Six die of Pneumonia F.P. Report

LAHORE: Pneumonia claimed six more lives of children during the past 24 hours in Punjab. According to the Punjab Health Department, a total of 475 new cases of pneumonia were reported during the last 24 hours including 175 in Lahore, only. The health authorities said six children lost their lives during the last 24 hours in Punjab, taking the overall number of deaths to 347.

Frontier Post

JI loses three KP seats F.P. Report

KHAR: Following the ECP's decision dates of Jamat-e-Islami (JI) from PK-17, PK-20, and PK-21 constituencies 2024. The three JI candidates—Aizaz Ul Malik representing PK-17, Waheed Gul from PK-20, and Sardar Khan from PK-21— initially secured victories in their respective constituencies.

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Shehbaz for PM slot

Maryam Nawaz to be PML-N's candidate

F.P. Report

Shehbaz Sharif has called for an end to partners for the next government.

"Leaders of different parties have been invited at Shujaat's residence in Islamabad for a joint session in which Shehbaz will meet prominent politicians," sources told media. Shehbaz Sharif has said the political leaders together with him have gathered to tell the nation that election politics of opposition was over and now was the time with the Parliament to form.

'Now our war is against the country's

Muslim League-Nawaz

the National Assembly.

of parliament.

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional

Justice Peshawar High Court

(PHC) Justice Muhammad

Sahibzada Asadullah extend-

ed Bail before Arrest (BBA)

of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

Marwat in 11 cases till 12th

National Assembly Sher

PTI vice president and

March, on Tuesday.

administration.

PHC requested

Imran Khan at Adyala jail claimed

Ibrahim Khan and Justice hearing.

A Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) delegation led by its convener Dr Khalid Magbool Siddiqui met Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif. The MQM-P delegation members include Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, Dr Farooq Sattar, and Mustafa Kamal, whereas, the meeting was attended by PML-N central leaders Ishaq Dar, Malik

Muhammad Ahmed Khan, and Ayaz Sadiq. During the meeting, both sides discussed the political situation and strategy to form the next government. Both parties agreed on continuing coordination to take future steps. PPP co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari has said that he and other political leaders gathered with him have decided to form the government

"We will take Pakistan out of difficulty," he said. PPP co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari has said reconciliation is needed in the current political situation and the PTI is also included in that process. "This is not that we want that PTI does not enter reconciliation. It should and every other political force should come and talk with us. Our economic and defence agenda should be common. We should move forward with our commonalities and then make the house of Sharif and others successful so we can make Pakistan successful."

Istehkam-i-Pakistan Party (IPP) leader Aleem Khan has said that Pakistan was going through an extremely difficult phase with inflation impacting the poor and economic crisis aggravating. Addressing a press conference with political bigwigs in attendance Khan said everyone had to step up for difficult decisions, which were beneficial for the country. "I am hopeful the upcoming government of Shehbaz Sharif will efficiently take such decisions and end miseries of the poor,' he added. He said he was thankful to Chaudhry Shujaat for inviting all political leaders for important discussions.

Respect the will of people: White House Jalil Afridi

White House Spokesperson Karine Jean Pierre stated that the will of the people of Pakistan be respected.

While commenting on the recent elections in Pakistan, Karine said that the President was aware of the recent elections in Pakistan where millions of women and young voters voted in Pakistan during the elections process.

Karine further said that it has been conveyed publicly and privately to the government of Pakistan that the will of the people be respected and that the elections results should be transparent.

PPP forming govt in Sindh, says Murad F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Former chief minister Murad Ali Shah said Tuesday that the People's Party is forming government in Sindh. He was talking to media ahead of the Central Executive Committee meeting of Pakistan People's Party that will decide that the party will join or not join the coalition government in Centre.

"The election was not easy for the PPP in Sindh, we have worked hard for five years," he claimed 'We can give account, how we won each and every seat," he said. He said the GDA has used Pir Pagara. "I will advise Pir Sahib to change his Pagara friends, these friends are not sincere with him," Shah said. He said the People's Party was standing on the side of the people of Sindh at every difficult moment.

Former CM said that the PPP has bagged more than 80 percent votes in Sindh. "We want to work with all political parties," he said "If the PML-N forms its government in centre, they have counted the MQM votes," Murad Ali Shah said and added that the MQM has to change its mindset. "We have maintained peace in Karachi with difficulty, our police and the forces have sacrificed lives for it," added.

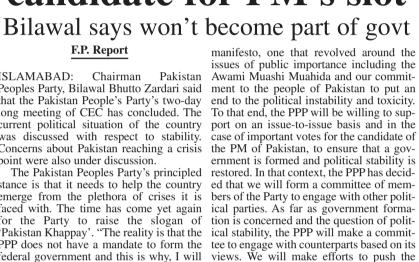
SC rejects Punjab govt's probe report F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday rejected the Punjab govt's probe report in the Jaranwala incident In April last year, a mob attacked, vandalized multiple churches and torched homes belonging to the Christian community in Faisalabad Jaranwala, over blasphemy allega-

At the outset of the hearing, the additional advocate General Punjab submitted the probe report stating that 304 suspects were arrested, while 18 challans of 22 FIRs were submitted in the courts following the Jaranwala incident. CJP Justice Qazi Faez Isa while rejecting the report of the Punjab government raised questions on the pace of the challans of the case.

The top judge remarked that Gujranwla's 'brave' police continued watching the riots in Jaranwala. "We complain Islamophobia everywhere

> Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) "Those Punjab's



to help them emerge from further turmoil. The members of the CEC raised objections over the PML-N and our experience the PPP and that rules out the possibility of with them for 18 months. Members of the Party, especially from Punjab, KP and That leaves us with PML-N which is the other provinces expressed their grievances over their issues not being resolved Confidence-building hence is vital, which is why we will not only discuss government formation in the meetings with other parties, but also demand of them to address the PPP's grievances.

country in a direction which is the right of

the Pakistani people, who participated in this election. They do not wish for further

chaos. They are looking at their politicians

ourselves, nor will we be interested in tak-Talking about the 2024 general elections, Chairman PPP said that unfortunatenot want to see political chaos in the counly, as was the case in the past, including 2013 and 2018, this election too suffered What are our options? If the PTI does from similar objections. The members of not want our votes and the PML-N does the PPP's CEC too expressed their views regarding the level playing field, rigging candidate and this House fails to elect a and irregularities. It has been decided that the PPP's CEC will collect all such comhave to go back for re-elections and this plaints as far as this election is concerned. Moreover, despite these objects, grievances and protests over these elections, we will accept the results due in the larger interest of the people and the country. We would simultaneously want to address these issues so that the upcoming elections are not questioned. We will also use forums such as the Election Commission of The PPP contested this election on a Pakistan, the Parliament etc.



ISLAMABAD: Amid political uncertainty continues owing to the February 8 poll results, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Tuesday announced that political parties without electoral symbols would not be allotted reserved seats in the National Assembly.

In its statement, the ECP has said that the reserved seats, of which there are a total of 70 dedicated to women and minorities, will be allotted on the basis of the Election Act 2017 and that they will be distributed amongst the political parties in a proportion that is in line with their respective representation in the assemblies if the winning independent candidates fail to join any party.

The development is likely to have significant reper cussions for the PTI whose candidates had to contest the polls in an independent capacity after the party lost its "bat" electoral symbol due to irregularities in its intra-party polls. With no political party being able to secure a simple majority, the field is now open for the PTI, PML-N and the PPP to forge alliances to secure the relevant numbers to form their government in the Centre which requires a minimum of 169 seats in the National Assembly in the 336-member lower house of parliament.



F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has claimed that the former ruling party, upon direc-Majlis-e-Wahdatform its governments in Centre and Punjab.

Speaking to the media in spokesperson Raoof Hasan said that the former prime minister, while ruling out the prospects of any talks with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan party to form a coalition with Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) in

over reserved seats. who [February 8] polls, should be allowed to form the government as it is their right conveying Khan's message. "I have been given the mandate [by Khan] to approach all political parties to con- candidates, who have won tinue the party's political 116 provincial assembly struggle for democratic values with the exception of 72 ho the PML-N, MQM-P and once the PPP," Hasan added.

by the party founder include the nomination of Ali Amin Gandapur as the chief minister for KP, the tions of its founder Imran holding of intra-party elec-Khan, will join hands with tions and the appointment of Amir Dogar as the Muslimeen (MWM) to party's chief whip in the form its governments in National Assembly, Hasan added. His remarks come

as PTI-backed candidates Islamabad on Tuesday, PTI have emerged as the largest group by winning over 90 National Assembly seats followed by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) with 75 and 54 seats, respective-

In light of the fact that (MQM-P), has directed the no party managed to succeed in securing a simple majority, the role of independent candidates has become even more imporhave tant with both the PML-N emerged victorious in the and the PPP attempting to rope them in to strengthen their parliamentary positions. The PTI's decision to [do do so], he said while join hands with the MWM one National Assembly seat - comes as its sponsored

 which has only secured seats in Punjab, will have 72 hours to join a party Election seats secured by each the Commission of Pakistan party.

Other decisions ratified (ECP) notifies their win. In Punjab, the party would need to join hands with independent candidates and other parties to form the government in the largest province where currently the PML-N is in the lead with 137 seats. Meanwhile, welcoming the development, MWM chief Allama Raja Nasir Abbas has said that the party would unconditionally accept the PTI founder's decisions. In a separate statement

> Barrister Gohar, the party would announce its candidates for prime ministership as well as Punjab's chief minister along with constitutional posts of KP and National Assembly's speaker and deputy speak-Meanwhile, the move to join hands with the JI which lost two more KP seats of PK-20 and PK-21 to the PTI-backed candidates, is primarily aimed at securing the quota for reserved seats — since the party lost its election symbol "bat" forcing its candidates to contest in an independent capacity — which is awarded concerning the

made by PTI leader

IHC summons PM

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday summoned Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in his personal capacity in connection with Baloch students non-recovery case.

IHC's Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani heard the case and directed the caretaker prime minister to appear before the court on Monday next at 10:00 am. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked that the punishment for enforced disappearances should be death penalty. "People involved in enforced disappearances should get death penalty twice," he added.

Later, the court summoned Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in his personal capacity on Monday at 10 O'clock and adjourned the hearing of the case till February 19.

During the proceed-ings, Assistant Attorney General Usman Ghamman requested the court defer the hearing as the Attorney General is not available today, which was rejected by the court. During the hearing, the Advocate General took the stand that they need more time in this case, on which Justice Mohsin Kayani said that it is his pleasure that he is not calling the two DGs, the Caretaker Prime Minister should appear himself on Monday at 10 am.

Nawaz names

for Punjab CM slot: Shehbaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif has said that the former ruling party's Senior Vice-President Maryam Nawaz would be his party's candidate for the coveted slot of Punjab's chief minister. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif has scheduled 'meetings with prominent politicians, including Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) chief Chaudhry

"issues of ego", adding that the need is for "revolutionary steps" to rescue the country's economy. "Come and I again invite the Charter of Economy to everyone. Come, move forward and let's together promote the Charter of Democracy and end the things we said against one another." He said the enemies of the nation should be shown that it is united. "Forgive and forget. Let us have this charter of reconciliation." After the release of unofficial election results projection, major parties expedited meetings to gather coalition

challenges. The first challenge is the economy. We have to stabilise it which is a tall task. Nations move forward when their leadership unites and decides to end conflicts and take the nation forward to eliminate problems." The PML-Q spokesperson said that Chaudhry Salik would hold a press confer-

Independents can form govt if they have majority: Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan N in the coming days. Despite PML-N failing President to secure a majority in the Shehbaz Sharif has said elections, Shehbaz said that independent candidates supremo Nawaz Sharif is Pakistan still the party's candidate Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) can for the post of prime minisform a government in the ter. "I am still standing by Centre if they have the [my words] that Nawaz required number of seats in Sharif will become the

dates can show majority [in The PML-N president the National Assembly] said his party will invite then they are welcome to everyone to form a coaliform a government," he tion government in the said while addressing a Centre. "We have to move press conference in forward together in the press conference in forward together in the Islamabad on Tuesday. The country's larger interest.' PML-N president said his Shehbaz's presser comes as party is ready to sit in oppo- questions are being raised sition if PTI-backed candi- over the transparency of the dates can establish their February majority in the lower house marred by allegations of We will accept them after the results suffered [PTI government] happily inordinate delay and mobile

ment] then we will use our ed on the polling day.

Constitutional and legal Several political parties right," the PML-N presimally Pakistan Tehreek-edent said. He said the PML- Insaf (PTI) are holding spo-N has a majority in Punjab radic protests across the and his party is the largest country against alleged rigin Centre in terms of party. ging in favour of the oppo-We now have 80 members nent after independents joined Independent candidates Monetary Fund] for another

bench comprising of Chief Khan and Justice Sahibzada

(PTI) leader Sher Afzal before next hearing. It is Marwat in 11 cases till 12th worthy to mention that Sher

newly elected Member Mardan and Swabi districts.

Afzal Marwat pleaded that Marwat said that PTI will

the provincial government ensure accountability of pub-

had nominated him in different cases for holding work-

ers' conventions without down as well as torture of

adjournment as well as and Mahmood Khan by

extension in BBA as a meet-throwing them into bin

permission from party's workers. He added

that more independent law- led PTI are in the lead with 92 seats, followed by PMLmakers will join the PML-N (79) and PPP (53).

Shehbaz, in today's presser, rejected the allegations that the polls were manipulated in favour of his party and recalled that his party members faced intimidation and false cases during the tenure of Imran Khan-led government. The prime minister for the PML-N chief said Pakistan 'If PTI-sponsored candifourth time," he added. is facing the biggest challenges in its history today

elections rigging and irregularities if they fail to [form govern-services remained suspend-

Asadullah extended 12th

March and adjourned further

Marwat argued that may the

cases became infructuous

Afzal Marwat is booked in

Although, Sher Afzal

that people of Pakhtunkhwa

ing of Sher Afzal Marwat is because deceived PTI work- ty for government in the

scheduled with PTI founder ers. PTI senior vice president province which is itself the

that

for had rejected Pervaiz Khattak

different cases at Kohat, Dir,

Moreover, Sher Afzal

development."

candidates. IMF

the formation of government. Despite having the majority, Shehbaz said the PML-N supremo decided to hold consultations with key political players. "It is not about forming government...it is the time to save Pakistan and then put the [country on the path] of Shehbaz said his party accepted the public mandate. "New gov-

and called for making sacri-

fices in the country's inter-

between the PPP and PML

N, Shehbaz said a consulta-

tion process is underway for

power-sharing

To a question about the

ernment will have to go to [International our party," he said adding belonging to Imran Khan- bailout package.

killing of workers: Sher Afzal Rawalpindi. PHC's division- People's Party (PPP) had al bench comprised of Chief knocked for negotiation on Justice Muhammad Ibrahim

and negotiations.

Pakistan making of a history.

This he claimed while addressing media personne along with Kamran Bangash at PHC after obtaining extension in BBA and claimed that establishment had looted public mandate in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as well as in Punjab. He added that police had tortured PTI workers to death and the party government will book Inspector General of Police for killing of activists along with other concerned officials. PTI vice president paid thanks to residents of Pakhtunkhwa for their trust on the party for providing third consecutive opportuni-

PTI to charge IGP for formation government but the founder Imran Khan will decide fate of the coalitions

> but what we are doing." The Jaranwala police registered terror cases against more than 600 people. According to the First Information Report (FIR), a mob of 500-600. who were led by a group of people, "attacked the Christian community, ransacked people's homes after entering them, and torched Christians' homes and the church building.' Caretaker PM Anwaarul Haq Kakar also took notice of incidents that took place in Jaranwala of

will lead to another perpetuation of this political crisis. Political stability will not return, rather political instability will increase. The consequences of this will be faced by the people of Pakistan, who at this moment, are facing not only a political crisis but also an economic one, the very real threat of terrorism and climate change.

in the country.

F.P. Report

Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said

that the Pakistan People's Party's two-day

long meeting of CEC has concluded. The

current political situation of the country

was discussed with respect to stability.

Concerns about Pakistan reaching a crisis

stance is that it needs to help the country

emerge from the plethora of crises it is

faced with. The time has come yet again

for the Party to raise the slogan of 'Pakistan Khappay'. "The reality is that the PPP does not have a mandate to form the

federal government and this is why, I will

not be putting myself forward for the can-

didacy of the Prime Minister of Pakistan",

Chairman PPP said. There are two other

groups that have more numbers in the

National Assembly, the independent group

and the PML-N. The PTI has announced

that they will not engage in a dialogue with

an independent and PTI-led government.

nly political party in the National

Assembly who have reached out to the PPP

and invited us to join their government.

The PPP has decided that while we are not

in a position to join the federal government

ing ministries in such a setup, we also do

try. We do not want to see perpetual crisis

not form a majority, and if I am not the PM

PM and form the government, then we will

The Pakistan Peoples Party's principled

point were also under discussion.

Chairman Pakistan

tions.

Faisalabad district.



MPA elect **Abdul Aziz** passes away

KARACHI Engineer Abdul Aziz Junejo the recently elected MPA from Khairpur Nathan Shah, district Dadu, has passed away due to health compli-

cations here on Tuesday. Abdul Aziz Junejo was elected MPA from PPP on PS-80 on the February 08 polls. He breathed his last in a private hospital here in the early hours of Tuesday morning due to health complications. Junejo has been declared as the winner as he secured 52131 votes in the February 08 elections held on PS-80.

Police arrest suspect in fake currency operation

KARACHI (APP): The Gabol Town Police apprehended a suspect allegedly involved in the distribution and circulation

of counterfeit currency. The arrest, conducted at Shafiq Mor, was based on intelligence, according to District Central Police spokesperson. Arrested was identified as Saeed Khan, son of Fareed Khan. During the operation, authorities seized 54,000 fake Pakistani currency notes from the suspect's possession. Additionally, the accused, identified as Saeed Khan, has a history of previous arrests in Ferozabad, Korangi, and Samanabad police stations. The case has been registered against him and transferred to the investigative authorities for further

Rs 2.2b collected through e-Abiana System

LAHORE (APP): E-Abiana System, developed by Punjab Technology Information Board (PITB) for the Punjab Irrigation Department, has collected more than Rs. 2.2 billion against 7.8 million bills issued to the farmers.

This emerged during a progress review meeting presided over by PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf held at Arfa Software Technology Park (ASTP) on Tuesday. PITB Additional Director General (ADG) Khurram Mushtaq and other senior officials were also present in the meeting.

Mayor Karachi lays foundation stone of water supply, sewerage system in Essa Nagri

Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Tuesday laid started earlier due to the ban of the the foundation stone for the restoration of water supply and drainage system in Essa Nagari at the cost of Rs 630 million.

Addressing the foundation stone laying ceremony, the Mayor said that Essa Nagri was facing water and sewerage problems since long.

We promised them to solve the issue and now this 52-acre slum is being made a model Katchi-Abadi, while seven more slums in Karachi's seven districts will be made a model, he added.

ultimate in politics, the next Chief Minister of Sindh will be a great Jiyala.

He said that we were going to form a government in Sindh and large-scale development works would be started in the city. Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad, mayor's special representative for political affairs Karamullah Waqasi, deputy parliamentary leader in the city council Dil Mohammad, UC Chairperson Sanam Baloch, Project Director Usman Moazzam and other officers were also present on this occasion.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that Sanam Baloch is the elected UC chairman in Essa Nagri, due to his attention, this project has been started improving other medical facilities.

KARACHI (APP): Karachi Mayor under WSSIP here, but work could not be Election Commission, people of different nationalities live here, new lines are being laid to restore the sewerage and water system. Both works will be completed by December this year.

This project will solve the needs of the area regarding water and Sewerage till 2050. Different sizes of water and Sewerage pipelines are being laid here with the construction of an underground and overhead water tank as a reservoir. he said. The mayor said that with the The mayor said that there is nothing completion of this project, over 30,000 population of Essa Nagri will get water supply, while the restored drainage system will also solve the problem of sewage water accumulation in Essa Nagri Cemetery. We believe in working for the people and don't believe in colour, race and prejudice.

He said that the Sindh province and Karachi had been neglected in the allocation of budget and despite all odds, we have started making healthcare facilities better. Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, Karachi Metropolitan University and KIHD's Nursing School will be made better, he said. The mayor said that we have restored the laboratory of Abbasi Shaheed Hospital and, we are also

IGP chairs police executive board meeting

KARACHI (APP): A Police Executive meticulously reviewed and further acted Board convened at the Central Police upon. Office Karachi, chaired by IGP Sindh Riffat Mukhtar Raja, saw the attendance of various high-ranking officials including Additional IGPs - Karachi, Welfare and Works Karachi, Zonal DIGPs, DIGPs of Headquarters Sindh, Establishment, CTD, Special Branch, RRF, and other senior officers. The meeting, presided over by IGP Riffat Mukhtar Raja, delved into several significant topics outlined in a comprehensive agenda, with a detailed briefing provided by the DIGP Establishment.

Key discussions centered around the career progression of newly recruited Inspectors Legal, Investigations, and exmilitary police personnel. In response, IGP Riffat Mukhtar Raja established a 5-member committee tasked with formulating thorough recommendations encompassing actionable proposals concerning the primary responsibilities, promotions, appointments, and transfers of these newly recruited personnel. These recommendations are to be experience and professional acumen.

The committee comprises three senior DIGPs, two SSPs, and a SP, ensuring a broad spectrum of expertise and perspectives. IGP Riffat Mukhtar Raja expressed optimism regarding the transformative impact anticipated with the inclusion of Inspectors Legal and Investigation within the Sindh Police, particularly in enhancing the efficiency of the investigation department and expediting the resolution of pending cases in courts. Emphasizing the importance of ongoing training for these officers to align with modern investigative standards, Riffat Mukhtar Raja underscored the need for proactive measures to equip them with requisite skills.

Furthermore, it was mandated that all DIGPs not only oversee the investigation departments within their respective zones and ranges but also actively engage in handling all facets of case investigations, leveraging their collective



Central Drugs Laboratory.

Umar Saif distributes Rs 825m to IT companies

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal try have increased by a record 32 per-opportunities Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications (MoITT) Dr. Umar Saif distributed Rs825 million as cash prizes to companies playing a significant role in IT and IT services exports during the "IT and ITeS Export Award" organized by the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), an organization of the Ministry Telecommunication, here at a local hotel on Tuesday.

Dr Umar Saif said that the IT industry was playing a pivotal role in the country's economy and it deserved maximum incentives, facilities and rewards. "These companies panies Rs 2 million, the third 100 are strengthening the country's econby earning huge foreign exchange in return for the services of digital talent of Pakistan worldwide. If the performance of the IT sector nies have been awarded Rs 500,000 continues like this, it is hoped that the target of 10 billion dollars for IT the top 10 companies have been exports will be achieved soon," he awarded cash prizes as well as troadded. The federal minister said that phies for the outstanding performthe IT Ministry had decided to ance," he elaborated. encourage companies with a positive government had allocated Rs1 billion in the annual budget.

He said that due to timely deci-IT, the overall IT exports in the coungram seeks to provide apprenticeship digital economy," she added.

Model

cent in the last 60 days. In the first and second quarters of

the current financial year, the performance of many companies in IT exports also showed a positive trend. In such a situation, it was decided to give cash prizes from the allocated fund of one billion rupees to encourage the companies and accelerate growth. Dr. Umar Saif said that out of the Rs1bn fund, Rs825 million had been distributed to 550 companies with positive growth. "For this purpose, six categories have been made; the first top 100 companies awarded Rs 2.5 million, the second 100 comcompanies Rs 1.5 million, the fourth 100 companies Rs 1.25 million, the fifth 100 companies Rs 750,000 and the sixth and last category 50 compaeach. Out of these 550 companies,

growth in IT exports, for which the remaining Rs 175 million will be given to companies providing neurs, and fast-growing companies. employment to IT skilled people. For this purpose, a particularly innovative 2024 underscored Pakistan's comsions of the Special Investment endeavor is the Industry Co-Opt mitment to fostering innovation, Facilitation Council (SIFC) on the Program, developed in collaboration driving economic growth, and posirecommendations of the Ministry of with HEC and P@SHA. This pro-tioning itself as a key player in the

IT students. To incentivize IT & ITeS exporters to participate in and support Co-Opt program in placing the final year students of bachelor's degree in computer sciences and related com-

puting technology fields as interns. Estimated 3,500 interns will be placed in the IT & ITeS exporters that will be a part of the Co-Opt program and Rs. 50,000 per intern will be paid to the participant exporters. This process will not only highlight the capabilities of the IT skilled youths, but the industry will

also be able to get talented youths according to their need and market demand, while on the other hand, cash prizes will cause a significant increase in the country's IT exports by creating an atmosphere of competition among IT companies. Earlier in her welcome address.

Additional Secretary IT and Chief Executive PSEB Ms. Ayesha Humaira Moriani said that six categories were created in terms of IT consultancy services, IT products He said that out of Rs 1 billion, the and solutions, call centers, gaming and animation, women entrepre-The IT & ITeS Export Awards

PFA shuts down four bakeries, fines two food outlets

LAHORE (APP): Punjab pulp and 150 litres of Food Authority's enforce- essence (Arq), he said. ment teams on Tuesday shut down four bakeries ther said that the provin-Rs200,000 on two food had stopped the produc-business operators (FBOs) tion of four bakeries and during the inspection of cake shops by imposing bakeries and their produc-tion units in different areas orders (EPOs). He said of Lahore.

Muhammad Asim Javaid material, non-compliance said that food safety teams with the authority's previthoroughly inspected sev- ous instructions, pre-eral bakeries in Sundar served food in dirty freez-Industrial Bhobatian, Jalo Park and on Defence Road. He said rodents and the worst that the purpose of the condition of hygiene. inspection was to ensure the provision of food in that cakes were being prethe market as per the food pared with germs-infested safety standards and quali- white flour, expired pulp

improvement on four baking any preventative eries besides discarding measures, the PFA DG inferior quality of khoya, said. poor quality of food The director general flavours, 40kg of substan-further said that the use of dard flour and more than expired or prohibited raw 20kg of prohibited food materials in the preparagum base, 720kg of fruit human health.

Muhammad Asim furlevied fines of cial food regulatory body that EPOs were imposed PFA Director General due to using expired raw Estate, ers, an abundance of insects, the presence of

S#

Vehicle No.

