



Sardar Atique demands OIC to probe Indian incursions in occupied Kashmir

President of AJK Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Atique Ahmad Khan has demanded the OIC, the representative organization of the Muslim Ummah, to file a case in the International Court of Justice against the atrocities committed by the Hindu-pro-Indian government on Muslims... (Details on Page 2)



Youth participation in Indonesia's upcoming election

Indonesia will hold legislative and presidential elections on 14th February 2024. Three pairs of candidates will participate in this election, namely Anies Baswedan-Muhammad Iskandar Prabowo, Subianto-Gibran Rakabuming and Ganjar Pranowo-Mahfud MD. Interestingly, millennials and Gen Z will be dominant voters, about 56% of the total. (Details on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

New era begins

LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology & Telecommunication, Dr. Umar Saif addressing Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA)'s at Town Hall.



Photo: APP

Nine Pakistanis martyred in Iran terror attack

AFP
TEHRAN: Unidentified gunmen on Saturday in south-eastern Iran near the Pakistan border killed nine foreign nationals, said to be Pakistanis, more than a week after the neighbours exchanged deadly cross-border fire.
"Witnesses said this morning unknown gunmen killed nine non-Iranians in a house in the Sirkan neighbourhood of Saravan city" in Sistan-Baluchistan province, the Iranian news agency reported.
So far, no group or individuals had claimed responsibility, the agency added.
According to the information available with ARY News, among the victims, five hailed from different areas of Alipur in Punjab province and had been

working in Iran for the past decade.
"Talking to X (formerly Twitter), Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran condemned the "horrifying killings" and called upon Iran to extend full cooperation with Pakistani authorities on the matter.
"Deeply shocked by horrifying killing of 9 Pakistanis in Saravan, Embassy will extend full support to bereaved families. Counselor Zahidan is already on his way to incident site [and] hospital where injured are under treatment. We called upon [Iran] to extend full cooperation in the matter," the ambassador noted.
The development came a day after Mudassir arrived in Tehran while his Iranian counterpart launched in Islamabad, signalling the full restoration of diplomatic relations between the two



neighbouring countries following deadly cross-border attacks.
On January 18, Pakistan launched air strikes on "militant targets" in Iran, two days after Iran had launched strikes on its territory.
Tehran said it had targeted Jaish al-Adl, a jihadist group which has carried out a spate of deadly attacks in Iran in recent months.
The Iranian strikes, which Pakistan said killed at least two

children, drew a sharp rebuke from Islamabad, which recalled its ambassador from Tehran and blocked Iran's envoy from returning to Islamabad.
Tehran also summoned Islamabad's charge d'affaires over Pakistan's strikes, which left at least nine people dead.
The two countries, however, announced that they had decided to de-escalate and resumed diplomatic missions with the two ambassadors returning to their posts.
"As per understanding between the two countries, Ambassador of Pakistan Muhammad Mudassir Tipu arrived in Tehran today while the Iranian Ambassador of Pakistan Reza Amir Moghadam arrived in Islamabad," the FO spokesperson said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

FM saddened over deaths of Pakistanis in Iran

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Foreign Minister Jaleel Akbar Khan Saturday said that he was saddened over the death of Pakistanis in Iran in a terrorist attack. In a post on X, he said, "This heinous attack is an attempt to spoil relations between Pakistan and Iran by our common enemies. While offering condolences to the families of victims, urge the Iranian govt for action."
Pakistan's ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassir in a post said he was deeply shocked by the horrifying killing of 9 Pakistanis in Saravan.

"The embassy will extend full support to bereaved families, Counselor Zahidan is already on his way to the incident site & hospital where injured are under treatment. We called upon Iran to extend full cooperation in the matter." Earlier in another post, the ambassador said, "Greatly honoured to present credentials to HE, Ebrahim Raisi, President of Iran in an exclusive ceremony graciously held at Presidency today. HE Raisi desired to solidify ties with Pakistan. I reiterated Pakistan's commitment to elevate ties of Pakistan and Iran to new heights building stronger foundations."

Pakistan in touch with Iran over 'horrifying killing' of 9 nationals in Saravan

PPA

ISLAMABAD: A statement issued by FO spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch said: "It is a horrifying and despicable incident and we condemn it unequivocally. We are in touch with Iranian authorities and have underscored the need to immediately investigate the incident and hold to account those involved in this heinous crime."
The spokesperson mentioned that Pakistan's Ambassador in Zahedan was en route to the hospital where injured individuals are being treated, and is expected to arrive in a few hours due to

the long distances and security imperatives involved.
During his visit, he will also meet with local authorities and, among other things, stress the urgent need for strong action against the perpetrators of this crime.
Muntaz Zahra Baloch declared that Pakistan is fully aware of the gravity of this matter and is taking all necessary measures. The embassy is committed to expeditiously repatriating the deceased.
The Foreign Office Spokesperson expressed resolve, stating that such cowardly attacks cannot deter Pakistan from its determination to fight terrorism.

PML-N unveils much-awaited party manifesto

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Speaking at a party event in Lahore, he said that the PML-N's manifesto would be "fully implemented" if voted to power. Nawaz said he hoped the people would read the manifesto.
Speaking at the launch event, Senator Irfan Siddiqui, who is the party's Manifesto Committee Chairman, said there is nothing in the manifesto that the PML-N will not be able to do when it comes to power.
Siddiqui emphasized that the PML-N leader instructed the committee to include only achievable commitments in the manifesto.
"Nawaz Sharif prohibited us from making unrealistic promises in the manifesto," he stated. The delayed manifesto announcement was attributed

to the party's focus on comprehensive reforms, involving the formation of 32 committees to draft it, including an assessment of the party's past performance.
PML-N leader Abasin Iqbal, present at the event, commented on social media narratives and reality, talking a dig at social media campaigns led by Pakistani Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).
Key points of PML-N election manifesto
Cheap and increased electricity
Speedy development
20 to 30 per cent reduction in power bills
15,000 megawatt increase in electricity production
30,000MW production of solar energy
Pakistan's first sports university
250 stadiums and academies

ECP to send polling station details via SMS on 8300 from Monday

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has finalized arrangements to provide comprehensive information about polling stations through SMS to 8300 starting Monday.
According to the spokesman of the commission, from Monday onwards, voters can acquire their voting information by sending their National Identity Card number via SMS to 8300. This service enables each voter to discover the name of their assigned polling station and other related voting details.
The spokesperson highlighted that there is a service fee of Rs-2/- per SMS for this facility.

