeing with the invasion were three members of

the Communist Party. This indicates polariza-Party, especially among rank-and-file members and activists, many of whom disagree with their leaders' positions. For instance, Mikhail Lobanov, who ran for the State Duma from the was repeatedly searched Russia.

ty of the security forces in

Simply put, if law

spoke out against the war, group of activists with tervoiced disagreement with repression. Ilya Yashin, one expresses support for them of the loudest voices of the is automatically considered himself was imprisoned for penal colony on charges of ogy. Kagarlitsky was charged by a similar princi-The prosecution attempted to argue that the video's title "Explosive Greetings from Mostik the Cat" attempted to justify the Crimean Bridge explosion, which is officially considered an act of terrorism. After the war began, some left-wing activists left Russia. However, even in the CIS countries, they continue to face political persecution. Evidently, Russian in Ukraine, having long and Kyrgyz security services collaborate closely. In particular, left activists Ryzhkov, Krylova, and Skoryakin were detained by Kyrgyz law enforcement in Bishkek. Thus, the logic of political persecution of anti-war activists in Russia is not as simple as it seems. At first glance, it may seem that the persecution is associated exclusively with an anti-war position and is equally cruel towards all political persuasions.

But that isn't actually the

Liberal anti-war activists are the most persecuted. Any backlash to this is associated with Western elites and LGBTQ+ people by Russian propagandists, which seems to intensify the authorities' reaction. So let's try to figure out this ideology. In the absence of a name, the case studies in this article can help us figure out the ideology the Kremlin wants Russians to abide by. Firstly, supporting the war does not in itself provide immunity from reprisals. You need to be not just for the war, but also believe it is being conducted by the state correctly. You must also stand for the same principles as the authorities. The main criterion is your ability to conform, like the Communist Party, by sensing the authorities' political direction. Secondly, a person's political philosophy is less important, though in cases tion within the Communist like Strelkov's, it can shorten their sentence. This shows us that what really matters to the government is supporting the war in the correct way. What unites people punished by the Kremlin is that they deviat-CPRF and is known for his ed from the very subtle, criticism of the war, faced hidden, unnamed ideology complex figure in Russian numerous repressions. He of the political elites of

# The border compromise would've helped-a lot

the crisis at the southern border Senate bill, noted in amazement, adjudication process that lasts about is real, that it is the result of a "A year ago they said, 'We need a totally broken asylum system change in the law.' Now the conversation is, 'Just kidding, we and that it needs to be fixed urgently. I got lots of pushback don't need a change in the law." Trump was right in 2019. In fact, from people telling me I was

he knows it because he tried to use

buying into Republican rhetoric. executive authority when he was But this week, the Biden adminpresident, but it either didn't work or istration and Senate Democrats was altered or blocked by courts. He was able to turn away people once he could invoke Title 42 durfinally acted to fix the system along the lines Republicans have been pushing for - only to find ing the Covid-19 pandemic on the Republicans have now changed grounds of a public health emergency. Biden did allow that authori-A new Republican argument is ty to lapse, but were he to try to that there is no need for any change invoke it today, courts would almost certainly rule that there is no public in laws relating to asylum and that President Joe Biden can simply use health emergency right now. America is still a country of laws, executive authority to solve the problem. This is now the view and the president cannot misuse his authority without being checked. articulated by former President Donald Trump, House Speaker Mike Johnson, Texas Gov. Greg The conservative commentator David Frum explained the situation cogently on my CNN program last Abbott, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, as well as Elon Musk, Sunday. Most people have an image among other influential figures. of the problem that comes from the 1990s and 2000s, with hordes of This is a complete turnaround for Republicans. In 2019, Rep. Steve Scalise explicitly argued, "It takes undocumented immigrants crossing the border and evading law enforcecongressional action; you need to ment authorities. But that is not peoples' statuses. change the law." The same year, what's happening now. Today, peo-Trump also said, "You have to ple come to the border and rather ened the five-to-seven year adjudichange the loopholes; you have to than running away from the law cation process to a first hearing change asylum." Not anymore. The they run toward it. Many have fig- within a target of 90 days and a

v needs to recognize that Republican negotiator of the enter the country and go through an five to seven years. During that time, they slip into the country and start working. "Telling the president to enforce the laws misses the point," Frum told me. "He is enforcing the laws; the problem is that the

laws need to change.' It's not just the laws. The reality is that border authorities are totally overwhelmed, with about five times as many apprehensions at the southwest border in fiscal year 2023 as there were a decade earlier. Even deporting them requires people and funds. US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the agency that actually carries out the deportations, is so low on funds that it will start cutting back on its activities within a few weeks. The Senate bill was a serious effort to solve many problems. It would have provided funding for a large increase in staff - more than 4,300 additional asylum officers and support staff and thousands of other new hires in immigration and security. It would have given asylum officers much greater authority to make quick determinations about

It crucially would have shortarch-conservative Oklahoma Sen. ured out that if they apply for asyJames Lankford, who was the lum, they are legally allowed to days. And it would have given the smoldering ruins.

government the authority to After his organization was liberal opposition, was sen- a terrorist as well, regarddeclare an emergency if the num- banned and Demushkin tenced to 8.5 years in a less of their political ideolber of arrivals rose beyond certain thresholds, allowing it to turn people away. If the number rose above an average of 5,000 people a day over a week, that authority would have kicked in automatically. It's not perfect. The basic standard to determine whether someone qualifies for asylum is still too low. It has been raised "a notch," a senior White House official told me and conceded that the Democratic left had resisted raising it more. House Republicans could play a useful role by raising it even higher. But again, that requires changes to asylum laws. The most obvious proof that Trump realizes that this bill would give the administration powerful tools to address this crisis is that he is so dead set that it should not pass. Were it to pass, it might well solve large parts of the border problem - which would not serve him politically. He wrote on social media, "This Bill is a great gift to the Democrats.

The rest of the West is facing a similar challenge and is grappling with how to adjust immigration and asylum laws. Many countries have taken significant steps. Yet in America, one of its major political parties is determined to inflame the crisis rather than douse it, fiddling while the country burns, hoping that at least they can inherit the

# Ireland is fast becoming **Europe's nastiest nation**

**Ruth Dudley Edwards** 

RELAND, which loves to be loved, is seeing its reputation transformed into one defined by a sullen, mean-spirited pettiness. Every week we seem to witness yet another example of the ugliness that is fast taking over public life in the country, in which innocent bystanders are forced to take sides on a purely political matter. This time it was the turn of a women's basketball match in Latvia.

Like so many other sports teams in Ireland, and like other apolitical targets of the sinister Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement, the basketball team had come under heavy pressure from Irish Sport for Palestine to boycott fixtures against Israel. But for the Irish team this was a vital EuroBasket qualifier. Had they boycotted it, they'd have been effectively banned from competition for the next five years. Some players chose not to travel. Then a

Irish commentators, and the Irish team deciding not to partake in prematch arrangements like exchanging gifts and formal handshakes. The game was played behind closed doors. It's a telling incident. The Emerald Isle has built its tourism industry on visions of friendly, welcoming citizens. The reality is a country that is becoming increasingly nasty. I disagree with my countrymen on many issues, because many are congenital virtue-signallers who love to support the popular, easy side of

any controversy. The conflict between Israel and Palestine is a perfect example. Fuelled by rampant Republican anti-Semitism over the years, what had been a low-key distrust of Israel in parties such as Sinn Fein seems to have turned to hatred. And hatred is what the Irish Sinn Fein. Perhaps nowhere is member of the Israeli team said in Republican leadership excels at modern Ireland's new character going up in smoke. If things carry an interview that the Irish side spreading, whether it takes the better summarised than in the cur- on this way, it'll soon be gone for

secret". Cue absolute outrage from the propaganda they still devise and popularise so brilliantly. They have long attempted to identify their cause with others who similarly claim to be freedom-fighting victims of oppression. But the role of these carefully selected "oppressed" groups - Palestinians, South Americans or whoever else comes in handy in the pursuit of power in Ireland - is purely to follow slavishly the Republican script. Sometimes, this leads to bleakly amusing scenes. I had to laugh when I saw that Palestinian activists were apparently ejected from a Solidarity Rally for Palestine event in Belfast on Wednesday night because they were noisily demanding that Sinn Fein boycott the White House on Saint Patrick's Day.

If you ride two horses, you are liable to fall off. And it's not just were "quite anti-Semitic and it's no form of terrorism (as in the past) or rent Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar. good.

When he's not calling for a cease-fire, or carefully avoiding mention of why an Irish-Israeli girl was missing (answer: she had been kidnapped by brutal terrorists), he's cosying up to China, insisting that Dublin's position is that the small democracy of Taiwan is "part of China". An odd position for an Irish politician to hold, given the country's own history with Britain, but fully in keeping with how pressure from Republicanism is corrupting politics. Of course, some things don't change. The Irish government has spent the past few years taking cheap shot after cheap shot at the UK, over Brexit, over Northern Ireland, over the Troubles and frankly over anything else you care to name. Anglophobia is always a winning card for Irish politicians, and inflaming dislike of their neighbours a small price to pay for those precious Republican votes. Ireland's reputation as a friendly, good-natured country is



# **PSX** witnesses bearish trend, loses 1,878 points

nessed bearish trend on 14,939,483 shares at of Rs 279.28. Monday, losing 1,878.43 Rs.134.20 per share. points, a negative change of

258,073,610 shares valuing Rs.410.00. Rs.12.529 billion the last day.

transacted their shares in maximum decrease of the stock market; 35 of Rs.127.10 per share closing them recorded gains and at Rs.2,147.01, followed by sustained losses, Hoechst Pakistan Limited whereas the share prices of with Rs.80.00 decline to 19 remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were K-Electric against dollar Limited with 50,348,573

Pakistan 61,065.32 points against nessed a maximum increase and selling rates of the dol-62,943.75 points the previous trading day. of Rs.28.47 per share price, closing at Rs.455.68, A total of 349,975,051 whereas the runner-up was shares valuing Rs 12.745 bil- Ibrahim Fibres Limited

close at Rs.1,320.00.

Rupee sheds 04 paisa

The Rupee on Monday

However, according to Hotels the Forex Association of remain unchanged, decl-.98 percent, closing at Developers Limited wit- Pakistan (FAP), the buying ine by \$2 at Int'l market lar in the open market stood karat gold remained at Rs 280 and Rs 282, unchanged at Rs.214,300 in respectively.

The price of the Euro lion were traded during the with a Rs.10.00 rise in its increased by 78 paisa to Sarafa day as compared to per share price to close at Rs301.64 against Associately the last day's closing of Some 354 companies any Limited witnessed a State Bank of Pakistan karat gold remained stag-

> 01 paisa to close at Rs1.87, whereas per tola and ten whereas an increase of 86 paisa was witnessed in the Pound, which was traded at Rs 353.18 compared to the last closing of Rs 352.32.

shares at Rs.4.21 per share, weakened by 04 paisa The exchange rates of WorldCall Telecom with against the US Dollar in the the Emirates Dirham and

100-index of the Pakistan Rs.121 per share and Oil closed at Rs 279.32 against by 02 paisa and 01 paisa to Stock Exchange (PSX) wit- and Gas Development with the previous day's closing close at Rs 76.05 and Rs 74.48 respectively.

**Business** 

Domestic gold rates The per tola price of 24

the local market on Monday, the All Sindh Jewellers Association reported

The price of 10 grams of nant at Rs.183,728 and The Japanese Yen gained Rs.168,416 respectively gram silver was trade at existing rates of Rs.2,600 exchange rate of the British and 2,229.08 respectively.

However, the price of gold in the international market decreased by \$2 to The exchange rates of \$2,043 from \$.2,045, the



MULTAN: A visitor taking keen interest in displayed stuff on a stall during last day of Blue Fair organized by Women Chamber of Commerce.