Apart from that, he said ty parameters defined in and gum base. While funthe Punjab Pure Food gus-infested so-called Regulations. desi ghee and khoya were
The PFA also served preserved in non-food desi ghee and khoya were warning notices for grade drums without tak-

ingredients. Moreover, tion of food products is PFA confiscated 5,000 extremely harmful to

اطسلاع عسام

ہرخاص اور عام کواطلاع کیا جاتا ہے کہ پلاٹ نمبر 10 تعداد رقبہ 4488 Sq.ft سروے نمبر C/10-253 واقع نیو کالونی کوہائ کینٹ جو کہ شخ امان الله كي نام يوشيرول (VIII) ريكارة وملرى الميشن آفس كوباك كينك درج ب-شيخ امان الله مورخه 24/11/2004 كوفت بوييكم بين اکل وید مساة متازیگم بھی مورند 20/8/2018 کوفوت ہو چکی ہے اب اس کے مندرجہ ذیل وارثاء نے بذر بعد کورث ڈگری مورخه 18/01/2022 مندرجه بالا جائيداد كے حقوق ليزائي نام خفل كرنے كى درخواست كى ب1 غيوراحمد بينا2 منصوراحمد شينا3 حفظ الله عنان بينا4 شخ عنايت الله بينا5 تشكيل احمد بينا6 تيوراحمرشخ بينا7 عذرا خانون بين 8 كورشهج بيني _اگر كم شخص بيا اداره كومندرجه بالايراير في كينستلي بر کسی قتم کا اعتراض ہوتو اندر معیاد 15 ایم بعداز اشاعت نوٹس فبراوفتر زیر پی تنظمی کوتحریری طور پر مطلع کرے۔وگر ندمندرجہ بالا پراپر ٹی کے حقوق لیز پر مندرجہ بالا ورثاء کے نام منتقل کرد یے جائمینگے اور بعد میں کوئی عذر ل قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔ (ذا ہد) ملٹری آشیش آفیسر کو ہاٹ سرکل کو ہاٹ کینٹ 0922-9260201

نوٹس(مشتری هوشیاریاش)

بذریعہ نوٹس ھذا مشتہر کیا جاتا ہے کہ۔دکان نمبر F-1وفرسٹ فلور)برقبہ 240مربع فٹ، سروے نمبر 542/3-B,C&D، واقع صدرروڈ، پشاور کینٹ۔جوکہ کینونمنٹ بورڈ کے ریکارڈ میں مسمی محمد علی کے نام پر موجود ہے۔ بیدکہ سمی محموعل نے مذکورہ بالا جائیداد سمی سیدغلام ولدسیدعبداللہ پر بذریعہ رجشری شدہ دستاویز نمبر 417 ،بھی نمبرا، جلدنمبر 49 بمورند 2014-04-99 كوفروخت كردى ہے۔اب مسمى سيد غلام ولدسيدعبدالله نے مذكورہ بالا دكان اپنے نام پر منتقل کرنے کے لئے ایک عدد درخواست بمعدر جسڑی دفتری ہندا میں گزاری ہے۔اگر کی شخص، بینک یاا دارے کو نہ کورہ بالا دکان کی منتقلی برکوئی اعتراض ہوتو اشتہارھذا کی اشاعت کے پندرہ (15) دن کے اندراندرا پنااعتراض بمعدثیوت پیش کریں۔بعدازاں منتقل کی کاروائی مندرجہ بالا درخواست گزاروں کے ناموں پڑمل میں لائی جائے گی اورکوئی عذر قابل

المشتهر: ـ كينفونمنٺ الگيزيکڻيوآ فيسر پشاور

Ministry of Interior NADRA Regional Head Office Peshawar

/2023-24/16

AUCTION OF 7 x VEHICLES AND 21 x 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

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		
Motorbikes 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		

2. 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 2nd March 2024 to 10th March 2024 except Saturday and Sunday in the presence of Secretary Auction Committee

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

Rizwan Shamim PID (I) No.4786/23 Assistant Director (Procurement)
Regional Head Office, NADRA, Plot # 31-B, EOBI Building Phase V, Hayatabad, Peshawar, Phone: 091-9217840

NATIONAL DATABASE & REGISTRATION AUTHORITY (Regional Head Office Peshawar -Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)

RENTAL OFFICE SPACE REQUIRED FOR NADRA Offices, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Tender Notice No. 2023-24/Estate/4 x NRCs)

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION WILL HAVE FOLLOWING FEATURES: Office Accommodation should be in the below mentioned locations

S#	NA	DRA Registration Center	Required Covered Area
1.	Patrak	(Tehsil Sharingal, District Dir Upper)	2000-3500 sq ft
2.	Aluch "Female"	(Tehsil Puran, District Shangla)	2000-3500 sq ft
3.	Odigram	(Tehsil Balambat, District Dir Lower)	2000-3500 sq ft
4.	Judba	(Tehsil Judba, District Torghar)	2000-3500 sq ft

Space measuring of total covered area mentioned against each with public and staff Prominent, having independent entrance and proposed building should not be in

residential area

Security wise viable location and easily accessible by public transport.

Dedicated 3 Phase Electrical Meter / Connection

· Preference will be given to the building in which dedicated transformer is installed. · Tap Water facility along with overhand tank.

· Ramp for wheel chair for disable citizens.

 Space, NOC for installation of direction board, sign board and heavy generator. · Roof top for satellite dish antenna installation

· Sufficient space for maintaining the public queue & parking area.

 Tenancy for a longer period (Preferably 10 years). Note: Interested parties / owners can purchase the bidding documents on submission of a written application at a cost of Rs. 100/- from below mentioned address or from concerned offices between 09:00 am - 03:00 pm hours (except gazette holidays). The bids / proposal should be submitted duly completed in all respects by 05th Mar, 2024 at 11:00 am hours (under Single Stage-Two Envelope bidding procedure). The envelopes shall be clearly marked as Technical and Financial proposals Technical bids / proposals will be Opened on 05th Mar, 2024 at 11:30 am hours at NADRA Regional Head Office, EOBI Building, Plot No. 31 Sector B-1, Phase-V Hayatabad Peshawar in presence of bidders/their nominated representatives. Bid / proposals must include the following documents in addition to any other information

that the bidder may find necessary: -Technical Bid (Separate Envelope):

Photocopy of property ownership documents [Fard-e-Jaidad/Allotment letter/Relevant Certificate by concerned authority (where settled revenue record is not available)].

Photocopy of valid CNIC.

Completion and Fitness Certificate of the building

Undertaking on Non-judicial stamp paper of Rs. 100/- certifying that owner / building is not temporary / permanently debarred from any Government agency / authority department (without bearing any responsibility on NADRA whatsoever in this regard).

Pictures of the building offered for lease.

 Valid Site Plan / Map of the building duly approved from concerned authority. · In case of absence of owner, authority letter for representative duly signed by property owner, permitting him to attend tender process.

Owner's consent showing monthly rent & offered area of the building.

Financial Bid (Separate Envelope):

Quoted price shall be inclusive of all taxes.

No brokerage / service charges will be paid in case of real estate agent. Opening date / time of Financial Proposal will be informed to all successful bidders of

General Proposal Evaluation

Bidding documents received after submission of due date / time mentioned above, will

NADRA reserves the right to reject all bids / proposals under PPRA Rule 33 and can cancel the bidding process before acceptance of bid or proposal.

Bid can also be rejected if owner of selected building fail to produce acceptable required / property documents. This advertisement is also available on PPRA website at www.ppra.org.pk

DIRECTOR (ADMIN)NADRA Regional Head Office, Peshawar - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa EOBI Building Plot No. 31 Sector B-1 Phase-V Hayatabad Peshawar Telephone: 091-9217840 PID(I)4814/23



Governor to launch innovative online campus management system

Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali is set to introduce a offer a wide array of infor-

designed to enhance trans- ing revenue, budget, grants, parency and accountability and expenses. in the education sector ment quota.

This announcement was

underscored the importance of this campus information tecting the rights of minori-

The online system will 'Online mation, such as the number Management of teachers, students, and the persons with disabilities, our dedication to upholding Governor's official portal. gender-segregated data, This initiative has been and financial details includ- fairness," he stated.

This system marks a sig-

made by Governor KP, Haji Haji Ghulam Ali also Ghulam Ali in recent meet- announced the imminent ing with Program Manager launch of an online com-Qamar Naseem here on plaint redressal mechanism.

The governor reiterated to offer swift responses to the government's commit- aggrieved students regardment to safeguarding the ing quota issues within ten rights and entitlements of days and ensuring that all communities, particular- grievances are addressed ly vulnerable groups. He promptly and efficiently. Our commitment to pro-



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (R) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah offering dua after planting a sapling at CM's House.

F.P. Report

Chamber of Commerce and

Industry president Fuad

ise conferenced dubbed:

"Watan Kay Maimar Tajir

Trader

He said the conference Anwar

ness community problems idents

officials and important dig- Farhad

nitaries and members of Minhajuddin,

Sarhad

Tuesday.

Aur Sanatkar' [Builder of Khan Afridi, former presi-

Industrialist] in the first Riaz Arshad, Zulfigar Ali

aims to introduce current Muhammad Faizi, Sherbaz

economic turmoil and busi- Bilour, ex-senior vice pres-

in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mohmand, Engr Saad Khan

before the federal and Zahid, former vice presi-

provincial governments dents Haji Abdul Jalil Jan,

and frame a charter of Haris Mufti, members of

the business community Ibrahim Butt, Haji Ghulam

would be invited to the Hussain, Kashif Amin,

Fuad Ishaq made the Ain, Faiz Rasool and announcement while chair- Ishtiaq Muhammad and

and

PESHAWAR:

week of May.

conference.

(APP): realizing the said objec- groups is unwavering. This and commitment towards

transparent, accountable, the values of equality and

Irshad said that the meeting that the National which will provide compre- nificant step forward in Governor Secretariat is hensive compliance details, streamlining campus manfully committed to ensuring Rights (NCHR) KP has including adherence to the agement and ensuring that transparency and accounta- recently established a sub-2% minority quota in edu-educational institutions cation and the 5% employ-comply with government bility. "We will take all nec- committee on the rights of essary measures to ensure minorities. quotas and regulations. uphold the rights and enti- mittee has been proactively

Furthermore, Governor This platform also aims

management system in ties and other vulnerable



to become CM

tlements of all vulnerable engaging with stakeholders

new system will ensure that improving the rights of

and inclusive, reflecting ney towards creating an

This initiative is a signif-

icant milestone in our jour-

inclusive and equitable

education system in Khyber

He also mentioned in the

He said the subcom-

to ensure compliance with

the 2 percent minority

certed effort to protect and

Manager quota, demonstrating a con-

Commission for Human

Pakhtunkhwa,

educational institutions in minorities.

Principal Secretary to added.

Governor Mazhar

that universities in KP

groups, including religious

Qamar Naseem, expressed

minorities", he added.

Program

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are

(INP): expected to be sworn in as

dates have secured the required majority in the politician and a strong can-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ass- didate to be sworn in as the embly to form the govern- new KP CM. ment in the province the third consecutive one by run the province in a better the former prime minister's

They swept elections for provincial revenue minister national and provincial in the first Pakistan assembly seats in several Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) govdistricts, especially Chitral, Abbottabad, Swat, Charsadda, Swabi, Nowshera, the minister for Kashmir Mohmand, Mardan, and Bannu.

Ali Amin Gandapur is Imran Khan's cabinet

The

resources to make the con-

Khan, vice president Ijaz hydel power generation, wherein treasures of natural

marble, agriculture, and

tourism, mine and mineral

and others, Fuad says while

speaking during the meet-

province are unemployed

ty has faced enormous chal-

lenges and issues.

KP has been blessed

executive committee held approved utilization of all ral resources.

unmatched

ference successful.

SCCI to organise conference to

highlight traders' problems

Ishaq announced to organ- ed by the chamber senior with 'god-gifted' natural disappointed and youth of

ing a meeting of SCCI's others.

here at chamber house on

vice president Sanaullah

dents Zahidullah Shinwari,

Khan, Engr Maqsood

Imran

the chamber executive

Ismail Khan Safi, Qurat Ul

Pervez,

The meeting was attend-

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf the new chief minister (PTI) senior leader Ali (CM) of the KP province. Muhammad Khan has hint-ed at making former federal channel, Ali Muhammad minister Ali Amin Ganda- Khan said Ali Amin pur, Khyber Pakhtun- Gandapur remained with khwa's next chief minister.
The PTI-backed candinate the party in difficult times and led from the front.

He is an experienced Ali Amin Gandapur can

way, Ali Muhammad Khan said. Mr Gandapur was the ernment in Pakhtunkhwa and served as Khyber, Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan in former prime minister

meeting al deposits and other natu-

resources like oil, gas, the province unemployed,

Faiz ing.

Faiz ing.

He added, despite these and skillful and only need to provide them equal

reserves, youth of our opportunities to play their

and the business communi- and development of the

The SCCI chief under- the purpose of the confer-

prosperity plan in Khyber before government, politi-

lagging behind as com- and industries, besides to

despite the countless miner- for youth in the province.

struction sites of the spill- diversion scheme, concret-

He maintained KP was to promote business, trade

province.

tioned.

Why KP' businessmen,

industrialists, traders and

shopkeepers are upset and

resources exist, Fuad ques-

said youth of the KP

natural to provide them equal

province are highly talented

role in economic prosperity

ness community issues

cal leaders and stakeholders

struction work is continu-

The project team gave a

the power house, excava-

permanent access roads

located on both right and

Fuad Ishaq informed that

The chamber president



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (R) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah

JIP debunks alliance with PTI

Peshawar City

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan (JIP) KP, Professor Mohammad Ibrahim Khan has said that they have not entered into any alliance with Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf.

In a statement issued here on Tuesday, the provincial chief of JIP said that PTI is fully authorized to form government with political party.

He said that PTI has no moral jurisdiction to use the name of JI.

PHC grants protective bails to two ex-ministers

Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Tuesday granted protective bail to former PTI ministers Atif Khan and Shahram Khan Tarakai. The court has granted bail to both provincial min-

isters in all cases till the next hearing on February 19.

Food authority | MARINE recovers 3200 kg china salt

PESHAWAR Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Authority recovered 3200 kilogram china salt during a raid conducted in Pajagi Road here on Tuesday.

According to spokesperson for food authority china salt was recovered during inspection of a godown situated on Pajagi Road.

Case has been registered against owner of the godown under food safety act. It is worth mentioning that use of china salt has been banned by Supreme Court to its hazardous effects on human health.

Pakhtuns representatives kept out of Parliament

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Expressing reservations about the results of the February 8 general election, Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) Chairman Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao said on Tuesday the representatives of the Pakhtuns were kept out of the Parliament under a conspiracy for the third consecutive term.

A press release issued from Watan Kor said the polls were not held in a free, fair and transparent manner, considering its unexpected outcome. Besides expressing reservations about the entire election process and its outcome, he said that disunity harmed the people at the polls. "Misunderstanding and lack of unity under-mined the people," he said, adding that the people of KP did not vote for a cause or ideology. "The problems facing KP will be placed on the backburner as the voters did not vote on the basis of issues," he remarked. He feared that now KP would be dealt as a periphery and the problems it was facing

would not be given due importance. "The people

Raising objections to the

electoral exercise, he said

the 2024 election was the continuation of the 2018's managed election. "Keeping the true representatives of the Pakhtuns out of the Parliament would negative consehave quences for their areas," he maintained.

"The political forces were expecting that the elections would help restore the confidence of the people and bring an end to the prevailing political but unfortunately that did mented.

were deprived of their true not happen," he lamented. representation by design," He said that the general election, which was riddled with irregularities, created doubts about its transparency. He said his party would try to prevent the situation from taking an ugly turn in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the wake of the general election. "We will spare no effort to forge unity among the people and remove the clouds of uncertainty hovering over the political

landscape," he said. He said that the outcome of the election was unexpected across the country. "It seems the elections were and economic uncertainty, stage-managed," he com-

JI announces intra-party polls

PESHAWAR (APP): The Central Committee of Jamaate-Islami (JI) on Tuesday announced that intra party elections would be held on March 31.

According to the JI office, Siraj-ul-Haq, Liaquat Baloch and Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman would be candidates for central leadership, adding that some 50,000 members of JI would cast a vote for future Ameer of the party. It is pertinent to mention here that Ameer Jamaate-Islami Siraj-ul-Haq resigned from the party leadership soon after losing the general elections in the country.



PESCO notifies power suspension

pared to federating units create employment avenues Peshawar Electrical Company on Tuesday notified power suspension Town, province due to unavoid- Abad, Taj able maintenance work.

Power supply would remain suspended from 500 KV Shall Black Sheikh Rahatabad 1, CMB and Muhammadi-Tarbela Grid Abdara feeders would Station on February 14 face inconvenience. from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, resultantly consumers 132 KV Peshawar University, Peshawar Cantt, Peshawar Shahibagh, Shabqadar, Rehman Baba, Town, inconvenience.

Power supply would Jamrud Grid Station on February 13, 15 and 20 Taj Abad 2 feeders would sumers face inconvenience.

Power supply would ers would face inconven-

remain suspended from ience.

AM to 3:00 PM, resultantconsumers University Campus, Canal Malakandher, from various grids of the Engineering, Regi, Taj Abad Agriculture, Mera Achini,

Power supply would remain suspended from RMT Grid Station on 13th, 15th and 20th Industrial, Kohat, KDA, February from 9:00 AM to Hangu, 3:00 PM, resultantly con-Warsak, Rajar, Peshawar sumers of Safdar Abad 2, City, Sakhi Chashma, RMT, Professor Model Dorani Media Rajar, Mattani grid con- Colony, Sheikh Yaseen nected feeders would face feeders would face inconvenience.

Power supply would remain suspended from remain suspended from Baba Rehman Station on 14th and 19th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, February from 9:00 AM to resultantly consumers of 3:00 PM, resultantly con-Kachori, Shalozai, Safdar Abad, Power supply would Khanmust, New Hazar remain suspended from Khwani, Surizai, Phandu Peshawar University Grid Baba, Urmar 2, Hazar Station on 14th and 19th Khwani, Yakatooth, New February from 9:00 AM to Chairman Daftar, Jameel 3:00 PM, resultantly con- Colony, Ring Road, Beri sumers of New Hayatabad Bagh, Rashid Ghari, 5 and Ring Road feeders Surizai, Akhon Abad, Rashid Ghari, would face inconvenience. Ring Road 2, SIDB feed-

(APP): 20th February from 9:00 Kohat Road Grid Station MES 1,2, Old MES, Babu on 14th and 19th February from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, resultantly consumers of PAF Express, Kohat Road, Wazir Bagh, Sonehri Masjid, Bana Mari, Civil Quarter, Nothia, Murshad Abad, Abasin, Old Deh Bahadar, Deh Bhadar, Wazir Abad, Ameen ColonyJ Bara, Payan, Murshid Ababad, Road, Nodiya Dora Bahadar, Lundi Arbab 1,2,3, Sheikh Muhamadi, Pishtakhara, Swati Gate, Gulbarg, Schem Chowk, Chairman Daftar feeders would face inconvenience.

Power supply would remain suspended from Peshawar City Grid Station on 14th and 17th February from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, resultantly consumers of Sikhandar Abad, Zaryab, Phandu Road, City Home, Bana Mari, Urmar, Islamabad, Faqir Abad, Sheikh Abad, Molvi G, Nishtarabad, NHA feeders would face inconvenience.

Power supply would remain suspended from Peshawar Cantt Grid Station on 13th,15th and 20th February from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, resultant-

Ghari, Marble Industry, SAA, Palosi 1, Behri Colony, Tehkal Payan feeders would face inconvenience. Power supply would

remain suspended from Pesco Colony Grid Station on 13th,15th and 20th February from 9:00 AM to Nodhya 3:00 PM, resultantly consumers of Bank Of Khyber, Scarp 1, ICF, Darmangi, Warsak Road and Jail feeders would face inconvenience. Power supply would

remain suspended from Shahi Bagh Grid Station on 13th,15th and 20th February from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, resultantly consumers of KSM, Industrial Naguman, Bypass, Bakhsho Pull, Ghari Hamza, Naguman, Shah Alam, Latif Abad, Dalazak, Sarbuland Pura, Samar Bagh, New Takht Abad, Naguman New Khazana feeders would face inconvenience.

Power supply would remain suspended from Haripur Transmission Line on 15th February from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, resultantly conly consumers of Tehkal, sumers of 132 KV Tank, Islamia College, KTH, Gomal AMC, Nathiagali, Commercial, Jahangir Abbottabad and Kholian Abad, University Town, Bala grid connected feed-NCB, Air Port, PAF Base, ers would face inconven-Town, Bala grid connected feed-Saddar Road, Mall Road, ience.

WAPDA to divert River Swat at Mohmand Dam Project in April

He informed political committee Affaf Ali Khan, scored the need of framing ence was to frame a joint

Asfandyar, S. economic development and

Pakhtunkhwa.

leaders, high government Pervez Khan Khattak, a comprehensive 20 years policy by presenting busi-

Hamza

and Power Development steadily heading towards Authority (WAPDA) is completion in accordance going to divert River Swat with the timelines. in April this year at the In this connection,

PESHAWAR (APP): Water sion system of the project is visited Mohmand Dam, presided over a progress

under-construction Chairman WAPDA, Engr

Mohmand Dam, as diver- Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd)

3 illegal money exchangers held

PESHAWAR (APP): FIA Composite Commercial Circle Peshawar, on arrested two suspects of Tuesday arrested three ille-hundi business and recov-

spokesman of FIA, the sus- Nisar Tanoli, a team of FIA identified Haseebullah, Muhammad Road and arrested Sohail Saqib and Zabihullah were Ahmed and Fahad Umar. arrested from Chowk Yadgar, Ashraf Road and

Nishtarabad areas here. references and records cused. Hundi reference and related to foreign currency foreign currency exchange exchange were also recov- records were also found.

ered from the accused. Meanwhile.

Banking Abbottabad on Tuesday gal money exchangers and recovered 2500 Saudi their custody. riyals and Rs 1.52 million. On the direction of

According to the Director Peshawar Zone as conducted raid on Canti

The FIA recovered 2200 Saudi riyals, 645 UAE dirhams and 350,000 Pakis-During the raids, hundi tani rupees from the ac-

FIA registered a case and FIA started investigation.

being constructed across review meeting at the proj-River Swat in Mohmand ect office. At present, condistrict of KP province, said a press release issued here ing on 12 sites. on Tuesday. He visited in detail con- detailed briefing about

way, the diversion tunnels ing and slope stabilization and the power house to at the spillway, slope excareview construction activi- vation and support works at ties going on there. (Projects) tion at the irrigation tunnels, Advisor

WAPDA, GM and PD construction of structures Mohmand Dam Project and across the irrigation canals the Consultants and the and finishing works at the Contractors were also present during the visit. Later, the chairman also left banks of the river.



PESHAWAR: Newly posted Director General of **PESHAWAR:** Newly posted Director General of KPRA Fouzia Iqbal assumed charge of her office. Station on 13th,15th and remain suspended from

Police launches crackdown

FAISALABAD (INP): Faisalabad Police has initiated a rigorous crackdown on kite makers, leading to the arrest of 12 individuals and the recovery of 15 thousand kites and 500 string wheels. Under directives of abad's Chief Faisalabad's Police Officer (CPO) authorities have intensi-

Mohammad Ali Zia, enforcement fied efforts against kite makers and sellers across the district. The individuals arrested were apprehended from various police stations the district, within where they were found engaged in the production and sale of kites and strings. Cases have been registered against the accused under the Anti-Kite Flying Act, and legal procedures commenced accordingly.

spokesperson for the City Police Faisalabad emphasized that CPO Muhammad Ali Zia has instructed to sustain the crackdown, emphasizing a zero-tolerance policy towards the dangerous activity of kite flying. It was further asserted that stringent actions will be taken not only against kite flyers but also against those involved in the production and distribution of kites. The crackdown underscores the authorities' commitment to curbing the hazardous practice of kite flying, which poses significant risks to public safety.

Man commits suicide

CHAKWAL (INP): In a shocking incident, a man killed his wife and four children before committing suicide in Chakwal, Punjab. According to police, the disturbing incident took place in Muzzdalfa Town in the limits of Chakwal city police station. The man after killing his wife, and four children committed suicide. The bodies have been shifted to the hospital for identificaon. Similar incidents have occurred previously although the motives behind them were different. In one such incident, a man committed suicide after killing his wife and son in Karachi over a domestic dispute. The incident occurred in the Qaddafi Town area of Landhi and the police said that the accused initially murdered his 40-year-old wife and 18-year-old son over a domestic dispute. "He later shot himself in the head to commit suicide," they said adding that the bodies were shifted to a hospital for medicolegal formalities.

PPP to form next govt in Sindh

HYDERABAD (INP) Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab has said that the metropolis progress substantially in the next few years in accordance with PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's vision for the city. "Bilawal sahib says that when federal, provincial and local government work together then the system, in a cosmopolitan city like Karachi, will work better," he said. He said that the PPP has a simple majority and will form the government in Sindh according to Bilawal's prediction. While speaking to the media in Karachi, Wahab said that if the premiership comes to Bilawal, then his vision of federal, provincial and local governments working together will be realised.

Man shot dead over honour

ATTOCK (INP): A man was shot dead over honor in the Domail area in the Bassal town of Attock. The victim identified as Usama Fareed had married a girl against her family's wishes a few months ago. The girl's family had been threatening the couple ever since.

Anti-epileptic drugs is short in markets

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The shortage of anti-epileptic drug and angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) in markets of the Lower Dir and Upper Dir has put the life of patients at stake and the concerned authorities should immediately take its notice. This was stated by relatives of epileptic and cardiac patients

Timergara here on Tuesday. Talking to local journalists they said that tegral tablets, tablets used for high prices. Parkinson's disease, ACE and anti-allergic Depo-Medrol are short in local markets due to which epileptic and cardiac patients are suffering hard. They said the needy patients had no option but to buy those medicines at high prices in other districts. The patients' relatives said the shortage had put the life of epileptic and cardiac patients at stake. They complained the medicine stores having these drugs were overcharging the patients for a single stripe. They demanded the

notice of the matter and resolve it soon.