Bilawal Bhutto accepts Shehbaz Sharif's challenge of 'Sindh's inspection'

Bureau Report

KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Saturday accepted PML-N president Shehbaz Sharif's challenge to invite his party supremo Nawaz Sharif to "inspect Sindh" instead of holding US-style debate - the former foreign minister asked for.
With barely two weeks to go for the Feb 8 general elections, a heated war of words continues between the two political parties. PML-N and PPP - former allies in Pakistani Democratic Movement (PDM) government.
Both political parties, since the completion of PDM-led government tenure, are criticising each other over policy issues and governance.
Recently, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto challenged PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif to debate anywhere



before February 8 to provide voters with crucial insights into their plans.
Talking to his X handle, formerly known as Twitter, Bilawal said: "I invite the PM candidate of [PML-N] [Nawaz Sharif], to engage in a debate with me anytime, anywhere before Feb 8."
He further said globally, presidential and prime ministerial candidates participate in televised debates, providing voters with crucial insights into their plans. "This transparency is vital for an informed electorate ahead of the voting process," he added.
Responding to the date, PML-N

president Shehbaz Sharif said a political leader wanted to have a debate with Nawaz Sharif. "Instead of the date, he should have invited Nawaz Sharif to inspect Sindh," the former premier said on X.
Accepting the challenge, Bilawal Bhutto said he was ready for the debate and inspection of Sindh, where the party has been ruling for over 15 years.
"Nawaz Sharif can debate with me in Gambat - wherein the hospital [Gambat Institute of Medical Sciences] is better if compared to any in Punjab," he said, noting that the hospital - built by PPP - is free of cost.
He also invited three-time prime minister to visit Tharparkar and inspect its infrastructure. "Mina Sahab, debate with me outside Karachi's NICVD - where more than 84,000 people of Punjab were treated last year," he added.

China, U.S. should respect each other's core interests: Wang Yi

Xinhua

BANGKOK: China and the United States should treat each other as equals rather than take a condescending attitude, seek common ground rather than accentuate differences and earnestly respect rather than undermine each other's core interests, China's senior diplomat Wang Yi has said.
Wang Yi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee, held a new round of talks with U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan here from Friday to Saturday.

Pakistan's earns \$1,151m from IT services' export in 5 months

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan earned US \$1,151,956 million by providing different Information Technology (IT) services to various countries during the first five months of the current fiscal year 2022-23. This shows a growth of 5.89 per cent as compared with the US \$1,087,929 million earned through the corresponding months of the last fiscal year 2021-22, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

During the months under review, the exports of computer services grew by 8.17 per cent as it surged from US \$864,429 million last year to US \$935,016 million during July-November 2023. Among the computer services, the exports of software consulting services registered an increase of 46.67 per cent from US \$1,710 million to US \$2,508 million this year while the export of hardware consultancy services also surged by 4.15 per cent from US \$318,041 million to US \$331,231 million.

Sardar Atique demands OIC to probe Indian incursions in occupied Kashmir

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Atique Ahmad Khan has demanded the OIC, the representative organization of the Muslim Ummah, to file a case in the International Court of Justice against the atrocities committed by the Hindu-pro-Indian government on Muslims and especially on Kashmiris in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. In a statement, he said that Kashmiris rejected India's forced occupation of their motherland. He said that India has occupied

a large part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir for many decades and is involved in war crimes against humanity in the occupied territory. Will they be given the right to vote, but until today this promise could not be implemented. India is actually celebrating the so-called Republic Day today and is throwing dust in the eyes of the world in the name of democracy has held millions of oppressed Kashmiris hostage at gunpoint in the occupied territory and thousands of innocent Kashmiris who raised their voices for their rights are still imprisoned in various Indian jails. Celebrating Republic Day



In these circumstances is a joke with democracy. Instead of giving basic democratic rights to Kashmiri people, the special status of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir was also abolished. Since August 5, 2019, the occupying Indian forces have martyred 842 innocent Kashmiris, injured 2 thousand 396 Kashmiris while fighting for the right. More than 22 thousand Kashmiris have been imprisoned. He said that India is a so-called democratic country where the market of fascism has been heated to establish a complete Hindu Raj. He said that the OIC should immediately file a case of war crimes against India.

Save Gaza

ISLAMABAD: Members of Civil Society hold placards during protest against Israel attack on Gaza, outside National Press Club, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

PML-N leaders call into question PPP performance in Thatta

Kamran Khamiso Khwaja

THATTA: Leaders of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz deplored the failure of Pakistan People's Party leadership to deliver during their 15-rule in Sindh. They were addressing a mammoth gathering in Gharo where the PML-N convoy led by Keeso Mal Kheal Das Kohistani was warmly welcomed by a considerably large number of their supporters. They said that Nawaz Sharif would get Sindh rid of the crisis and the ongoing lawlessness.

Going hard at their opponents Kheal Das Kohistani said that PPP had given nothing to Thatta district during it, 3 consecutive terms,



adding that Nawaz Sharif was more concerned about the people of Sindh than any other leader of this country. Highlighting the contributions of the PML-N Government in the past he said that their government gave Sindh historic water accord in 1991,

launched an anti-dacoit operation in the riverine areas of Sindh and took concrete steps for restoring peace in Karachi the provincial capital.

He further added that if voted to power Nawaz Sharif would steer Pakistan to the path of progress as he had

done in the past. Former PML-N senator Nihal Hasmi said that Zulfiqar Ali Butto and Benazir Bhutto were dedicated leaders but the current PPP leadership was misusing their names to seek votes from the poor masses of Sindh. "During natural disasters

people of Thatta were left in a helpless state while elected representatives never turned up to support them", claimed Hashmi and added that candidate of PML-N Raees Rasool Bux Jakhro would emerge victorious on the day of elections.

Doking fun at the top leadership of PPP he said; "Bilawal would not come to Thatta as he was enjoying delicious foods of 'Punjab' having that PMLN was ready to bamboozle PPP in Punjab. Independent Candidate of PS 76 Ghorabari Ayaz Shah Bukhari who is enjoying support of PML-N said that they had challenged the corrupt rulers of Sindh and people of Thatta would support them.