# Services' exports earn \$3.76b for Pakistan in 1st half

**Expo Centre Sharjah, WTCI** 

discuss boosting cooperation

SHARJAH (APP): The ined the possibility of sides, Akman invited Al ising events, conference Expo Centre Sharjah (ECS) organising further events Midfa to visit the World and trade shows. CEO of

cussed ways of boosting between the two countries' services offered to exhibi- and getting acquainted with

Saudi Arabia's real estate prices

rise by 0.7% in 2023: GASTAT

cooperation and coordina- business communities to tors and examined how the its facilities and activities. tion to jointly organise explore new trade opportu- exhibition industry can take. Al Midfa stated he seel

ous services during the first during the period under half of the current fiscal review by going up from \$ year (2023-24), Pakistan 270.10 million last year to November 2023. Bureau of Statistics (PBS) \$1,430.06 million this

The export of services last year was recorded at ices' exports from the coun-\$3,870.32 million, showing try decreased by 6.93 pera decline of 2.70 percent cent by going down from during the first six months \$781.09

into the country increased 2023. by 25.50 percent by going months of current fiscal to PBS data.

trade fairs, as well as to

es to local exhibitors and

released by the General

SBP revokes

exchange

companies'

licenses

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: State Bank

Both sides also exam-

international visitors.

how to benefit from the Centre

for offering the best servic- Centre Istanbul.

million of the current fiscal year. December 2022 to \$726.94 The services' imports million during December

The imports went up by

On month on month

and the World Trade Centre that would enhance chan- Trade Centre Istanbul.

share expertise on advanc- meeting held at the centre UAE and Türkiye.

This came during a

Sharjah, and

Istanbul (WTCI) have dis- nels of communication

events, conferences, and nities in regional markets.

ing the exhibition industry. between Saif Mohammed

most recent logistical and Coskun Akman, Technical

technological capabilities Manager of World Trade

ECS and WTCI probed Al Midfa, CEO of Expo

Meanwhile, on year on 2.90 percent during the cent. during the same period of year (YoY) basis, the serv- month under review when compared to imports of million November 2023.

here that the merchandize \$36.034 billion last year. exports from the country witnessed an increase of 7.89 percent during the first seven months of the current up from \$4,140.42 million 20.14 percent by growing seven months of the current fiscal year was recorded at last year to \$5,196.02 mil- from \$734.12 million to fiscal year (2023-34) com- \$13.167 billion against the lion during the first six \$881.93 million, according pared to the corresponding deficit of \$19.553 billion period of last year.

According to the latest decline of 32.66 percent.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Based on the figures, (MoM) basis, the services PBS data, exports from the Pakistan earned \$3,765.97 the services' trade deficit exports increased by 15.20 country increased up to million by exporting vari-widened by 429.45 percent percent in December 2023 \$17.782 billion during when compared to exports July-January (2023-24) as of \$631.03 million in against the exports of ovember 2023. \$16.481 billion in July-The imports on MoM January (2022-23), showbasis also increased by ing a growth of 7.89 per-

> the other hand, imports into the country declined by 14.11 percent to \$30.949 billion this year It is pertinent to mention against the imports of

> > ECS added he looks for-

eration with the Turkish

They also reviewed the ward to visiting the WTCI

advantage of strong eco- to exchange ideas and pro-

Al Midfa said Expo exhibition sector, within the

Centre Sharjah is keen on framework of the ECS

fostering cooperation with strategic vision aimed at

various world trade centers, extending the global reach

in a way that bolsters the of its trade shows to include

center's status on the map various markets, which

nomic ties between the posals on cementing coop-

Based on the figures, the trade deficit during the first last year, showing a sharp

# inflow ISLAMABAD (APP): The

overseas workers' remittances recorded an inflow of US\$2.4 billion during January 2024, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Monday said.

Workers'

remittances *record* \$2.4*b* 

In terms of growth, during the month under review, remittances increased by 0.6 per cent on month-onmonth basis and 26.2 per cent on year-on-year basis.

Workers' remittances inflow of US\$15.8 billion has been recorded during the first seven months of the fiscal year 2023-24.

Remittances inflows during January 2024 were mainly sourced from Saudi Arabia (\$587.3 million), United Arab Emirates (\$407.6 million), United Kingdom (\$362.1 million) and United States of America (\$283.4 million).

#### Trader leader seeks political stability

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Sheikh Muhammad Abbas, Bahawalpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) has said that the national economy would be boosted and supported only by political stability.

In a press release issued here, he said that choices and unrest-like situations used to damage the economy and business activities.

He urged all political parties to promote harmony and brotherhood to overcome the financial crisis. 'Economy becomes stable in the countries which have political stability," he said. He hoped that the

upcoming government would take immediate measures to overcome price hikes and resolve the ssue of unemployment.

He urged all political leaders to join hands to put the country on track for development.

#### Aramco eyes production of all energy sources: CEO

RIYADH (Arab News): Saudi Arabian Oil Co. is eyeing for continuity in the production of all types of energy including oil and gas, along with renewables, its CEO said.

Speaking International Petroleum Technology Conference in Dhahran on Feb. 12, Amin H. Nasser said that the energy giant, also known as Saudi Aramco is committed to fulfilling its promises and is looking to raise capacity and daily produc-tion. Nasser added that global oil demand is expected to hit 104 million barrels per day in 2024 and 105 million bpd in 2025.

Talking about future plans, he said that Aramco has the full capability to grow in any sector to create profitable companies.

He added that Aramco has already finalized and approved a new strategy which will be announced in the future with investors in the stock market.

However, he did not eveal much about the strategy which the company has approved.

# PSX, LCCI hold awareness session

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan through this awareness ses-Stock Exchange (PSX) in sion, the issues of capital listed companies make peocollaboration with Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) organized an awareness session on 'Potential Avenues for Business Growth", here at LCCI on Monday.

Kashif Anwar presided over the session while the PSX Director Chinoy, CEO General Manager Khan, Latif and Javed Raeda Qureshi also spoke on the occasion.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar said that stock exchange is an important indicator to examine the economy of any country. Currently Pakistan Stock Exchange is performing well. He said that the purpose of this awareness session is to inform the LCCI members about Pakistan Stock Exchange and encourage them to get list-

highlighted.

tion that SMEs (Small and The LCCI President adding that a number of Ahmed Farrukh

and liquidity are being The LCCI President said that there was a misconcep-

Medium Enterprises) could not be listed in the PSX, issues have been resolved in this regard. He suggested that the companies should get listed in the PSX as it would give them lot of benefits. He said that the liaibetween Stock Exchange would be

very fruitful. PSX Director Ahmad Chinoy said that PSX has taken various initiatives informed about its benefits through door to door campaign. He said that they are providing awareness about listing in Pakistan Stock

investors. He said that the ple shareholders at market value. This brings diversified experience and provides better advice.

Ahmed Chinoy said that they have introduced reforms in the stock exchange and a company can get enlistment certificate in just 29 days.

He said that this makes local companies to become an international brand and also improve their profile. Currently, there are 534 Chamber and Pakistan elite companies listed in the stock market and our local companies will also get the status of elite companies by being listed. He said that the arrival of local compaand people are being nies leads to the development of the economy and increases the market capitalization.

detailed presentation was Exchange, investment and also given about the aims other matters, asserting that and objectives of Pakistan ed in it. He said that this is the best forum for Stock Exchange.

# European stocks rise as earnings give way to data

European stock markets mostly gained Monday after holiday-thinned trade in Asia, as investors awaited US inflation data and other major economic releases due this week.

Another record close for the S&P 500 in New York on Friday did little to inspire buying Monday, with key markets in Asia shut for the Lunar New Year break.

Ahead of Tuesday's US inflation print, Wall Street Friday welcomed revised data showing the US consumer price index (CPI) cooling in December.

That added to optimism

that the Federal Reserve was on course to bring inflation under control, though observers were sceptical as to whether offi- tech titans Amazon, Apple

(AFP/APP): cials would cut US interest and Microsoft following a rates as early as markets strong earnings season. expect. 'Indices will be waiting

patiently for tomorrow's US inflation data, with market predictions of a sharp... decline in the headline (January) CPI figure providing a potential tailwind for equities," noted Joshua Mahony, chief market analyst at trading group Scope Markets.

In Europe, there is "UKrelated economic news, as traders gear up for the release of employment, inflation, GDP and retail sales data", he added.

Wall Street's S&P 500 index finished Friday above 5,000 points for the first time, marking its 10th alltime high this year, boosted by share-price surges in

But Asian investors were

a little less enthusiastic, with Sydney, Bangkok, Mumbai and Wellington ending lower Monday --and Jakarta and Manila edging higher.

Tokyo, Hong Shanghai, Taipei, Seoul, Singapore and Lumpur were closed for the regional holiday season.

Oil prices fell before key market updates from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries and International Agency. "This week sees both OPEC and the IEA release their latest monthly reports, with markets keeping a close eye out for any updated supply and demand forecasts,'

# Shipping activity at Port Qasim

were engaged at PQA

KARACHI Shipping activity reported at Port Qasim where three ships namely, MSC Nora-III, Lady Dimine and Al-Yamamah carrying container, wheat and gas oil, berthed at container terminal. Multi purpose terminal and oil terminal respectively on 11th February, 2024.

Meanwhile two more ships, MSC Spring-III and Haj Mohammad scheduled to load/offload containers and cement, are also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on today 12th February 2024.

berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three MSC Nor-III, ships, Maersk Boston and Young Sheng Guoji are left the port on today morning and six more ships, Bilbao Knutsen, Flaminia, PGc Patreas, Mirela, Arpeggio and Al-Yamamah are expe-

71,497 tonnes imports cargo and 57,783 tonnes export cargo carried in Qasim on Tuo 2,871 contaiers (167 TEUs February 2024.

A total of eleven ships Imports and 2,704 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are 10 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qaism, out of them four ships, MSC Spring-III, Southern Anoa, Beks Nazk and Epic Sunter carrying Containers, Palm oil, Wheat and LPG are expectcted to sail on same day.

Corgo volume of respectively on today, 12th ed to take berths at QICT, 129,280 tonnes, comprising February, while another ship,Maersk containers Nyassa is due arrive at Port Oasim on Tuesday, 13th

#### Asian markets mixed

KONG (AFP/ APP): Markets were mixed in Asia on Monday in holiday-thinned trade investors look ahead to the release of crucial US inflation data due this week.

Another record close for the S&P 500 in New York did little to inspire buying on a day when most of the region is closed for the Lunar New Year break.

US consumer price index (CPI) came down on-month in December. That added to optimism

that the Federal Reserve is on course to get inflation under control, though observers were sceptical as to whether officials will cut interest rates as early as markets expect.

Wall Street welcomed officials in recent weeks

revised data showing the have pushed back against market bets on a series of cuts this year starting in March, with commentators now tipping a first move in sentiment was

helped by the belief that while rates remain elevated, the world's top economy is still strong, with most experts hopeful it will not Comments from Fed drop into recession, as had been feared last year.

Monday revoked the authorization/license of M/s. PBS Exchange Company (Pvt.) Limited on account of contraventions of the relevant and regulations. According to SBP news statement, the aforesaid exchange company, including its head office and outlets can no longer undertake any kind of foreign exchange related business activity.

### Lost & Found

My name is Zainab Gul. My D.com diploma certificate is missing. I studied D.com at the Government Commerce College for Women institution, and my roll number is 27490. My CNIC number is 17301-3734366-0. And my home address is Gulbahar no 3 new Hakeem bukhari colony. Please contact me at this number 03459136895 if found.

Saudi Arabia's real estate ing sector rose by 1.1 perprice index witnessed a 0.7 cent in 2023 compared to percent increase in 2023, the previous year. This primarily attributed to a increase was particularly surge in residential sector driven by a 1.2 percent rise prices, official data showed. in land plot purchasing

According to the report expenses. Similarly, apartment prices experienced Authority for Statistics, uptick of 0.8 percent in 2023 compared to 2022.

The report highlighted a marginal decline of 0.1 percent in house prices, while expenses for villas dipped by 3.2 percent during the same period. GASTAT further noted that real estate prices in the overall commercial sector diminished slightly by 0.1 percent last year compared to 2022.

of Pakistan (SBP) on On the other hand, the ings and commercial cen- also contributed to keeping the ters stabilized and did not the rise in the index con- domestic product.

RIYADH (Arab News): average prices in the hous- record any relative changes tained," stated GASTAT

During the meeting of international exhibitions would help open up new attended by a number of and demonstrates its track horizons for exhibitors in

business officials from both record of success in organ- the UAE and Türkiye.