Meanwhile an owner of

Tehsil chairman: The nalists at Timergara that he Pakhtunkhwa inspector had challenged the election commission of Pakistan's decision of dis-qualifying Asim Shoaib Cials belonging to Lower Dir from DI Khan. Talking and de-seating the acting to local journalists at chairman in the Peshawar Chakdara they said that two high court.

The ECP on Feb 5, had tehsil chairman Asim said that four officials

ernment and high ups of the 2023. He has been in hiding health department to take as he is wanted by police for his alleged involvement in the May 9 riots.

The acting chairman said a medical store told this the ECP had also de-seated reporter on contact that the him in sheer violation of distributors were not sup- the local government act. plying the drugs despite He complained the ECP their demand. He con- had issued the decision firmed the report and said without the presence of that these drugs were short their counsel. He said that in the market for a long both the decisions had been time. He said that they were challenged in the Peshawar buying the short drugs on high court and he hoped the black at Peshawar with court would provide justice

DI Khan blast victims: acting tehsil chairman The local social and politi-Balambat, Naseeb Rawan cal activists on Tuesday on Tuesday told local jour- demanded the Khyber general of police to send back the Elite police offiplatoons of elite police were still performing their disqualified the Balambat duties in DI Khan. They Shoaib and declared the belonging to Lower Dir

position vacant due to his were martyred during an deliberate long absence IED blast in DI Khan on from his office without any Feb 8. Cops showing bravery

during attacks honoured F.P. Report

D I KHAN: The policemen valour and diligence while fighting terrorists during the terrorist attacks were honoured at a ceremony held at the office of Regional Police Officer (RPO), DI Khan.

Dera Mehmood Satti distributed commendation certificates and cash prizes among the brave policemen.The RPO said that the sacrifices offered by the Jawans would not go waste, rather they would prove to be an example for the others to emulate.

RPO Satti said that it was a tradition of the Pakhtunkhwa Police to encourage its officers and officials who said the entire KP Police tions in the district. were in high spirits and ty with full determination.

cost and the society would the district. be made citadel of peace. Regional

Officer categorically made it clear that those targeting the custodian of law would not be spared and would be among dealt with strictly. He directed the police officers present on the occasion to tighten the noose around the neck of the killers and bring them to justice at the earliest. Meanwhile,

Commissioner Mansoor Arshad has lauded the contribution of teachers among other officials and departments towards the took an arduous journey to showed bravery while per- successful and transparent remote areas and labored forming their duties. He conduct of general elec- for long hours to ensure

ready to face any eventuali- here, the DC said that it was strengthening the country a matter of great happiness on all fronts

The terrorists would be that the district administradefeated at all costs, and tion fulfilled its responsithe writ of law would be bilities in a better and more who demonstrated bravery, established, he vowed. He efficient manner by ensurvowed that writ of law ing peaceful, successful would be established at all and transparent polls across

He said that conducting

Police polls throughout the district was a big challenge which successfully was through coordinated efforts among various public departments including the Police, Pakistan Army, Commission Election Revenue and Education. Above all, Mansoor Arshad said that education officers and teachers especially the female ones' hard work and effective discharge of their duties had been a key to achieve the crucial milestone. He said they undersuccessful and transparent In a statement posted elections leading to



LARKANA: Vice Chancellor SMBBMUL Professor Dr. Nusrat Shah addressing to First International Conference (Emerging Trends in Basic Medical Science) at Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University.

All set to carry out anti-polio drive in Khyber

F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Antipolio vaccine will be administered to the children below five years in seven days campaign to be scheduled on Saturday, 02 March, 2024 here across the district Khyber, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Capt. (Retd)Sanaullah said.

DC (general) Muhammad Khyber. Almost 945 fixed, Hamid, Dr Ayab Afridi of transit and mobile teams of health Representatives of World stituted to facilitate the Health Organization, police masses at health centers, and other concerned officials. The polio official briefed the participants of

and refusal of parents.

department, vaccinators had been contaxi stands and door to door campaigns.

briefed the participants of the polio teams, security, scheduled from 02 March awareness, arrangements 2024 and will continue till 08 March, 2024 in Khyber Sharing details DC said besides other districts of In this connection a sim-ple gathering under the 0.223000 million children Sanaullah urged the parents chair of DC, Sanaullah was below five years to be vac- to feed anti-polio vaccine to organized in his office, cinated in the seven days their children and assist the Peshawar on Tuesday that anti-polio campaign to be health staff to wipe polio was attended by Additional carried out across the virus out of the country.

Women University Swabi celebrates World Radio Day

F.P. Report

SWABI: Students from the

Hayat Khan, the incharge of the FM Women University Swabi. Radio Station at Wah University.

During their visit, the students Women University Swabi on Tuesday embarked on an educational visit to Wah University in Wah Cantt to celebrate World Radio Day. The visit was both Umar Hayat Khan and Waseem experience but also fostered collabomarked by a welcome from Umar Khattak, the head of Journalism at ration between the two universities.

Highlighting the practical aspect of their visit, the students recorded a Journalism and Urdu departments of received an in-depth briefing about special show dedicated to World

ABBOTTABAD: KP Caretaker Minister for Social Welfare and Special Education, Justice (R) Irshad Qaiser inaugurating Child Protection Unit.

Funeral prayers of Ali Amin's father offered F.P. Report

D I KHAN: The funeral prayer of Major (r) Medical Complex (MMC) Aminullah Khan Gandapur, father of former Federal Ali minister Amin Gandapur was offered at Besaki ground in Dera Ismail Khan on Tuesday.

The funeral prayer was attended by many prominent figures and large number of people belonging to different walks from DIKhan division and it's neighbouring towns amidst tight security. Major (Rtd) Aminullah Gandapur was passed away on Monday

due to a heart attack. Aminullah Gandapur had served as a former provincial minister as well. He has left behind two daughters and three including former sons Federal Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, Former Provincial Minister Faisal Amin Gandapur, and Tehsil Mayor Umar Amin Khan Gandapur. Later, he was buried in the graveyard near Hathala. His Qul would be held on Wednesday at 3 pm at Al-Amin house.

SIFC installs 150MW solar power plant

Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in partnership with a solar company Scatec has installed one hundred and fifty megawatts solar power plant in Sukkur.

According to a report on Tuesday, the solar plant will help ensure uninterrupted power supply to the local residents. This public-private partnership project will play an active role in generating clean energy as well as mitigating global climate change. Scatec Solar ASA with local partner Nizam Energy has developed a 150 MW solar power plant in Goth Bachal Gagrawara, Taluka Saleh Pat in district Sukkur, Sindh. Scatec Solar ASA is an integrated independent renewable power producer, delivering sustainable clean energy worldwide. The company. headquartered in Norway. develops, builds, owns, operates, and maintains power plants.

The Project, comprising three plants generating 50 MW each, is implemented by three independent companies named Meridian Energy (Pvt.) Limited, HNDS Energy (Pvt.) Limited and Helios Power (Pvt.) Limited. The Project was financed by FMO Entrepreneurial Development Bank. The Project has signed an Energy Purchase Agreement (EPA) with Central Power Purchasing Agency for 25-years.

No child to deprive of polio vaccine: Divisional Sukkur, Commissioner Fayyaz Hussain Mahesar on Tuesday has said that no child up to the age of five should be deprived of the polio vaccine during the antipolio campaign starts from

MMC converted into profit-driven center

Anees Takar

MARDAN: and Bacha Khan Medical College (BKMC) previousgovernment-owned structures MTI, have now become hubs for private businesses. The administration has leased out the premises of latrine. The able and helpless patients admins leased out parking canteen services and already.

Dr. Amjad the hospital registrar explained that they have outsourced the management of latrine out of patient wards, leaving it up to the contractors to decide the charges for their use. This move has raised concerns among patients and their families who now have to pay hefty amounts for basic facilities.

patients at the Mardan ical ward, lamented the Medical Complex and Bacha Khan Medical College face numerous He highlighted the dire challenges due to the lack situation at the hospital of basic amenities and patients still struggle to access essential services. Moreover under the pretext of canteen facilities vulnerand their families are being exploited.

Now the patients who accompany their loved ones will have to pay an fulfill their basic needs. When Amjad clarified that they services and are no longer responsible for setting charges. One patient, 60has been accompanying tractors.

According to reports, his daughter at the medexorbitant fees they have to pay for latrine usage. where even syringes are unavailable, rendering the government merely a name.

Ikram Ullah appealed to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to intervene and improve conditions at the hospital for the convenience of the public. PRO Ziaullah stated additional fee of Rs. 20 to that there are no charges for using the latrine within the contacted, Dr. wards as they are provided as a free service. He further have outsourced these explained that only a few points within the hospital premises the ltrine have charges as they are now year-old Ikramullah, who managed by private con-

Residents demanded Taluka status Badeh city

held in the form of a rally the largest city of Larkana led by Badeh Taluka district in terms of popula-

house to the town hall. gans were written for giving Badeh the status of taluka, Ali Anwar Askari, Dodo Soomro, Comrade Asghar Noonari and others while addressing the protesters the public said that PPP government demanded. imposed from last 15 years on Sindh has not been able to grant Taluka status to of taluka immediately, the Badeh, the largest city of scope of protest will be

the big city of Larkana, was he added that Badeh city is details. SUKKUR (PPI): Special Movement from the media tion and land, which consists of 14 wards. which is The protestors holding entitled to the status of talubanners and placards in ka while in the previous their hands, on which slo- regime of PPP, announcements were also made to give district status to Kiamari Karachi and Badeh Deshi, Abdul Khaliq city to taluka status, but unfortunately the governments do not understand the public sentiments, he

> The big city of Badeh should be given the status Larkana district for the last widened from the platform justice.

In the meetings held dur- movement, on the other LARKANA: A joint protest ing his administration, hand, unrest in Badeh city of citizens, civil society announcements have been has not been regulated. leaders, political and social made to give Badeh the sta- Meanwhile gold worth organizations against to be tus of taluka, but the prom- lakhs of rupees has been tatus of taluka to Badeh, ises could not be fulfilled, stolen according to the

> Unknown suspects stole gold jewelery worth Rs 5 lakh from the shop of gold businessman Habibullah Kahokhar in front of the Old Town Committee in Badh, a suburb of Larkana district. Talking to the media on this occasion, the affected businessman Habibullah Kahokhar said that unknown suspects broke the locks of the shop and stole jewelery worth Rs 5 lakh and Rs 2 lakh in cash. have been stolen but the border police has completely failed to detect them, they have demanded

IG Motorways visited **Central Zone-II**

F.P. Report

TOBA TEK SINGH: General (IG) Inspector National Highways & Motorway Police Salman Chaudhry visited Motorway Central 2 Zone to inspect the ailing patrol officer who got seriously injured during his duty.

The patrol officer under treatment got seriously

truck a few days ago. IG treatment for the ailing Motorway Police says that Officer. He also announced the safety of life and property of road users is the first incurred on treatment will priority of Motorway driver involved in incident the top priority. The and the accused is under Motorway Police is perand the accused is under investigation.

IG Motorway Police Salman Choudhary rein-

injured after being hit by a forced to render the best that all the expenses be pay by the department. Police. A FIR has been IG NHMP says that the rule lodged against the truck of Law on the Motorway is forming its duties efficiently even in the adverse con-



BAHAWALPUR: A motorcyclist carrying bags full of carrots to the vegetable



Borrell suggests US stop arming Israel

BRUSSELS: European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell has urged allies of Israel, primarily the United States, to stop Rafah to kill people," Varoufakis added. sending it weapons as "too many people' are being killed in Gaza.

Pointing to US President Joe Biden's comment last week that Israel's military action was "over the top", Borrell said: "Well, if you believe that too many people are being killed, maybe you should provide less arms in order to prevent so many people having been killed." "Is [it] not log-ical?" he asked, in a Brussels news conference alongside Philippe Lazzarini, head of Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA),

who is Israel is pressuring to resign. 'How many times have you heard the most prominent leaders and foreign ministers around the world saying too many people are being killed?" Borrell asked. "If the international community believes that this is a slaughter, that too many people ing in the Gaza city of Rafah need to be "evacuated" ahead of a planned Israeli military operation there. "They are going to evacuate - where? To the moon? Where are they going to evacuate these people?" Borrell asked. This is not the first time Borrell expressed concerned over an invasion of the southern Gaza city of Rafah. He said an assault there "would lead to an unspeakable humanitarian catastrophe" and grave tensions with neighbouring Egypt. Former Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis said European countries relentless Israeli bombardment and ground share responsibility for the atrocities being offensive have displaced more than 80 committed in Gaza. "We Europeans created the problem ... we are playing a vicious role, in its perpetuation," Varoufakis told Al Jazeera. The former finance minister Gaza after Hamas carried out a surprise accused Borrell of hypocrisy for saying attack on southern Israel on October 7 not enough pressure was being applied on killing at least 1,139 people, mostly civil

His latest comments came as dozens were killed in Israeli air strikes on Rafah according to Palestinian health officials, as people there brace for a major offensive on the densely crowded urban area. Meanwhile, Volker Turk, the UN's human rights chief, has also expressed alarm over an anticipated Israeli ground assault on Rafah. Turk said it is "wholly imaginable what would lie ahead" if the planned incursion is not stopped. "A potential fullthe United Nations Relief and Works fledged military incursion into Rafah where some 1.5 million Palestinians are packed against the Egyptian border with nowhere further to flee, is terrifying, given the prospect that an extremely high number of civilians, again mostly children and women, will likely be killed and injured, Turk said in a statement. Rights groups have also warned that a full-scale assault are being killed, maybe we have to think about the provision of arms," Borrell added. The chief EU diplomat also civilian casualties. More than half the popslammed an order by Israeli Prime ulation of Gaza has crowded into Rafah to Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the more than one million Palestinians shelter-

Most of those in Rafah were displaced by Israeli offensives in northern, central, and eastern Gaza. Hamas, the Palestinian group that governs Gaza, has warned Israel that a ground offensive in Rafah would jeopardise negotiations on a truce and the exchange of captives and prisoners. More than 28,340 people, mostly women and children, have been killed in the Israeli assault on Gaza since October according to Palestinian authorities. The percent of the population, according to aid Israel, asserting that the EU was "collectively arming" Israel. "As we speak, on official Israeli figures. — Aljazeera

Death toll from Philippines landslide climbs to 68

MANILA: The death toll the Davao de Oro provin- frequent hazard across much from a landslide in the cial disaster office, told the of the archipelago nation southern Philippines has Agence climbed to 68 as officials news agency. "There is rain, heavy rainfall and say the window for finding already a foul smell in the more survivors is closing. area now, so there's a need Hundreds of rescuers have to fast-track the retrieval." used their bare hands, shov- An area about 50 metres els and heavy earth-moving (164ft) deep remains to be equipment for nearly a searched, Macapili said. A week looking for those three-year-old girl was buried since Tuesday's pulled alive from under the have forced tens of thoulandslide hit the mountain- rubble, in what rescuers ous Masara village on described as a "miracle".

More than a dozen bod- people and buried 55 housmissing, including mine from a jeep that was waiting aid to the affected communi-workers and villagers, for employees of a gold-ties in the southern islands week after the incident, and cue to search and retrieval

France-Presse

The landslide injured 32 one is alive there," Edward town disaster officer Ariel packs to the affected com-Macapili, spokesman for Capoy said. Landslides are a munities.

due to its mountainous terwidespread deforestation from mining, slash-and-burn farming and illegal logging Rain has pounded parts of Mindanao on and off for weeks, triggering dozens of landslides and floods that sands of people into emergency shelters. The United States, through the US Agency for International

according to official figures mining firm. Disaster its embassy in Manila said in released by the municipal authorities plan to shift their a statement. The US government. "It is almost a focus from search and res- Department of Defense also provided two C-130 cargo ... we are assuming that no beginning on Tuesday, Maco planes to help deliver food

In New York, race foreshadows elections

rise from the coastline. thin and declining. The 2022, the district made Sailboats clip the waves. party occupies 219 seats, national headlines with its And overlooking the landscape, atop a grassy hill, of last year. At least two sits the house of a former Republicans have resigned Roosevelt. Nestled on the left to grapple with cancer. north shore of Long Island, New York's third congressional district is the wealthiest in the state - and recently, it has emerged as a key flips - or changes party battleground for control of during the upcoming elec-the United States House of tion could help tip the bal-Representatives.

On February 13, all eyes Democrats. will be on the district as it holds a special election to one in New York's third disfill its House seat, left trict could prove pivotal. vacant after the expulsion He pointed out that, to pass of former Representative its current House agenda, George Santos. But the Republicans need every stakes go beyond a single vote they can muster to district. Experts say the overcome race can be seen as a pre- opposition. Even a small view for the general elections on November 5, when stymie legislation. "They the presidency and every can't afford to lose a seat seat in the House will be up even now," Levy said, "par-

about November 5 in a lot ing out for their own skin in of suburbs around the countheir own competitive subtry, not just this one," said urban districts. Lawrence Levy, associate vice president and execusee this as a bellwether to individual and messages - to see how they deal with various minefields they're facing." For Democrats, Levy minefields "the three I's": Israel. For Republicans, said. To tackle those issues, races can be volatile: control over the House of Experts said at least seven Representatives is critical. of the state's 26 House dis-Republicans currently hold tricts could see nail-biter tined for drama". the most seats in the House elections this November. Alizeera

down from 222 at the start With Democrats holding 212 seats, the House is vulnerable to a shift in party leadership. Any district that ance of power towards the

Levy said races like the Democratic degree of party dissent can ticularly when there are 'February 13 is really Republicans who are look-

Republicans, Those Levy explained, "might be tive dean at the National inclined to make a deal Center for Suburban with Democrats to maintain Hofstra the image of being a mod-University. "Both parties erate" in order to boost their election test strategies and tactics prospects - even at the expense of party priorities. New York, therefore, is one of several states where both Republicans and dubbed those political Democrats are hoping to make gains this year in immigration, inflation and their House membership. Though New York state one of the primary hurdles leans Democratic overall, is the issue of abortion, he its more localised House

surprise election of Santos. a political newcomer and first openly Theodore in the interim, and another Republican non-incumbent elected to the House. He was part of a miniature red wave in Long Island, where two seats were wrested from the Democrats' grasp. He credited his victory to the power of grassroots campaigning.

'The one thing I'm proud of is I can prove that there is diversity of thought in this country. Just because you're gay does not mean have to be Democrat," Santos told the radio station WNYC, speaking to his historic victory. But even before he took office. Santos became mired in controversy, as allegations emerged that he had lied about his education, his work history and even his religion. "I said I was Jewish," he said in a New York Post interview acknowl edging his Catholic faith. Santos was ultimately booted from the House in December, after an investigative subcommittee said it had uncovered "substantial evidence" that he had committed crimes Republican Party leaders have sought another political outsider to replace Santos: Mazi Melesa Pilip an Ethiopian American and former paratrooper for the Israeli military. December, the publication Politico reported that Pilip who campaigns as tough or immigration and crime has been a registered Democrat since 2012. It described the race as "des-

Thailand's former PM to be freed

International

TAIPEI: Thailand's jailed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is set to be freed. Thaksin, 74, who was jailed for eight years for abuse of power before a royal pardon reduced the term to one year, was granted release on parole, Prime Minister Thavisin told Srettha reporters on Tuesday. "It's Srettha said, official," stressing that everything had been carried out according to the law. "Once released he will be a normal citizen. What's in the past is in the past.

Thaksin returned to Thailand last August following more than 14 years in exile, and was taken immediately to court where he was jailed for eight years for abuse of power. Thaksin was transferred to hospital after a single night in prison when his blood pressure soared.

Soon afterwards, the king gave him a royal pardon, reducing the sentence to one year. Thai media reported earlier, quoting Justice Minister Tawee Sodsong, that Thaksin was among 930 inmates given parole on Tuesday - in his case for age and health reasons - and that he was expected to be released after February 17. Thaksin swept to power in 2001 on a populist platform that appealed to rural Thais who had long been neglected by the country's ruling elites. He was returned to office in a landslide five years later but the military soon seized power in a coup.

Thaksin - who was also accused of serious human rights abuses amid a violent conflict in the country's mostly Muslim southern provinces and a "drugs war", which killed thousands - was later convicted of abuse of power and went into exile, mostly in Dubai. Srettha is from the Pheu Thai Party led by Thaksin's youngest daughter Paetongtarn Shinawatra. It formed a government after last May's election, where progressive Move Forward Party won the most votes but was blocked from taking power by stillpowerful elements linked to the military and the traditional elite. Srettha said on Tuesday that Thaksin ies were pulled from the es, three buses and a jeep-mud with 51 people still ney, a minibus converted ing \$1.25m in humanitarian fitted the country and could give "good advice" to his daughter "to serve the country". — Aljazeera

ECOWAS chair Tinubu in Senegal

President Bola Tinubu is meeting his Senegalese counterpart, Macky Sall, in the capital, Dakar, as a constitutional crisis continues there over the postponement of elections initially scheduled for this month. Tinubu, who is also chair of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), is in Dakar for a one-day trip days after the bloc's foreign ministers held emergency talks in

Nigeria's capital Abuja. Sall's decision to push back the February 25 presidential vote has plunged Senegal into one of its worst crises since independence from France in 1960. Protests pitting the youth against security forces have turned increasingly violent in a country long seen as a haven of stability and democracy in West Africa, a region that has recently been roiled by coups and unrest. ECOW-AS has urged Senegal - one of its most stable member states - to return to its election timetable, but critics have already questioned the group's sway over increasdefiant member ingly states. The foreign ministers met in Abuja, without representatives of the military-led trio -Burkina Faso, and Mali which announced withdrawal from the bloc in January. Guinea, also suspended from the bloc for a coup, was also not in attendance. The turmoil has also brought the almost 50-yearold bloc's broader role into doubt, especially after its warning of military intervention in Niger last year fizzled out with no sign the country's toppled president is closer to being restored Sall said he postponed the election because of a dispute between parliament and the Constitutional Council over potential can-didates barred from run-

ning. - Aljazeera



More Chinese Indonesians chase seats in parliament

JAKARTA: Indonesia will see almost million people, Indonesia has almost headed by labour activist Said Iqbal the country's ethnic Chinese minority, ing in the 2024 poll. The general eleccompeting in general elections to tions are set to take place just four become one of 580 lawmakers in the days after the Lunar New Year. national parliament. According to February 14 is also Ash, a holy day Indonesia's General Elections for Indonesians who are Catholic. Commission (KPU), there are 9,917 candidates representing 18 political parties across 38 provinces. Among those running are Indonesians of Chinese descent, who accounted for about 2.8 million of Indonesia's then-237 million people, in the 2010 national census. The more recent cen-

sus in 2020 did not list its ethnicities. For Chinese Indonesians, democracy has afforded them political rights that were once restricted. During more than 30 years under the rule of Soeharto, who resigned following mass protests in 1998, Chinese Indonesians were not allowed to publicly celebrate the Lunar New Year and assimilation policies were introduced to make them more "Indonesian", effectively turning them into second-class citizens. Many turned to business and the private sector to earn a living after they were limited from government positions. "Politics is not for everyone," said Taufiq Tanasaldy, a senior lectur-"Particularly for the Chinese who had endured decades of discriminatory policies under the Soeharto regime." But Taufig said interest had "grown and policies aimed at eradicating dis- Indonesia's equal opportunities for ethnic Chinese to run for office and vote for has lived there ever since.

their preferred candidates. al and regional politics sparked this growing interest. The visibility of their initial 'success' has been importold Al Jazeera. Among the prominent Chinese who have gone into politics is former Jakarta Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, popularly known as Ahok. He was later jailed for blasphemy over comments made on the campaign trail and has adopted a Representation has been steady, certainly not getting worse," Taufiq said. But for many Chinese Indonesian voters, Taufig said, "parties with nationalist platforms are more attractive compared to those championing

10,000 people, including some from 205 million eligible voters participat-Despite representation, the current system of proportional representation could disadvantage some candidates who now have to campaign directly

R Siti Zuhro, a research professor of political science at Indonesia's National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), says the open-list made it "very difficult to compete" for some candidates compared with the previous system where votes went to the party rather than the individual candidates. "It is more dependent on the legislative candidate [to do the work] - either their effort or money in carrying out tactical strategies, not the party," she told Al Jazeera.

Al Jazeera spoke to three Chinese Indonesians who are running for the national parliament. Fuidy Luckman is a candidate for the Muslim-based National Awakening Party (PKB) which supports Anies Baswedan and Muhaimin Iskandar for president and vice president, as Muhaimin is its er in Indonesian and Asian studies at current chairperson. One of PKB's Kalimantan West criminatory practices", referring to province, 61-year-old Fuidy moved to Jakarta for university in 1983 and

"The elections or appointments of poorest parts of the sprawling capital, several Chinese individuals to nation- meeting residents and also posting videos on TikTok and Instagram. Fuidy, who owns a company in the wood industry in Jakarta, urged tant to the Chinese community," he Chinese Indonesians to come out and vote and take part in Indonesia's "festival of democracy".

"We ethnic Chinese do not need to feel allergic to politics because we live in Indonesia," he told Al Jazeera. "Do not ask to be recognised as Indonesians when we instead put lower profile since his release. aside the [democratic] processes." If programmes related to "justice" and

and has not officially supported any presidential candidate. Mery, who runs a housing construction company, says she found Partai Buruh to be the right platform to push for better social welfare and law enforcement for the Indonesian working class, including blue-collar and white-collar workers. Born in Medan in Indonesia's North Sumatra province, the 54-year-old moved to Jakarta more than 30 years ago for university and is hoping to win one of the capital's seats in the national parliament. As part of her campaign strategy, Mery hands out her business cards to people she meets and introduces herself. She has also asked for her family, friends and business contacts for their support. "I hope there's an opportunity and possibility for people like me - for an ordinary female Chinese minority without political experience and background to run for office," she told Al Jazeera. A candidate with the Perindo Party, Redi Nusantara is running in Indonesia's Central Java province. Perindo is backing the presidential pair of Ganjar Pranowo and Mahfud MD. It backed outgoing President Joko Widodo when the leader won his second term in 2019. The 55-year-old, the University of Tasmania, founding figures was Indonesia's late who owns a factory making metal president Abdurrahman Wahid, popularly known as Gus Dur, who lifted more foreign investments into the ban on public Lunar New Year celebrations while in office in 2000. Indonesia and develop a tax regime that encourages manufacturers to use post-Soeharto due to political reforms Originally from Singkawang in domestic products rather than imported components that arrive in the country through special economic zones. Originally from the provincial capital Semarang, Redi is targeting He campaigned in some of the the country's ethnic Chinese and business communities, as well as firsttime voters. He is also hoping to change the minds of those who might be planning to abstain from voting.