Maintenance of law and order situation is prime focus

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Maintenance of Law and order situation is prime focus and effective patrolling is essential to reduce the crime and apprehension of criminals as well. RPO Faisalabad Dr Muhammad Akbar Khan said in the meeting held at RPO committee room. CPO Faisalabad Capt. Ali Zia, SSP ops, SSP inv, Divisional SPs and SDPOs of District Faisalabad attended the meeting. RPO Dr Akbar Khan reprimanded the circle officers and Divisional SPs for showing non professional attitude in combating crime. Furthermore, he said that effective patrolling on the black spots and apprehension of hard core criminals help in mitigating the crime. Moreover, the maintenance of law and order situation during election is prime focus of police. He further



directed CPO Faisalabad that zero tolerance should be utilized against the violators of Election code of conduct. All supervisory officers visit the crime scenes and

in this regard will not be excused at all. Furthermore, he directed that stern action should be taken against drug peddlers, notorious gamblers and gun runners.

Chairman Ijaz Bukhari announces full support of NA 49 and PP3

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Former Nazam UC-3 Malik Ghazanfar Javed Noor Khan nominated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf candidate National Assembly Constituency NA 49 Major Tahir Sadiq and candidate Provincial Assembly Constituency PP-3 Syed Ijaz Hussain Bukhari announced the full support of NA 49 and PP3, the chances of PTI's position to win more stable is uncertain. According to the details, a runner meeting was organized for the release of Kamran Khan Kamli. In which Syed Ijaz Bukhari spoke and said that till date I have criticized many of my political opponents, the purpose of politics is only to serve the poor people and solve their problems. We have always used politics for the welfare of the people, once again participated in the elections to support the people in this hour of difficulty.

India a black spot in name of democracy: Rehana Khan

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Chairperson Women's Commission Mrs. Rehana Khan has said that India is a black spot in the name of democracy which has denied the birthright of Kashmiris, the right to self-determination. India is committing the worst terrorism in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and violating all fundamental rights including political, religious and social rights of Kashmiri Muslims. The United Nations and human rights organizations are requested to take notice of Indian terrorism in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the Kashmir conflict. Play a role in solving the problem. India is using brutal tactics to suppress the freedom spirit of Kashmiris but it has failed miserably in its nefarious ambitions. He said that Kashmiris are sacrificing their lives for a great cause and they will continue their struggle till the goal is achieved. He expressed these views while talking to the media.



The sacrifices of the martyrs will not go in vain. India's undemocratic behavior has been exposed to the world. Celebrating Indian Republic Day as Black Day is a positive step. India should remember that the struggle will continue till the dawn of freedom and no sacrifice will be spared for freedom. He said that the United Nations should take strict notice of the Indian atrocities and bring India to justice and India should be strictly prosecuted for the worst violations of human rights.

Police to keep election security in line with EC rules: RPO

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Regional Police Officer Captain (Rtd) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhary while issuing instructions to Multan Region Police Vihari, Khanawal and Lodhran regarding Election 2024 said that there will be no compromise regarding the security of the Election Commission. Police will remain neutral. He performed his duties while remaining impartial. Duties will be performed efficiently. He further said that all legal orders of the presiding officer will be implemented. During voting, law and order will be ensured outside the polling station. All officers and men will be present at the place of duty on time. Will keep in touch with their control room and senior officers in any emergency situation. Queuing of voters will be ensured in all cases. No person will be allowed to carry weapons, mobile phones and cameras in the polling station.



High gas bills add to woes of Multanians despite scarcity of gas

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Despite the scarcity of gas, due to the additional taxes imposed on the bills, the increase in consumption increased the difficulties of the domestic consumers. Citizens were forced to sell their household goods to pay the gas bill. Sui Northern Gas Pipe as detailed in the Govt LINE (stgpl) has sent huge bills to the public in the name of current charges, which include gas price, sales tax, meter rent, fixed charges and other dues, which a common consumer gets in the form of a huge bill, while the bill increases by thousands of rupees as soon as the MMBTU is crossed from the residential category it has been demanded from the government that in this period of inflation, the means of cooking two-time bread should not be taken away from the people and the additional charges imposed in the gas bills should be taken back, otherwise they will be forced to protest.

Talking to the media Saeed Ahmed Electrification and Chaudhary Shahbaz Ahmed said that the gas pressure is less than 20%. People have installed gas extraction kits in their homes and commercial centers due to which it is very difficult to cook food and bread at home. Every morning, Very low pressure made gas supplied only for 2 hours in the afternoon and evening, despite this, there are thousands of rupees monthly need gas bills. The PDM government had imposed doomsday on the people earlier on the electricity bills and later on, the PDM and the caretaker government have also imposed doomsday on the people on the gas bills.

CTD arrests 11 terrorists from militant organizations in Punjab: Spokesman

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: According to the spokesman CTD Punjab The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in the Punjab province has foiled a major terror plot by arresting 11 suspected terrorists linked with a banned out-fits during operations in different areas of Punjab. According to the spokesman, the CTD Punjab conducted 135 intelligence based operations in different districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism, in which 135 suspected persons were interrogated and 11 alleged terrorists were arrested with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials.

Among the arrested terrorists are Gul Shaden, Kazim, Muhammad Nawab, Sibghatullah, Muhammad Osama Farooq, Ejaz, Ahmed, Zabeer, Mustafa Khan, Rasool Khan, Shahzad, Akhtar Hussain and Muhammad Ejaz, who belong to banned organizations Dush, Tehreek, Talban Pakistan, Al-Qaeda and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, he said and added that the arrest of these terrorists was carried out during intelligence-based operations in Sangayla, Bahawalpur, Sahiwal, Jhelum, Lahore, Narwal, Jhang, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Gujranwala.

The spokesman said that the terrorists had planned to sabotage across the province and wanted to target important installations. The police

بل کو پروٹیکٹ بنانے کا راستہ

NOV DEC JAN FEB

0.9mm

اپریل سے 12 مئی تک 0.9mm

گھنٹوں کا استعمال 0.9mm تک کریں



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:42 am
Zohr 12:20 pm
Asr 3:55 pm
Maghrib 5:33 pm
Isha 6:50 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/Islamabad 3122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 312 9
& Rescue Services 4450122
Motorway Police 9260044
Motorway Police 9270501-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance 115
PIA Flight Info 134
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry 117
Railway Exchange 9270323-5
WSA Rawalpindi 5554849
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHO 5556311-4
RGH 9290310-17
Holy Family 9270327
PIMS 926170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

COA 922134-43
CIA 9270323-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cartonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation 9209224

Worsening circular debt haunts economy along with volatile oil rates: APBF

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) President Syed Masaz Mahmood warned the government of worsening circular debt in the power sector, which would continue to haunt it along with the challenge of dealing with the volatile crude oil prices in the global market.