Additionally, real estate prices in the agricultural sector for the year 2023 witnessed a decline of 0.3 percent compared to 2022. In another report, GAS-

TAT revealed that the cent in the fourth quarter of Kingdom's real estate index 2023 compared to the third for the fourth quarter of quarter of the same year. 2023 remained steady, rising by 0.2 percent com-the Future Real Estate pared to the same period of

the previous year. index was attributed to the prices of residential properties, which went up by 0.6

'Given the heavy weight of the residential sector, it

had a significant impact on general index," added. On the other hand, the general real estate price index increased by 0.1 per-

Forum in Riyadh, Abdullah Saud Al-Hammad, CEO of The authority added that the Kingdom's Real Estate this slight increase in the Authority, said that Saudi Arabia's real estate sector is undergoing significant transformations. He noted rcent. that the property market is "The decline in both one of the key pillars of commercial real estate by Saudi Arabia's economy 0.5 percent and the agriculary and added that it is making rices of commercial build- tural sector by 0.1 percent significant contributions to Kingdom's



MULTAN: Traders displaying tomatoes bags for selling to vendors at vegetable





### In brief

#### 'Karachi has immense sports talent'

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Minister for Sports Dr. Junaid Ali Shah has said that the performance of Karachi teams had proved that there was immense talent in Karachi. He said that the players won the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, T20 and U-19 tournaments with their excellent performance, a communique said here on Monday. While speaking as a chief guest in the celebration ceremony for the wonderful victories of the Karachi region held at the local hotel, Dr. Junaid Ali Shah appreciated President of Cricket Regional Association Karachi. On the occasion, the Minister distributed Rs1.5 million cash prize and shields to the players and team officials. Former captain Sarfaraz Ahmed, Test captain Shan Masood and others were also present in

#### **KL Rahul ruled**

the ceremony.

out of third Test MUMBAI (BBC): India have been dealt a blow in the lead-up to the Rajkot Test against England, with KL Rahul ruled out of contention due to a sore Devdutt Padikkal, Rahul's Karnataka team-mate, has been called in as a replacement. Rahul had earlier missed the second Test in Visakhapatnam due to a quadricep injury, and was included in the squad for the last thee Tests only subject to fitness. \*A BCCI release on Monday evening said he "has reached 90 per cent of match fitness" and that "he will continue his recovery process at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru to be completely match-fit for the fourth and fifth Test." Already light on batting experience with Virat Kohli missing due to personal Rahul's reasons, absence further comlicates matters for Îndia, who also didn't pick Shreyas Iyer for the remaining three Tests. That aside, it isn't confirmed yet Ravindra whether Jadeja has recovered from the hamstring injury he had suffered during the first Test in Hyderabad. Jadeja is in the squad to play the third Test, which will take place on his home ground, but his participation is pending fitclearance. Meanwhile, this is a maiden Test call-up for Padikkal, who expected to link up with the squad on Tuesday from Chennai, where he struck 151 and 36 against Tamil Nadu in the fifth round of the

#### Mike Procter seriously ill

Monday.

Ranji Trophy fixture

finished

OHANNESBURG (AFP/APP): Africa's swashbuckling cricket all-rounder and former national 77-year-old Mike Procter was seriously ill in intensive Monday, on according to his family. In a statement passed to AFP by Procter's charitable foundation, his wife Maryna and two daughters, said that he was being treated in a hospital near his hometown, the Indian Ocean city of Durban. "Last week Mike experienced a complication during routine surgery. While recovering in ICU he suffered a cardiac incident. He is currently in ICU working on his recovery. We would appreciate it if you kept him in your thoughts and prayers," it said. Procter's international playing career with South Africa was cut short in 1970 when his country was excluded from world cricket because of its apartheid government.

# match officials for PSL 9

ISLAMABAD (APP): The accompanied by Abdul February 18. Pakistan Cricket Board has Moqeet, Aleem Dar, Tariq announced the match officials for HBL Pakistan Super League 9, scheduled to take place across four venues from February 17 to

A total of 14 matches would be played from umpires, Illingworth, who referees with other mem-February 17 to 27 across has previously officiated in bers being Ali Naqvi and Lahore and Multan while will stage 16 matches from said a press release.

the Qualifier, two eliminators and final, to be held in Wharf (11 matches) and Sri Dar and Michael Gough Karachi from March 14 to Lanka's 18, would be announced in (three matches). due course.

Rasheed, Shozab Raza, Muhammad Asif.

six editions of the league, Karachi and Rawalpindi has served as an umpire in 48 matches in HBL PSL. between defending cham-February 28 to March 12, England's Gough, who has pions Lahore Qalandars appeared in four editions The match officials for previously, has officiated Lahore will be officiated 34 matches, followed by by veteran umpire Aleem

Richard match between Multan during

Roshan Mahanama, who has officiated 97 HBL PSL Rashid Riaz, Faisal Afridi, matches and was also a for-Ruchira Palliyaguruge, Asif mer member of the ICC's Yaqoob, Alex Wharf, Nasir elite panel of match refer-Hussain, Imran Jawed and ees, would be in his ninth successive year and will foreign lead a team of three match

Muhammad Javed.

The opening match and Islamabad United in Palliyaguruge on the field. Tariq Rasheed would be the TV New Zealand's Gaffaney Umpire while Shozab Four members of the would make his league Raza will perform the ICC's elite panel of debut, officiating his first duties of reserve umpire chris Sultans and Karachi Kings Muhammad Javed will Gaffaney, Ahsan Raza and at the Multan Cricket perform duties of match Michael Gough – would be Stadium in Multan on referee in the match.

### Young players display potential at Khawar Hyat Memorial World Junior C'ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): The defeated Pakistan's M. (PAK) bt Ye Chan Choi ITF Pakistan Khawar Hyat Khan Memorial World Junior Championship Leg-1 continued at the PTF SDA Tennis Complex Islamabad on Monday with young players from around the world showcasing their 6,7-6(5),6-4. skills and talent.

including boys and girls from countries including Kazakhstan, Turkey, USA, Hong Kong, China, Russia, Belarus, Uzbekistan, South Korea, Switzerland, Sri Lanka, and Thailand are competing in

the Championship.

Additionally, Pakistani boys and girls are also taking part in the tournament. In the Boys Round matches, several place, with players exhibit- straight sets 6-0,6-0. ing their determination and competitive spirit.

In some of the notable (THA) bt M. Kashan Tariq Hamid Israr (PAK) bt ontests, Thailand's (PAK) 2-6,6-1,6-4; Narathip Rueangsri(THA) contests, Papangkorn Bunyarit Ahtesham

Kashan Tariq 2-6,6-1,6-4 in a hard-fought match.

Pakistan's Ahtesham (PAK) 6-2,6-2; ous against Ye Chan Choi Hamza Aasim 6-4,5-7,6-4; eling three-set match 4-

China's Zhe overcame A total of 45 players, Pakistan's Bilal Asim in straight sets 6-2,6-2.

Ivan Makarov of Belarus Pakistan's Aasim 6-4,5-7,6-4 in a Romania, closely contested match. Pakistan's Ahmed Nael

Russia 6-1,6-1. Pakistan's impressive performance in (PAK) Singles Main Draw 1st his match against Par Howard Chan (HKG) bt

Chandragholica Results in brief: Papangkorn Bunyarit

Jiang (CHN) bt Bilal Asim Humayun emerged victori- Makarov (Belarus) bt M. of South Korea after a gru- Shijie Chen (CHN) bt Ege Ahmed Nael Qureshi (PAK) bt Daniil Varaksa (RUS) 6-1,6-1; Hamza Roman (PAK) bt Par Chandragholica(THA) 6secured a win against 0,6-0; Jiwan Park (KOR) Pakistan's M. Hamza bt Doruk Elbirlik(TUR) 6-2,6-1;Xiuyuan Guo (CHN) bt Amir Mazari(PAK) 6-1,6-2; Ju Hun Choo(KOR) Qureshi cruised to victory bt M. Salar Khan (PAK) 6over Daniil Varaksa of 2,6-1; Akmal Arabdjanov (UZB) bt Kaigaoge(CHN) 6-0,6-2; Ilya Kryukov Roman delivered an (RUS) bt Asad Zaman

6-1,3-6,7-6(3); Haider thrilling encounters took Thailand, winning in Rizwan(PAK 3-6,6-3,6- out of an abundance of cau-Dong Hyeo)n Anees (PAK) 6-1.6-0

Humayun 6-2,4-6,6-0

# **England have to 'right** some wrongs' against Scotland, says Ben Earl

"right some wrongs" when they face their next Six Nations match, says number eight Ben Earl. England have not beaten Scotland since 2020, losing the past three meetings with their oldest rivals.

Scotland will feel aggrieved after an inconclusive late try review denied them victory over France. "We've got to look forward to going there," added Earl before the Calcutta Cup match on Saturday, 24 February.

"Scotland are a proud rugby nation, they've got some great players, some great individuals. "We've played them

LONDON (BBC): England Twickenham, the first game feels like we're not getting of last year, we lost."

Scotland at Murrayfield in beaten Wales, saw their text of the game, so we need chances of winning a Grand to almost bunker down or Slam ended in controversial come out swinging in a way' circumstances by France at Murrayfield.

> 31-point lead to draw with Scotland under then-head but he suggests Steve Borthwick's current side are more "collected and aligned". "We feel we've got a good game to fall back on when things are tight. We can squeeze games out and at together and said 'look, it and committed defence.

the rub of the green here Scotland, who have also from the ref and/or the con-

'Other England teams in

previous regimes, we might Earl was not involved have gone into our shells when England surrendered a and reverted to an individual focus, but we were collected and aligned in our messagcoach Eddie Jones in 2019, ing and in our next actions, so we were really pleased "The Italy game was a step in the right direction and Wales was another step in the right direction, so who knows where we can take it." Earl was one England's find a way to win. We know standout performers in their we can win from almost any run to the World Cup semiposition," Earl said. "When finals and has continued to never had an easy game our backs were against the excel in the Six Nations against them and last time wall against Wales, we got with his powerful running

# Taylor beats Hoffman in playoff to win PGA Phoenix Open

ANGELES three times is amazing." (AFP/APP): Canada's Nick Taylor won his fourth career PGA Tour title on Sunday, making three consecutive birdies at the 18th hole to defeat American Charley Hoffman in a playoff thriller and capture the Phoenix Open.

Taylor, last year's Phoenix Open runner-up, year's charged down the final holes before making dramatic putts at 18 before a roaring crowd to outduel Hoffman.

"I tried to draw on last year. I didn't have it early on. I made some ridiculous par saves," Taylor said.

Taylor birdied three of the last four holes in regula-

tion to fire a bogey-free sixunder par 65 and match first Canadian since 1954 to Hoffman on 21-under 263 after 72 holes at TPC Scottsdale.

inside 10 feet at the 18th forced the playoff, Taylor sank a birdie from just inside 15 feet on the first playoff hole and, after lier weather disruptions. Hoffman extended the playoff with a birdie from Taylor said. "We signed just beyond seven feet, our scorecard after the sank a birdie putt from just third round and had eight inside 12 feet at 18 for the

That 18th tee shot has from last year. I had that just a long day. "So to find given me trouble in the putt when I finished sec-past. To hit three pretty ond," Taylor said. "I was birdies the last nine or 10 good ones and birdie it seeing the lines great all holes was incredible.

week so it was amazing that went in too."

Taylor won last year's PGA Canadian Open, the win the event, and also took the 2014 Sanderson Farms Championship and 2020 After his birdie from just Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

His tension-packed finish closed out a marathon day when he had to play 30 regulation holes due to ear-

'It was a marathon day, minutes to go to the tee. I don't know if that rattled "I drew on that last putt me a little bit but it was

# PCB announces | Emma beaten by Anhelina Kalinina in first round

DOHA (Agenices): Emma Raducanu said she "struggled with everything" as she was beaten by world Kalinina in the first round of the Qatar Open in Doha.

**Sports** 

The Briton was well below par in a one-sided first set, hitting 15 unforced errors to her Ukrainian opponent's two.