Redi also appeared on video podcasts, talking about entrepreneur-ship. He encourages Chinese Indonesians - especially the younger generation - to enter national politics and "fix it from within". "For all of us ethnic Chinese, especially young people, we must understand Indonesian politics," Redi told Al Jazeera. "Because if we, the Chinese he gets elected, Fuidy wants to pursue community, do not understand the parliament, we will always be the equality" - focusing on more afford- cash cow of the Indonesian econoable education and healthcare. Mery my," he said, hoping increased polit-Sutedjo joined Partai Buruh (Labour ical participation will help change Party), whose founders include the lingering stereotype that ethnic sectarian values ... particularly at the Indonesia's various national trade Chinese care only about doing businational level". With more than 270 union confederations. The party is ness. — Aljazeera

Egyptians accused in Pylos shipwreck case deny smuggling, blame Greece

ATHENS: Saeed* cannot understand not guilty and pinned blame on the derelict blue fishing trawler had why he is in the Avlona prison, a national Hellenic Coast Guard. departed from Libya five days earlier. detention centre northeast of the Greek Fearing reprisals for speaking out capital Athens. "Whoever asks me against the Greek state, all 11 sources why you are in prison, I answer that I don't know," said the 21-year-old Egyptian. "We're children, we're terricle. fied. We are told that we will be sentenced to 400 or 1,000 years in prison. Every time they say that, we die.'

He is among nine Egyptians in pretrial detention and charged with criminal responsibility for a shipwreck off the town of Pylos last year, which led being charged under Greek law with forming a criminal organisation, facilitating illegal entry and causing a shipwreck. They are the only people being held over the shipwreck. However, Al Jazeera, in partnership with Omnia TV and the Efimerida ton Syntakton newspaper, can reveal that all nine accused claim they were not among the smugglers who organised or profited from the journey.

They say they were simply passengers who survived and allege that the Greek Coast Guard caused the overpacked boat to capsize. Speaking via telephone from detention, they told Al Jazeera and its partners that the Greek their testimonies and that they pressured them to sign documents they did not understand with violence or under including

asked Al Jazeera to conceal their identities and use pseudonyms for this arti-

The nine accused, who include fathers, workers and students, said they paid between 140,000 to 150,000 Egyptian pounds (\$4,500 to \$4,900) to a smuggler or an associate to board the doomed boat. "I am telling you, I am someone who paid 140,000 to the deaths of hundreds of people Egyptian pounds," said Magdy* trying to reach Europe. The group is another of the accused. "If I am the guy who put these people on the boat, I'll have like seven, eight, or nine thousand euros. Twenty thousand euros. Why on earth would I board a boat like this?" In 2022, a smuggler told The Guardian that he charges Egyptians about 120,000 Egyptian pounds (\$3,900). Recent reporting has found that those travelling from Syria often pay about 6,000 euros (about \$6,500) for such a journey. The two other survivors, both Syrians, said they paid money to people but not the

accused Egyptians. The nine being held were not involved in smuggling, they said. "No. They weren't to blame for anything,' prosecution did not accurately take said Ahmed*. On that fateful day last year, June 14, the Adriana, overloaded with an estimated 700-750 people, Egyptians, Syrians, threats of violence. Two separate sur- Pakistanis, Afghans and Palestinians - when they were on board the Greek vivors also said the nine accused were among them children - capsized. The Coast Guard boat. — Aljazeera

Only 84 bodies were recovered and 104 on board were rescued, meaning hundreds died in one of the worstrecorded refugee boat disasters on the Mediterranean. Rights groups, activists and some survivors allege

that Greek Coast Guard officials failed in their duties to save lives at sea. Ahmed said he saw the nine accused during the chaos as the ship looked ready to capsize, and passengers began to panic and run about. They were just directing people when our ship started to tilt. They were shouting for people to steady the

ship," he said. Seven of the accused maintain that they saw a Coast Guard patrol boat tie a rope to the fishing trawler. The Greek officials pulled once, then twice, causing the boat to flip over into the Mediterranean, they say. "I saw the Greek boat had tethered a thick blue rope, one rope, to the mid-dle of the boat," said Fathy*, another of the accused men.

"They pulled, the boat leaned sideways, they saw it was leaning, they kept going, so the boat was turned upside down." "Greece - a Greek boat, towed us and capsized us - and killed our brothers and friends and now I look at myself and I'm in prison." Two of the accused stated they were in the hold and did not understand what had happened until after disaster struck,

The Frontier Post Rehmat Shah Afridi (Late)

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Emerging trends in national politics

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MIR Jamaat-e-Islami Maulana Siraj-ul-Haq stepped down from his post on Monday following the defeat and worst performance of his party in the Elections 2024. The Jamaat-e-Islami secured no seats in the National Assembly and got only two seats in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provincial legislature. 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. Unfortunately, Siraj-ul-Haq could not deliver and failed to revive glory of his party which it enjoyed under the leadership of Qazi Hussain Ahmed in the past decade. Meanwhile, the Istehkame-Pakistan Party Patron-in-Chief Jahangir Khan Tareen also decided to quit politics and step down from the party office after sustaining serious backlash in recent elections. Surprisingly, Tareen, who was generally perceived to be military backed leader faced unprecedented defeat and failed to grab even a single seat out of three National Assembly constituencies he contested in recent polls.

The Election-2024 has brought numerous positive trends in the country's politics along with highlighting multiple flaws, and negative stubbornness in the political culture of our society. A majority of political parties celebrated their victory in multiple constituencies while refusing to accept their defeat and accused the Election Regulator as well as their opponents of rigging in the electoral districts where they faced a backlash. Several civic groups, their candidates, and part workers blocked roadways and launched protests against the ECP and the caretaker government due to their failure in achieving the required votes in their respective constituencies. The ECP withheld the results of those constituencies where defeating candidates officially filed complaints with the ECF and requested recount or otherwise. Offcourse, this is an official and legal process to address valid complaints and settle down disputes among the parties.

Besides, the ugly behavior of some politicians, several public leaders displayed generosity and team spirit in the face of an electoral defeat and political setback. Several leaders such as Jahangir Tareen and Malouna Siraj-ul-Haq stepped down from the parties' leadership, while many including Khawaja Saad Rafique from PML-N, Samar Bilor and Ghulam Haider Hoti from ANP, independent candidate Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar and others acknowledged their defeat and congratulated adversaries on their victory while promising to work together for the development of the country and welfare of the public. Jamaat-e-Islami Karachi Chief Hafiz Haeem refused to accept his victory from PP Sindh and made claim that as per form 45, the PTI candidate was victorious from that Constituency. We hope Hazif Naeem will prove his allegations against the ECP at relevant forum, that is a big question mark on the transparency and credibility of the recent polls. Meanwhile, the ECP must probe that matter and admit its fault otherwise take stern legal action against the politician if he levelled false charges against election regulator.

In fact, the true politician and an ideal sportsman play a game or contest an election for his fame, the prestige of his country and in service to the nation. He neither puffed by victory nor depressed by defeat. He always remained steadfast in both adversity and prosperity. A real states man acknowledges success with grace and maintains dignity and respect in defeat and setback. However, the leader with low caliber turn a healthy contest into personal enmity, incite hate and violence for political gain. Pakistan has experienced unbelievable damage, economic and reputational losses due to institutional degradation, political immaturity of its leaders and dysfunctional democracy. The nation can't afford such selfish politics and rigid behaviour anymore. Let us carry forward the true spirit of sportsmanship and uphold the legacy of true leaders beyond the elections, embracing the values of our nationalism, brotherhood, and citizenship that surely payback and last long throughout history.

The US-EU feud

TATO Secretary General Stoltenberg rebutted the former US President Donald J. Trump, who is preparing to contest the US Presidency for the second time in the upcoming Presidential election scheduled late this year. According to the NATO Chief, any attack on NATO will be met with a united and forceful response of the 31 member bloc. Stoltenberg criticised Donald Trump after he suggested the US might not protect NATO allies from a potential Russian invasion who aren't spending enough on their defence. According to the NATO Secretary-General, any suggestion that allies will not defend each other undermines all of their security, including that of the US, and puts American and European soldiers at increased risk not only on their land but around the globe.

Trump's remarks came at a crucial period as Ukraine remains mired in its efforts to stave off Russian invasion and the House Republicans have become increase ingly sceptical of providing additional aid to the country as it struggles with stalled counter offensives and shortage of lethal weapons and modern arsenal. Historically, Trump has been a strong critic of European nations, a majority of whom are entirely dependent on the United States or other major European countries like the UK, France and Germany for territorial security and national defence. However, the far right nationalist leader had always ignored the fact that although affluent European nations lack strong militaries but they massively supported the American agenda globally and bore political and financial costs of US military campaigns around the globe from Iraq to Afghanistan, from Laos and Cambodia to Ukraine.

Interestingly, Donald Trump and his Republican colleagues are wary of America's monetary and troops contribution to NATO, however they forget that Washington was the biggest beneficiary of the North Atlantic Alliance from day one. The NATO umbrella protected the US's interests during the Cold War, played the vanguard role in the Cuban crisis, and currently Americans are using this shield against Russia, China, Iran and North Korea. Whenever this shield is broken, Washington would not be able to wage a single war against any nation, while American supremacy will face gradual decline. The Major European nations would protect their weak neighbouring states while the tiny EU states will achieve true political, trade and foreign policy autonomy as a reward.

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Hind's corpse and the battle for the state

Ttried to run away send off a victim than we and painful story. are confronted with an

though this terrible areas in Gaza that are less Gaza has produced thou-Middle East is addicted to the blood of the innocent. I tried to turn away to about the latest chapter in the conflict in Iraq. America avenged its three soldiers and is seeking to it invaded in 2003. It is obvious that Tehran lured

cannot win and that i

washed its hands clean

proxies deployed in the

maps of the "resistance." Sunday was the anniversary Iran on Feb. 11, 1979. One decades in the region without pausing at this date. The more powerful than the Iraqi state. It is more powerful in Syria than the dangerous than others. She sands of small corpses. The the world in a united voice, Syrian state. It is more fled with her relatives from war he launched on Oct. 7 which was sought by the the Lebanese state and hood to escape or postpone more powerful than the death. Death has no right to Houthis in Yemen. It is visit her. She is not a "tersmarter and more powerful rorist" and has nothing to than its allies or proxies. It do with the tunnels. She did arranges the feast but does not take part in the Al-Aqsa

behind.

The latest tour of Iranian prevent the eruption of a the nation. wide-scale war. It is not easy to plan wars in parallel to the one raging in Gaza. I

Hind was deluded into uglier massacre. It is as believing that there are

grown tired of laments. international jungle and while she lived among the We have spent a lifetime Benjamin Netanyahu. Her corpses for days. No one going from one funeral to story has become attached came and her fate was another. Anger and tears to the world's conscience. sealed. When the occupado nothing to heal the The great authors never tion forces withdrew from wounds. No sooner do we wrote a more harrowing the area, her small corpse was retrieved from among

Netanyahu's war on

He said Washington had asked another scene. I wrote Tehran to intervene with Hezbollah in Lebanon to prevent the eruption state, whose existence of a wide-scale war. It is not easy to withdraw from the country plan wars in parallel to the one raging in Gaza. I tried and failed to Washington into a battle it escape the tale of Hind Rajab. She threw the story of her six years in from the practices of its the face of the modern world and the age of artificial intelligence and Palestinians and the region, which has been unstable I was reminded that Elon Musk's chips. She threw it in since the rise of Israel. Joe of the victory of the the face of the international jungle Khomeini revolution in and Benjamin Netanyahu. Her cannot review the past story has become attached to the world's conscience. The great scene does not need much authors never wrote a more harrow- ment. explanation. Iran in Iraq is ing and painful story.

not leave any of its marks Flood operation or any other operation.

She was just like any Foreign Minister Hossein other child who dreamed of Amir-Abdollahian to the a day without planes and capitals of the "resistance" artillery. She was content reveals the new features of with the meagerest of toys this part of the region. He and of sleeping on the best spoke innocently, as if he pillow, which was her were the foreign minister of mother's arm. She wanted Austria. He stressed the to go to school and play need for stability and games. She was unaware of avoiding slipping into the the decision taken by the abyss. He revealed that his one who sparked the seccountry had exchanged ond Nakba. Gaza is no messages with the US in place to live. Gaza is where recent weeks. He said everything that moves is Washington had asked killed. Gaza is the place Tehran to intervene with where children are killed so Hezbollah in Lebanon to that they do not learn about

well known. The passenthe tale of Hind Rajab. She and another child survive. state. threw the story of her six They begged for someone modern world and the age Red Crescent sent two of its

powerful in Lebanon than the Tal Al-Hawa neighbor- has killed children in their homes, in shelters and on the streets. The refugees fled from one deathtrap to in Gaza another. Netanyahu speaks of "total victory" and is an endless sea of corpses.

Almost 30,000 people have been killed in Gaza. Palestinian state above all The number of people else before establishing a killed per day has surpassed that of other conflicts. This war has set itself apart by ization of relations. The the number of children it Arab and Islamic worlds has claimed. Stopping the must take advantage of the war has become more several factors in their pressing than Committing a horrific massacre in Rafah will plant in international influence. the region the seeds of The Palestinian state would future unprecedented con- return the Palestinian card flicts. A political process to its people and land. The must be launched. The war Palestinian state would on Gaza must be the last ease instability in the one to erupt in the region. The best way to Her story has become Palestinian-Israeli conflict honor Hind's small corpse and it must pave the way gers of a car are killed in a for the establishment of an buried in the soil of an tried and failed to escape hail of bullets. Only Hind independent Palestinian independent Palestinian

years in the face of the to come rescue them. The difficult, with the fighters and give hope to the chilso deep in it and when it is dren of Gaza, the West of artificial intelligence and paramedics to rescue them, now bordering on a fight Bank and beyond. Elon Musk's chips. She but they were killed on the for existence. It will be dif-

ficult when many involved from the small find it impossible to live corpses. We have threw it in the face of the way. Hind's relative died under the same roof or in find it impossible to live two adjacent houses. But experience has shown that attempts to eliminate the other are impossible.

Netanyahu did launch this destructive war so that he would one day surrender to a Palestinian state whose foundations he has spent his life trying to destroy. Yahya Sinwar did not fire the first shot to be later asked to abandon Gaza in return for the establishment of a Palestinian would hinge on the recognition of Israel.

The battle for an independent state is the only way to stop the cycle of Palestinian-Israeli wars. The establishment of an independent Palestinian state is necessary for the administration must move on from condemning Israel's excessive response to openly recognizing the Palestinian state and approving a path that would lead to its establish-

The Arabs must also wage this battle by harnessing energies and addressing Arab-Islamic summit that was hosted by Riyadh soon after the eruption of the war

Israel must be confronted with the inescapable bent on waging a battle on truth that was put forth by Rafah as the world holds its the historic statement breath that it will turn into issued by Saudi Arabia last week, in which it stressed the need to recognize a permanent peace that would include the normalever. favor, including Saudi Arabia's Arab, Islamic and would be for her to be state. This state alone can Ending the war will be stop the flow of corpses

Putin is ready for talks on Ukraine, but on his own terms

Leonid Ragozin

Carlson released a two-hour interview with President Vladimir Putin. This was the Russian leader's first encounter with a Western journalist since the start of the Russian full-scale heavy losses from the invasion of Ukraine in Ukrainian army's guerrilla February 2022.

The interview was met

West, largely focused on the first part, in which Putin suggested that he would talk about Russo-Ukrainian history for 30 seconds and then went on bragging about medieval princes and longextinct empires for a good half-hour. Some of his claims were outright shocking, such as his suggestion that Poland precipitated World War II by failing to accommodate Hitler's demands. Others reflected a view of history associated with Russian nationalist mythology, which is hardly worse than Ukraine's nationalist mythology - the one which Western supporters of Ukraine tend to pass as the country's legitimate

While the interview provided a lot of fodder for tained some important mesthat Western saging observers ignored amid their persistent rejection of the very likely prospect that Putin will end the war in Ukraine on his own terms. Throughout his conversation with Carlson, the Russian leader appeared to channel the sentiment of being constantly duped by the West and demonstrate a firm resolve not to be duped ever again.

spoke of Ukraine's invitation to join NATO, issued at the Bucharest summit in 2008. Germany and France were known to be against it at the time and only a small minority of Ukrainians supported the idea. According to Putin, US President George W Bush pushed through the decision which triggered a chain of events ultimately leading to the conflict in Ukraine. He told Carlson that at the time he was being repeatedly assured by his German and French counterparts that Ukraine wasn't really going to join NATO, but he had no reason to believe these Ukraine, there was no guarantee it wouldn't do it again get the country into

NATO, he said.

Later in the interview, Putin brought up the February 2014 agreement between the Ukrainian government and the opposition. Mediated by France, Germany and Poland, it was supposed to end the violence at the most dramatic point of the Maidan revolution in Kyiv. Putin said that instead of complying with it, the opposition proceeded with over-Viktor throwing Yanukovych's government, whereupon - he maintained the Western guarantors threw the agreement "into the furnace". Towards the end of his history lecture, he brought up the Istanbul talks in March 2022, which could have ended the current war in Ukraine. He claimed that he removed the troops from the surinsistence of Western leadtalks, whereupon the Ukrainians ditched the ty. agreements at the behest of

N February 8, US the West - namely British TV anchor Tucker Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

The claim that the withdrawal was intentional is hardly plausible since the Russian forces in northern Ukraine were extremely stretched and tactics. They likely would have had to be pulled back with a lot of mockery in the anyway. But the sentiment of being duped was once again very much there and it should inform us about his

further actions. Putin appears to see the history of his relationship with Western and Ukrainian leaders as a succession of insults and betrayals, to which he has responded in his trademark heavy-handed manner: Not an eye for eye, but a punishment that grows exponentially each time the opponent shows perceived intransigence. Yet his policy, at least from his own point of view, has always been reactive, not proactive.

Whether it was in good or bad faith, the message he was trying to convey in the interview is that at each crucial point in history, Ukraine had a choice of sparing itself all the further trouble and Western ridicule, it also con- that it still has this choice now. He is ready for talks. A few times in the interview, he ridiculed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for banning himself from talking to Putin by a presidential decree. He urged his Ukrainian counterpart to cancel that decision. Putin's endgame appears to be getting an agreement along the lines of what has been tentatively achieved in Istanbul, but this time with all the territo-The Russian president ries which Russia occupied and formally annexed after these talks fell through. The implied threat is that Ukraine will lose even more territory - not to mention lives and infrastructure should it keep being stub-

> What Putin is trying to achieve is making the West face its moral dilemma which boils down to the cost and benefit of resisting his aggression. The continued support for Ukraine's military effort will cost thousands of lives and devastate Ukraine even further, while success is hardly guaranteed.

The stakes do not seem to assurances. If the US was be in Kyiv's favour as things able to press them into stand now: Russian troops agreeing to the invitation for are advancing all along the front line and the US military aid to Ukraine is in ieopardy due to the resistance from the Republicans. But getting back to the Istanbul framework means a clear defeat for both Ukraine and the West, no matter how hard all the spin doctors and troll farms will try to frame it as a victory.

More than anyone else, it will be the Ukrainians who will be asking what was all this enormous sacrifice for when it was possible to sign a deal in Istanbul back in March 2022 or to implement the Minsk agreements, which Zelenskyy publicly dismissed as "vapid" days before Putin ordered his troops to march on Ukraine. If the situation does not miraculously change, at the moment Ukraine looks very far from getting any semblance of what was envisaged in Minsk or Istanbul and it is drifting further towards misery. The mockroundings of Kyiv at the ery of Putin's interview will, of course, continue in a herers in order to facilitate the metic echo chamber that has long parted ways with reali-

Aljazeera

West shifts blame: Accuses others for its faults

Mareb Al-Ward

T is obvious from the ognize their responsibilianalysis of armed **_conflicts** that each and global stability. armed conflict has an extraterritorial impact on neighboring countries and this damage may geopolitical interests and the actors' objectives,

directly or indirectly. An observer who rationally thinks away from bigotry and propaganda can desire to preserve it for the see examples in both unilateral leadership of the Ukraine's and Palestine's conflicts and how the repercussions have graded act irresponsibly and even over time to include the support the ignition of conworld's main interests such flicts and the financing of as energy, supply chains the parties in the hope of and maritime navigation inflicting a strategic defeat routes. In the midst of these on its rivals like Russia, and other conflicts, which which is why it rejects realare growing in many coun- istic peace ideas from whotries for domestic reasons ever came and tries to and are fuelled by hege- accuse their owners of supmonic ambitions and influ-porting Russia and forgets ence at the expense of oth- that it does so the most. ers' interests and fears, the

ties to wars, peace, security Unfortunately,

Western nations under the leadership of the United extend to the world at this role out of their great large, depending on the dominance over the intergeographical location, national system, whose institutions, such as the United Nations and its Security Council, are eroding and eroding.

The sense of strength or world seems to make the United States of America

States do not want to play near its borders when it and US officials and academics with acclaimed insightful political analysis responsibility for the con-flict rested first with the

West for abandoning its obligations and ignoring to respond to it before the Everyone remembers

West to impose its sanctions on Russia as a deterrent to the cessation of its Ukraine. However, despite the severity of the sanctions, Russia entered the

the Washington-led West We have seen the impact of the had committed itself to its conflict and sanctions on pledges to the Soviet Union the lives of the world's peonot to expand militarily ple at varying levels, from energy prices to grains and agreed to unite Germany, fertilizers to inflation rates and layoffs. Moreover, the specter of World War III has returned every time the acknowledged that the threat or reference to the use of nuclear weapons has

been made What did the West do to achieve peace? The answer Russia's concerns even may be another question: when it provided a vision does the West actually want peace? One indicator of seriousness would be balanced proposals, but the justification used by the instead, Russia's subordination and surrender were unreasonable.

Sadly, the West had tried military operations in to demonize every State or action against peace seekpeace advocate and suggested ideas on that. No tudes undermine stability one was afraid that once and hinder peace, the West, war for the simple reason America had anything to as it uses double standards that it was forced to do so do with a crisis here or a and interprets laws and val-The Ukrainian dispute and could not stop without conflict there, it relied on a ues according to its intermajor powers should rec- could have been averted if achieving its objectives. parallel media and propa- ests.

ganda strategy of accusing its competitors of involving them in responsibility even when they had no role, all to achieve the goal of diverting attention from its role and denigrating others by threatening and undermining global security and stability.

America continues to play the same role in Gaza through its military, financial, political and diplomatic support for Israel's occupation and acquitted it of all its crimes despite testifrom United monies Nations organizations and press investigations. The call for a ceasefire has generally been considered by the West in support of what they call "terrorism". Some states have taken punitive ers. Although such atti-

The impact of the Gaza War has reached Bab al-Mandeb's maritime routes. There is an impact on the route of ships, high insurance costs and commodity prices. However, America does not want to recognize this relationship and tries to address it in a futile way without solving the fundamental problem of finding just solution to the Palestinian through the establishment of a fully sovereign and independent Palestinian State.

Nevertheless, there is a global awareness among people that the West is primarily responsible for threatening security and stability and that it still deals with others in the logic of its colonial past and confers exclusively on itself the right to self-determination, interfere in others' affairs, give them lessons and act as if it were the ideal world, which, of course, is not.

Indonesia' election 2024: What you need to know

NDONESIANS head to the polls February 14 to vote in the world's largest single-day election to select local and parliamentary representatives and a new president. Of the 270 million citizens on the country's 17,000 islands, 205 million over the age of 17 are eligible to vote. Seventyfive percent of Indonesia's population is expected to vote Wednesday, according to the **Indonesian General Elections** Commission, with 106 million of 40, or 52% of anticipated voters.

This is only the second time that the Southeast Asian nation is holding a presidential and parliamentary election simultaneously since 2019. All told, there are some 20,000 administrative posts in play across the country. Voters cast a secret ballot on paper. And while unofficial results should be available within 24 hours of voting, the official days later, at the earliest. Three men are vying for the top spot - Prabowo President Joko Widodo. Known as Jokowi, he must leave after serving two five-year terms despite his popissues are central to the presidential 5% in 2023 compared with 5.3% the military amid speculation of the year before, according to rights abuses over the kidnapping Statistics Indonesia, which reported of democracy activists. He denies the unemployment rate was 5.32% any wrongdoing. in August 2023. But for Indonesians ages 15 to 24, about on social media, where his "Cuddy 14% were jobless, according to the Grandpa" social media persona nationalist party, and PKS, the con-

International Labor Organization. According to a regional UN food security report, almost 70% of Indonesians cannot afford healthy food. Adding to the globally familiar list of the economy, jobs and food security is the domestic debate over Widodo's ambitious plan to move the capital from Jakarta to Nusantara to ease congestion and distribute economic activity outside the nation's largest metropolitan those expected voters under age area. International issues include the South China Sea dispute with China and climate change. Prabowo, the son-in-law of Suharto, a former Indonesian strongman, is leading by nearly 30 points in recent polls. Of the 1,200 people surveyed by Indikator Politik Indonesia, between January 28 and February 4, 51.8% said they would vote for Prabowo's ticket, while 24.1% and 19.6 % would results won't be available until 35 choose Anies and Ganjar, respectively. Victory for Prabowo is not assured, due to Indonesia's election Subianto, Ganjar Pranowo and rules, even if he gets the most votes Anies Baswedan. Their contest on February 14. To win, a candidate may end in a June runoff before the must obtain more than 50% of total world's most populous Muslim votes cast, and at least 20% of votes nation elects a successor to in more than half of the country's provinces. If Prabowo fails to make those percentages, he faces a June 26 runoff with the second-place fin-Rakabuming, is the vice-presidential candidate running with Prabowo, who lost to Widodo in the run at the presidency. He is the cur-2014 and 2019 elections. Domestic rent minister of defense. During the economic and political turmoil of race. Economic growth slowed to the 1990s, he was dismissed from

Prabowo has rebranded himself

appeals to millennials and Gen Z voters, who make up about 56% of the total eligible voting population, according to the Indonesian General Elections Commission. But they are too young to recall his brutal past that prompted the United States to ban him until 2020, when he visited Washington after he became Widodo's defense minister. Ganjar, 55, comes from a Central Javanese family led by a father who worked as a police officer. He served as the governor of Central Java between 2013 and 2023 and belongs to the nationalist Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P). Before becoming governor, he served in parliament, where he worked on issues related to agriculture, maritime, food security, land and agricultural

Ganjar topped opinion surveys until he backed a call by the governor of Bali last year to stop Israel from taking part in the Under-20 World Cup, which Indonesia was due to host. Anies, 54, is a former university rector who launched an initiative in 2010 to bring education to remote corners of the vast archipelago that attracted thousands of volunteers. He went on to serve as the minister of education during Jokowi's first term. After he was dismissed, he ran for governor of Jakarta, a position often seen as the launch pad for the presidency. He was elected in 2017, when he was supported by hard-line Islamist groups organized against Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, an ethnic Chinese Christian politician.