Syed Masaz Mahmood said that the power sector circular debt issue should be resolved holistically without escalating electricity cost, as its size has more than doubled during the three and a half years in spite of raising the power tariff multiple times in the past.

At present, oil and gas sectors are reeling from Rs1.7 trillion worth of circular debt whereas the power sector has a circular debt close to Rs2.5 trillion. The rising gas demand forced the previous government to divert expensive LNG to the residential consumers in winter. However, the power sector has a circular debt close to Rs2.5 trillion. The rising gas demand forced the previous government to divert expensive LNG to the residential consumers in winter.

APBF Chairman Ibrahim Qureshi said that LNG has now become a major contributor to the circular debt, leading to deterioration in the financial health of Pakistan State Oil and Sut Northern Gas Pipelines Limited. PSO has to receive over Rs360 billion from SNGPL on account of LNG supplies whereas SNGPL has to recover around Rs120 billion from the domestic sector, industry and exports.

Air University holds 11th Convocation, celebrates remarkable achievement of 1389 graduates

Amjad Mehmood

ISLAMABAD: Air University (AU) marked a momentous occasion as it celebrated the 11th convocation ceremony honoring the achievements of 1389 graduates who successfully completed their degree programs. The ceremony, held at AU main campus Islamabad, was graced by the presence of proud parents, esteemed faculty members, and distinguished guests. Air Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan HI (M), S. Bt. (Retd), Advisor to Prime Minister of Pakistan on Aviation presided over the convocation ceremony as chief guest.

The highlight of the convocation was the conferring of degrees, including 15 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) recipients, 39 Gold medalists, and 27 Silver medalists. The University takes immense pride in the dedication and hard work exhibited by these graduates throughout their academic journey.

The Vice-Chancellor, Air Marshal Javed Ahmed HI (M) (Retd) deliv-

ered an inspiring report to the graduates and their parents, highlighting the university's commitment to academic excellence and its vision for the future. In the report, Vice Chancellor emphasized the university's continuous efforts to provide a conducive learning environment, foster innovation, and prepare students for the challenges of the rapidly evolving global landscape.

The Vice Chancellor commended graduates not only for their academic achievements but also for their holistic development, including their involvement in extracurricular activities, community service, and research initiatives. He said the university takes pride in nurturing well-rounded individuals who are not only academically proficient but also equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to make a positive impact on society.

In his speech, the chief guest Air Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan HI (M), S. Bt. (Retd), congratulated the graduates on their remarkable achievements, acknowledging the dedication



and hard work they exhibited throughout their academic journey. He extended his heartfelt congratulations to the parents, recognizing their unwavering support in the success of their graduating children. The chief guest expressed admiration for the Air University faculty and management, emphasizing their role in shaping the academic excellence that the university is known for. He

appreciated the progress and research culture at Air University, recognizing the institution's dedication to fostering innovation and preparing students for the challenges of the modern world. He also acknowledged the vital support extended by the Pakistan Air Force to the university, emphasizing the collaborative efforts that contribute to the success of Air University. He encouraged the

graduates to leverage their education and skills to make meaningful contributions to society. Air University faculty and management extended heartfelt congratulations to the 1389 graduates and wishes them success in their future endeavors. Air University remains committed to providing quality education and shaping the leaders of tomorrow.

Eat Food Festival

ISLAMABAD: People are enjoying traditional food during food festival at Jinnah Convention Center in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

'Muhafiz' Premiere highlights the Silent Sacrifices of Pakistan's Brave Guardians

PPA

ISLAMABAD: In a riveting cinematic tribute to the unwavering commitment and sacrifices of Pakistan's police force, the short film "Muhafiz" by Khadim Hussain Chakrani premiered at the auditorium of the Pakistan National Council of the Arts in Islamabad. The 28-minute production, crafted through the collaborative efforts of university students, sheds light on the relentless dedication of police jawans and the challenges they face day and night.

The grand screening, graced by the presence of Inspector General Islamabad Police, Dr. Akbar Khan, showcased the film as a poignant portrayal of the professional journey and personal struggles of



those who serve in the police force. Notable dignitaries, Ambassador Commonwealth Club (Pakistan) Tahir Ashraf Mughal, joined the event alongside members of the civil society, Police officers, and various schools of thought.

Khadim Hussain Chakrani, the visionary behind "Muhafiz," spoke passionately about his motivation to dispel unwarranted criticism against the police. As the director, producer, and lead actor, he emphasized that the film was a labor of love, produced on a personal budget.

Addressing the gathering during the opening ceremony, Anwar Maqsood praised Ahmed Shah for his dedicated work towards the promotion of art and culture. He acknowledged the exceptional work done by the participating students and urged them not to rush into selling their work, advising them to accumulate experience over time. He encouraged students to continue their efforts, emphasizing that the destination of their journey is unknown, and they should focus on refining their craft.

AIOU inks MoU with PU



PNP

ISLAMABAD: Centre for Languages and Translation Studies (CoLTS), Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Institute of Punjabi & Cultural Studies, University of the Punjab yesterday. According to MoU, both institutions will work on Punjabi Linguistics, Punjabi Translations and parallel corpus. Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood and Vice Chancellor PU, Prof. Dr. Khalid Mehmood signed the MoU.

On this occasion, Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that implementing MoUs within the time frame is necessary for the benefit of the community. Dr. Nasir Mahmood expressed the hope that the collaboration between the two institutions will benefit the people interested in Punjabi literature and culture. Vice Chancellor PU, Prof. Dr. Khalid Mehmood said that this collaboration is a positive step towards promoting and preserving Punjabi literature. He added that we are looking forward for more academic collaboration with AIOU. Dean, Faculty of Oriental Learning, PU, Prof. Dr. Ghulam Mosen-ud-din Nizami, Director CoLTS AIOU, Dr. Ghulam Ali, Director, Institute of Punjabi & Cultural Studies, Prof. Dr. Nabila Rehman and others were also present at the signing ceremony.

1st Alumni festival of Arts council of Pakistan Karachi kicked off with full swing

PPA

KARACHI: The "First Alumni Festival 2024" organized by the Arts Council, Minority Affairs, Social Protection, and President Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi Muhammad Ahmed Shah, Shah inaugurated the festival.