She saved two match points in a far more comsecond Kalinina came through to win 6-0 7-6 (8-6). "I was struggling with

backhand," forehand, Raducanu, 21, told Sky second round of the Sports. "I felt like I never really got into it." The former US Open

champion is in the early last week. stages of her comeback after missing most of 2023



She won one match in everything - serve, return, Auckland in her first tournament back, reached the Australian Open and beat world number 36 Marie Bouzkova in Abu Dhabi

> But that win was followed by a comprehensive unforced errors compared well as matches.

of her hands and left ankle. Jabeur and, having been given another wildcard this week in Qatar, she suffered another early exit.

Raducanu had a set point at 6-5 on her serve in the second-set breaker but

to 22 by Kalinina, who will play eighth seed Jelena Ostapenko next.

"It was combination of things," Raducanu said. 'It was my first daymatch I have played in a

year. That is different. "I need to practise training outside a bit more. The lights, conditions, shadows... it is really hard to see the ball, I found towards the end. "When my tennis isn't there I have to try and at least fight and I did that in the second set."

Raducanu said she will now return home after consecutive weeks on tour but said she needs to "schedule my tournaments a bit better". "I just struggled with Kalinina saved it and took the timing of the ball," she the next two points to seal said. "It will come with victory. The Briton hit 48 more time practising as

#### Injured Topley pulls out of Pakistan Super League

MULTAN (Monitoring Desk): Multan Sultans have been dealt a dual blow, with injuries to fast bowlers Topley and Ihsanullah ruling them out of the upcoming edition of the Pakistan Super League. While Ihsanullah has a long-standing elbow injury and his unavailability was expected, Topley's absence was announced on Sunday by Sultans owner Ali Tareen. "[Topley] hasn't received his NOC [noobjection certificate from England] and is out of the PSL," Tareen tweeted.

Topley hasn't played in the PSL before, but had a full T20 workload through the winter, playing 12 games in the SA20 with Durban Super Giants, finishing ninth on the tournament wickets chart. He is also scheduled to play the with Royal Challengers Bangalore.

ESPNcricinfo understands his injury is not serious enough to imperil his participation in the IPL, and pulling him out of the PSL was a decision taken tion with a T20 World Cup Euom(KOR) bt Shehryar in the USA and the Caribbean in June.

It is understood Sultans wanted to replace Topley with South African quick Nandre Burger - who also had a stellar season in the SA20 - but was told by Cricket South Africa he wouldn't be granted an NOC. They are believed to be considering Olly Stone, who played in the SA20 and the ILT20 recently, as well as Sri Lankan seamer Dushmantha Chameera. however, Chameera, injured his left quadriceps on Sunday and will be missing the rest of the white-ball series against Afghanistan. The extent of his injury is currently unknown. The PSL starts on Sunday, February 17. The Sultans have reached the final in each of the last two seasons, falling short at the hands of Lahore Qalandars each time.

#### Membership for FDA City **Sports Complex**

FAISALABAD Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) Director General Muhammad Asif Chaudhry said on Monday that membership of Sports Complex FDA City would commence very soon to facilitate the players and sports lovers with high standard facilities. During a meeting, he

conducted interview of coaches for different Hasan was set to lead till the upcoming T20 World indoor games and said that FDA Sports Complex was Cup in June. a state-of-the-art project Shanto led impressively which would facilitate the male and female players in separate courts, gyms, swimming pools and grounds. He said that a comprehensive strategy had been chalked out to run the affairs of sports complex in a most befitrole. Mahmudullah ting manner. In this connection, the management committee of the complex was fully active, he said, adding that latest machinery and gadgets were also provided to all gyms. He said that swimming pools were construction with the use of latest technology by keeping the weather conchoice for captaincy in all ditions in view so that these pools could be used round the year. ahead with Shanto for the but expressed his interest in dent Hassan said.

# Peshawar Zalmi unveils cutting-edge 'Khyber Edition' home jersey

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar Zalmi, renowned for pushing the boundaries of creativity and excellence, has once again captivated the cricketing world with the mous with the coolest kits tently promotes and preunveiling of their highly and the most creative anticipated Home Jersey for the HBL Pakistan Super League 9 (HBLPSL 9). În a groundbreaking move, the team leveraged cuttingedge CGI technology to introduce the "Khyber Edition" jersey, marking a historic milestone in cased in a mesmerizing the field. Anticipation is Pakistan sports, particularly

within the PSL. Last year's kit reveal, Batter and Peshawar Zalmi Beyond the innovation, spectacle that surpasses skipper, Babar Azam, set a Peshawar Zalmi remains expectations. Stay tuned precedent for innovation deeply rooted in its cultur- for more updates and excitement. al

year, anticipation for the endeavors. From team's kit reveal grows, as announcements they have become synony-This year, Peshawar Zalmi continues to break

new ground by introduc-Edition" jersey was showdisplay, with the iconic garment

heritage. Collaborating with their esteemed athleisure wear age to the historic Bab-epartner, GYM Armour, and Khyber monument, the worldwide.

Records, team showcases a pro-Peshawar Zalmi captured found connection the hearts of fans world- Peshawar and the KPK wide. With each passing province in all franchise anthems, the team consisserves the rich culture and announcements in the PSL. traditions of its city

and province. As Peshawar Zalmi gears up for another exhiling the revolutionary CGI arating season in the technology to unveil their HBLPSL 9, fans can Home Kit. The "Khyber expect nothing short of extraordinary on and off high, as fans eagerly await suspended Peshawar Zalmi's kit against the backdrop of reveal, knowing that the featuring world No. 1 ODI the historic Khyber Pass, team always delivers a Named announcements as the

## Afghanistan announced a 16-man squad

**DUBAI** Afghanistan Monday announced a 16-man squad three-match Twenty20 international series against Sri Lanka, aiming to prepare strongly for this year's World Cup.

Ibrahim Zadran will continue to lead the squad as regular Twenty20 skipper Rashid Khan is still recovering from a back surgery.

The three matches will be played -- all in Dambulla -- on February 17, 19 and 21 February following the conclusion of one-day international series on Wednesday.

Missing Rashid badly, Afghanistan lost the oneoff Test and trail the threematch ODI series 2-0 against hosts Sri Lanka.

Afghanistan's chief on the squad after sustain- Ahmad

the target. "We have a Lanka. close eye on the upcoming T20 World Cup for which we want to prepare a very good mix of players consisting of both juniors and seniors," Sulimankhil is quoted in a Afghanistan Cricket Board release.

This series alongside the three T20Is against Ireland in March is a good opportunity for us to test our bench strength and finalise a good squad for the mega event." The Twenty20 World Cup will be held in the United States and the West Indies in June this year. Another

selector Ahmad Shah ing a sprain in his right Sulimankhil said the hand before the start of Twenty20 World Cup is the ODI series against Sri

> Fast bowler Mohammad Saleem Safi, who was part of the Afghanistan squad for the India tour last month, has been left out due to a hamstring strain and is replaced by Wafadar Momand. Squad: Ibrahim Zadran

(captain), Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Mohammad Ishaq Rahimi, Hazratullah Zazai, Gulbadin Mohammad Najibullah Zadran, Azmatullah Omarzai, Karim Janat, Sharafuddin Ashraf, Fazalhaq Faroogi, Fareed Ahmad, Naveen-ulkey spinner Mujeeb Ur Haq, Noor

Rahman also misses out Wafadar Momand, Qais

# **Shanto named Bangladesh** captain in all formats

Najmul Hossain Shanto has appointed Bangladesh's captain in all three formats. Shanto has president Nazmul Hassan. The news comes as a surprise at least in the T20I format, in which Shakib Al

in the recent Tests against New Zealand, and also later during a white-ball tour of New Zealand. Shanto's appointment marks a shift in the BCB's policy to give some of the younger cricketers a permanent leader-

Shakib, Mushfiqur Rahim are still an active part of the international sides, but Shanto's promotion as the 12-month captain means that the board is prepared to move on from the vaunted seniors. BCB chief Hassan said that they considered Shakib as their No. 1

them of a condition in his as eye. Hassan said that they couldn't any wait longer to make a decision on the been handed the reins for a leadership. "We have elect-year, according to BCB ed (Najmul Hossain) Shanto as captain in all three formats," Hassan told a packed press conference following a board meeting in Mirpur on Monday. "We discussed the national team captaincy for the longest time in this meeting. We spoke to Shakib, who told us that his eye problem hasn't gone away. We are not sure of his availability in the Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe home series. We also have to consider the T20 World Cup that's coming up. "Shakib is definitely

> had the World Cup in mind so to run the team smoothly, we had to pick a captain." Shakib had announced the ODI captaincy after the 50-over marquee event. He had also hinted that he was

our first choice. But we

don't want to stay in any

uncertainty. We didn't want

to delay the decision. We

DHAKA (CRICINFO): role after Shakib informed leading the side during the T20 World Cup. Shakib had built an impressive T20 side in the last 12 months, notably winning against England. Shanto takes over a side that will face Sri Lanka in three T20Is, three ODIs and two Tests in March and April this year at home. Bangladesh are also likely to play five T20Is against Zimbabwe, also at home, before embarking on the World Cup in West Indies and USA in June. The BCB also named for-

mer Bangladesh captain Gazi Ashraf Hossain as the new chief selector of the senior men's side. He will begin his job officially from March 1. Ashraf is a former BCB director, who was in charge of the BPL in its nascent days. Another former player, Hannan Sarkar, was also appointed in the selection panel. He was a junior selector for a number of years. "When we made a shortlist, he seemed the best before the World Cup last choice. We waited for him year that he would give up to agree on our offer. There wasn't much debate about it. When he agreed with us, we were unanimous with our formats, but the board went unlikely to continue in Tests decision too," BCB presi-

### In brief

#### **Police bust** bike-lifter gang

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi District Police while conducting a raid managed to bust a street criminal and bike-lifter gang and recovered three stolen motorcycles, three mobile phones, weapons and other items, said a police spokesman here on Monday. He informed that Šaddar Baroni Police in their operation netted four street criminals and bike lifters namely Shehzad, Abdul Basit Qasir and Husnain and recovered three stolen motorcycles, three phones weapons and other items from their possession. spokesman said that the accused were being shifted to jail for identification parade. Superintendent Police (SP) Saddar, Nisar Nawaz appreciating successful operation against street criminals and bike lifters directed to accelerate ongoing operations against the lawbreakers. The criminals attacking lives and property of citizens could not escape the grip of the

#### World Radio Day to be observed on Feb 13

law, he added.

ISLAMABAD (APP): World Radio Day will observed Tuesday, February 13 across the globe including Pakistan to highlight the importance of Radio as a medium of imparting education, provision of information, and entrainment

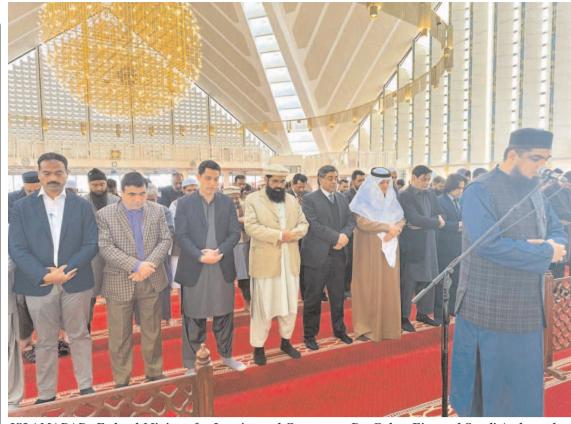
to people. This year's theme of World Radio Day is, Radio: A Informing, Century entertaining and Educating. To mark Day, Pakistan will broadcast special messages from the Minister for Information Broadcasting Secretary

Information, and General Director Radio Pakistan along with special live pro grams to highlight the importance of Radio in the modern digital age. In connection with the World Radio Day, a special ceremony will be held at Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation Islamabad. Radio Radio Pakistan will also broadcast a special seminar, featuring the national broadcaster's role in providing information, entertainment, and education to people.