Anies is not a member of any political party but is endorsed by cians do, and climate change is the Nasional Demokrat, a secular top concern of young voters.

servative Islamic Prosperous Justice Party. A nationally televised presidential debate held last month illuminated the differences among the presidential candidates on handling the South China Sea dispute with Beijing and climate change. Indonesia is just one country that has claims in the South China Sea, resource-rich waters that China claims in full as its own. Indonesia has faced pushback from China over its exploration of oil and gas reserves in the North Natuna Sea. Ganjar proposed three solutions: endorsing a temporary agreement with China, strengthening Indonesia's naval capacity and patrols, and starting the exploitation of gas reserves in the North Natuna Sea, which is between Indonesia and Vietnam and south of the South China Sea. Similarly, Prabowo said disputes in the South China Sea underline the need for a strong defense force, platforms for patrols and additional satellites. Meanwhile, Anies said the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) needs to play a bigger role in resolving disputes, including those in the South China

The three vice-presidential candidates tackled environmental issues during the debate. Iqbal Damanik, a forest campaigner at Greenpeace Indonesia, said the statements by the vice- presidential candidates on climate change failed to offer lasting solutions for coastal communities and the importance of environmental impact assessment. Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, compiled opinion surveys of Indonesian voters, which concluded that voters care more about climate change than politi-

Hong Kong needs local law to boost national security

Jiang Yichu

AFEGUARDING sovereignty, national security and **development** interests is the fundamental purpose and bottom line of the "one country, two systems" principle. Without national security, the long-term pros-perity and stability of the Hong contains only four categories of Kong Special Administrative Article 23 of the Basic Law empowers the SAR government with external elements to endanger to enact laws on its own so as to national security. The four catesafeguard national security. However, even 26 years after the return of Hong Kong to the motherland, no legislation on Article 23 of the Basic Law (BL23) has been enacted.

tion and answer session, Lee said the government's preparations were in the final stage and the "path to the finishing line" is straight. On Jan 30, the government officially launched public consultations on a piece of BL23 legislation. The senior officials of the SAR govern-ment, Executive Council and Legislative Council members, as well as people and organizations from all walks of life in HK have supported such legislation.

responsibility of enacting legislation based on Article 23 of the Basic Law of Hong Kong. Article 3 of the "Decision on Establishing and Improving the Legal System and Enforcement Mechanisms for the Hong Administrative Kong Special Region Safeguard National Security by the National People's Congress" and Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region" state that the Hong Hong Kong should enact legisla-Justice Paul T.K. Lam claimed that mitting such crimes. a BL23 law is an "overdue assignment" and the enactment of the leg-islation is "paying off old debts". In ational security while underscor-Moreover, BL23 legislation will ing the importance of the National ty risks are indeed real for Hong tomorrow.

make up for HK's shortcomings in Security Law, which will deal with safeguarding national security. Although the National Security Law is a milestone when it comes to safeguarding national security, it offenses and penalties: secession, Region cannot be guaranteed. subversion, terrorist activities and collusion with a foreign country or gories do not cover all activities and crimes that threaten national

And since Hong Kong's existing laws such as the Crimes Ordinance and the Official Secrets Ordinance freedoms of speech and the press, The sixth-term SAR government are yet to be fully enforced, it is publication, association, assembly, robust, its economy is still strong, led by Chief Executive John Lee necessary to enact a BL23 law to procession and demonstration, and its business environment has Ka-chiu has taken concrete meas- ensure the implementation of all the which the SAR residents enjoy continued to improve. For example, ures to promote legislation on security and security-related laws under the Basic Law of the Hong according to SAR government data, BL23. On Jan 25, during his quesing the SAR to safeguard national Kong Special Administrative the number of start-ups in Hong security. Besides, BL23 legislation conforms to international conventions. Safeguarding national security by implementing security laws is the top priority of every country, and the foundation of their stability and development. For example, the United States has at least 21 nationsecurity laws, the United Kingdom at least 14, Canada at least nine, Australia at least four, New Zealand at least two, and Singapore at least six. First, it pro-The SAR has the constitutional hibits activities that endanger state security. During the public consultations on a piece of BL23 legislation, many suggested how to better safeguard national security which covers five categories: treason and related acts; insurrection, incitement to mutiny and disaffection, to and acts with seditious intention; theft of state secrets and espionage; sabotage endangering national Article 7 of the "Law of the security and related activities; and People's Republic of China on external interference and organizations engaging in activities endangering national security. A BL23 law will target precisely those acts that endanger national security, and tion on safeguarding national secu-rity. Hence, the SAR's Secretary for crimes and the penalties for com-

Second, it will help build a legal

national security risks that may occur now or in the future and achieve long-term stability. In the lawmaking process, the government will refer to similar laws in other common law jurisdictions and draw on their experiences and practices to ensure the safety and security of the people. Third, a BL23 law will protect the extensive rights and freedoms enjoyed by Hong Kong residents in accordance with the law. It will protect, in accordance with law, people's rights and freedoms, including the Region and the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as applied to Hong Kong. To begin with, a piece of BL23 legislation will build a firewall to safeguard national security. The international security situation is changing daily, and there is a danger of the geopolitical risks spilling over

into other fields. Some countries have been interfering in Hong Kong affairs for years, by passing laws detrimental to the SAR, imposing sanctions on it, shielding and supporting those who are opposed to Beijing and are attempting to destabilize the SAR. As such, the SAR cannot turn a blind eye to these moves. It has to take pragmatic measures to plug the security loopholes, establish a firewall and safeguard security of the SAR and the motherland. In this context, a BL23 law will serve as the "patron saint" of Hong Kong. During the violent demonstrations and riots in 2019-20, separatists who advocated "Hong Kong independence", went on the rampage in the city. And even though Hong Kong, of late, is enjoying peace, the

Kong residents. It is necessary therefore to improve the legal system in order to better safeguard national security by preventing the crimes which could be committed by separatists in the SAR in collusion with foreign forces. Only in this way can Hong Kong attain social stability and ensure the wellbeing of all its residents.

And last, a BL23 law will pave the SAR's path from chaos to prosperity while promoting good governance. Despite the implementation of the National Security Law, individuals who are opposed to China have continued to try and destabilize the SAR. But the truth is that the rule of law in the SAR remains Kong increased by a record 272 in 2023 - from 4,257 in 2022. And in the first 11 months of 2023, the government received more than 200,000 applications for a variety of programs to recruit talents, of which over 120,000 were approved, far higher than the target of bringing in at least 35,000 talents each year. More important, a survey by the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong on Jan 30 showed that 79 percent of its members have confidence in the rule of law in the SAR, while the president of the German Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong said that law-abiding German nationals would not be affected by a BL23

It is widely believed that BL23 legislation will help promote Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability and ensure the SAR remains a favored destination for foreign investors. As Lee Ka-chiu said, the BL23 legislation is urgently needed. As long as Hong Kong society works together to draft a BL23 law, Hong Kong can achieve high-quality development and opening-up, leverage its unique position and advantages, cope with potential risks and challenges, and thus better safeguard national security in order to help build a better

across the border. That's wrong and dangerous Susan Beneshch & Catherine Buerger

Many Americans believe migrants bring fentanyl

¬WO unrelated facts combined with a lie form a powerful and dangerous piece of misinformation that is spreading virally. The facts are that a drug overdose epidemic is killing more than 100,000 Americans a year and that far more migrants are crossing the country's southern border than ever before. The lie is that the migrants are bringing fentanyl, the highly addictive opioid behind most lethal overdoses. Most illicit fentanyl is indeed

made abroad and smuggled over the southern border. But it's largely transported by US citizens, not migrants. About 90% of the fentanyl seized at the border in recent years was at legal crossings, which undocumented migrants generally avoid, and 91% of the seizures were from US citizens, according to Border Patrol data. It's much easier to transport fentanyl pills or powder in one of the thousands of vehicles that pass through legal for the fentanyl crisis. Social media disinformation, including Trump's ports of entry every day than with posts blaming migrants for the recommendation to take the anti-

border. Former President Trump and other politicians and pundits have nevertheless been relentlessly linking migrants with fentanyl on the campaign trail, in Congress and on social media. A Trump campaign ad warned of "record numbers streaming across our border, costing taxpayers billions, and almost as many Americans killed from fentanyl as killed in World War II." It showed images of crowds walking along a roadside and a Fox News headline reading, "Border Patrol seized enough fentanyl to kill entire US." This is a classic example of what we call dangerous speech: language that inspires fear and violence by describing another group of people as an existential threat. And it's working to terrible effect: Americans are increasingly convinced that migrants are to blame

wading and climbing across the December to January, according to our analysis of more than 30 sites. Along with other dangerous speech casting migrants as terrorists and invaders, the fentanyl lie is fueling calls for states to send National Guard troops to the border - even from places that are far from the border, such as Florida. That is raising the risk of violent confrontations with migrants as well as federal Border Patrol agents.

It is especially hard to refute this kind of misinformation, which draws not only on partial truths but also on genuine fear and grief. Fear is a visceral emotion that provokes strong biological responses from the human body, so most dangerous speech invokes a mortal threat of some kind. Fear of disease, for example, can be as communicable as the microbes that cause it. Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, fear led people to believe dangerous the bedraggled people walking, drug's toll more than tripled from malarial medicine chloroquine to

protect themselves against the contagion. One recently published study attributed about 17,000 deaths across the United States and other countries to the use of hydroxychloroquine early in the pandemic. The combination of truth, lies and fear has proved fatal before. During the Ebola epidemic of 2018-20, for example, it was clear that the disease was lethal and that many Congolese people distrusted their government. When those facts were stitched together with the false rumor that medical workers were spreading Ebola instead of trying to prevent people from dying from it, the workers were attacked. The misinformation inspired nearly 500 acts of violence and at least 25 deaths.

It's vital for influential people to refute the fentanyl lie, which creates similar risks of violence against a particular group, in this case migrants. Moreover, such dangerous disinformation distracts attention and resources from effective responses to a deadly epidemic.

The Los Angeles Times

In Gaza, hope is a fantasy

wanted to be wrong, but it turns out that I was right. Since early Hamas-held captives are October, I have been sure Israeli Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has had one aim all along: to erase Gaza. Spurred on by a rabid cabinet that believes that Palestinians are worthless 'vermin'' Netanyahu has done what I suspect he has always wanted to do: dispense with the incremental destruction of a people and a strip of land and, instead, engineer a genocide in Gaza with ruthless and oh so satisfying efficiency.

By now, this fact should be clear. That is the "victory" Netanyahu has and will continue to pursue until he has achieved it - to turn Gaza into dust and memory permanently. There will be no "pause in fighting", no "lasting" ceasefire, no truce, no end to the genocide because Netanyahu has no

reason or incentive to stop. And Netanyahu knows that no one inside or outside Israel is prepared, willing or able to stop him. Hope has been extinguished. Every day, Palestinians hope, in vain, that the horrors and outrages will end. Every day, we hope, in vain, for a faint sign that the murderous madness will end, that reason and diplomacy will prevail, that the captives on both sides - will be reunited with their aching families.

Hope is a fantasy, snuffed out by men and forces who thrive on causing chaos and despair in their "killing rage". Netanyahu may be unpopular. Still, what he is doing and how he is going about doing it in defiance of proportionate scale, decency, and international law has the overwhelming support of Israelis who, apparently, would also be content to see Gaza reduced to dust and memory - permanently. Polls show that most Israelis want Netanyahu to use more force, more "firepower" in Gaza and beyond. Damn decency, international law, and the mushrooming number of casualties day after dreadful

day.

The pain and suffering of irrelevant. Palestinians is irrelevant. The right and duty of Israel to defend itself is the only ease, and desperate need, most Israelis want fellow Israelis to continue block**Andrew Mitrovica**

released. Palestinians are expendable. Israelis are not. reportedly agree with Netanyahu: the two-state "solution" is dead on arrival since all of the land between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River belongs to them. The intent is to have Israeli settlers place of in Gaza. take the Palestinians Another Nakba is already afoot - literally. I am convinced most of Israel's confederates abroad - whether they admit it publicly or not - also embrace these egregious beliefs and subscribe, wholeheartedly,

"damaged" or "weakened", Netanyahu has been emboldened as a "wartime" prime minister and by an 'international community" that has encouraged him to do what he has done in Gaza and the occupied West Bank without remorse or for as long as Israel goes about doing what it is doing in Gaza and perhaps longer. Ever the calculating Machiavellian, he has rebuffed predictions of his imminent political demise or forced exit by wishfulthinking columnists, "experts", and former presidential candidates. Again and again, the "international community" has said it is "concerned" by what their man in Tel Aviv is doing in Gaza and the occupied West Bank. Again and again,

low bits of performative nonsense. President Joe Biden described what Israel is doing in Gaza as being "over the top". "I've been pushing really hard, really hard, to get humanitarian assistance into Gaza. There are a lot of innocent people who are starving, a lot of innocent people who are in trouble and dying, and it's gotta stop. Number one," Biden told reporters earlier this week. It won't stop. How can it stop when Biden and his complicit allies in London, Paris, Berlin, and Ottawa keep arming Israel immediate ceasefire? The

prime ministers rushed to Tel Aviv in "solidarity" pilgrimages to "stand firmly" by Netanyahu's side. It's too late to apply the stock, talk-As for the "future" of ing-point-ephemeral brake Gaza, 93 percent of Israelis since Netanyahu isn't listen-

He isn't abiding by the International Court of Justice's damning ruling which called on the Israeli government to stop what it is doing in Gaza after South African lawyers and diplomats made a persuasive and 'plausible" case that Palestinians are victims of genocide and Israel is the perpetrator. Rafah is in Netanyahu's crosshairs. The so-called "safe haven" and the more than a million Palestinians who have taken to refuge there in tents and Netanyahu's modus operanmakeshift "homes" di and definition of "victo- endure the inevitable lethal So, far from being consequences of the major Western powers' unconditional backing of Israel. Exhausted and petrified Palestinians, mothers, wives, and their sons and daughters, will not be spared Israel's wrath. Their already precarious lives hang on the precipice restraint. Netanyahu will of Netanyahu's - for the survive as prime minister moment and only for the moment - delayed designs. Biden et al may claim, at least publicly, to ask Israel to stop the looming carnage. Netanyahu will not be deterred by their empty, delivered-behind-a-lectern "warnings". He is calling the geopolitical shots, not Biden et al. While America was preoccupied with a football game on Sunday night, Netanyahu gave Palestinians in Rafah a taste of the terror to come - firing a shower of shells that killed and dismembered these expressions of "condozens of sleeping children, cern" have proven to be holwomen and men.

Finally, a cocksure Netanyahu understands the On reliable cue, US value of patience. Biden looks and sounds like an old man who is poised to become yesterday's man gone, inconsequential and forgotten. The November presidential approaches just on the horizon. Another doddering old man, Donald Trump, has a better than even chance of returning to the Oval Office. If that happens, Trump will enshrine Israel's licence to commit genocide without his predecessor's meaningless "reservations". Either way, America has morphed, in thing that counts. It's hardly to the brim and refusing - effect, into Israel's proxy. surprising then that polls even in the blatant face of The dynamic has shifted. effect, into Israel's proxy. show, as well, that despite Israel's "over the top" Israel will decide what will the rampant hunger, dis-onslaught and the deepen-happen in Gaza today and ing humanitarian catastro- tomorrow and America will phe in Gaza - to demand an salute in approval and help pay for the pleasure of ing trucks carrying food, calamitous course was set water, and medicine from reaching Gaza until the presidents, chancellors, and enthusiastically.

Calling the countryside racist is ridiculous Left-wing militancy

O maybe putting up a tent in gale force winds, each gust and self-censorship. bringing another torrent of heavy rain, isn't everyone's idea of fun. Yes, the tent was wet on the inside. Yes, our sleeping bags were damp. But boy, did we cherish waking up to the twinkling sound of songbird and the sweet scent of petrichor to enjoy our Full English, made al fresco, in the warm

Newquay sunshine. Nor, perhaps, is it much of a laugh to lose your eight-year-old in a blizzard in the Cairngorms. A parent's nightmare. An ordeal faced by my mum and dad, but thanks to the help of fellow hikers, they found me. Yes, the countryside brings peculiar challenges.

But racism? No way! That's why I was somewhat surprised to read last week that, according to the Wildlife and Countryside Link charity, the countryside is systemically racist and is an environment feared to be "dominated by white people". I can't recall worrying about "colonial legacies framing nature as a white space" while riding horses in the Brecon Beacons. Nor were we fighting racism while hiking in the Lake District. We were more interested in finding the best pub lunch. To claim that the countryside is racist is one of the most ridiculous examples of Left-wing identity politics. It's a symptom of a deeper problem within our society - the urge to constantly view everything through the lens of race or gender, plead victimhood and point the finger at an oppressor. Whether it's the patriarchy, or colonial mas-refreshing change to our countryside so that ters, this desperation to London and we'd always everyone can enjoy it, divide society is ripping through our institutions,

creating a culture of fear

Suela Braverman

This is why it's essential

charity's bonkers report is that, as a predominantly white environment, the countryside is not welcoming to ethnic minorities. Sadly, we've come to expect this kind of hokum from civil society and the public sector. There are several problems with this approach. Firstly, just because there are more white people than nonwhite people somewhere does not make it racist. The UK is a majority-white country, so of course there will be many areas where there is very little, and sometimes no, ethnic minority participation. I do not see a problem. People are different, they have different interests and inclinations. Ethnic minority people tend to live in urban areas. Does that make Wembley, (where I come from and which is now a majority non-white area), racist because there are

fewer white people who live there? Of course not. Secondly, my own experience tells a very different story. Since my childhood, my family and I have spent countless holidays camping, fruit-picking, hiking and getting lost in blizzards. My parents took up camping in the 1980s for practical reasons: money was tight and it was cheap, child-friendly and we could take the dog. Every summer we would pile the car boot full of sleeping bags and gas canisters and head outdoors. It made such a come home with new regardless of skin colour or friends and lots of stories. confected victimhood. Not once in 30 years did we

experience hostility. If anything, on the rare occasion that I've experienced racism - the crass streetto challenge this ideology relentlessly, wherever we level type - I've been in the city, never in the sticks. see it. The premise of the Third, this is all based on a naive view of the countryside. One of Beatrix Potter and The Darling Buds of May. When poverty, vulnerability to flooding and storms and poor access to good schools and health services are some of the big issues facing rural communities. Ethnic minorities do not have a monopoly on deprivation.

Lastly, this is not just wrong but dangerous. We need to stop making white people feel guilty for being white. Critical race theory, white privilege and unconscious bias should be constantly debunked as Leftwing militancy. It's wholly disempowering for ethnic minorities to be judged by skin colour rather than by character. Why cast me as a victim and rob me of my agency? Why foster resentment? The truth is that so many people are terrified to challenge this groupthink which is taking over our country. They're scared of being labelled racist and losing their job. Best just keep your head down, they think. But we cannot become self-censured identikit automatons who parrot same newspeak.

It's why a Labour government would be so dangerous and why we need to fight back. The countryside is a jewel in the crown of Britain. I'm so grateful for all the lessons about nature, beauty, family and friendship it taught me. Let's focus more on investing in change to our countryside so that

The Telegraph



PSX turns bullish, gains 161 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The WorldCall Telecom with US Dollar in the interbank decreased by 01 paisa to 100-index of the Pakistan 30,099,719 shares at Rs trading and closed at close at Rs76.04 and the trend on Tuesday, gaining shares at Rs 25.63 per Rs279.32. 161.61 points, a positive change of 0.26 percent, closing at 61,226.93 points any Limited witnessed a Pakistan (FAP), the buying per tola

However, according to Gold rates remain the Forex Association of unchanged at Rs 214,300 per tola

The per tola price of 24

shares valuing Rs 15.972 whereas the runner-up was billion were traded during Ibrahim ZIL Limited with a the day as compared to Rs 21.23 rise in its per 349,975,051 shares valuing share price to Rs 304.33. Rs 12.745 billion the last

28 remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were K-Electric against dollar Limited with 65,824,727 shares at Rs 4.15 per share, gained 01 paisa against the the

A total of 435,549,576 closing at Rs 2,308.04,

Rafhan Maize Products y. Company Limited wit-Some 355 companies nessed a maximum decretransacted their shares in ase of Rs 346.99 per share the stock market; 188 of closing at Rs 8,303.01, folthem recorded gains and lowed by Khairpur Sugar 139 sustained losses, Mills Limited with Rs whereas the share prices of 32.29 decline to close at Rs

The Rupee on Tuesday

against 61,065.32 points maximum increase of Rs and selling rates of the dol-the previous trading day. maximum increase of Rs and selling rates of the dol-lar in the open market stood lar in the open market stood karat gold remained unchaat Rs280.5 and Rs282.25, respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by 77 paisa to close at Rs300.87 against the last day's closing of Rs301.64, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese Yen lost 01 paisa to close at Rs1.86, whereas an increase of 18 exchange rate of the British 2 Pound, which was traded at last closing of Rs353.18.

Emirates Dirham reported.

1.23 per share and Pak Rs279.31 against the previ- Saudi Riyal remained turned around to bullish Refinery with 28,602,808 ous day's closing of unchanged to close at

The per tola price of 24 nged at Rs 214,300 in the local market on Tuesday, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat and 10 gram 22 karat gold remained stagnant at Rs 183,728 and Rs 168,416 respectively whereas per tola and ten gram silver was trade at existing paisa was witnessed in the rates of Rs 2,600 and Rs ,229.08 respectively.

The price of gold in the Rs353.36 compared to the international market also remained unchanged at The exchange rates of \$2,043, the Association

ISLAMABAD: Workers loading plastic carton on rickshaw at vegetable market in Federal Capital.

IBA Karachi participates as an exclusive partner at conference

F.P. Report

Deans and Directors Conference 2024 on 'Navigating Disruption and Innovation in Business Education' concluded at the Continental Hotel.

Hosted by the National Business Education Accreditation Council (NBEAC-HEC), this prestigious event brought together VCs, Deans, Directors, event thought leaders, educators, and industry experts from across the country to deliberate on the future of business education amidst rapid technological advancements and evolving industry landscapes.

In his opening remarks, Executive Director IBA, quately educating our popties. Dr. Zaidi participated presentations, and interactor. S Akbar Zaidi stated ulation. He further added as a panelist in a session tive workshops aimed at this esteemed conference institution, the IBA takes and welcomed all local and pride in being compared to international delegates. the best private sector uniquality education is the a model for all universities right of every Pakistani cit- to emulate. izen, Dr. Zaidi stated that we need to improve the faculty members, Deans Business Schools'. quality of higher education and the Executive Director

sessions in different capaci-

Ďr. While,

that the IBA is delighted to that being a leading public- titled 'Driving Excellence addressing the challenges be the Exclusive Partner for sector higher education through Strategic Academic and opportunities presented

through Strategic Academic and Industry Partnerships'. and opportunities presented by disruptive forces in the Abdullah realm of business education. Sheikh, Dean, School of From adapting curriculum Emphasizing that access to versities in Pakistan and is Business Studies (SBS) and pedagogy to embracing explored various strategies

moderated a panel session emerging technologies and om 'Nurturing Responsible fostering entrepreneurial Numerous seasoned IBA and Ethical Leadership in mindsets, the conference From February 12-13, for navigating the everin Pakistan to make a sig- contributed to various panel attendees engaged in enric- changing landscape of busihing discussions, insightful ness education.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

Shipping activity was reported at Port Qasim where three ships namely, MSC Spring-III, Southern Anoa and Beks Nazik carrying containers, palm oil and Wheat, berthed at the Container Terminal, Liquid Terminal and Grain Terminal respectively on 12th February 2024.

Meanwhile, four more ships, Weco Madeleine, Corona, Stockholm Eagle and Lokoja carrying Palm oil, Coal and LNG, have also arrived at the outer anchorage of Port Qasim during the last 24 hours.

A total of six ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a chemical carrier Arpeggio' left the port today morning while another container ship, MSC Spring-III is expected to sail on the same day.

A cargo volume of 97,657 tonnes, comprising 66,769 tonnes of import cargo and 30,888 tonnes of export cargo carried in 3,000 containers (1,800 TEUs Imports and 1,200 TEUs export) was handled at the port during the last

24 hours. There are 11 ships, Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships, Epic Sunter, Lokoja and Stockholm Eagle car-EVTL, PGPCL and PIBT respectively today, 13th February, while two more containers ships, Maersk Columbus and America are due to arrive at Port Qasim on Wednesday, 14th February 2024.

Riyadh Air inks deal with Sabre Corp

RIYADH (Arab News): The operational efficiency of Saudi Arabia's upcoming airline Riyadh Air is poised for improvement with the signing of an agreement with Texasbased Sabre Corp.

Under this deal, the software and technology provider will help the carrier drive incremental revenue gains through end-toend network planning and optimization solutions.

The airline has chosen several of Sabre's software solutions, including schedule manager, slot manager, profit manager, and market intelligence, according to a press statement.

Sabre's schedule manager will help Riyadh Air organize the development process from planning to distribution, increasing revenue poten-

The slot manager is a suite that efficiently handles an airline's critical slot portfolio with improved asset utilization. Similarly, the profit manager will help to accu-

rately forecast demand and profitability with an average increase of up to 2 percent in revenues.