Addressing the gathering during the opening ceremony, Anwar Maqsood praised Ahmed Shah for his dedicated work towards the promotion of art and culture. He acknowledged the exceptional work done by the participating students and urged them not to rush into selling their work, advising them to accumulate experience over time. He encouraged students to continue their efforts, emphasizing that the destination of their journey is unknown, and they should focus on refining their craft. Muhammad Ahmed Shah, in his address, highlighted that the Arts Council aims to bring art out of elitist circles and onto the streets. He mentioned mentors like Anwar Maqsood, who guide students, expressing the council's commitment to educating students with a passion for learning and creating. Shah mentioned the outstanding role played by the Arts Council faculty and praised the efforts of Zeshan, a visual artist teaching in the Arts Council.

It's important to note that the Alumni Festival 2024 featured art exhibitions, including art pieces created by students from ACIAC (Arts Council Institute of Arts and Crafts). Additionally, the festival included Drum Circle, Dance Flash Mob, Open Music and Live Painting, and Dance Performances. Renowned singer Shant Anwar Ali enchanted the audience with his mesmerizing voice during the festival.

FRIA stresses need for reforms with focus on value-addition

PPA

LAHORE: The Ferozpur Road Industrial Association (FRIA) has stressed the need for reforms, with a keen focus on value-addition for a sustainable economic growth, recommending the government to raise exports to double digit of the GDP, as Pakistan's exports have inched up after witnessing decline. He said that consistent borrowing by developing economies to shore up its reserves in desperate times is only to lead towards a debt trap.

In a statement, the FRIA senior vice chairman and PIAF leader Shahbaz Aslam observed that borrowing from friendly countries should only be seen as a short-term solution to prevent reserves depletion and consequent further depreciation of the currency.

WWEA says Pakistan well on track for maximum utilization of its massive clean power potential

PPA

KARACHI: The World Wind Energy Association (WWEA) has said that Pakistan is well on track in making progress to increase the production of clean electricity as the drive should continue to take advantage of an abundance of renewable power sources available in the country.



WWEA Secretary General, Stefan Gsanger, appreciated Pakistan's drive to maximize the utilization of massive indigenous available wind and solar power sources as he spoke as the guest of honour at an online seminar held to celebrate the first-ever International Day of Clean Energy. The Energy Update in partnership with the WWEA, Pakistan Solar Association, Pakistan Alternative Energy Association and The Energy Forum Pakistan conducted the webinar. Gsanger recalled that Pakistan had

been one of the earliest supporters of the formation of the International Renewable Energy Agency as the global body for inter-governmental collaboration for fast transition from fossil fuels to clean power sources in different regions around the globe.

Gsanger appreciated that local investors and power sector companies had worked well to install a number of wind power plants in Pakistan to meet the targets set by the governments for clean

energy production. Saeed Anwar Hussain Jafri Director Policy of Private Power Infrastructure Board (PPIB) informed the audience about the active role being played by the PPIB to facilitate the private sector to set up new wind and solar power plants to achieve the target of 30 per cent clean power production in the country by 2030.

Waqas Moosa, Executive Committee Member of Pakistan Solar Energy Association, informed the webinar participants about the serious hardships recently faced by the Pakistani clean energy companies due to import restrictions on solar panels and other renewable energy equipment due to depleting foreign exchange reserves of the country.

He said that imposing heavy taxes on the import of solar panels and other renewable energy equipment to promote

indigenous production of the same items was not a feasible idea in the long term. Mehfooz A Qazi, Project Director of Sindh Solar Energy Project, informed the audience about the World Bank-funded drive in the province to set up solar parks, use rooftops of government buildings for installing solar panels, and give solar home systems to rural households.

Irfan Ahmed, a senior energy expert and Advisor Energy Update who also conducted the webinar, suggested that mini and microgrids should be built to ensure that solar energy resource was extensively used to energize faraway rural communities. Naveem Qureshi of Energy Update said the webinar was organized with the aim of thoroughly evaluating the progress so far achieved by Pakistan to increase the share of clean electricity in the national energy mix.

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ICJ's verdict against Israel

The UN Security Council will meet on Wednesday over the decision by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ordering Israel to prevent death, destruction and any acts of genocide in besieged Gaza. Algeria requested the meeting late Friday after a closed-door meeting of the UN's 22-member Arab group in France, which holds the Council presidency this month, said the meeting will take place on Jan 31 at 11 a.m. local time (9 PM PST).

On Friday, the court asked Israel must do everything it can to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of the Genocide Convention. The court said Israel must take all measures within its power to prevent and punish the direct and public incitement to commit genocide. It also said that Israel must take immediate and effective measures to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance to address the adverse conditions of life faced by Palestinians. Additionally, the court ruled that Israel must try to limit death and damage in Gaza. Highlighting that the ICJ was acutely aware of the extent of the human tragedy unfolding in the region since war erupted in Gaza, Judge Joan Donoghue, the court's president, said that the court remained deeply concerned about the continuing loss of life and human suffering. Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres noted in a statement the measures pertaining to the Israeli military laid out in the provisional ruling and stressed that "decisions of the Court are binding" and trusts that all parties will duly comply with the order from the Court. "In accordance with the Statute of the Court, the Secretary-General will promptly transmit the notice of the provisional measures ordered by the court to the Security Council," UN Spokesman Stéphane Dujarric said. Donoghue said that the court remained deeply concerned about the continuing loss of life and human suffering Palestine's ambassador to the UN Riyad Mansour, said that the ICJ decision gives the clear message that in order to do all the things that they are asking for, you need a ceasefire for it to happen. So fasten your seat belts, he said, hinting that the Arab Group, represented on the Council by Algeria, would push for ceasefire. The Security Council, long divided on the Israeli-Palestinian issue, has only agreed to two resolutions since October 7. In December, it demanded aid deliveries at scale to Gaza's besieged population, while Israel's ally the United States has kept out calls for a ceasefire despite international pressure. In its case, which began earlier this month in The Hague, South Africa asked the court a principal organ of the UN to indicate provisional measures in order to protect against further severe and irreparable harm to the rights of the Palestinian people under the Genocide Convention.

Among the measures South Africa asked for was the immediate suspension of military operations by Israel in the Strip and that its forces take all reasonable measures to prevent genocide. South Africa also asked the world court to order Israel to prevent forced displacement, allow adequate food and water to reach civilians and ensure that evidence of any potential genocide is preserved. Provisional measures are a type of temporary injunction ahead of a final decision on the dispute. It is likely to take years before a judgement is reached. The measures are considered mandatory for implementation, but the Court has no means of enforcing them. Israel argued in presenting its case that the war on Hamas was one purely of defence and not against the Palestinian people.