#### **Aslam Parvez** remembered

(SLAMABAD (APP) Renowned film actor Aslam Parvez was remembered on the occasion of his birth anniversary here on Monday. Aslam Parvez was born into an educated and well-known family in Lahore on February 12, 1932. His real name was Aslam Tarar. Parvez entered the film industry in the year 1955 and started his film career Anwar Pasha's film Qatil (1955) as a side hero. Thereafter, he played the leading role in the film 'Patay Khan' alongside Noor Jehan. In his film career, he performed different roles as a hero, villain, and various other characters in many super-

Neend,Koel,Ishq par Zor Naheen, Zarqa, Mitti Dian Murtaan, Pengaan, Rahguzar were his other classic In 'Koel', movies. Aslam Parvez performed the leading role along with the film actress Noor Jehan and Neelo. He also played the role of villain in the movies like Saheli, Insaan aur Admi. Tehzeeb and Baharo Phool Barsao. While coming from a shooting of a film, he was injured in a car accident and died on November 21, 1984. His His last movie 'Khuddar' was released after his death, in 1985.



**Capital** 

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior and Commerce, Dr. Gohar Ejaz and Saudi Ambassador, H.E. Nawaf bin Saeed Al Malkiy offering Zuhr prayer at the Faisal Mosque.

# PML-N tally gets boost after winning all **Islamabad NA seats**

ISLAMABAD (INP): The stituencies which include that hatred should not Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has won NA-57, NA-58, NA-60, all the three National NA-69 and NA-126. The takes. Hearts should be Assembly seats from ECP directed the con-Islamabad as the Election cerned returning officers ECP urges high Commission of Pakistan not to issue the election to appoint tribunal judges (ECP) on Monday notified results of these consuccessful candidates.

The development came PML-N as the party's the Parliament has now surged to 79. The new entries will play a crucial role as the PML-N is trying to piece together a ed the returning officers coalition government at the Centre.

According to the ECP ECP. notification, PML-N's Anjum Aqeel declared winner from NA-46, Tariq Fazal Chaudhry from NA-47 National Assembly con- mer federal minister said election complaints.

NA-52, NA-53, NA-56, dominate stituencies.

In a related move, the (ECP) has written a letter as a shot in the arm for the ECP has also halted election all the five high courts tion results from seven for the appointment of tristituencies which include redress complaints of can-133. The ECP has direct-

was end to political stability PMĹ-N has said that all stake- requirement to form a triand Raja Khurram Nawaz holders "should be con- bunal for general election from NA-48. In another cerned about the end of irregularities, according development, the ECP has political instability." In a to the post. ordered halt to issuance of post uploaded on X plat-

decisions. "Analyse your own mis-

ECP urges high courts Election Commission of Pakistan

tally in the lower house of Punjab Assembly con- bunal judges. In order to PP-7, PP-12, PP-15, PP- didates against alleged 42, PP-43, PP-53 and PP- irregularities in the polling process, Election Commission wrote sepato submit reports about rate letters to the Chief these constituencies to the Justice of the High Courts that names of the avail-Saad Rafique wants an able judges should be given for the formation of leader the General Election Khawaja Saad Rafique Tribunal. It is a legal

The Election Tribunal election results from eight form on Monday, the for- has 120 days to decide on

# First phase of mandatory Hajj ritual training begins

tory Hajj ritual training upholding the nation's Scheme commenced, with prayers. Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious nificant number of pil- ues. Affairs Aneeq Ahmed joining the session in Hyderabad.

ing on the occasion, men- the tioned that Hajj training Pakistan are exerting has already finalized the programs will be conduct maximum effort to guar training curriculum. Hajj ed nationwide, spanning antee a seamless experitraining will take place from Karachi to Khyber. ence for the pilgrims. across seven Hajj camps

supplication to Allah." This year, the Pakistani

pilgrims serve as fortu- intending pilgrims will answer sessions.

grims in a single location

ISLAMABAD (APP): nate ambassadors of receive details of the The first phase of manda- Pakistan, tasked with training schedule through mobile messages and the for prospective pilgrims honor in Saudi Arabia and Hajj app. Pilgrims will Government keeping Pakistan in their have the opportunity to attend training workshops Assembling such a sig- at convenient local ven-

The training has prioriposes considerable chal- tized instruction on Hajj ritlenges, thus the Ministry uals, as well as addressing Aneeq Ahmed, speak- of Religious Affairs and discipline and administra-Government of tive matters. The ministry ence for the pilgrims. across seven Hajj camps He emphasized that They are providing com- located in different dis-Allah Almighty judges prehensive information tricts. The comprehensive our intentions, and it is regarding transportation, new training program will imperative to perform accommodation, and pro- encompass the 'Pak Haji Hajj with utmost devo- visions for food and bev- mobile app, advice on Hajj tion. "Hajj is a form of erages. It's worth noting preparations, comprehenthat more than 69,000 pil-sion of rituals, addressing grims under the govern- Hajj challenges, and offergovernment has expanded ment scheme will receive ing general instructions. At facilities for pilgrims training in two stages the training centres, model compared to the previous across different districts tents resembling the style year, resulting in a reduc- of the country. The sec- of Mina Valley have been tion of expenses by Rs ond phase of training will erected. Pilgrims will be 100,000 from the previ- commence after the con- guided by Master Trainers ous year. clusion of the noty monut.

He expressed that Hajj of Ramadan. Successful interactive question-andanswer sessions. clusion of the holy month through 3D videos and

# PR collects Rs 74.8 mln from ticketless passengers

(APP): and train staffers.

"Around 58,446 passengers found trains and collected the said amount from them, which is deposited in the official bank account of the department," sources in the Ministry told APP.

They said that it was not the first time that action was taken on a large scale against ticket-less passengers, adding that these types of crackdowns had taken place daily.

The sources said that ticketless travelling was illegal, and those who were caught without a ticket were charged a ticket price for the whole journey of the train besides the penalty. Those who do not pay are handed over to the railway

To a question, they said that Pakistan

Pakistan Railways Police claimed to have arrest-Railways has collected an amount of Rs ed a total of 3,923 accused due to their 74.8 million from ticket-less passengers involvement in violations of rules and in a crackdown during the three two laws and also registered some 3,625 months with the help of railway police cases against them in eight Railways divisions over one year.

'Around 658 cases were registered in travelling without tickets in different Peshawar Division, 577 in Rawalpindi, 1,044 in Lahore, 326 in Mughalpura workshops, 393 in Multan, 208 in Sukkur, 346 in Karachi, and 73 in Quetta Division," they added.

They said the Railways Police Help Desks had been established at all the major railway stations across the country, and the performance of the Railways Police has been quite satisfactory during the last year.

Regarding the performance of the railway police, they said, "Police are performing duties efficiently despite the limited resources, and the performance of the railway police will be further improved to the optimum level during the next year.

# **Shah Faisal** mosque to be renovated: Gohar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal cious courtyard of the mosque. Minister for Interior and Commerce Dr. Gohar Ijaz on Monday said that 40 years now the mosque would be renovated to make it more beautiful.

He expressed these views on the occasion of visiting Shah Faisal Mosque along with Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf Saeed Al Maliki.

Federal Interior Secretary, Aftab Akbar Durrani, Chief Commissioner Islamabad and CDA officials were also present at the occasion. The minister along with the Saudi Ambassador offered Zuhr prayer and latter visited the main hall and spa- mosque would be started soon, he added.

Talking to the media persons, the minister said that when he assumed charge of ago, the government of Saudi Arabia gave the minister, he offered Jumma prayer at a gift of Shah Faisal Mosque to Pakistanis, the mosque and latter he met with the Saudi ambassador and informed him that the mosque needed to be renovated.

"We are grateful to the Saudi Ambassador who took personal interest and decided to renovate the Shah Faisal Mosque, which will begin soon" the minister said.

Nawaf Saeed Al Maliki said that the Shah Faisal Mosque was given as a gift to Pakistanis by the Saudi government.

Now the renovation work of this

# Twelve women clinch NA seats by defying odds

brought surprises for several heavyweights while the PTI-backed candidates stunned many political observers. Although there women in the National Assembly, some strongwilled females defeated their rival males while smashing the patriarchy and became the members of the parliament.

As many as 12 powerful from the possession of an women won election on general seats in the Feb 8

The PTI-backed inde-30 kg hashish was recovered from Jeewani Road, Gwadar and 28 kg kg Ice drug were recovered from G.T. Road Nowshera

In two other operations, 19 kg of hashish was recovered from the Jarobi Zakhakhel area.

Separate cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused and further investigations are under process.

ANF recovers

340 kg drugs in

five operations

RAWALPINDI (APP):

(ANF) while conducting

five operations across the

country managed to recov-

er 340 kg of drugs and

arrested two accused, said

an ANF Headquarters

Monday. He informed that

158 kg hashish and 99 kg

opium were recovered

accused arrested near

opium, 4 kg heroin and 2

and an accused was arrest-

ed during the operation.

Kohat Road Peshawar.

here

Anti-Narcotics

spokesman

#### 10 outlaws held. drugs, illegal arms recovered

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police arrested ten out-laws during crackdown and recovered more than 3.5 kg drugs, illegal arms from their possession here on Monday.

According to police spokesman, Naseerabad police recovered 1.5 kg drugs from Faisal.

Similarly, Wah Cantt police recovered 1.2 kg from Shahzad While, Saddar Barooni police recovered 800 grams of charas from Raheel.

Following operation, Sadiqabad police recovered 01 pistol 30 bore from Wasim and 01 pistol 30 bore was recovered from Waqas while 01 pistol 30 bore was also recovered from Rafaqat.

Mandra police recovered 01 pistol 30 bore from Ghafran.

Police registered separate cases against the and further accused investigation was in progress.

Divisional SPs commended police teams and said that strict action will be taken against drug dealers and illegal arm holders without any discrimination.

General Elections of 2024 She obtained 208,943 votes witnessed many ups and and defeated PML-N candidowns. The election date and former federal

are seats reserved for other. Aneeqa is new

polls and became MNAs.

pendent women candidates topped the list with five seats followed by PML-N whose women candidates clinched four general seats. The PPP, who has the

credit of giving Pakistan its first ever woman prime minister, could elect only two women candidates on general seat.

MQM-P elected one woman candidate on general seat from Karachi. Shandana Gulzar Khan

NA-30 The PTI-backed independent candidate Peshawar by securing get 95,081 votes. 78,971 votes. She defeated Amber Maje

Khan who could get only 20,950 votes. Shandana first became MNA in 2018 on PTI's reserved seat but this time she contested on the gener-

2013 on PTI ticket before retiring as a bureaucrat.

This National Assembly constituency of Hafizabad was clinched by PTIbacked independent candi-

minister Saira Afzal Tarar who secured 183,020 votes.

It was the constituency where two women were contesting against each entrant in the National Assembly although his family is in the politics for decades. The male members of Mehdi Bhatti family are in the hiding and therefore Aneeqa Mehdi jumped into the political field.

Ayesha Nazir Jutt NA-This seat was clinched

by PTI-backed independent candidate Ayesha Nazir Jutt who got 119,820 votes against PML-N candidate Ch Nazir Ahmad who could get only 90,353 votes.

daughter of former MNA from Vehari Ch Nazir Jutt. She has also served as PTI's senior vice president in South Punjab.

Amber Majeed Niazi The PTI-backed inde- 158

pendent candidate Amber Majeed NA-181 Layyah by grab-

JUI-F candidate Nasir jumped into elections after 103,052 votes. the crackdown on PTI Tehmina had workers in the aftermath of May 9 violence.

Niazi, who won from the ter Nawaz Sharif, during constituency in the previal seat. Her father Gulzar ous elections, has been in Khan also became MNA in hiding since May 9 riots. Zartaj Gul NA-185

Former federal minister Aneeqa Mehdi Bhatti and PTI-backed independent candidate Zartaj Gul won the election by getting 94,881 votes against another independent candidate date Ijaz Shah who could Mehmood Qadir Khan who

ISLAMABAD (INP): The date Aneega Mehdi Bhatti. could get only 32,929 votes from this constituency of

Nousheen Iftikhar NA-

This National Assembly constituency of Sialkot has been clinched by PML-N candidate Nousheen

Iftikhar. She obtained 112,143 votes against PTI-backed independent candidate Ali Asjad Malhi who secured 104,067 votes.

Nousheen is the daughter of PML-N stalwart late Zahray Shah who became MNA from Daska, Sialkot several times.

Maryam Nawaz NA-119 This National Assembly constituency of Lahore has been won by PML-N chief organiser Maryam Nawaz Sharif who got 83,855 votes against PTI-backed Ayesha Nazir Jutt is the independent candidate Shahzad Farooq who could only garner 68,376 votes.