Fruits, vegetables rates increased Similarly, among veg- increase in the price of etables, peas cost Rs 200 to poultry eggs in the same

ISLAMABAD (APP): In the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, the prices of fruits and vegetables have increased by 28% in the last two weeks.

According to the market survey conducted by APP here on Tuesday, the prices of vegetables and fruits, especially onions and tomatoes, peas, cabbage, apple gourd, garlic, ginger, beans, cucumber, carrots, and fruits including apples, pomegranates, bananas, citrus, and oranges, have increased by 28 per cent from the last two months.

Since last week, various varieties of fruits, including apples, have been sold at Rs 250 to Rs 280, pomegranates at Rs 350 to 380, bananas at Rs 140 to Rs 160, citrus at Rs 220 to 250, and oranges at Rs 250 per

250, cucumbers Rs 120, apple gourds Rs 150, onions Rs 200 to 210, and garlic and ginger cost Rs 580 to 600 rupees per kg. According to the survey,

the price of poultry chicken reached Rs 400 to 420 per kg, and the price of poultry eggs reached Rs 420 per dozen in the open market in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The meat of the poultry

chicken has reached Rs 770 per kg in the open market. The prices of poultry items have increased by 15 per cent in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

During the last three months in the twin cities, a 13 per cent increase was witnessed in the price of poultry chicken, while should create a there was a 15 per cent trol mechanism.

poultry eggs in the same period.

Meanwhile, talking to APP, the Pakistan Poultry Association (PPA) has also called for a further increase in the prices of chicken, and there was an increase observed in the prices of poultry items in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

On this occasion, poultry feed industrialists and the ex-president of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dr Sarosh, said that soybeans are included in the basic ingredients of poultry feed.

A government servant, Saeed Ahmed, said that at present, the middle class is worried about current inflation, and the administration should create a price con-

NCHR, WCCIM collaborate to help women entrepreneurs ISLAMABAD (APP): The tional organizations.

National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) co- over 200 stalls carrying mmemorated National Wohandmade garments, Pakistani women owned men's Day by signing MOU unique jewelry, the iconic land and only 13% women with the Women Chamber of blue pottery of the region availed financial and bank rying LPG, LNG and Coal are expected to take berths Multan Division (WCCIM), Fair assisted in income genonally, despite women conan organization established eration and increased busi- stituting 50% of microfifor the economic development of Women Entrepreneurs in South Punjab. The MOU was finalized

by Chairperson NCHR, Rabiya Javeri Agha, while attending the two-day Blue Fair in Multan hosted by the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Division (WCCIM). The Blue Fair provides a platform for the their products, alongside exposing them to networking and financial support

vulnerable communities.

Fair is a great opportunity for female entrepreneurs to showcase their products on a national level". According to the Labour & Human Resource Department women entrepreneurs of Punjab, home-based work-South Punjab to showcase ers are amongst the most to promote Human Rights exploited group of workers in Business and spread in Pakistan. They constitute education on Human a major segment of labour rights, particularly womopportunities with industry deployment in the informal en's right to inheritance professionals and interna-

they have remained largely This year, the fair hosted invisible in the workforce. As per experts, only 2% ness exposure for home- nance clients, only about 5% based women entrepre- of the microfinance loan neurs who often hail from portfolio went to female borrowers.Often, loans taken in President of women's names are used by WCCIM, Mahnaz Amir male relatives, trapping Sheikh, said that the Blue women in cycles of debt. These statistics emphasize the need for the financial education and inclusion of

The collaboration with WCCIM is part of NCHR's ongoing efforts sector of the economy, and and equal opportunity.

women in business.

Asian markets mixed as traders return, eyes on US data HONG KONG (AFP/ as seeing the first shift in SoftBank, which was of broader trading in the APP): Asian markets were downward. The CPI report boosted by another block- unit will ramp up demand.

mixed Tuesday after anoth- is forecast to come in below er record high on Wall three percent on-year for unit Arm. Street, with attention on key the first time since March US inflation data due later 2021, in the day, while bitcoin Bloomberg News. broke \$50,000 for the first time in more than two will come down to the Fed's

consumer price index read- monetary policy, have been ing shows a continued a key driver of a market downward trend, which rally that has pushed the would give the Federal Dow and S&P 500 to multi-Reserve room to lower ple records this year. interest rates.

However, there is resigquestion after decisionmakers warned they wanted their margins. to see more positive indicators, with May now tipped

Lost and Found

I have lost my allocation letter having file No.B/RES/6034.Secter B Plot No.211 has been lost. Please any if found informed the DHA Office. Matee ullah

Court Notice

In the Court of Assistant Domel Commissioner District Bannu. Next date of hearing 16-02-24. Case title Mst. Hazrat Bibi etc. vs. Mst. Shreen Zabana etc. Notice to (39) Taj Ali (40) Sikandar sons of Abdul Qayyum Khan (Late) R/o Kotka Wali Khan post office Domel Paenda Khel Bannu presently in UAE. In the above case titled the service of above defendant(s) is not possible through ordinary means, therefore, you defendant(s) is/are informed through this publication that on 16-02-2024 at 8:30 a.m. You has/have to appear before this Court either personally or through attorney or through counsel to pursue the suit noted above, otherwise, ex-parte proceeding will be initiated against vou. Seal of Court.

according

Expectations inflation two-percent target this year, Traders are hoping the allowing the bank to ease

However, observers pointed out that nation on trading floors that there could be an upward a March cut is out of the surprise as many businesses had lifted prices to boost

> SPI Asset Management's Stephen Innes added: "The dreaded top side beat would throw ice water on the easing inflation story, send May cut probability tumbling south of 50 percent and upend a stock market rally looking for more boost juice from a dovish Fed.

"The US isn't out of the woods yet on the inflation front, even if markets are keen to pretend otherwise.'

As most of the region returned to work after a long weekend in several Tokyo countries, led advances thanks to a surge

Court Notice

In the Court of Sabeena Jadoon Civil Judge-V Swabi, Muqarab Khan vs. Rawaiz Khan, Suit number 134/1, Institution date 04-10-2023, hearing date 29-03-2024. Subject: Proclamation, Notice to Khan Sharif sons Abdul Waris R/o Fujoon Abad, Charbagh, Tehsil & District, Swabi, presently Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Phone No. 00966582853767.

service through ordinary means is difficult, so you are informed to attend the Court on 29-03-2024 personally, through counsel or attorney to avoid ex-parte proceeding.

buster day for its US-listed

boom in artificial intelli-

There were also gains in and Manila, but Sydney, Singapore, Jakarta and bitcoin has rallied about Wellington fell. Hong percent since January 22. Kong, Shanghai and Taipei Lunar New Year break.

Friday. The Nasdaq was outlook. also slightly off.

optimistic that US approval Technologies, said.

The cryptocurrency has enjoyed a strong run in Arm has almost doubled recent months, fuelled by in value in the past week -- expectations US lawmakers and trebled since its would allow the creation of September listing -- owing exchange-traded funds to healthy demand for chips (ETFs) that track the price fuelled by an expected and let the public invest in crypto without directly purchasing it.

After initially dropping Seoul, Mumbai, Bangkok in reaction to last month's green light by Washington, bitcoin has rallied about 25

That advance saw it hit remained closed for the as much as \$50,328, nar New Year break. according to Bloomberg
The gains in Asia came data, its highest level since after the Dow chalked up a late 2021. In afternoon new record high, though the Asian trade it was sitting at S&P 500 edged down after \$50,050. And observers hitting an all-time peak were optimistic about the

"Enthusiast buyers bring Bitcoin topped \$50,000 in more enthusiast buyers for the first time since late pushing prices further up,' 2021 as investors grow Fadi Aboualfa, of Copper

ITFC, Djibouti sign \$90m Murabah deal

RIYADH (Arab News): Dawaleh and ITFC CEO The International Islamic Hani Salem Sonbol. Trade Finance Corp. has of petroleum products.

Djibouti, also known as executing agency. ITFC, a This initiative fosters member of the Islamic intra-OIC trade, as the Republic of Djibouti have sourced mainly from other enjoyed a longstanding member countries of the relationship with a total of \$1.6 billion approved by the corporation in favor of the country, with 33 operathe commitment to support-

and health sectors.

Economy and

Minister Ilyas

The latest deal was

"The financing facility signed a \$90 million aims to support SIHD's Murabah agreement with mandate of securing energy Djibouti to secure energy supply through the imporsupply through the import tation of petroleum products that is essential for The International electricity generation to Hydrocarbons Co. of boost all the sectors of the economy," said a press SIHD, will serve as the release issued on Tuesday.

Development Bank, and the petroleum products will be Organization of Islamic Cooperation. ITFC interventions in Djibouti reflect tions targeting the energy ing the country's economy starting with the energy sector and extending its posisigned between Djibouti's tive impact to vital areas Finance like services, manufactur-Moussa ing, and agriculture.

shines during festival BEIJING (INP): Pakistani variety of Pakistani dishes, also contributed to the sucrestaurants in China are experiencing a surge in customers, as locals and tourists alike flock to these establishments to celebrate

the Chinese Spring Festival. The Chinese Spring Festival, also known as the Lunar New Year or the Chinese New Year, is one of the most important traditional festivals in China. It is a time when families come together to celebrate, exchange gifts, and enjoy special meals.

Asif Jilal, owner of a Pakistani restaurant chain in China in Beijing told Gwadar Pro that Pakistani restaurants have become a popular choice for people looking for a unique dining experience during the Spring Festival.

These restaurants offer a

such as biryani, kebabs, and curries, known for their rich flavors and aromatic spices. "The popularity of Pakistani restaurants during the Chinese Spring Festival can be attributed to several

Pak restaurant business

Firstly, the unique taste and presentation of Pakistani cuisine attract customers who are looking for something different from traditional Chinese dishes. Additionally, the warm

factors.

and welcoming atmosphere of these restaurants creates celebrating the Spring period. Festival", he added. This

ZamZam

cess of these businesses.

In recent years, Pakistani cuisine has gained recognition and appreciation among Chinese consumers, leading to an increased demand for Pakistani restaurants.

Other Pakistani restaurants also expressed that the influx of customers during the Chinese Spring Festival has been a boon for Pakistani restaurants in Beijing.

Many of these establishments are reporting full a festive ambiance, making reservations and increased them an ideal choice for sales during this festive

This surge in business Hammad Zaheer, CEO not only benefits the own-Pakistan ers of these restaurants but restaurant said that the also promotes cultural growing popularity of exchange between Pakistan Pakistani food in China has and China.

'We Exhibit 2024' best way for women entrepreneurs, says President WCCIS

of Commerce and Industry (WCCIS) Dr. March this year, would be because together we excel". an excellent opportunity for

SIALKOT (APP): showcase and highlights Silver packages for the President Women Chamber their products and bring up exhibitors to ensure maxitheir businesses to the next level. In a statement issued Mariam Nouman said that here on Tuesday, President the trade and industrial WCCIS said that "Exhibit exhibition "We Exhibit and explore to grow, the 2024" that would be start in way you deserve to grow

mum participation of women.

2024" than last year as well as the exhibition was She said that WCCIS extended up to two days so disabled the women entrepreneurs to offered Premium, Gold and that maximum number of women", she concluded.

women could get benefit. Dr. Mariam Nouman said that about

exhibitors participated in President WCCIS added this exhibition last year that more booths were where as there will be more booked for "We Exhibit than 120 exhibitors this year in March 2024. "Free stalls would be provided to





In brief

Basketball

team named KARACHI (APP): The President of the Karachi Basketball Association (KBBA), Ghulam Muhammad Khan, along with the selection committee, has unveiled the sixteen-member basketball team set to compete in the upcoming Sindh Games in Hyderabad. Following rigorous two-day trial at the Abdul Nasir Basketball court in Aram Bagh, where a total of 84 players showcased their skills, the announcement was made. The selected players have been instructed to report to Manager Muhammad Yaqoob in preparation for the sixth Sindh Games. Talha Amjad from Nishter Club has been named as the team captain, with Anas Azhar from Omega Club serving as his deputy. Among the chosen ath-Taimur are Zaheer, Athar Rana, Hamza Khawaja, Muhammad Rahim, Ashraf, S Abdullah Imam, Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Hassan Ali, Abdullah Haroon, Ali Bhaghat, Abdullah Khan, Muhammad Daniyal Khan Marwat, Feroze Ali, and Abdul Samad Javed. Noteworthy is the inclusion of three promising young talents, including Daniyal Khan Marwat, who captains the Habib Public School U-15 team, along with the talented teens Hassan Ali, Muhammad Zaid Ashraf, and Abdul Samad Javed. This squad boasts a commendable blend of experienced senior players and emerging

Cholistan Rally arrangements

BAHAWALPUR

junior talents.

(APP): A high-level meeting was held under the chair of Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur Zaheer Anwar Jappa to review the arrangements of 19th TDCP International Cholistan Desert Rally Cultural Festival that will commence on February 20. Deputy Commissioner Zaheer Anwar Jappa directed that all arrangements for the Cholistan Desert Rally should be completed on time, including traffic management, parking, rally routes, craft and food stalls, and sports events. He reviewed the performance of various committees established for the rally and instructed that tourists should be facilitated during the Cholistan Desert Rally. It was announced that the inauguration ceremony of the 19th Cholistan Desert Rally will be held on February 20, with the registration and technical inspection of the participating vehicles taking place on February Furthermore, a quali-fying round will be held in Cholistan on February 22, while the first round of prepared cars and dirt bike races will take place on February 23, and a cultural show will also be organized. February 24, the prepared category race and truck race will be held and later, a prize distribution ceremony will be organized. The Cholistan Fort will be adorned with beautiful lights during the rally. It was also mentioned that cultural shows, folk music, qawwali night, kabaddi, traditional wrestling, vol-leyball, and tug of war competitions would be International Cholistan Desert Rally venue. The said meeting was attended by President Bahawalpur Chamber Commerce and

Industry

Additional

departments.

Chaudhry

Deputy

Zulfiqar Ali Maan,

Commissioner

Revenue Muhammad

Sarwar and other offi-

cials from relevant



Sports

LAHORE: Pakistan Super League team captains pose for a picture with the PSL trophy in Lahore.

Record-setting West Indies beat Australia in third T20

(Agencies): Andre Russell and I could contribute tonight," said Sherfane Rutherford put on the Russell. "I think it's just the nature biggest sixth-wicket partnership in a of this team, we are never out of it. T20I to steer the West Indies past Australia by 37 runs in their third and final clash on Tuesday.

Both men crunched quickfire halfcenturies to propel the visitors to as a unit tonight." Australia started 220-6 in Perth with Australia managing just 183-5 in reply, David Warner top-scoring on 81 in his last appearance for Australia at home. The hosts won the first match in Hobart by 11 runs and sealed the series with a 34run victory at Adelaide.

The West Indies made a horror start after winning the toss and opting to bat, losing three wickets in the opening three overs. But Russell (71 off 29 balls) and Rutherford (unbeaten 67 off 40) led the fightback, with both posting their highest T20 scores in a 139-run sixth-wicket partnership that set a new standard.

Spinner Adam Zampa went for 1sive in the format. "I was just happy ed off the final five overs, it was a and five fours.

Five wickets down, but there wasn't

any panic in the change rooms.
"I'm happy we came together as a team and we were definitely playing well with Warner and captain Mitchell Marsh reaching 61 without loss after the six-over powerplay. Warner clocked his 3,000th run as

he brought up a 26th half-century off 25 balls before Marsh departed for 17, skying a catch to Jason Holder off Akeal Hosein. Australia reached 98-1 at the halfway mark but were pegged back by tight bowling from the West Indies. The match turned when Australia lost three wickets for three runs. Roston Chase bagged two of them, including Warner and Josh Inglis (one), while Romario Shepherd bowled Aaron Hardie (16).

Glenn Maxwell blasted an unbeat-

bridge too far even for him and he fell for 12 as the chase fizzled despite Tim David cracking a lightening 41. "We knew they'd come into this

series, they're a really good team with some amazing cricketers, so fair play to the West Indies," Marsh said. With Australian pace spearhead Josh Hazlewood rested, Xavier Bartlett

earned a debut and Johnson Charles nicked to wicketkeeper Matthew Wade in his first over before he bowled Kyle Mayers in his second over.

In between, Nicholas Pooran was removed by Jason Behrendorff to leave the West Indies reeling at 17-3. But Chase began the rebuild, taking 17 off Bartlett's third over before his luck ran out against Zampa, bowled for 37 as he attempted another big hit.

Hardie accounted for Rovman Powell (21) before Rutherford and Russell came to the rescue. Russell blasted seven sixes and four bound-65 off four overs — his most expen- en 120 in Adelaide but, with 96 need- aries, while Rutherford hit five sixes

Quetta Gladiators appoint Rilee Rossouw as captain

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): South African cricketer, Rilee Rossouw has been appointed as the new captain Quetta Gladiators for the upcoming Pakistan Super League (PSL) season 9.

Alongside Rossouw Saud Shakeel has been named as the vice-captain of the team, indicating a new era of leadership for the franchise.

Sarfaraz Ahmed, known for his impressive PSL track record, having secured victory in 38 out of 80 matches and claiming the title in 2019, now pass es the baton to Rossouw.

The decision comes after thorough deliberations by the team management, as revealed by Nadeem Omar, the owner of Quetta Gladiators, in an exclusive interview with Cricket Pakistan. Omar highlighted Rossouw's potential as a captaincy contender, hinting at the strategic vision and leadership qualities that the South African cricketer

brings to the table.
"Sarfaraz Ahmed has always been in our hearts. He has played a big part in Quetta Gladiators' success. He has led for 8 years. For Pakistan team, Karachi, and our club, he has always fulfilled his duties with dedication. There is no doubt about his leadership skills. Unfortunately the franchise's performance has been up and down in the last 3-4 years. It is said that the captain per forms well only when the team is good. This time the team has improved. Now our new coach Shane Watson has come to Pakistan. He believes Sarfaraz should be given a break from captaincy. We have not made any final decision yet," Nadeem said. "Rilee Rossouw, a possible alternative, has not led any team yet, so we are confused.

HBL PSL 9 **Orion trophy** unveiled

LAHORE (APP): Named after a constellation and representing stars of the marquee event, the HBL PSL 9 Orion trophy was unveiled at the sprawling Polo ground fields at the Race Course Park here on Tuesday.

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi, franchise owners, HBL representatives and star cricketers attended the cer-"The Orion Trophy" embodies the spirit of the PSL of motivating cricketers to strive for glory.

Orion, in various mythologies and cultures, is often associated with a prominent constellation located in the celestial equator. The constellation is easily recognisable by three bright stars forming Orion's Belt and is visible from both hemispheres, making it one of the most wellknown and easily identifiable star patterns in the night sky. Made from pure silver and coated in white gold, the ele-

gant trophy exudes prestige. Each detail is plated with white gold, adding grace that signifies the excellence of the Lznn zkPpsxkncjzl loHBL Pakistan Super League. With the investment of 900+ hours of non-stop work and hand placement of 18,000 stones, this marvel stands tall and proud. Speaking at the unveiling PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi hailed the fact that HBL PSL continues to be a suc-

cess story for Pakistan cricket, adding that he looked forward to a month-long celebration of the beautiful game of cricket and the excitement and drama that accompanies it.

"HBL PSL connects hearts of people of Pakistan, who cherish every thrilling moment of the game. Be it towering sixes, high-intensity bowling, and top-notch catches, HBL PSL offers an emotional rollercoaster.

"I would like to thank the title sponsor of the league HBL, they truly have uplifted the game of cricket in our country through their support and have become synony-mous with the name of the league. All the successes over the past eight years are a testament to HBL's commitment to the Pakistan Super League," he added.

Ali Naqvi, owner of Islamabad United, said: "We are excited about the ninth edition of the HBL PSL. Islamabad United has been one of the most successful teams in the tournament and we want to extend that with a grand triumph this season. "We had one of the best drafts in our history and some of the most exciting players will be lining up for Islamabad United this season. I can't wait to watch the team play at the home ground in Rawalpindi and win the hearts of the fans.'

Salman Iqbal, owner Karachi Kings, said: "Karachi Kings are ready to turn the tables in the HBL PSL 9 with their breathtaking performances. The build-up and preparation for the tournament have been top notch and I expect some quality results in the tournament.

"We have a new coach and captain for this season which makes the fans more excited about Karachi's prospects in this season. A strong Karachi Kings means a strong and exciting HBL PSL and we'll prove it this time around." Atif Rana, CEO Lahore Qalandars, said: "As the two-time HBL PSL champions we are eagerly looking forward to completing a hat-trick of triumphs for the first time in the history of the league. "We have stacked up our resources this season as well and aim to hit the ground running in the tournament. Our fans are also geared up to fill the stadium not just during the home games in Lahore but also in the away games as well and support the team with all their might. "I assure them that we'll put in our all efforts to lift the Orion Trophy in Karachi under the able leadership of Shaheen Shah Afridi.

Ali Khan Tareen, owner of Multan Sultans, said: "I am super glad to be a part of the HBL PSL again. It is such an exciting venture to be a part of as it spreads smiles on the faces of many people across the country. A lot has happened between this season and the past season and I want to make sure that the Sultans maintain consistency in their performances this year as well.

"The HBL PSL also brings a wave of happiness to the people of Pakistan and I am sure this year will be filled with heaps of triumphs. "It would be great to conclude this exciting season with the glittering HBL PSL trophy being lifted by Mohammad Rizwan and Co."

Javed Afridi, chairman of Peshawar Zalmi, said: "I am glad that the ninth edition of the HBL PSL is finally here and the Babar Azam-led Peshawar Zalmi are ready to make a mark in the tournament. "Our loyal fans wait the whole year for the tournament to start and I want my team to put up great performances in every game. I promise you that Peshawar Zalmi will continue to play the attacking style of cricket this year as well. "My team is hungry to prove a point on the field and I am sure the beauty of the Orion Trophy must have added more to that hunger.'

Nadeem Omar, owner Quetta Gladiators, said: "The Orion Trophy has been unveiled and this occasion is no less a motivation for team Quetta to roar in the HBL PSL 9. "We have had our fair share of struggles in the recent seasons but it is about time that Gladiators showcase good fight and determination and HBL PSL 9 is a befitting time to be doing that. "We are looking forward to taking on all five teams and proving our mettle at all the four venues.

player Zainab Ali passes away

ISLAMABAD (APP): A budding Pakistan tennis player Zainab Ali Naqvi, who was featuring in the ongoing ITF Juniors Tournaments at SDA-PTF Complex Islamabad had passed away, Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) said on Tuesday. "Zainab, a young tennis player who had come to Islamabad from Karachi to participate in the ITF Juniors Tournaments, passed away last night (February 12) in Islamabad," the PTF said in a press release.



A PTF official told APF that Zainab, who was staying in Islamabad at her maternal grandmother's home was taking a bath after featuring in a match, but after 30 minutes was found dead in the washroom.

"She was a healthy athlete and as far as I know she had no medical issues. Probably, she died due to showering and pouring water on her head soon after playing the match," a Karachi-based PTF official told APP on phone. The 17-year-old Zainab was taken to a nearby hospital but the doctors said she had died before reaching there.

"Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, President PTF Senator Salim Saifullah Khan, Ex-President PTF, PTF Council Members and the tennis fraternity offer their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

"May Allah bless the departed soul with eternal in heaven.' According to the PTF, Tuesday's matches of the ITF Juniors were postponed as a mark of respect in memory of Zainab.

The fixture will be played on Wednesday under the same schedule. 'A joint prayer was offered and one-minute silence was observed by all the foreign and Pakistani players, parents, coaches and the PTF officials and staff on Tuesday.

Young tennis | Peshawar Zalmi unveils Cutting-Edge 'Khyber Edition' Away Jersey with revolutionary CGI technology

PESHAWAR ZALMI PSL 9 OFFICIAL KITS



F.P. Report

Zalmi, known for its vation and excellence, has leisure

In a groundbreaking ments in the PSL. move, the team harnessed "Khyber Edition" jersey, their Away Kit using revo-heralding a new era of lutionary CGI technology.

which featured the iconic essence of the city's rich Babar Azam and garnered heritage and spirit. international acclaim,

Peshawar Zalmi is back to cal redefine the standards of Zalmi remains deeply root-PESHAWAR: Peshawar creativity and excitement. ed in its cultural heritage,

relentless pursuit of inno- esteemed partner in ath- Islamia College Peshawar once again left cricket Armour, and collaborating enthusiasts in awe with the with Red Bull Records, revelation of their highly Peshawar Zalmi has electrifying season in the awaited Away Jersey for become synonymous with HBLPSL 9, fans can the HBL Pakistan Super cutting-edge kits and expect nothing short of League 9 (HBLPSL 9). exhibitanting announce- extraordinary experiences announce-

This year, Peshawar Pakistan, particularly sey emerged majestically within the PSL.

Beyond the technologi- around the globe.

marvel, Peshawar Teaming up with their celebrating the iconic wear, GYM monument and the legacy it represents. As Peshawar Zalmi gears up for another extraordinary experiences both on and off the field.

With anticipation at an state-of-the-art CGI tech- Zalmi continues to push all-time high, fans eagerly nology to introduce the boundaries by unveiling await the unveiling of Peshawar Zalmi's Away Kit, knowing that the team always delivers a spectacle that exceeds expectations. from the historic Clock Stay tuned for more Following the success Tower of Islamia College updates and announce-of last season's kit launch, Peshawar, capturing the ments as Peshawar Zalmi continues to inspire and captivate

Fraccari congratulates new officials of Softball **Federation of Pakistan**

Baseball (WBSC) Confederation president Riccardo Fraccari its name in the world in wants to see the sport of

According to a statement Azeem on Tuesday, in the future, Meanwhile, the president cooperation with the new Association officials of the Softball Qadri Jilani, Secretary Pakietan In General Muhammad his congratulatory letter, Khalid Mehmood, Vice Pak Riccardo Fracarri said that President Fatima Lakhani, Dr. ciated with the game of in ence in softball and his Olympian

game in the region.

terms of sports. We appre-softball in Pakistan fully ciate the steps taken for the developed, for which he development and promo-tion of softball in Pakistan. of the federation Asif very soon. Karachi CONRAD

KARACHI (PPI): World skills as president will be of Siddiqui, Provincial Sports Softball great help in expanding the Minister Sindh Dr. Junaid Ali Shah, Sindh Additional Ricardo Fracarri also Chief Secretary Home has said that Pakistan has expressed his desire that he Muhammad Iqbal Memon, Chairperson of Special Olympics Pakistan Ronak Lakhani, Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Rajput, CEO Saleem Combaxx Sports Omar Saeed and other personaliwe will continue our strong of the Pakistan Olympic ties associated with sports cooperation with the new Association Syed Abid have felicitated the newly elected President of Softball Federation Pakistan Asif Azerm, SVP Farhan Essa, Asif Azeem has been asso- Consul General of America Chairperson Yasmin Hyder and Secretary Naseem softball for a long time and TRIBBLE, Squash Legend Khan and other officials. I hope that his vast experi- Jahangir Khan, Hockey They expressed best wishes Islahuddin for the new office-bearers.