'Pakistan Ko Nawaz Do' - I

During a live broadcast address to a gathering of prominent media figures, Nawaz Sharif opted to speak candidly as opposed to reading from the prepared manifesto. His impassioned discourse delved into the challenges and disruptions encountered throughout his three-term tenure as prime minister. He conveyed a deep sense of regret on premature termination of his previous three tenures, his subsequent imprisonment and exiles and the potential course of progress and affluence that Pakistan failed to attain. His honest remarks emphasized the profound disparity between the anticipated progress and the present hardships faced by average individuals in their efforts to avert even the fundamental necessities.

The manifesto which was launched earlier by all PML(N) stalwarts, led by Nawaz Sharif, through the collective pressing of a button accompanied by a poignant debut song, focuses on realistic and achievable goals, avoiding the presentation of unattainable promises. The manifesto, penned by Nawaz's close associate Mr. Irfan Siddique, assisted by Marium Ouzgali, was launched under the slogan 'Vote to Azzad Do' 'Pakistan Ko Nawaz Do', emphasizing the party's commitment to practicality and accountability in governance. The manifesto addresses the differentiation between the realities of governance and the perceptions often portrayed on social media, particularly in contrast to campaigns by other political parties like the PTI. The approach taken by PML-N in this manifesto suggests a focus on transparency, realistic planning, and the execution of

While such an action could have greatly benefited the PML (N), he abstained from pursuing it out of a strong conviction that it would ultimately undermine the democratic process in the country.

He recounted numerous instances in which he advocated for democratic principles at the expense of significant party gains. During the narration of one such piece of evidence, he stated that he called off the long march that advocated for the reinstatement of judges and the judiciary, which had been forcibly removed by the dictatorial regime of Pervez Musharraf shortly after the demand was met by the PPP government. He recollected that numerous media contacts and close associates advised him to persist with the protracted march while introducing a fresh demand: the establishment of Shabaz Sharif's administration in the Punjab. He stated that he declined the proposal despite its appeal on the grounds that all governments, irrespective of their formation, should be removed exclusively through a legitimate democratic process, and not via blackmail, coercion, or threats of long march and protracted sit-ins.

He reflected on the agonizing days of Imran Khan's long march and sit-in, which he claimed was orchestrated with the assistance of Mr. Tahir ul Qadri, who was summoned from abroad and had no investment, interest, or standing in Pakistani politics. A sit-in ensued during which the incumbent prime minister was subjected to a variety of vile threats and



Analysis

Qamar Bashir



Cartoon by Anjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashraf M. Awan)

Inauguration of Ram Temple & Deceptive Election Tactics in India-III

Hindutva, rooted in the concept of cultural and national identity centered around Hinduism, has wielded significant influence in Indian politics. Under Modi's leadership, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has often been linked to the majority and equal principles, raising concerns about the secular fabric of the nation. Modi's tenure has witnessed an increased emphasis on religious symbolism and iconography, with public events such as the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya highlighting instances where religious symbolism takes center stage. Such occurrences reinforce the perception of a government closely aligned with a specific religious identity. Modi's administration has implemented changes in educational and cultural institutions that reflect a Hindu-centric perspective, including textbook revisions, appointments of Hindu leaders, and shifts in curricular content. These changes have sparked concerns about the endorsement of a particular cultural and religious worldview.

The protection of cows, considered sacred in Hinduism, has become a contentious issue during Modi's tenure. The enforcement of stricter laws related to cow slaughter and the vigilant actions of certain groups have contributed to a charged atmosphere, with accusa-

tions of promoting a specific religious agenda. The introduction of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and discussions surrounding the National Register of Citizens (NRC) have been sources of controversy, disproportionately affecting minority communities, particularly Muslims, and raising questions about social cohesion. The rhetoric of Hindutva has contributed to an environment where religious minorities feel marginalized. Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India, has been a polarizing figure in Indian politics, drawing criticism for his leadership style and policy decisions. Accusations of falsehoods and lies have been directed at him from various quarters. A source of disagreement pertains to the economic promises made by Modi and their subsequent realization. Critics have characterized Modi's economic goals, such as doubling farmers' incomes, have not materialized as quickly or comprehensively as pledged. It is crucial to distinguish between unfulfilled promises and deliberate falsehoods. The introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017, a significant economic reform under Modi's administration, faced criticism for its abrupt implementation and impact on small businesses.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Current Dynamics of Iran-Pakistan Relations

Sohail Ahmad Baber

Situated at the crossroads of South Asia, the Middle East, and Central Asia, Pakistan holds a strategic position of paramount importance. Its geopolitical significance is underscored by its proximity to key players in the region and its role as a vital link connecting various civilizations. Sharing borders with India, Afghanistan, Iran, and China, Pakistan's geographical location plays a pivotal role in shaping regional dynamics and influencing global affairs. Against this backdrop, recent events, such as the unauthorized strike by Iran, has intensified the need for a nuanced understanding of Pakistan's strategic position and its diplomatic relationships with neighboring nations. The recent strike by Iran within Pakistani territory has stirred tensions and raised questions about the dynamics between these two Islamic brother countries. While Iran and Pakistan share a historical and cultural bond, the unauthorized military action by Iran has sparked concerns and demands for a closer examination of the potential repercussions on the region. The strike, reportedly aimed at eliminating alleged terrorist elements operating within its borders, has sparked a diplomatic row between Iran and Pakistan. Despite being Islamic allies, the incident has highlighted the complexities of regional politics and the challenges faced by neighboring nations in managing security concerns.

On 17th Jan, 2024, the unauthorized incursion into Pakistani territory raised questions about international law and diplomatic protocols. Iran justification of the strike revolves around its commitment to combating terrorism, but the lack of prior communication or coordination with Pakistani authorities has strained bilateral relations. It has broader implications for regional security dynamics. It not only challenges the sovereignty of Pakistan but also underscores the vulnerability of borders in the face of geopolitical tensions.