The victory marked the official entry of Sharif's political scion in the parliamentary politics.

Tehmina Daultana NA-

PML-N's Niazi won from Begum Tehmina Daultana grabbed this seat from a bing 120,499 votes. Her constituency of Vehari by Shandana Gulzar Khan rival Sahibzada Faiz ul getting 111,196 votes became MNA from NA-30 Hassan of PML-N could against PTI-backed independent candidate Tahir Amber Majeed Niazi Iqbal Chaudhry who got

worked with Kulsoom Nawaz, the late Her husband, Majeed wife of former prime ministhe military dictatorship of Pervez Musharraf.

Shazra Mansab NA-112 candidate Shazra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal won this seat of Nankana Sahab by getting 105,646 votes against PTIbacked independent candi-

### Absar Alam attacked at behest of two France-based individuals

Islamabad police have submitted a report in the Supreme Court's suo motu case regarding the protection for journalists.

According to the report, six people were involved in the attack on senior journalist Absar Alam and have been arrested. It further says that suspect Hammad Suleman confessed to attacking Alam at the behest of individuals living in France in exchange for money. The report quoted

France-based individuals, Shahnawaz and Mirza Zain Ghayas, through a bank. It further says that an investigation report against the suspects was submitted on June yet been indicted. Moreover, arrest warrants have also been issued for the suspects residing in France.

The police report also says that YouTuber Asad Toor was same France-based individuthe suspect as saying that he als. Further investigations

ISLAMABAD (INP): The received the money from two will be conducted following the arrest of these two suspects residing abroad, the report added.

Moreover, the case of the abduction of journalist Matiullah Jan was registered 9, 2022, though they have not on his brother's complaint; however, it is alleged that there has been no cooperation from the plaintiff's side in the case. On the other hand,

there was no case regisattacked at the behest of the tered in Islamabad by journalists Amir Mir and Imran Shafqat.



ISLAMABAD: CDA staffers busy in removing election banners in Federal Capital.

#### Hamd named depy spokesman

KABUL (Pajhwok): Mullah Hamdullah Fitrat has been appointed as deputy spokesman for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA). The caretaker government's chief spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, wrote on his X handle Fitrat had been appointed in compliance with the supreme leader's orders. Fitrat had previously served as spokesman for the Ministry of Borders and Tribal Affairs

# The Frontier Post

FGHANISTA Shaban 02, 1445 — Tuesday, February 13, 2024



Nations Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has announced that for the first time, Portugal has contributed 200,000 to the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund. This announcement was made by OCHA on Monday, February 12th, on its social media platform X, that Portugal has contributed 200,000, which is equivalent to \$215,750 US dollars, to the humanitarian fund for

Asia is comparable to a living body composed of soil and water. The heart that beats inside the body is Afghanistan. The destruction of Afghanistan would be the destruction of Asia. And in its progress and prosperity lies the well-being of Asia. - Allama Iqbal

# Baradar urges Russians to invest in Afghanistan

KABUL (Ariana News): climate change mitigation, nistan's active participa-Mullah Abdul Ghani Bar- and the enhancement of tion in international cliadar, Afghanistan's Deputy political ties between the mate change forums, cit-Prime Minister for Econ- two nations. omic Affairs, met with Ruslan Adelgiriyev, Advisor tive trajectory of related challenges and the to the President of the Rus- Afghanistan-Russia relaneed for reciprocal coopsian Federation and Special tions, the Deputy PM eration.
Representative on Climate stressed the importance of Adel Change, at his office.

Russian Ambassador in external threats. Kabul, also attended the meeting, Baradar's office rent conducive investment Russian government and

nomic and trade initiatives, sectors. the potential for Russian

Emphasizing the posijoint efforts to bolster and Dmitry Zhirnov, the safeguard these ties against

He highlighted the curclimate in Afghanistan, people. According to the office underlining the opportunitheir discussions encom- ties available to Russian passed collaborative eco- investors across various

Furthermore, Baradar investment in Afghanistan, advocated for Afgha-

ing the nation's significant vulnerability to climateof related challenges and the

> Adelgiriyev commended Afghanistan's progress and pledged to convey an accurate portrayal of the country's developments to the

He expressed Russian investors' readiness to engage in diverse sectors within Afghanistan, contingent upon sustained securi-

# 2 former Guantanamo prisoners returned



KABUL (Ariana News): and Karim were imprisoned Guantanamo Abdul Karim and Abdul in Guantanamo in 2002 and Muhammad I Zahir Saber, who have been 2003 respectively. living in Oman since being

issued by Abdul Matin Qani, the country. the spokesperson of the One Afghan prisoner island of Cuba Ministry of Interior, Zahir remains in detention at US jurisdiction.

Both were released from released from Guantanamo Guantanamo in 2017 and Bay in 2017, arrived in sent to Oman where they Kabul on Monday morning, were held under house the ministry of interior said. arrest. In this time they According to a statement have not been able to leave

Muhammad Rahim, whose family in November called for his release.

The US government has for years said it is working to reduce the number of detainees and eventually shut down Guantanamo Bay, which lies on the One Afghan prisoner island of Cuba but is under

# Chromite mine handed over to domestic company

Petroleum says the tender months. to extract chromite in Azra district of Logar province spokesman has been awarded to a Afghan added that extracdomestic company.

The Acting Minister of is now being done legally. ines and Petroleum "Since this year, around the strength of the Acting Minister of its now being done legally." Shahabuddin Delawer said 50 small-scale mining comthe contract is valid for five panies have been awarded years and the company that contracts to local compawon the bid will invest 151 nies during tenders. Also, million afghanis in the

pany to stick to the contract ects, have been entrusted to

istry, contracts for 15 large-

Hamayoon tion of mines in the country "Since this year, around

about 15 large-scale mines, including gold, copper, Delawer urged the comiron, lead, and cement projdomestic and foreign com-According to the min- panies," said Afghan.

Meanwhile, the general

LOGAR (Ariana News): scale mines have been manager of the company The Ministry of Mines and awarded in the past 10 that won the chromite contract stated the company is ministry's committed to adhering to the contract regulations.

He also called on the government to support local investors. "The system should provide a favorable environment for domestic investors," said Shirzad, the manager of the winning company.

Last week, the ministry

also approved a tender to extract lead in Ghor province. The company that won the tender will invest \$247 million in the

### 122 traffic accidents in last year

(Pajhwok): More than 120 traffic accidents took place in northern Balkh province last year, leaving 108 people dead and 160 others injured, an official said on Monday.

Balkh traffic department official Maulvi Abdul Qayum Mubariz told Qayum Pajhwok Afghan News 122 traffic accidents occurred in Balkh last year, killing 108 people and injuring another 160.

About the traffic department's revenue, Mubariz said they collected 185 million afghanis in revenue from issuing licenses to vehicles in the past year.

Another senior official of the Traffic Department, Maulvi Noor Alam Qudrat also said traffic personnel were preventing passenger vehicles from stopping outside stands daily.

According to him, the General Directorate of Traffic has planned to decrease congestions, but provided no details about the plan.

Nooruddin Rahimi, a resident of Balkh, told Pajhwok most accidents occurred to due reckless driving and destroyed roads, asking relevant authorities not to allow driving without license. Abdul Hai, a taxi driver,

said some drivers were unaware about traffic laws and others violated traffic rules despite knowing them. Matiullah Ahmadzai, an-

other resident, asked drivers to follow traffic laws and not to play with their own and people's lives.

Every year, thousands of people including children and women die or sustain injuries in traffic accidents resulting from ruined roads and reckless driving in the country.

#### **Export** volume increased

KABUL (Ariana News): The National Statistics and Information Authority IA) has analyzed export and import data for the 10th month of the current solar year and reports that exports amounted to \$149.9 million and imports to \$785.4 million.

For the same period last exports totalled \$148.7 million – which shows an increase of \$1.2 million this year. On the other hand, the total import volume totaled \$686.7 million dollars in the 10th month of last year. This means imports increased in value by \$98.7 million.

NSIA's data shows that most exports in the 10th month of this year and last year were to Pakistan, India and the UAE.

# 'Some banks facing liquidity problems,



economic deputy prime sector. The trust of cus-minister of the Islamic tomers and businesspeople Emirate said that some of banks is an important

meeting of the "high coun- Emirate. cil of economics, financial stability committee and development of a country.

"Banking sectors play a the country. There have of withdrawal of money finance promised that they and receiving money.

banks are facing problems of liquidity in Afghanistan.

Speaking at the second deputy PM of the Islamic

Meanwhile, the president of De Afghanistan documented banks' share- Bank [Afghanistan's cenholders," Mullah Abdul tral bank] said that they Ghani Baradar said that have addressed many probbanks play a key role in the lems of banks in the past two years.

Hidayatullah Badri said key role in the develop- that they have also manment and reconstruction of aged to increase the amount

ing system is still under restrictions.

"The banking sector was on the verge of collapse, the leadership of the central bank managed it well. Not problems sector witnessed development," said Hidayatullah Badri.

In the meeting, the shareholders of the bank country and manage the banking in person.

KABUL (TOLOnews): The been developments in the from banks while the bank- will resolve the problems of banks in the country.

"We promise to solve the problems of banks, we also thank those who still have a share in the banks, we ask the shareholders to pay only the problems more attention to their decreased but the banking shares in banks," said Muhammad Nasir Akhund, the acting minister of finance.

Following the Islamic Emirate rule in the country, were asked to return to the the banking system has been restricted in the country and traders are encoun-The acting minister of tering problems in sending

# IEA condemns ongoing military attacks by Israel against Palestine

called for an end to the foreign ministry said.

ongoing "genocide".

In a statement issued b 'strongly condemns the airstrikes immediate end to them.

international and regional displaced civilians, Reuters effective governments, Islamic countries and human rights organizations to stop the ongoing genocide in Gaza and occupied Palestine and lead to a fundamental solution to this

"Continuation of genocide in Gaza has brought

KABUL (Ariana News): its values, and this geno- some 250 people who Israel of six, told Reuters. The Islamic Emirate of cide of the century will fur-Afghanistan on Monday ther destroy the weak credcondemned the ongoing ibility of international its war on Gaza. attacks by Israel on Gaza organizations and humaniand occupied Palestine and tarian conventions," the air strikes had coincided

the IEA's foreign ministry Israeli-Argentinian on Monday morning, the hostages in Rafah on Islamic Emirate said it Monday under the cover of which local ongoing atrocities of the health officials said killed Zionists and calls for an 67 Palestinians and wounded dozens in the southern "The Islamic Emirate of Gaza city that is the last Afghanistan calls upon refuge of about a million

> reported. A joint operation by the Israeli military, the domestic Shin Bet security service and the Special Police Unit in Rafah freed Fernando Simon Marman, 60, and Louis Hare, 70, the military

The two men were kidserious questions to the ruling international order and 7, the military said, among tent camp," Emad, a father crisis

says were seized during the militant raid that triggered Israel's military said its

with the raid to allow its The IEA's statement forces to be extracted. came after Israel freed two

The Gaza health m

been killed and the number could rise as rescue operations were under way. A photograph from the scene showed a vast area of rubble where buildings had been destroyed.

Palestinians in Rafah said two mosques and several houses were hit in more than an hour of strikes by Israeli warplanes, tanks and ships, causing widespread panic among people who had been asleep.

"It was the worst night since we arrived in Rafah last month. Death was so near as shells and missiles

Some feared Israel had

begun a long-feared ground offensive in the city, where more than a million people displaced by Israel's war on Hamas are sheltering with nowhere else to go. Hamas said the atta

istry said 67 people had Rafah was a continuation of "genocidal war" and forced displacement attempts Israel has waged against the Palestinian people. Hamas militants killed

1,200 people in southern Israel and abducted at least 250 in their Oct. 7 incursion, according to Israeli tallies. Israel has responded with a military assault on the Gaza Strip that has killed more than 28,000 Palestinians, according to the Hamas-run health ministry in the enclave.

Ťhe IEA meanwhile said the attacks on Rafah city "will cause another big dislanded 200 meters from our aster and deepen the current

# Nabil, Afghan politician, apologizes to people



KABUL (Khaama Press): Rahmatullah Nabil, former head of Afghanistan's National Security, admitted in his latest interview to what is perceived as a failure by politicians in the pursuit of "nationbuilding" and has stepped forward to apologize to the Afghan people.