PSL 9 commentary team PSL S

Michael Clarke set to

join star-studded HBL



Australian Michael Clarke is all set to make his HBL PSL debut behind the mic as he joins a star-studded commentary panel. 42-year-old Clarke has been an active broadcaster after hanging up his boots as a player.

The foreign commentators' roster involves the dynamic Ian Bishop, known for his insightful and gripping commentary, along with Morrison, Simon Doull, Pommie Mbangwa, Mark Butcher, Dominic Cork and Mike Haysman.

Bishop will return to the

captain time after having called the 2017 season. Morrison is a well-known name among the local fans and a regular while Doull has made trips to Pakistan not just for HBL PSL but also for various international series.

Mbangwa will return after having called the 2022 edition of the HBL PSL. Butcher, Cork, Haysman are also synony-PSL and they'll light up the vocals and thrilling calls with the mic in hand.

The Pakistani commen- player video headshots.

tators also make up an exciting lineup with Ramiz Raja, Waqar Younis, Bazid Khan, and Aamir Sohail joining Urooj Mumtaz, Sana Mir and Marina Iqbal. Tariq Saeed and Ali Younis will call the action in Urdu. Erin Holland and Zainab Abbas will be the presenters during the course of the HBL PSL 9. The HBL PSL produc-

tion is set to maintain its standards of broadcasting this season as well. A total of 30 high-definition cameras, including the buggy cam will stream high-quality action to the HBL PSL fans around the world. Spidercam will not only bring dynamic angles to the TV audiences but it has also been upgraded with a voice in the tournament microphone and speaker enhancement for conducting on-field player interviews during the matches.

The DRS technology will also be available throughout the HBL PSL while drone cameras will be used to add to the quality of streaming. The fans mous names with the HBL will see a change in the onscreen graphics during the tournament with their matches with the integration of revamped augmented reality graphics and

In brief

Death anniversary of Zia Mohyeddin

ISLAMABAD (APP) The first death anniversary of renowned actor, broadcaster, and producer Zia Mohyeddin observed on Tuesday. Born on June 20, 1931 in Faisalabad, Zia Mohyeddin became famous for his talk Pakistan Television 'The Zia Mohyeddin Show' in 1969. He was also known for originating the role of Dr. Aziz in the stage play of 'A Passage to India'. He also appeared in film

Lawrence of Arabia. Mohyeddin remained head of National Academy of performing art since its inception. He was awarded Hilal-i-Imtiaz Award, Sitara-i-Imtiaz Award and Lifetime Achievement Award for his excellent services in the field of performing arts. Zia Mohyeddin passed away in Karachi on February 13, 2023 at the age of 91.

Police bust dacoit gang

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have busted a robber gang by arresting two of its active members allegedly involved in robbery and other crimes and seized weapons, cash, mobile phones and other valuables from their possession. According to a police spokesman, New Town police managed to bust a dacoit gang and arrested its two members namely Ghulam Mustafa and Ramazan. He informed that police recovered weapons, cash, mobile phones and other items from their possession. The spokesman said the arrested accused were being shifted to jail for identification parade, adding, police were trying to arrest other members of gangs.

Superintendent Police, Rawal, Faisal Saleem directed police teams to accelerate operations against gangs and other lawbreakers, he added.

Civic facilities under ICT doorstep initiative

ISLAMABAD (APP): Under ICT doorstep initiative, the Excise department on Tuesday is providing civic facil ities to residents of federal capital to get their vehicle registration as well as access of various essential services at Kathnar Park. On the directives of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, the excise staff would be stationed at the park's parking lot from 3.00 to 5.00 pm, Spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabassum said. This initiative aims to streamline processes and provide ease to the public regarding vehicle registration, transfer, and token tax procedures he added. In addition to the vehicle registration, transfer, and token tax services. Facilitation Center

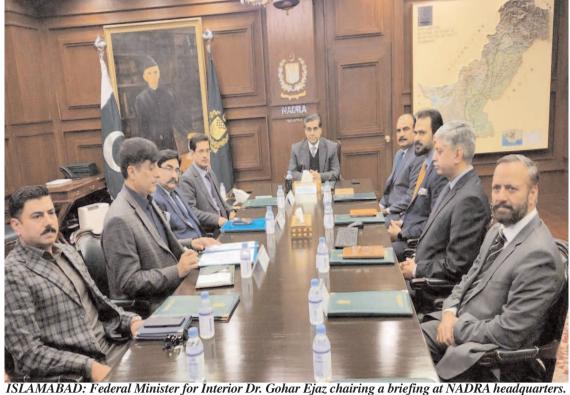
Doorstep ICT Vehicle will also be offering the following services: Domicile certificate, Birth certificate, Power attorney

International driving permit, Fuel permit domestic/commer cial), Motor vehicle registration.

Kanz-ul-Madaris **Board exams**

ISLAMABAD (APP) A total of 665 examination centers have been established nationwide for the annual exams conducted by the Kanzul-Madaris Board, with 112,000 male and female students participating. According to the spokesman, teachers are currently supervising at the examination centers. The annual examinations for 2024, organized by the education board of Dawat-e-Islami, began on Monday, February 12th. Students are participating in exams for Nazra Holy Quran, Tahfeez Al Quran, and

Tajweed recitation.



Capital

Ashrafi condemns India's role in Israeli attacks against Palestinians

Prime Minister's Special Affairs and Pakistani Muhammad Mehmood Ashrafi on Tuesday accused India of complicity in the violence against Palestinians.

Addressing a press conference, he said according ing Indian-made drones to perpetrate attacks on the claim that has stirred international concern.

Ashrafi who is also the Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) condemned the alleged collusion between India and Israel, stating that while India continued to oppress Kashmiris, it was also practically involved in the bloodshed of Palestinian civilians. He pointed fingers at Adani-Elbit, suggesting that the ing the provision of drones institutions, to the Israeli government, enforcement Cooperation (OIC) special anti-state elements. summit convened to address in a decision to exert pres-reconciliation sure on countries supplying weapons to Israel. Ashrafi

Muslim Countries, Hafiz products, similar to the and prosperity. ongoing boycott of Israeli attacks on Palestinians.

dire consequences if Rafah doubts, Ashrafi asserted to reports, Israel was utiliz- continued to be targeted, Pakistan's resilience as a emphasizing the potential nation and the strength of ripple effects on neighborinnocent people of Rafah, a ing Muslim nations. He that no harm could befall its cautioned that Israel and federating India were maneuvering to Addressing escalate tensions and push countries towards the brink of a global conflict.

Ashrafi commended the of selection of representatives address grievances. for both the National and Provincial nationwide. He attributed internal affair of Pakistan, this success to the Pakistan stressing that external enticonglomerate was facilitat- Army, national security ties should refrain from interthus exacerbating the acknowledging their pivotal the future prospects, Ashrafi humanitarian crisis in role in ensuring a conducive announced that the PUC Palestine. The recent atmosphere and thwarting leadership would unveil its Organization of Islamic the malicious intentions of

the Palestine issue resulted need for a comprehensive plans for a 10-day nationreconciliation policy, wide activism campaign Ashrafi stressed the impor- from February 18 to 28, tance of all stakeholders commemorating the organicalled upon Muslim nations coming together to devise a zation's 'Foundation Day'.

to sever financial and eco- unified mechanism to nomic ties with such coun- address financial, econom-Representative for Religious tries if they fail to adhere to ic, foreign, and internal the OIC's directives. He issues, thereby steering the Diaspora in Middle East and urged for a boycott of Indian nation towards progress

He called for unity goods, in response to India's among religious and politialleged complicity in the cal leaders to thwart attempts aimed at dividing Expressing grave con- the nation, particularly its cern, Ashrafi warned of youth. Dispelling any its armed forces, reassuring

concerns regarding election results. he reiterated the independence and statutory authority the Election peaceful conduct of the gen- Commission of Pakistan eral elections held on emphasizing its constitu-February 8, which saw the tional duty to impartially

He emphasized that the Assemblies elections constituted an and law ference or concern regarding agencies, the process. Keeping in view tomorrow Emphasizing the urgent Additionally, he disclosed

AIOU's Academic Council approves new programs

of Allama Igbal Open University (AIOU) on Tuesday approved the launch of new diploma and certificate programmes.

A joint meeting of the 50th Academic Planning and Development/Research and Educational Technology Committee (APD/RET) and the 66th Academic Council of AIOU was held on Monday.

Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood chaired the meeting, and Registrar, Raja Umar Younis organized the meeting. The department heads, principal officers, and external members attended the meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved during the council meeting.

of several BS, MS/MPhil, and PhD courses. The meeting also approved to launch of various courses, including PhD in (Executive Council) will approve these Agricultural Technology, M.Phil in decisions in the next meeting.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Academic Council Gender and Women Studies, PGD in Counter Violent Extremism and Terrorism International Financial Standards (IFTSs), Medical Microbiology Molecular Diagnostics, Climate Change and Sustainability, Public Health & Nutrition, Sustainable Environmental Design, Certificate courses in Arabic Tajweed Ul Quran, and Criminology. Additionally, the council also approved skill-based courses in Chemistry and 3month short courses.

Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood directed the faculty members and deans to keep in mind the policy of the University and Higher Education Commission in designing the courses and preparing the teaching materials.

The council also approved new courses, as well as changes in the title and content assured to make all possible efforts for better and quality education.

The Supreme Body of the University

Capital's air quality moderate

quality healthy.

produced during

ISLAMABAD (APP): The on Tuesday reported modwere less than the national remained 32.41 micro long soaring air pollution The air quality was moderate as the air pollutants ratio in the atmosphere was below the permissible limits of the national envi-Environmental Protection emissions, Agency (Pak-EPA).

quality report indicated a up by fast-moving cars sible for ensuring the pro- and under the

The hazardous air pollu- industrial emissions from federal capital residents tant particulate matter of the factories involving microns (PM2.5), complex and extraordierate air quality as the which was a hazardous nary chemicals' use in atmospheric contaminants atmospheric contaminant, production processes.

threshold since months- grammes per cubic meter 12.84 microgrammes per on average which was cubic meter and SO2 was plummeted after much- lower than the national 15.33 microgrammes per awaited rainfall earlier. environmental quality stan- cubic meter. The EPA offidards (NEQS) of 35 mic-cials claimed that the vehicprogrammes per cubic ular emissions due to meter and denoted the air increased automobiles were one of the leading causes of PM 2.5 is generated bad air quality. Industrial ronmental quality stan- through the combustion emissions were already dards of the Pakistan of an engine, industrial subsided due to carbonburning absorbing advanced tech-

gency (Pak-EPA). garbage or inflammable nology installed at various.

The agency's daily air material and dust blown steel manufacturing units. According to health reduced ratio of air pollu- plying on non-cemented experts, the prolonged dry tants, recorded below per- patches of the roads. The winters resulted in the permissible limits. It is respon- ratio of nitrogen dioxide petuated presence of hazsulphur dioxide ardous air contaminants in tection of the environment (NO2&SO2 respectively) the atmosphere that made Pakistan also remained below the respiratory diseases and Environmental Protection NEQS that were mostly pneumonia endemic in the the federal capital.

Gohar Ijaz visits NADRA headquarters

Munir Afsar welcomed the Minister in minister said. headquarters, said in a press release. A al standards and our main national asset, his professionalism.

for Interior Dr. Gohar Ijaz on Tuesday vis- custodian of the national identity, this ited the National Database Registration institution has an important role in nation-Authority (NADRA) headquarters along al security and safety. Obtaining an identiwith the Secretary Interior and Director ty document is the fundamental right of citizens and in this regard, they should be NADRA Chairman Lieutenant General provided with all possible facilities, the

He said that NADRA is performing its detailed briefing on the institution was duties efficiently by utilizing modern techgiven to the minister by NADRA officials. nology and chairman NADRA has further NADRA is an organization of internation-raised the standards of the institution with

World Radio Day observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): is a significant occasion Like other parts of the to commemorate the world the world radio day, medium's celeberated in the country here on Tuesday. In this regard the main event in Hyderabad was held at audience and revenue Radio Pakistan, where numbers from digital plat-Saeed Ahmed Sheikh, the forms, social media, digi-Director-General

Pakistan Broadcasting divides, censorship, con-Corporation (PBC), cut a cake at the Radio Pakistan Hyderabad's studio. Furthermore, the pur-

pose to celebrate the event to continue the democratic value of Radio radio is to serve as a grassroots catalyst for connectedness within under-served groups, including immigrant, religious, minority, and poverty-stricken populations. Celebrating radio's 17mm, Jiwani 07 and Pasni 04mm. The mini- Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to mark World Radio Day 2024 on 13 February 2024. With radio having crossed wildfires, the 100-year milestone, it and warfare

extensive virtues and continuing potency. However, radio faces challenges to its of tal and generational solidations, and economic hardships.

At this special and pivotal point in its century-long journey, UNESCO invites the global radio industry in all its many forms - commercial, public, and non-profit - to join in this global celebra-

tion of the medium. The 2024 observance highlights the history of radio and its powerful impact on news, drama, involved in begging. These rich past, ongoing rele- music, and sports. It also vance, and promising recognizes the ongoing future is the topic chosen practical value as a portable public safety net during emergencies and power outages, caused by natural and human-made disasters, such as storms, earthquakes, floods, heat,

AC crack down on professional begging

ISLAMABAD (APP): Under the directions of Commissioner, Deputy Irfan Nawaz Memon, Assistant Commissioner Shalimar on Tuesday led a targeted operation against beggars in sectors F-10 and -7 areas of the Shalimar Subdivision.

The operation resulted in the apprehension of professional beggars, who were handed over to the police for legal action, the ICT spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabasum said.

Under the vigilant eye of AC, these daily operations aimed to curb the presence of beggars in the capital. In recent sweep, AC Shalimar not only apprehended beggars but also ensured the proper handling of minor children youngsters were sent to the Edhi Center, emphasizing a humane approach to dealing with vulnerable populations. He said that the crackdown aligned with a broader strategy to maintain order in Islamabad, emphasizing the commitaccidents, ment of local authorities to

PR earns over Rs 6.84 mln in four years through saloons

Railways has generated revenue been worth over Rs 6.84 million through utilizing its 23 saloons and inspection Rawalpindi, Quetta, Sukkur, Lahore, coaches for commercial purposes, and Karachi. during the last four years.

Very cold weather

likely in upper parts

of country: PMD

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Pakistan Meteorological

Department (PMD) has

forecast mainly cold and

dry weather for most

parts of the country dur-

ing the next 24 hours.
While very cold weath-

er will prevail in the

upper parts of the coun-

try. According to the syn-

optic situation, continen-

tal air was prevailing

over most parts of the

During the last 24

hours, cold and partly

cloudy weather prevailed

over most parts of the country while very cold

However, rain occurred at

isolated places in south

The rainfall recorded

was Balochistan: Gwadar

recorded were Leh -09C,

Bagrote -04, Srinagar, Gilgit and Hunza -03C.

Kalam

Astore

parts.

temperatures

northern

country.

Balochistan.

Skardu,

the country who are entitled to use these saloons when needed," an official in the Ministry of Railways told on a rental basis. APP. Giving the details, he said, Two highly luxurious coaches have coaches have been allocated for the ability of every facility. Minister for

Railways, Secretary/Chairman of Railways, and another senior official in the ministry." The official said, "Only one saloon has been allocated to the federal government while one each has been allocated to the Governors of Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab, and the provincial governments.

In addition, eight saloons had been allocated for the Headquarters Lahore, in which one Additional General Manager BS-21, Inspector General Railway Police, Federal Government tridges, drugs, and daggers. crossings where train drivers were Inspector, and four salons were allocated for Principal Officers, he added. directives of Minister for Railways users about train arrival.

future course of action to the ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan The official said six saloons had Shahid Ashraf Tarar and Secretary allocated for Divisional Superintendents of He said that the Principal Officers

> only 23 saloons and inspection travel at these saloons or inspection coaches with different dignitaries of coaches only when they were on duty. Above all, they said luxury saloons

were also available for private travel The official said the saloons were

been allocated for the Prime bath, a dining area, and a kitchen like Minister's Secretariat while four a tiny house on wheels with the avail-He said some of these saloons

were inspection coaches and their back wall was made of glass from and its passengers. where officers could view the track and surrounding area. "Pakistan Railways officers are not

entitled to use this facility other than duty and all these salons are mostly 40-50 years old," he added. To a question, he said Pakistan

Railway Railways has launched an awareness campaign to educate the public about each would be marked to Chief the risks associated with trespassing, Executive Officer/General Manager crossing railway tracks, and carrying prohibited items such as gas cylinders, weapons without a license, car-

Syed Mazhar Ali Shah which will not Peshawar, help the department to control accidents but also win the confidence of the passengers of the rail" he said.

The official said, "Pakistan "At present, Pakistan Railways has of Pakistan Railways were entitled to Railways will use all the social media platforms including print, electronic media, Twitter, Facebook, poster and pamphlets to create an awareness among the citizens about a safe train journey." He said the department has also asked all the divisional superinvery luxurious and had two rooms, a tendents to ensure checking of luggage of passengers at entry points with scanners, metal detectors and walkthrough gates. The official said Pakistan Railways had always given importance to the safety of citizens

"It has been directed to discourage and stop those passengers who are carrying prohibited products. It is suggested to install emergency doors and auto-lock doors in coaches in

case of any emergency," he added. The official urged the citizens to stop at the level crossing before crossing the track, look on both sides of the track and wait for the train to pass if any train was coming.

He said that double whistle boards had been provided at most level



ISLAMABAD: Special Representative to the Prime Minister for Religious Harmony & Islamic Countries and Chairman Pakistan Üllema Council Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi addressing a press conference.

Gas poisoning kills three

TAKHAR (Ariana News): Three people died as a result of gas poisoning in Afghanistan's northern Takhar province, officials said. Abdul Mobin Safi, the spokesperson of Takhar Police, said that this incident happened in Cheshmaye Shir area of provincial capital, Taluqan. Another person fell unconscious and was taken to Takhar's main hospital. The victims of the incident included two men and one woman from the same family.

The Frontier Post Shabaan 03, 1445 — Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Ministry sign MoU

KABUL (BNA): Ministry of Industry and Commerce has entered into a MoU with two foreign organizations, namely the "International Rescue Committee" and the "Physiotherapy and Revitalization Assistance Foundation for Afghanistan." The aim of this partnership is to economically empower families. According to a statement from the ministry, these two organizations will jointly launch a project titled "Economic Empowerment Program for Afghan Families by the Private Sector.

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

Laws for ministries sent to IE leader for approval

KABUL (TOLOnews): The Islamic Emirate says that the laws of several ministries have been reviewed and sent to the leader of the Emirate approval. The spokesman of the Islamic Emirate, Zabihullah Mujahid, told TOLOnews that the laws of the Ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs and Vice and Virtue have also been finalized.

According to Zabihullah Mujahid, the laws have been revised in accordance with Islamic Sharia and national interests.

'If the law is against the Islamic Sharia it should be revised and designed positively. And the laws which are also against the national interest of the people the importance of laws in the laws of the ministries. Muzamil, a legal expert. should be considered in the sible. laws," he added.



should also be revised and the country and asked for And in general the constitu-

After it took power in all the national interests and the confirmation of laws of tion as the central law is 2021, the Islamic Emirate necessities of the public the country as soon as pos- important to coordinate the said it does not consider the administrations between 1382 constitution to be work on a new constitution

"I think there will be no each other and address the effective and announced Meanwhile, a number of problem but it's good that challenges of the people," work on a new legal experts emphasized the Islamic Emirate reviews said Mohammad Zaman in the country. Deputy PM advocates for job

opportunities for returnees KABUL (BNA): Mawlavi Torkham town who shared migrants continues. These pleased with their return officials from government the return of Afghan institutions, companies, migrants from Pakistan. and traders to collaborate ties for returnees.

har province and his ins- people, Afghans Prime Minister's Office.

During his visit, he also

KHOST (Khaama Press):

Local officials in the

Southeastern Province of

Khost have reported the

discovery of a mass grave

in the center of the

province, stating that the

remains of at least 100 bod-

ies have been discovered

mayor of the Taliban in Khost, has stated that this

mass grave was discovered

during the construction of a

small dam in the Sarbani

area of ??the province's

According to him, the individuals buried at this

discovered location were

killed in 1979 and then buried in a mass grave.

also reported, citing local

dug about a year after the

The French news agency

authorities of the province, the government of Daoud

that this mass grave "may Khan was overthrown, and

be related to the era of the People's Democratic

Soviet-backed rule in Party of Afghanistan, led

not yet complete, but pre- Taraki is accused of mur-

liminary findings indicate dering and disappearing his

"bloody coup of the of the Taliban in Khost, People's Democratic Party among the discovered

that this mass grave was opponents.

Research in this regard is Taraki, came to power.

central region.

Afghanistan.'

Basmillah Bilal, the

from this mass grave.

They highlighted the sigon creating job opportuni- nificant pressure on the camp due to the influx of returning This appeal was made Afghan migrants but also during his visit to Nangar- noted the support from local living pection of the Omar Refu- abroad, traders, and internagee Camp in the Torkham tional organizations. This region, according to a state- support has facilitated the ment from the Deputy returnees and provided them with essential amenities.

The officials reported met with officials from that the return of Afghan

Mass grave with 100 bodies

found in Khost province

Abdul Kabir, the Deputy information about their returnees are being regis- and is striving to create Prime Minister for Political activities and the chal- tered biometrically at the conditions for the voluntary Affairs, has called upon lenges they face concerning Omar camp before being return of all Afghans. assisted and sent back to their regions.

> expressed gratitude to all individuals, international organizations, and businesses assisting returning Afghans in temporary camps.

for returnees would persist. issues in Torkham would be international principles in efforts would be made to

The Deputy Minister urged officials, Mawlavi Abdul Kabir affluent Afghans, companies, and Afghan traders to collaborate on job creation for returnees.

Notably, during his visit to Torkham township, Ma-He assured that the wlavi Abdul Kabir assured Islamic Emirate's support relevant officials that the Despite the violation of seriously addressed, and expelling Afghan migrants, facilitate travel and health-the Islamic Emirate is care for individuals in need.

UN warns of return of migrants to Afghanistan

KABUL (Khaama Press): The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has warned that approximately 500,000 more Afghan migrants are expected to return to the country this year.

OCHA stated on Monday, February 12th, in statement that Afghanistan ranks first in South Asia and second globally in terms of displaced persons.

According to the agency's statistics, around 480,000 migrants will return to the country in 2024, with 98 per cent of them requiring humanitarian assistance.

The coordinating body for humanitarian aid of the United Nations said that currently 6.3 million Afghans have been displaced from their primary areas, with most leaving their homes a decade ago.

Meanwhile, since the start of the repatriation process of Afghan migrants from Pakistan, approximately 500,000 individuals have returned to the country in the past three months.

OCHA's statement declared that through its budget, the organization will provide vital assistance to the vulnerable communities in Afghanistan, including water, health, protection, food security and agriculture, education, nutrition, and shelter.

This comes as the repatriation process of Afghan migrants from Pakistan continues, with relief agencies constantly warning of increasing needs among

Previously, OCHA had emphasized that the humanitarian aid program had been delayed for some time due to obstacles in recent weeks.

Development projects discussed

KABUL (BNA): Mawlavi Abdul Salam Hanafi, the Administrative Deputy Prime Minister of the Emirate Islamic of Afghanistan, held a meeting with a group of Shia scholars and elders in Kabul on Monday.

Haji Mohammad Amir Bazel, one of the scholars, spoke on behalf of the group, providing the Deputy Prime Minister with information about the social situation and development activities in their regions.

Bazel expressed that the Shia community holds a positive view of the Islamic Emirate and supports the Islamic system in the counry. He appealed to the officials of the Islamic Emirate to pay special attention to initiating development programs in provinces and remote areas that have been neglected in recent years.

On the other hand, Mawin flict in Afghanistan have lavi Abdul Salam Hanafi stated that the officials of the Islamic Emirate consider it their duty and honor to serve the people and address their issues. He emphasized the crucial role of scholars and elders in fostering a robust and solid relationship between the nation and the government.

UN says Daesh attacks decreased

Several United Nations

substantial, with

Security Council members

reported that the recruit-

ment of Afghans to Daesh

Afghans often being used

According to the report,

for operations.

KABUL (Ariana News): The UN Secretary General has said in a new report that attacks by Daesh-Khorasan have declined in Afghanistan, but that the group is the greatest threat in the country, and can pose a threat to the region and beyond.

According to the report, the decrease in attacks reflected both the impact of counter-terrorism efforts by the Islamic Emirate and a change in strategy directed by the group's leader.

expressed concern about proliferation

weapons in Afghanistan, of Afghans by Daesh. Its the Middle East and Africa. They said that Daesh-Khorasan sought and has been suppressed in obtained weapons from Afghanistan.

UNSC members continued to report that the high concentration of terrorist groups in Afghanistan undermined the security situation in the region.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) rejects members also the new UN report suggestof ing substantial recruitment spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, says that Daesh

Doha meeting won't grant legitimacy to Taliban govt

KABUL (Khaama Press): Former US Ambassador Ryan Crocker asserts that the upcoming international meeting on Afghanistan in Doha won't grant legitimacy to the Taliban's government.