I will suggest some important points to initiate immediate and sustained diplomatic talks between Pakistan and Iran to address the concerns stemming from the unauthorized strike. Both brotherly countries should engage in open and transparent communication to foster mutual understanding and trust. To seek the assistance of neutral international entities or mediators to facilitate dialogue between the two nations. Involving international organizations, China, Russia, USA or other respected diplomatic partners can help mediate discussions, providing an unbiased perspective and promoting a fair resolution. Both should develop and implement clear communication protocols regarding counter-terrorism operations and actions within each other's borders. Establishing channels for timely and transparent information exchange can prevent future misunderstandings and unauthorized incursions. Also strengthen bilateral security agreements that outline joint efforts in combating terrorism and addressing security concerns. Clearly define the scope of collaborative actions and establish mechanisms for cooperation to ensure both nations work together effectively while respecting each other's

Youth participation in Indonesia's upcoming election

Nurul Faqriah

Indonesia will hold legislative and presidential elections on 14th February 2024. Three pairs of candidates will participate in this election, namely Anies Baswedan-Muhaimin Iskandar, Prabowo Subianto-Gibran Rakabuming, and Ganjar Pranowo-Mahfud MD. Interestingly, millennials and Gen Z will be dominant voters, about 56% of the total. Frequently, all presidential candidates compete to attract attention with various campaign promises, often prioritizing young people. They also use gimmicks on social media.

Baswedan is campaigning by means of dialogue, which involves the young generation through Desak Anies, which means Pressure Anies. On this forum, each audience member is allowed to ask questions freely. He also actively attends dialogue invitations from numerous universities to explain his vision and mission. Since December until now Baswedan has been doing TikTok live regularly; on this live, he does not campaign directly but is more likely to share inspirational stories and motivations. His vice candidate, Iskandar, does routine events with teenagers named Slepet Intin; Iskandar is also doing political gimmicks.

Ganjar Pranowo did the same thing. Pranowo has held several public dialogues involving young people every Saturday night. He also frequently attended public discussions at various campuses. In order to entice the younger generation, Pranowo popularized the Finger Salute, like in the Hunger Games film. Pranowo defines three fingers as obeying God, obeying the law and being loyal to the people. This three-finger action is a trend among supporters and has flooded FYP TikTok. Besides that, Pranowo's vice candidate, Mahfud MD, also lived on TikTok on New Year's Eve.

Meanwhile, Subianto seemed only come fewer times to the public discussions which universities and institutions held despite being as often as the two other candidates. Subianto obtained lots of support from youngsters. It can be seen from many youth communities that have declared their endorsement to Subianto. Regarding gimmicks, Subianto is known as foggy, which means unclear in various events, he often dances, which attracts attention. This dance went viral on social media.

Generally, all candidates offer fascinating ideas and concepts in multisector, such as small and medium enterprises (SME), stunting prevention, education, health, and economy. However, can their ideas influence voters instead of gimmicks?

Political Gimmick Vs Notion, which one seems appealing for youngsters?

Indonesia is the biggest social media user in the world. According to We Are Social Report, Indonesia's Instagram users reached 103.3 million, while X (Twitter) users were about 27.5 million in October 2023. Making Indonesia the fourth largest country Instagram and X user in the world. In addition, about 106.1 million people in Indonesia are TikTok users. Placing Indonesia at the second rank of the biggest TikTok users in the world.

Needless to say, social media has been becoming a battleground amongst candidates, especially on TikTok. Funny videos of all candidates are usually modified by proponents with trendy music and editing style. In a certain sense, it could influence public opinion, mainly swing and undecided voters. Utilizing gimmicks for campaigns may be more acceptable in an apathetic community.

According to the General Elec-

1 Anies & Muhaimin



Anies Baswedan Presidential Candidate
Muhaimin Iskandar Vice Presidential Candidate

2 Prabowo & Gibran



Prabowo Subianto Presidential Candidate
Gibran Rakabuming Vice Presidential Candidate

3 Ganjar & Mahfud



Ganjar Pranowo Presidential Candidate
Mahfud MD Vice Presidential Candidate



tions Commission, 32% of Indonesian youngsters are apathetic towards politics. Obviously, this number is not significant; around 68% of young Indonesians still believe in political institutions.

The latest survey from the Public Opinion and Discussion Group, released in December 2023, discovered that about 39.5% of the young generation consider the vision and mission very crucial, and another 29.8% consider it important. Meanwhile, 27% of respondents thought it was unimportant, and 3.6% said it was very unimportant.

All Presidential candidates have used the media not only to carry out gimmicks but also to spread ideas and concepts in various interesting ways. Baswedan, for example, regularly upload infographics with an eye-catching appearance containing the vision and mission on Instagram feeds. Subianto also often packages his vision and mission using AI. Meanwhile, Pranowo often upload reels to convey his vision and mission.

Young people who think vision and mission are not important tend to be easily influenced by black campaigns, hoaxes and disinformation spread in the media. However, the track record is also prominent. The three candidates running in the upcoming election had experience in the government sector. Baswedan is a former minister of education and culture and governor of DKI Jakarta. Pranowo was also a former member of parliament and governor of Central Java, while Subianto is active defense minister since 2019

until present.

A survey from Public Opinion and Discussion Group found that 32.2% of young people think track record is essential, 28% said it is important, and 26% think it is not important. The rest think it is very unimportant. This means that almost 50% of young Indonesians still need to pay attention to the candidate's track record. Whereas track record is important to look at in making choices, including how the policies they have made and their impact on society.

Can we rely on young voters? Lately, youth movement in Thailand and Myanmar has raised hopes for a better democracy. For example, the student protests in Thailand against the authoritarian regime and the civil disobedience movement caused by the military coup in Myanmar, which young people dominated, indicated that young people took sides towards democracy and the public interest.

Indonesia's youth movement is attractive as well. In 2019, students from many universities protested through the Reformasi Dikorupsi, which was the biggest protest after the reformation in 1998. This demonstration not only occurred in capital city such as Jakarta, but spread all over cities.

This protest sparked optimism that Indonesian youth could solve the problems they face. In the last six years, Indonesia has experienced democracy decline. Freedom House data showed that in 2016, Indonesia's democracy ranking was in 65th position, this figure has decreased quite significantly to 58 in 2022. This makes Freedom House

placing Indonesia as a partly freedom country.

Indonesia has Electronic Information and Transaction Law (EIT). This law contains ambiguous clauses, which are usually used to silence freedom of expression. Research from the Law Reformation Institution reported that almost 700 people were impris-

oned due to ambiguous clauses from 2016 to 2020. The majority of victims came from activists and civil society. Furthermore, the Indonesian Legal Aid Institute stated that ten journalists were reported on charges of violating the EIT Law in 2020.

Despite EIT law being revised and legalized on 4th January 2024, the fact of the matter is that this law still embodies elastic clauses. According to Journalist Independent Alliance (JIA), changes to the law still retain problematic clauses such as those commonly used to criminalize civilians and gag criticism.