His apology to the people has been accompanied by widespread support on social media platforms, breaking the longstanding silence of politicians that prevented them from acknowledging their mistakes

The former head of Afghanistan's National Security, speaking on Monday, February 12th, in an interview with Afghanistan International, stated, "We couldn't hand over a better country to the next generation," and therefore "we must apologize to the people.

In his interview as a politician, he apologized to the people of Afghanistan and added that other statesmen should also follow suit in accepting their mistakes and apologizing to the people because, accordthe "wounds," charting the path of "nation-building" would be challenging.

"nation-building" after the collapse of the prompting further scrutiny of the situation. published on Monday, February contributed to the collapse of the

republic, also urged Pashtun and Tajik statesmen, who he said were in power for the past twenty years, to apologize to the other ethnic groups and the people of

He stated, "Pashtun political elites should stand up and apologize to Hazara, Nuristani, and Pashayi people [because] they failed to present a formula to lead Afghanistan towards nation-building.'

The tradition of apology among Afghan politicians is almost unfamiliar, and Mr. Nabil's initiative to accept mistakes and apologize to the people has been accompanied by widespread acceptance among civil society activists, politicians, and social media users.

Dr. Zekria Ehsan, a university professor and political activist on the X social network, described Nabil's action as "courageous" and added: "This kind of courage sows the seeds of hope for a better tomorrow. Acknowledging mistakes and shortcomings is the first step towards correcting ast mistakes. Perhaps Mr. Nabil will be the founder of this respected tradition among political elites who had a presence in political power.

Some users, however, have approached this issue with scepticism and raised questions in this regard, wondering if politi-

cians' apologies suffice. Sima Nouri, a social activist on the X social network, raises important questions regarding the recent apology from Rahmatullah Nabil. She questions whether an apology alone is sufficient, and if there ing to him, without identifying and healing will be genuine reflection and learning from past mistakes by Nabil and his former colleagues. Nouri also wonders Nabil, as the first politician to apologize whether this apology signifies a positive to the people for failure in the pursuit of change or merely an empty gesture,

# Taliban Deputy Foreign Minister signals participation in Doha Conference

deputy of the caretaker government's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has told the media that the Taliban government is thinking about joining the conference and will let everyone know its decision soon.

Stanikzai made these remarks, during a ceremony commemorating the forty-fifth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran in Kabul. On the other hand, sources suggest that preparations for the Doha conference are nearing completion.

The two-day Doha conference, nitiated by the United Nations on Afghanistan, scheduled for February 18th and 19th, will discuss challenges

KABUL (Khaama Press): As the Afghanistan with representatives Doha conference nears, Sher from specific countries and will Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai, the negotiate the selection of a new representative from the organization for Afghan affairs.

Discussions for selecting a new representative for Afghanistan affairs are ongoing, while the Taliban considers the presence of the UN Deputy Office in Kabul sufficient and deems appointing a new representative unnecessary

Thomas Nicholson, the EU's Special Representative, stated during his press conference in Kabul that Afghan men and women have been invited to share their experiences and perspectives at the Doha conference.

facing presence of protesting women at activists in this event.



this conference, despite women's the Taliban does not accept the major demands of women's rights

While discussions continue for However, sources indicate that participation being one of the selecting a new representative for Afghanistan affairs, a final decision has not yet been announced.

## Healthcare situation in Afghanistan called a disaster, says Human Rights Watch

KABUL (Khaama Press): The 12th. Human Rights Watch's recent report on Afghanistan's healthcare prediction of an impending disaster. They emphasize a significant decrease in foreign aid and limitations on women as key factors fuel-

ng this crisis. The Human Rights Watch report titled "A Foreseeable Disaster:

held with Afghan and international system highlights a concerning relief officials, healthcare workers, and people seeking medical assistance in 16 provinces of Afghanistan from February 2023 to January 2024.

The findings of Human Rights Watch indicate that the significant reduction in foreign aid and restric-Afghanistan's Health Crisis" was tions against women and girls have

th. healthcare system in Afghanistan administration has weakened the For this report, interviews were and people's access to medical healthcare system in Afghanistan

Farzana Abbasi, one of the researchers at Human Rights Watch, stated, "The loss of foreign development aid and violations by the Taliban have led to a catahealth crisis strophic

affecting women and girls.'

and made the people in this country vulnerable to diseases.

This situation arises amidst a severe humanitarian crisis in the country, worsened by the return of Afghan refugees from neighbourin ing countries like Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan disproportionately and Turkey. They're facing a harsh winter without necessities such as According to this report, the heating fuel, shelter, food, and mismanagement of the Taliban other essentials.



GAZA: A woman reacting next to the body of a child killed in an Israeli raid on Rafah.

## **Houthis target US-linked** ship with missiles

SANAA: Houthi fighters dication of the oppressed by launching strikes on have fired on a ship that Palestinian people, in sup- Houthi-held Yemeni territohave fired on a ship that Palestinian people, in sup-they identified as United port and solidarity with our States-owned while it travelled in waters off Yemen. The United Kingdom The Iran-linked armed Maritime Trade Operations group said on Monday that (UKMTO) confirmed that a the Star Iris was targeted vessel was attacked by two with "a number of suitable missiles at 00:35 GMT naval missiles" in "accurate some 40 nautical miles The latest Houthi attack and direct" strikes. The (74km) south of al-Makha Houthis have attacked (Mocha) in Yemen. numerous ships in the Red

Carriers Corp, came "in vin- attacks on maritime traffic siles. — Arab News

brothers in the Gaza Strip".

"The crew are reported Sea in recent months, dis- safe and the vessel is prorupting the key trade route ceeding to next port of between Europe and Asia, call," it said, advising tranand called for an end to sit through waters near Israel's bombardment of Yemen with caution. Saree also called the attack "retal-Yahya Saree, the Houthis iation to the Americanmilitary spokesman said British aggression on our that the strike on the vessel, country". In recent weeks, had targeted two unmanned owned by the US-listed, the US and UK have surface vessels and three Greece-based firm Star Bulk responded to the ongoing mobile anti-ship cruise mis

However, the Houthis appear undeterred. The spokesman reiterated that the group intends to continue to target vessels in the Red Sea until the war ends. comes less than two days after the latest "self-defence strikes" by the US military, which has been pounding Yemen with munitions launched from aircraft and warships near Yemen. The US Central Command (CENTCOM) said on Sunday that its newest attacks a day earlier

The judge ordered SSP Investigation Mehdi, who appeared in the court on its order, to meet with the inspector general of Police (IGP) Islamabad and devise the standard operating procedures (SOPs). "Please tell the IGP that in future no suspect will be arrested from the premises of these courts. And please inform us in two days what the IGP said on this," he direct-

IHC bars police

from arresting

suspects from

courts' premises

F.P. Report

Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday barred

the police from arresting

any person from the court

premises. In his order

which he gave in the case

of a woman, Justice Arbab

Muhammad Tahir ordered

that not only no arrest would be made from the

IHC premises but also

from the premises of a

sessions court and from

within the judicial com-

ISLAMABAD:

Speaking on the occasion, the SSP said he was ashamed at the arrest of a woman from the premises of the Islamabad High Court (IHC). "Normally such incidents don't happen. I don't know why it happened in the case of this woman," he said, and added, "However, the ASI investigation is underway." The court later adjourned the case's hearing for two days. On the other hand, website of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) was opened on Monday after it was updated, informed the IT section in-charge.

#### Firdous Ashiq moves IHC for protective bail F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: After the registration of an FIR against her for interfering in official duty at a polling station Sialkot, in Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) leader Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan on Monday filed a petition in the Islamabad High Court, seeking protective bail so that she could approach

the sessions court. Firdous made the government and ASI Amjad Ali respondents in her petition. According to the FIR registered on the complaint of ASI at Saddar police station of Sialkot on February 9, the police official said that on the election day, the IPP leader not only misbehaved with him but also slapped him. He said that since mobile phone and internet services were suspended on that day; he could not inform the authorities about the incident in time.

Later talking to the media outside the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) building, the Ìstehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) leader said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) must listen to her point of view as well. She alleged that the police personnel deployed at the polling station were busy putting stamps on the names of her rival candidates. "The question is that

instead of abiding by the law, why were they acting as facilitators of a political party?" she questioned Firdous went on to say that if such people were not brought to book, then ordinary people would teach them a lesson by taking the law into their own hands.

# Israel kills dozens in Rafah strikes, frees two captives

DOHA/JERUSALEM (Reuters): An rounding buildings. Israeli rescue operation freed two Israeli-Argentine hostages held by on this operation," Lt Col. Richard Hamas militants in Rafah on Monday, Hecht said. "We were waiting for the but supporting airstrikes killed nearly right conditions." The Argentine gov-70 Palestinians in the southern Gaza ernment thanked Israel for the rescue city where about one million dis- of the two men, who it said were dual placed civilians have sought refuge nationals. Video footage showed from months of bombardments.

The mission by the Israeli military, the Shin Bet security service and a special police unit freed Fernando Simon Marman, 60, and Louis Hare, 70, the military said. They were among 250 people seized during the placed with his relatives from north-Oct. 7 raid by Hamas militants that ern Gaza, said they were killed at triggered Israel's war on Gaza.

More than four months on, much of the densely-populated strip of land on the Mediterranean is in ruins, with 28,340 Palestinians dead and 67,984 wounded, according to Gaza health officials, with many others believed to be buried under rubble.

The Israeli military says 31 hostages have died in that time, but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu siles landed 200 meters from our tent said Monday's rescue showed that military pressure should continue and of six, told Reuters via a chat app. He he brushed aside international alarm said it was the worst night of bombat its plans for a ground assault on ing since they arrived in Rafah last

"Fernando and Louis, welcome tinued military pressure, until total victory, will bring about the release of all of our hostages." The Gaza health family and ministry said 67 Palestinians had Emad said. been killed overnight and the number could rise as rescue operations were under way. A Reuters journalist at the scene saw a vast area of rubble where buildings, including a mosque, had been destroyed.

"I've been collecting my family's body parts since the morning, said Ibrahim Hassouna as a woman knelt over the body of a young child near-them as they fought the captors. by. "I only recognized their toes or fingers." An Israeli military was a continuation of a "genocidal spokesman said the hostages were war" and forced displacement being held on the second floor of a attempts Israel has waged against the explosives during the raid amid killed 1,200 people in southern Israel, — each side recognizing heavy exchanges of gunfire with suring the Oct. 7 incursion that sparked right to their own state.

them hugging relatives in Israel's Sheba hospital, looking frail but relieved.

Israel's military said airstrikes had

coincided with the raid to allow its forces to be extracted. Hassouna, disern Gaza, said they were killed at least 4 km (2 miles) from the military operation. "We have nothing to do with anything. Why did you bomb us?" he asked.

People in Rafah said two mosques and several residential buildings were hit in more than an hour of strikes by Israeli warplanes, tanks and ships which caused widespread panic. "Death was so near as shells and miscamp," businessman Emad, a father

Some feared Israel had begun a home," he said, saluting the Israeli long-expected ground offensive in forces who rescued them. "Only controlled the city, where more than a million the city, where more than a million people displaced by the war are sheltering with nowhere else to go. "My family and I said our last prayers,

A relative of one of the hostages said he had seen both freed men following their rescue and found them "a bit frail, a bit thin, a bit pale" but Bejerano, Hare's son-in-law, said the "within a minute" the commandos were in the building and covering

Hamas said the attack on Rafah An Israeli military was a continuation of a "genocidal

Israel said it had killed more than 12,000 Hamas militants and taken out three-quarters of its battalions, of which it said earlier that four were in

Many Western leaders have expressed alarm at Israel's offensive while continuing to support the country. However, a Dutch appeals court said it had blocked the export of F-35 fighter jets parts to Israel over a "clear risk of violations of interna-

tional humanitarian law" in Gaza. Israeli government spokeperson Eylon Levy said Israel was fighting to prevent "extremism and terrorism from spiralling further in Europe" and expected its allies to stand by it. Britain urged Israel to agree to a truce to free its hostages rather than attack Rafah where people were trapped.