Crocker told Voice of America that the United Nations, as the meeting's host, should clarify that the Taliban regime doesn't deserve recognition and shouldn't be considered a legitimate government.

Criticizing the Biden administration, Crocker accuses it of neglecting Afghanistan and disregarding the bans on women's education and work

He alleges that the Taliban hasn't undergone intellectual or political changes, maintaining ties with Al-Qaeda and posing a threat to Afghanistan, the region, and the world. Stressing the need for continued diplomatic efforts, Crocker suggests that the US should thwart potential threats in the region.

Meanwhile, the spokesperson for the fulfil its commitments before receiving cuss Afghanistan's future. recognition.

John Kirby clarified that the United



the unchanged US policy towards the

Despite the upcoming Doha meeting, where the Taliban's status might be discussed, Washington asserts no moves have been made to normalize or recognize the Taliban, highlighting concerns over their governance and policies.

The meeting in Doha, set to commence White House's National Security Council next Sunday, aims to gather special repreaffirmed that the Taliban government must sentatives from various countries to dis-

Crocker's remarks underscore ongoing international skepticism regarding the States hasn't made any efforts to normal-ize relations with the Taliban, reiterating government in Afghanistan.

WFP assists 19 million people in Afghanistan

KABUL (Khaama Press): a million women in that the return of thousands The World Food Program Afghanistan last calendar of Afghan migrants from it has provided food items sufficiency. and cash assistance to However. nearly 19 million people Food Program and several Herat, has further exacerin Afghanistan over the other international relief bated the humanitarian past year.

According to a report warned of budget shortages released on Tuesday, these and increasing levels of aids were aimed at need in Afghanistan. strengthening local communities, preventing malnutrition, and improving lion people in Afghanistan

Food Program had also gency level. reported assisting over half

(WFP) has announced that year to promote their self- countries like Iran and

agencies have consistently needs in the country. The organization's

report indicates that 41 milstudent learning. are facing severe hunger at
Previously, the World an alarmingly high emer-

It's worth mentioning Afghanistan.

Pakistan, along with the World destructive earthquake in

> These circumstances have heightened the urgency for humanitarian assistance to the people in Afghanistan.

Efforts to address these are facing severe hunger at urgent humanitarian needs are crucial to prevent fur-

Children's excessive use of smartphones

Afghan doctors raise serious concerned

KABUL (TOLOnews): Afghan doctors say that the excessive use of smartphones can cause eyesight and mental issues in minors. Psychologists also suggest that children must smartphones for long periods of time.

"A bad light commonly known as blue light hits the user's eyes from the mobile screen, which can cause fatigue, eye weakness and retinal weakness?" said

Meanwhile, psychologists said that excessive use His brother, Muda of smartphones may lead to different mental illnesses in children.

"Psychologically, it can affect children; For examanger, sleep and lack of energy of the child's body, and even the child can get scared and scream and be afraid at night," said Muhammad Safa Farzayee, a psychologist.

Faridullah Omari, a doctor. busy with his smart phone smartphones.

His brother, Mudasir says that Anas has been suffering from eyesight problems now.

"He uses phone a lot now and he can't see propbe controlled while using ple, it has an effect on food, erly at night because his are weak," said eyes Mudasir, the brother of Anas.

> Parallel with technological development in the world, minors and young teenagers are spending Anas, 3, is a child who is most of their time using

Afghan sick woman cares for ailing parents with no income

phy but her family calls her rowful as her days. 'Paivish.

gles to speak without running out of breath. She family's responsibilities. says, "I have shortness of properly.'

drawn and lifeless. It seems storms and now finds it dif- she even spent a night in of a three-year marriage. place smells of old urine, ter life, where she has food ers for survival. Because

and can't move by himself. smile. Perhaps she had and he has lost the ability to house, she can't find her The woman has trouble truly forgotten how to smile move. He is deeply unhaphearing, can't talk, and has because, given her circum- py. His face lacks colour, nerve issues. Even though stances, there is little reashe's not in great health, son or excuse for smiling. I bles white plaster; as if no home and can barely manshe manages the elderly tried to bring a smile to her blood flows through his age the most essential couple's affairs. She goes face with my words, but her veins. It's unclear how old household tasks. She says by "Ziajan" in her biogra- smile was as bitter and sor-

It is worth mentioning

According to the mayor

Muhammad

that following this coup,

Noor

aiyish." Her family moved to In the moments I was be able to, as her father Paiyish doesn't accurate- Kabul twenty years ago there to document the needs help every moment ly know her age but esti- when the Taliban first came mates that she is around to power in Afghanistan. forty years old. She com- Her father used to support plains of stomach pain and the family as a carpenter, but shortness of breath, and her he hasn't been able to work walk is unsteady. She strug- for the last fifteen years. Now, Paiyish carries all the

Her father is now severebreath and cannot breathe ly ill and unhappy. He has cal problems. However, she tually took her brother's completely lost his sight has Suffering and anxiety and hearing and can only Occasionally, she leaves know what her brother's illhave etched deep lines on speak. Struggling to move, the house and gets lost on ness was. her forehead. Her face is he fell during recent snow-

obtained, all the victims

monarchy and the subse-

quent downfall of the Daud

Since the collapse of the

Republic

were civilians.

Khan

of Afghanistan" in 1979 to remains of about 100 bod-countries. This tumultuous nal strife and external inter-

bury around 100 opponents ies, there are also signs of period has seen the collapse ventions, prolonging its female victims. He stated of various government sysstate of unrest.

doesn't know. report, the old man had and her mother may also every wish and called out to need to leave the house at his daughter. He constantly any time. complained and occasionally let out a soul-wrenching also had a son. A young

speak, her ears are heavy, after two years with a sick and she also has neurologibody. A sickness that evengood her way back. Paiyish says

KABUL (Khaama Press): that life's hardships have ficult to even turn over; one of the police stations However, after three years, The man can't see or hear robbed her of the ability to hence his frail body aches because once she leaves the way back.

republic

Afghanistan, culminating

The instability and con-

in the resurgence of the

Taliban in August 2021.

that, based on the evidence tems, including the previ-

Afghanistan in 1978 by the persisted over the years,

People's Democratic Party with various factions com-

supported by the Soviet peting for power and con-

been embroiled in several establish stability and gov-

civil wars, marked by inter- ernance, the country con-

ference from neighboring tinues to grapple with inter-

Union, the country has trol. Despite efforts to

Due to illness, Paiyish is and his complexion resem- unable to work outside the he is, even his daughter even if she could work outside the home, she wouldn't

Paiyish says her father man who went to Iran to Paiyish's mother cannot work and returned home eyesight. life. Paiyish still doesn't

she separates from her husband. She says her husband was addicted to drugs.

Paiyish's family has had no income (even minimal) for years and is entirely reliant on the help of others. She says that poverty has increased in the neighbourhood in recent years, and the trait of generosity has been taken away from the people. According to her, fewer people are willing to help them.

They moved to a new home five months ago. Before, their landlord let them stay without paying rent, but now, they've only managed to pay for one month out of the past five. Their new house is small and cold. Paiyish's family only has one room, while the He also has experience others are rented out. The



for someone new.

Paiyish dreams of a bet-rely on the kindness of oth-nights

which they've gotten used to to eat and a safe place to they couldn't pay rent on but would be uncomfortable live. But with no income time, they faced eviction, and no jobs available, they and they've endured many

Shutdown strike against election rigging continue in Balochistan

down strike paralyzed Balochistan, as alleged rigging in the recent general elections. Business centers remained closed, streets echoed with slogans, and sit-ins sprang up across the region, demanding transparency and accountability.

The call for the strike came from a of the strike. powerful alliance of four parties the Balochistan National Party (BNP), National Party (NP), Pashtun Khawa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP), and Hazara Democratic Party (HDP). They accuse authorities of manipulating poll results to favor other parties, effectively stealing their victories. In Quetta, the provincial capital, business centers remained shuttered, and The Balochistan Bar Council and Anjuman Tajran (Traders

with markets and shops deserted in the electoral process. response to the four-party alliance's call. People took to the streets, raising ging and demanding fair results. The the national highway and intensifying pressure on authorities.

close and essential services to be dis- Information, Essa Roshan, provincial QUETTA: A province-wide shut- rupted. Party workers staged sit-ins president, Nasrullah Zarae and othfor the fifth consecutive day in front major political parties protest against of the district returning officer's office, demanding the declaration of results based on Form 45, the official polling station record. Banks, passport offices, NADRA offices, and post offices remained shut for the second day, highlighting the impact

Asghar Khan Achakzai, ANP's provincial president, asserted that the protests would continue until the results based on Form 45 are declared. This unwavering stance underscores the determination of the political parties to see their demands met. The shutdown strike throws into question the normalcy of daily life in Balochistan. While peaceful protests major intersections witnessed sit-ins. are a legitimate expression of dissent, prolonged disruptions can negatively impact the economy and public wel-Association) extended their support fare. The situation demands a swift to the strike, further amplifying the and transparent response from the authorities to address the accusations Nushki saw a complete shutdown, of rigging and restore public trust in

Pushtunkhwa National Awami Party (PNAP), while demanding to their voices against alleged poll rig- release postal ballets and accept the lead of PNAP in NA-251-Zhob-cum-BNP's ongoing protest outside the Killa Saifullah constituency, has Nushki district returning officer's announced to block all main highoffice entered its third day, blocking ways of the Balochistan province from February 14 (today).

ers, alleged that District Returning Officer, Killa Saifullah had received Rs500 million to temper the result of PNAP in NA-251-Zhob constituency.

Urging all nationalist political parties, including Pushtunkhwa National Awami Party, Awami National Party, Balochistan National Awami Party (Mengal) Hazara Democratic Party and National Party, to join hands to get a new constitution framed in the country, he said that exploitation of nations was happening in the country.

He said that election was not conducted in the country on February 8 rather election was held on February 10 and February 11 in the offices of District Returning Officers and Returning Officers by stamping the ballot papers, adding though the name of the country was Islamic Democratic Pakistan yet neither there was democracy in Pakistan nor

He said PNAP was waging struggle for the supremacy of parliament and law. Demanding to release postal ballets of NA-251-Killa Saifullah and accept the lead of PNAP in NA-251-Zhob-cum-Killa Saifullah constituency within a period of two days, he announced to block all main highways of the province, including Balochistan-Punjab, Balochistan-Punjab and In Chaman, the Pashtunkhawa Milli Awami Party (ANP) led a shut
With central Secretary Finance, and post poll rigging.



QUETTA: A view of closed shops during strike against alleged rigging in election called by Four Party

Solangi reads news bulletin F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Solangi Murtaza Tuesday created new history by reading English news bulletin on Radio Pakistan on World Radio Day.

The minister read 1.00 pm news bulletin on Radio Pakistan and gave an important message that the government considered radio as an important medium of communication. This move by the caretaker information minister also indicated that the government was committed to promoting radio broadcasting in the country. Radio Pakistan is the oldest and largest broadcasting organization in the country with a wide audience in different

languages.
This initiative of the minister would strengthen Radio Pakistan as a national broadcaster and help promote digital radio broadcasting in Pakistan. Solangi also participated in Radio Pakistan's podcast program and expressed his views on various issues. The minister said that the government was committed to strengthen Radio Pakistan and make it a more effective and dynamic medium of

government was also working to promote digital radio broadcasting in Pakistan, he maintained. 'Radio Pakistan is a national broadcasting organization with a long and rich history," Solangi added. Radio Pakistan had always played a leading role in promoting national unity and harmony, he maintained. It is worth a mention that World Radio Day has been celebrated on February 13 every year.

Miftah foresees PTI

In a statement, Miftah

since

Tuesday. He added that 90 million assault on Rafah.

Cease fire talks open in Cairo

Gazans brace for Israeli assault on Rafah

CAIRO/JERUSALEM (Reuters): Officials Palestinian militants are released. The from the United States, Egypt, Israel and Qatar were meeting in Cairo on Tuesday to try to agree a truce in Gaza as international calls grew for Israel to hold back on its planned assault on the Palestinian enclave's

southern city of Rafah. More than one million displaced civilans are crammed into Rafah, many living in camps and makeshift shelters, having fled to there from Israeli bombardments in other areas of Gaza during more than four months of warfare. Israel says it wants to flush out Hamas militants from hideouts in Rafah and free Israeli hostages being held there, and is making plans to evacuate trapped Palestinian civilians. But no plan has been forthcoming and aid agencies say the displaced have nowhere else to go in the

shattered territory.

Israeli tanks shelled the eastern sector of Rafah overnight, causing waves of panic, residents said. Rafah neighbors Egypt but Cairo has made clear it will not allow a refugee exodus over the border. Gaza health officials announced 133 new Palestinian deaths in the past 24 hours, bringing the total to 28,473 killed and 68,146 wounded

since Oct. 7. Many other people are believed to be buried under rubble of destroyed buildings across the densely populated enclave, much of which is in ruins. Supplies of food, water and other essentials are running out and diseases are spreading. Around half of Gaza's 2.3 million people are now packed into under fire. "Since Israel said they are invadevery night. Every night we say farewell to one another and to relatives outside Rafah," said 30-year-old Aya, who is living in a tent with her mother, grandmother and five sib-

In Cairo, efforts were underway to secure a truce in a war whose impact has been felt across the Middle East. Egypt's state-linked Al Qahera News said talks had started on Tuesday involving US, Qatari, Egyptian and Israeli officials. "The sides are looking for a formula that will be acceptable to Hamas, who says it is only possible to sign a deal once it is based on an Israeli commitment to ending its war and pulling out its forces from the Gaza Strip,' a Palestinian official told Reuters.

The official said Hamas had told the parthe war if the Israeli hostages being held by in a forced evacuation.

hostages were seized in the Oct. 7 raid on southern Israel by Hamas fighters which killed 1,200 people and triggered Israel's military onslaught. Securing their return is a priority for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government as well as wiping out Hamas, which governs Gaza.

A senior Hamas official, Sami Abu Zuhri, blamed Israel for the lack of progress in peace efforts so far. There has been one truce to date, lasting a week at the end of November. "The occupation (Israel) is still stalling and is undermining any effort to reach an agreement. It is playing the game of wasting time to pursue its war of genocide against our people in Gaza," Abu Zuhri told Reuters. There was no comment from Israel on the status of the talks but it says it tries to minimize civilian deaths and says Hamas fighters hide among civilians, something the group denies.

We are keen to attack Hamas targets without Hamas terrorists using civilians as human shields," Israeli government spokesman Eylon Levy said on Tuesday. In Berlin, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, who will visit Israel on Wednesday, voiced concern about the looming Israeli offensive on Rafah. She said Israel had the right to defend itself against terrorism, but this did not mean the

xpulsion of the population. South Africa on Tuesday asked the World Court to consider whether Israel's plan to extend its offensive into Rafah Rafah, many of whom who fled other areas required additional emergency measures to protect Palestinians' rights. In a case ing Rafah soon...we read our last prayers brought by South Africa, the International Court of Justice last month ordered Israel to take all measures within its power to prevent its troops committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza. Israel denies it is committing genocide and had asked the court to reject the case outright. The South African government expressed concern that an offensive would result in further large-scale killing, harm and destruction. Juliette Touma, a spokesperson for the UN's Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA, said it had not been informed of any Israeli evacuation plan for Rafah and was not part of it. "Where are you going to evacuate people to as no place is safe across the Gaza Strip, the north is shattered, riddled with unexploded weapons, it's pretty much unlivable," she said, ticipants it does not trust Israel not to renew adding that UNRWA would not participate

FIA from harassing Aleema Khan F.P. Report

IHC restrains

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court on Tuesday intervened in the case concerning notices issued by the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) cybercrime and antiterrorism wing to Aleema Khanum, the sister of PTI founder Imran Khan.

During the proceedings, the High Court restrained the FIA from harassing Aleema Khan and mandated that any complaints or inquiries against her should be reported to her directly. Additionally, the court prohibited any disciplinary actions against Khan without due process. The High Court has issued an order restraining the FIA from harassing Aleema Khan and has directed that any reports related to complaints or inquiries by the FIA be provided to her. Furthermore, the court has prohibited any disciplinary action against Aleema Khan by the FIA. Aleema Khan's lawyer emphasized that there is no evidence to suggest her involvement in any cybercrime.

Chief Justice instructed the FIA to furnish details regarding any inquiries or complaints against Aleema promptly. Additionally, he urged the FIA to refrain from causing any distress to her while awaiting the submission of their reply. The court adjourned the hearing of the case for a later date.

SHC halts arrests of Haleem Adil

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court on Tuesday issued an order restraining the police from arresting PTI leader Haleem Adil Sheikh in any additional cases. During a hearing at the Sindh High Court, Haleem Adil Sheikh petitioned against his arrests in multiple cases. The court ruled in favor of Sheikh, directing that his name should not be included in

any new case or chargesheet. Furthermore, the Sindh High Court mandated the distribution of the court order to the Inspector General of Sindh Police and the Jail Superintendent. Referring to a police report dated November 2, 2023, which stated that Haleem Adil Sheikh was implicated Justice in 21 cases, Nimatullah Phalputo queried about the extent of Sheikh's

legal entanglements. The Additional Advocate General disclosed that a total of 21 cases have been filed against Sheikh. In response, Sheikh's lawyer, Anwar Mansoor Advocate expressed frustration over the repetitive cycle of arrests and bail, emphasizing that Sheikh has been barred from new arrests on three separate occasions. only to find himself entangled in fresh legal chal-

KP CM launches spring tree plantation campaign ed in the Malakand Forest have F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Caretaker Pakhtunkhwa Justice (R) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah has formally launched the tation campaign, more than 12 million saplings would be planted across the province.

According to the details, ound five million saplings would be planted in the Central Southern Region-l Peshawar, whereas, 3.806 million in the Northern Forest Region-ll lion plants would be plant-

devastating enhanced the importance of He stressed the need to ronment", he added.

approaches for protecting A total of 212 plantation existing forests as well as Chief Minister Khyber activities would carried out mass scale plantation in across the province for the order to ensure significant purpose. Speaking on the increase in the forest cover occasion, the caretaker of the province. Syed Spring Tree Plantation Chief Minister said that no Campaign, 2024 in the province by planting a importance of forests for sapling in the lawn of Chief the survival of human life vital importance in this Chief Minister said that no Arshad Hussain Shah has one can deny the need and termed the Spring Tree Minister's House Peshawar on the earth adding that regard and appealed the on Tuesday. Under this plandevastating floods, public from all the segdroughts and other natural ments of society to actively disasters have further participate in the campaign. "Plantation and their forests. He said that the preservation is our national issues arising from climate obligation and collective change have become a responsibility; citizens major challenge; we will should play their proactive have to take pragmatic role in this regard so that steps under a comprehen- we can give our coming sive strategy to effectively generations a pollution-Abbottabad and 3.784 mil- deal with these challenges. free, clean and green envi-

LHC dismisses petition against Nawaz

F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday dismissed a petition against the victory of PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif from NA-130 in elections 2024.

NA-130 was challenged by Ishtaiq Ahmed in the high court after the former threetime prime minister was declared the winner as per unofficial and unconfirmed results. Justice Bagar Najafi terming the plea inadmissible directed the plaintiff to contact the Election Commission of Pakistan on the matter.

You can contact RO or ECP for recounting of votes in NA-130, the LHC said in its verdict. It is pertinent to note that according to the unofficial and inconclusive result of Constituency NA-Lahore-XIV, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif of PML-N won with 171,024 votes from 376

polling stations. However, the three-time former Prime Minister, faced a significant defeat in in the NA-15 Mansehra the petitioner that he was Tarar.

who secured 74,713 votes against Sharif's 63,054 votes. Earlier on Monday, the Lahore High Court (LHC) rejected several Sharif's victory from of key candidates in the General Elections 2024 including Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) Maryam Nawaz, Khawaja

Asif and Atta Tarar. Plea Hamza Shahbaz's poll victory dismissed: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday dismissed plea against the victory of Pakistan Muslim League-Hamza Shahbaz from PP-

147, Lahore. According to details, Lahore High Court (LHC) Justice Ali Baqir Najafi dismissed the petition against provincial assembly seat

constituency, losing the defeated by 1100 votes, seat to independent candi- however as per Form-45 date Shahzada Gastasap, available with him, he was declared successful. Muhammad Khan Madani requested that Hamza Shahbaz has been declared successful in Form-47, the pleas filed against victories court should order the release of results as per Form-45.

However, Justice Ali Baqir Najafi dismissed the plea. Earlier, the same bench of the Lahore High challenging Court (LHC) dismissed a petition against the victory of PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif from NA-130 in elections 2024.

Sharif's victory from NA-130 was challenged by Nawaz (PML-N) leader Ishtaiq Ahmed in the high court after the former threetime prime minister was declared the winner as per unofficial and unconfirmed

results. On Monday, the Lahore PML-N leader Hamza High Court (LHC) rejected Shahbaz's success in the several pleas filed against victories of key candidates and directed the petitioner in the General Elections Muhammad Khan Madani 2024 including Pakistan to approach the Election Muslim League-Nawaz's Commission of Pakistan (PML-N) Maryam Nawaz, (ECP). It was contended by Khawaja Asif and Atta

as strong Opp F.P. Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLleader and former Finance Minister Miftah Ismail said that after Pakistan People's Party (PPP) decision not to become part of the centre, it would be a 'minority' PML-N's government.

Ismail said that if the PML-N is able to form the federal government, it would be a minority government and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) would be a 'strong' opposition. He said that the PML-N would find it very difficult to fulfill its promises to the people. The next two years will be very difficult for the government as many reforms are to be done," he added. Miftah Ismail said that

the new government would have to engage with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), adding that the PML-N should be very cautious in dealing with the challenges. He said that he is not in contact with the PML-N leadership. "The party does not need my advice, nor do I have any advice for them," the former finance minister said.

Pakistanis came below the poverty line, urging all the parties to make decisions in the wider interest of the country. "Long-term policy must be kept in mind. The new government would be compelled to take difficult decisions," Miftah Ismail

S Africa approaches World Court over Rafah offensive

JOHANNESBURG (AFP): who have taken refuge in spurred on by far-right ele-South Africa's government said on Tuesday that it had asked the World Court to consider whether Israel's decision to extend its military operations in Rafah required the court to use its power to prevent further breach of Palestinians'

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) last month ordered Israel to take all measures within its power to prevent its troops from committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, in a case brought by South Africa. Israel is planning to expand its ground assault into the city of Rafah, where over 1 million Palestinians have sought refuge from the offensive that has laid waste to much of the Gaza Strip Hamas militants

attacked Israel on Oct. 7. Meanwhile, the displacement of the Palestinian population from the occupied territories by Israeli forces would lead to confrontation 'for the next 1,000 years," the secretary-general of the Arab League said on

Speaking at the World Governments Summit in Dubai, Ahmed Aboul Gheit also reiterated his warning of the "dangerous consequences" of Israel's ongoing (Israeli) occupation's intentions to impose the reality of displacement on hundreds of thousands of Palestinians,

Rafah as a last resort from indiscriminate attacks on civilians, is an open and completely rejected plan; it entails serious threats to regional stability," he added.

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have fled to Rafah since the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip began, which was in response to Oct. 7 Hamas attacks on Israel, during which 1,200 people were Israel's military killed. action in Gaza has claimed than more Palestinian lives, according to the Hamas-run health authorities in the enclave.

An Israeli rescue operation on Monday freed two Israeli-Argentine hostages held by Hamas militants in but supporting Rafah, airstrikes killed nearly 70 Palestinians, it was reported on Tuesday.

Aboul Gheit pointed out that it was imperative that the US and the Western bloc asked Israel to stop its attacks and called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, otherwise there would be an "explosion" of violence in the Middle

Discussing the possibility of a two-state solution with an independent Palestinian state, he noted that the scenario would only be possible when Israel "dismantled said that Israel's actions —

ments in its government in Gaza and its treatment of Palestinians had become a threat to the continuity of the peace agreements it signed with its neighbors, especially with countries

such as Egypt and Jordan. On what he described as the impossibility of crushing Palestinian resistance. Gheit Aboul 'Resistance cannot be eliminated, and this is a lesson that must be learned from history." And on the impact of Iran and its proxies on regional security, he pointed out that Tehran's nuclear program had "provoked the

Fellow panellist, Gulf Cooperation Secretary-General Jasem Al-Budaiwi, said the best way to deal with regional threats was through dialogue. He noted that GCC countries had a unified approach to dealing with challenges in the Middle East region, not just with Iran but also ending wars in Yemen and Syria and "helping our brothers in Lebanon," which could only be achieved with openness and discussion. He added that Saudi Arabia's normalization deal with Tehran in March last year had taken GCC-Iranian relations to "a new level," and would have a its illegal settlements built hugely positive impact on on Palestinian land." He regional stability in the

No govt can be formed without Imran: Khosa

ISLAMABAD: Speaking to the media in Islamabad, PTI leader Latif Khosa said that the election results were 'correct' up till the issuance of the Form 45.

"According to the Form 45, 170 of our people are winning. They are not independent because PTI exists as a legal and constitutional party. Calling us independent is wrong and illegal," he said. He said that if reserved seats were added to this number, then the PTI would cross the 200 mark in the NA. "The largest political party which emerges in the election is given the right to form the government," he said.

He also expressed aston-

ishment at reports of a PPP. "What joke is being done with democracy?"

rid yourself of the misunder- chosen PTI standing that by minusing Imran they will be able to ist's inquiry regarding potenoperate a democracy or the tial alliances with Jamaat-egovernment. You will have to Islami or MWM, Qaiser did

one can stop him," he said.

Asad Qaiser seeks perpower-sharing formula mission to hold meeting between the PML-N and the with Imran: PTI leader formula mission to hold meeting Asad Qaiser knocked the door of Islamabad High 'Who are they — who have Court to meet PTI founder been rejected by the people Imran Khan. Addressing the - to divide among them- media, Qaiser declared the selves [...] No Assembly or end of Imran Khan's political Parliament can function era, asserting that ultimate without Imran Khan. No decisions lie in the hands of democracy can function and Allah. He expressed determino government can be nation to uphold the expectaformed with Imran Khan. So tions of the people who have Responding to a journal-

bring Imran Khan back. not specify. Meanwhile, "And because ours is the Imran Khan's sister, Aleema largest political party, he will be the prime minister. And no tance of preserving Form 45