Foreign Secretary David Cameron said: "We think it is impossible to see how you can fight a war among these people. There's nowhere for them to US President Joe Biden says Israel needs a credible evacuation plan. Israel's Levy called on UN aid agencies to help. "Work with us to find a way," he said. Aid agencies say an assault on Rafah would be catastrophic. Egypt has reinforced its border with the city, saying it fears Gazans will be pushed across, never

An Israeli official has said people will be evacuated further north, but its forces are also active in central Gaza. Palestinian medics said 15 people had been killed in an airstrike in the central town of Deir Al-Balah. A senior Hamas leader said at the weekoverall in good condition. Idan end that any Israeli ground offensive in Rafah would "blow up" hostagehostages had been sleeping when exchange negotiations. The US and other Western leaders hope Middle Eastern countries will help rebuild Gaza after the war. The United Arab Emirates' ambassador to the United Nations said for that to happen, there must be an "irreversible progression" toward a two-state solution to building that was breached with Palestinian people. Hamas militants decades of Israeli-Palestinian conflict - each side recognizing the other's

# Two more leopards killed due to cutting of forests Police Station Changla Gali due to illegal cutting of

ABBOTTABAD: In one per locals, these were died day, two leopards' dead bodies were found while deforestation of local firms. two cubs of leopards were This was the 2nd incident also recovered by the Wild reported in the area in last Mikhyal Forest Range in days back one dead body of Haripur district.

According to Wildlife here. department official at Abbottabad Abdul Khaliq, Officials, Abbottabad the ages of both cubs are 2 Field officer while confirm- Cheetahs are extremely rare to 3 months. Operation is leopards found dead in due to cutting of trees in to ascertain the exact cause search of food and to hide

dead in the premises of being vanished day by day ment.

on Seer Gharbi Road and as forests. due to logging during Department in couple of days as at least 10 the leopard was also found

The live cubs are being kept at Abbottabad caring center where they are being treated and also food is provided to them and it has been reported that both are in good health. Officials are also in search of their mother and according to official According to Wild Life Abdul Khali filed Officer, Abbottabad the ages of both cubs are 2 ing the recovery of dead species and are dying out. going on to find the mother bodies has told that the The officials of the wild life of Abbottabad cheetah post-mortem of the two department has added that cubs. Says Department of Wildlife. Due to indiscrimi-Galiyat has been completed Galiyats, the Big Animals nate cutting of Abbottabad and final report will be are now scared and had forests, wild life is being available in two days' time moved to the population in severely affected this rare breed of Abbottabad cheeat bushes and thickly tah is close to extinction The leopards were found forests which are now said the Wildlife's depart

### 'PML-N undermining democracy to seize power'

ISLAMABAD: Slamming from the office of the RO the PML-N led by Nawaz (returning officer) so that Sharif, Salman Akram the results could be manip-Raja, a PTI-backed inde- ulated. "What kind of pendent candidate from magic turned a lead of 0.1 Lahore's NA-128 con-million into 12,000," the once advocated for the election was rigged and integrity of the vote were now aiming to seize power done". by undermining the very essence of democracy.

The senior lawyer, while speaking to media outside following day.

people who used their fran- fusion and fracas. chise right on the polling

on Monday electoral candidate queswe know how it was he went on to add.

According to Salman Akram Raja, he won the election with a lead of at least 90,000 votes [against the Election Commission Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party of Pakistan (ECP) office, candidate Awn Saqlain alleged that the election Chaudhry]. He said he was rigged, stating that he would take legal action and was winning by a wide challenge this decision at margin according to the every forum. Raja also Form 45, but his victory mentioned the disruption of was turned into defeat the internet and suspension of cellular services on Feb 8, Raja called this (rigging) which according to him, Salman Akram Raja has an insult to the millions of was carried out to sow con-

The Supreme Court High Court.

day, recalling that he had lawyer held the view that been forcibly removed only the state could end rigging, but added that i seemed as if the officials of the state themselves were involved "Rigging was done by elec toral and police officers. It occurred in the ROs asserted that those who tioned, asserting that the offices. The role of ROs was extremely regrettable,

> Announcing the future course of action [in response to the rigging], the PTIbacked independent candidate said they would hold peaceful protests. Asked about the efforts of the PML N and the PPPP towards the formation of a collation gov ernment, Raja remarked tha what a government would do for the country and the people if it was based on lies. I is important to note here that challenged the victory of Awn Chaudhry in the Lahore

### UK announces sanctions on four 'extremist' Israeli settlers

LONDON: The Kingdom has announced sanctions on four Israeli settlers accused of committing human rights abuses against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank after a similar move by the United States this month.

The sanctions announced on Monday follow what the residents of illegal Israeli set-UK called "unprecedented levels of violence by extremist settlers in the West Bank" over the past year by some residents of illegal Israeli set- months used physical aggrestlements and outposts there. sion, threatened families at The United Kingdom has gunpoint and destroyed propannounced sanctions on four erty, Cameron's foreign min-Israeli settlers accused of istry said. committing human rights

a similar move by the United States this month.

The sanctions announced on Monday follow what the UK called "unprecedented levels of violence by extremist settlers in the West Bank" over the past year by some tlements and outposts there. Two of the individuals sanctioned - Moshe Sharvit and Yinon Levy – have in recent

Their actions are "part of a

United abuses against Palestinians in targeted and calculated effor the occupied West Bank after to displace Palestinian communities", the Foreign, Com-

monwealth Development Office added London also targeted Zvi Bar Yosef, who it said had set up an illegal outpost in the West Bank in 2018, which has been described by local Palestinian residents as a 'source of systematic intimidation and violence"

A fourth person London sanctioned, Ely Federman, has been involved in multiple incidents against Palestinian shepherds in the South Hebron Hills, according to the Foreign Office. — Arab

#### call for Gaza ceasefire "So far, we have deliv- conspiracy theories" sur-World Health Organization ered 447 metric tons of rounding current negotiamedical supplies to Gaza,

WHO chief reiterates

LONDON: The head of the said on Monday the humanitarian situation in Gaza but it's a drop in the ocean was dire, adding that cur- of need, which continues to rent levels of medical supplies reaching the The latest conflict broke Palestinian enclave were out after attacks on Oct. 7 "only a drop in the ocean of by Hamas fighters in Israeli need.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was speaking at the World Governments to Israeli figures. Summit in Dubai and durwho had arrested her has ing his address he reiterated its fifth month, has killed meet that deadline, Tedros been suspended and an calls for a ceasefire in more than 28,000 people in said, due to misinformation his wounds. Law enforce-Israel's war on Gaza that Gaza, health authorities in about the agreement being ment officials safe access for humanitarian personnel and supplies," be released. And we continue to call for a ceasefire."

on Rafah where most of the "Only 15 out of 36 hospi-"I am especially concerned fled the destruction.

grow every day," he added. The latest conflict broke towns, which killed 1,200 people and around 250 hostages seized, according

has rayaged the area, the Hamas-run enclave a "power grab by the World 'WHO continues to call for have said. Tedros said lessons were not being learned from the COVID-19 panhe told the summit. "We demic and that the world continue to call for was not prepared for a new hostages held by Hamas to pandemic, which he added was inevitable. "If the world fails to learn from He added he was deeply these lessons, it will pay concerned by Israeli attacks dearly next time," he said. "And there will be a next enclave's inhabitants have time. History teaches us fled and where strikes that the next pandemic is a

killed 48 people overnight. matter of when — not if." He continued: "It may be tals are still partially or caused by an influenza minimally functioning, and virus, or a new Coronavirus Gaza health workers are or it may be caused by a doing their best in impossi- new pathogen we don't ble circumstances," he said. even know about yet. Tomorrow we would face Rafah where the majority we face with COVID-19." of Gaza's population has Tedros rejected what he can be ready." called "a litany of lies and News

tions on an international agreement on pandemic preparedness and response. Since December 2021

when WHO member states met in Geneva to begin drafting a global agreement, efforts have been ongoing to reach a consensus ahead of the World Health Assembly in May. The war, now entering But "obstacles remain" to Health Organization.' He rejected those accu-

sations, adding that all countries needed to work together to share information, knowledge and expertise to detect and contain pathogens presenting a risk, and timely access to tests, treatments and vaccines.

"The COVID-19 pandemic inflicted huge losses on communities, countries businesses and economies. Those losses must not be in vain and must not be repeated," he said. "It's possible or even likely that we will face another pandemic in our lifetimes. We by the recent attacks on many of the same problems can't know how mild or severe it might be. But we

#### **Former PTI** lawmaker assassinated

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Former member of the Punjab Assembly and independent candidate Chaudhry Adnan was tragically killed in Rawalpindi on Monday. As per the reports garnered, unidentified assailants shot and killed Adnan near the city's police lines while his car was stopped at a traffic signal.

He was rushed to the hospital, but succumbed to launched a manhunt for the perpetrators, who remain at large. Details indicate that the fatal attack occurred as Adnan's vehicle stopped at a traffic signal near the police lines. The police are actively investigating the incident to apprehend the assailant and bring them to justice.

deceased recently contested the elections as an independent candidate for Rawalpindi and PP-19. In the NA-57 constituency, he secured 1820 votes, while earning 2972 votes in PP-19. Adnan served as a Member of the Punjab Assembly from 2018 to 2023 under the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) ticket. He recently contested the February 8th elections as an independent candidate in both the NA-57 Rawalpindi and PP-19 constituencies, receiving a considerable number of

### Verdict on farmers said the laws

plea reserved F.P. Report

Fawad's bail

ISLAMABAD: The district and sessions Islamabad has reserved its verdict on the bail application of former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry in fraud case.

Civil Judge Dr Sohail Thaheem heard the bail plea of the accused. Fawad's lawyer Qaiser Imam appeared before the court while wife of Fawad was also present there. The lawyer argued that he never saw the plaintiff who filed the case against the former minister.

The lawyer said the case was fabricated and many other politicians were victimised after the registration of such cases against them.

He said no financial record of the plaintiff had been provided to court. It needed to be understood. he said, how an ordinary man could hand over Rs5 million against a job. After hearing the arguments, the judge reserved the verdict on the bail plea of the former federal minister.

### **Indian police block roads** to halt farmers' march

Indian erected on the edge of the police have blocked roads city. Police also issued farmers march towards the capital to press for increased government support. Government ministers demand higher support or were preparing to meet union leaders on Monday to discuss their demands for better crop prices, to double farmers' income. which were promised three years ago, amid protests of laws designed to deregulate vast agricultural mar-

The roadblocks were set up in a bid to avoid a repeat Committee, of the protests in 2021, camped out on major highways leading to the country's capital. The farmers' Minister Narendra Modi is third term. The country's influential voting bloc and ruling parties try to keep

growers on their side. footage Television showed tractors driving laws were aimed at modtowards Delhi from the ernising India's vast agrinorthern Indian breadbasket states of Punjab and would increase the income Haryana. Barriers, includ- of the farmers by giving ing barbed wire fencing and them more choices to sell cement blocks, have been their produce. But the

gatherings in Delhi. The farmers have come out after a call by union leaders to guaranteed prices for their produce and press the government to meet its promise "We will move peace-

fully and our objective is aimed at forcing the repeal that the government listen to our demands," Sarvan Singh Pandher, general secretary of Punjab Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh told news agency ANI. The governwhen thousands of farmers ment announces support prices for more than 20 crops each year to set a benchmark, but state agenmarch comes just months cies buy only rice and before national elections in wheat at the support level, India, in which Prime which benefits only about 6 percent of farmers who widely expected to win a raise those two crops. In 2021, tens of thousands of millions of farmers form an farmers staged a yearlong protest to persuade Modi to repeal three new laws passed the previous year.

> The government said the culture sector and that they

would give private corpoleading to New Delhi as orders prohibiting public rations control over the sector and deprive them of a minimum support price (MSP) guaranteed by the government for their produce. Amid the pressure, Modi's administration made a surprise U-turn, rolling back the controver sial legislations. Session to

form new NA

likely on 29th

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly's firs session after the genera elections is expected to be held on Feb 29. According to sources, the new assem bly's session must be held within 21 days after gen eral elections are conduct ed under Article 19 of the Constitution.

The newly elected nembers of the assembl will take the oath in the inaugural session. Speake Raja Pervez Ashraf wil preside over the inaugura session and newly-elected members will take the oath from him for the National Assembly.

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