Furthermore, Indonesia's government has an ambitious project in terms of development, the government officially moved the capital from Jakarta to East Kalimantan. The relocation of the capital city was officially passed into law in January 2022. This policy also received protests from students. In their action on September 12 2022, students asked the government to postpone the relocation of the capital. Even indigenous peoples who live around the new capital city construction point are challenging this law at the Constitutional Court. They reckoned that the formation of this law did not involve public participation. In spite of this law was revised and officially passed in October 2023, yet according to Greenpeace, the government did not revise clauses relating to environmental protection, biodiversity and indigenous communities.

Unfortunately, parliament also no longer provides its duties as checks and balances. In Widodo's second term, the opposition increasingly weakened. In the first period of Widodo's presidential term (2014-2019) the number of coalition parties in parliament was 60.17%. However, in the second period (2019-2024) the number of coalitions

reached 81.9% of the total 575 seats in the parliament. There are only two opposition parties, namely the Democrats and Prosperous Justice Party. This situation makes problematic policies have no control and run ineffective.

From all the above-mentioned problems, the demonstration movement, which is predominantly dominated by the capital city law and society, has a vital role in checks and balances. With 56% of millennials and Gen Z voters, this election is a momentum to elect candidates who are believed to be able to solve various problems such as corruption, law enforcement and strengthening democracy.

Interestingly, the incumbent did not participate in this election. The three competing candidates have different taglines. Baswedan proposes changes. The changes offered are revising the Corruption Eradication law, evaluating the capital city law and guaranteeing freedom of expression, reducing the economic gap, and promoting re-industrialization. Subianto offers continuity. He committed to continue President Widodo's programs. Subianto is determined to continue law enforcement and build a new capital city. Subianto also planned a free lunch and milk program for students. Meanwhile, Pranowo carries the concept of improvement and sustainability. Pranowo is committed to carrying forward a new capital city construction, downstream and development programs. However, Pranowo also promised to correct President Widodo's program, which he deemed inappropriate. They promised to strengthen law enforcement. His vice candidate, Mahfud, also pledged to restore

the old corruption eradication law if they were elected. Amid various concepts offered by candidates, only rational voters think critical before making a choice. Lack of political education in Indonesia.

If we look back, protests towards the government were mostly carried out by students from multifarious universities who were sensitive to social issues. In fact, the Central Statistics Agency report in March 2023 stated that only around 10% of Indonesia's population had successfully completed college, 30.22% of the population were high school graduates, and 22.74% were junior high school graduates. The rest are elementary school graduates and do not have a graduate certificate. Of course, the level of education can influence voters' perspectives in responding to various issues.

Political education in Indonesia is still lacking, normally they only get in-depth courses on politics only at college, not junior high school or senior high school. Even though elementary, middle and high schools in Indonesia have civic education subjects, this is not effective enough to increase students' awareness and critical thinking regarding politics. Thus, many young people are still apathetic and assume that the presidential election has no influence on daily life.

On the other hand, only a tiny number of voters are rational voters.



Research results from the National Research and Innovation Agency, based on research results in the 2014-2019 elections, rational voters are only 5-10% of the total population. The majority of rational voters are middle-upper class and well-educated. Meanwhile, emotional voters choose presidential and vice presidential candidates based on likes and dislikes.

It is compounded by the quantity of artists and influencers who endorse presidential candidates. All candidates hire influencers with huge followers on social media accounts to increase their popularity. It could deceive voters, especially beginner voters. They tend to look at their favorite influencers as a reference for whom they will vote for. Apart from that, fewer TikTok content creators did street interviews and asked millennials and Gen Z to whom they would vote and the reason. Unexpectedly, fewer respondents argue they will vote Subianto because of interest, and for those who will vote Pranowo or Baswedan because they are cool. Obviously, the number of respondents is small, and we cannot take it as a sample. Nevertheless, we can see the urgency of government to supply political knowledge.

Indonesia is the biggest democratic country in the world, with a huge population. Indonesia is forecasted to face a demographic dividend from 2030 to 2040. It could be an opportunity for Indonesia to accelerate development. However, Indonesia must enhance human resources, not only in economic sector but political education too.

Writer is International Relations Graduate at Universitas Islam Indonesia. Nurul has great interest in Democracy in Southeast Asia, and Social Movements



AGM of the Pakistan Aerospace Council Highlights Achievements and Establishes Objectives for 2024



PPA
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has great potential to tap into the US \$ 570 billion high-tech aerospace market, said President Dr. Haroon Javid Qureshi, President of Pakistan Aerospace Council, at its Annual General Meeting.

Pakistan Aerospace Council (PAC) held its AGM on January 29, 2024, at Trojans Head Office, Sector E/11 Islamabad. The event brought together distinguished members of the aerospace community including the President of PAC Dr. Haroon Javid Qureshi, Secretary General Mr. Asif Jali, Treasurer Fiaz Tanzeer Akhtar, Founder Convener Mr. Imtiaz Raesgar, Emerg Mansoor Malik, Dr. Arshad Ali, Mr. Mahmood Sherani on this occasion.

At the occasion, Air Marshal (Retd) Arshad Mahmood Malik ex Board Chairman of Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, Kamra was honored as the Chief Guest. He spoke on the bright export opportunities for PAC Members.

The Pakistan Aerospace Council's notable achievements and milestones from the previous year were reviewed on the platform offered by the AGM. Members discussed their proposals on the growth of Pakistan's aerospace sector and deliberated on the organization's achievements. Outlining a strategic vision for the upcoming year 2024 was another agenda item for the meeting. In order to boost the aerospace industry, discussions focused on encouraging innovation, collaborating with others, and overcoming challenges at the national level.

Dr. Haroon Qureshi, President outlined steps which the Government of Pakistan needs to take to convert the local tech industries into global exporters of high tech products. PAC is an ideal platform for boosting the high-tech and aerospace engineering products and services in the \$570 billion worldwide aerospace engineering market.

Pakistan's earns \$1,151 million from IT services' export in 5 months

PPA
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan earned US \$1,151,956 million by providing different Information Technology (IT) services to various countries during the first five months of the current fiscal year 2023-24. This shows a growth of 5.89 per cent as compared with the US \$1,087,929 million earned through the provision of services during the corresponding months of the last fiscal year 2022-23, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

During the months under review, the export of computer services grew by 8.17 per cent as it surged from US \$864,429 million last year to US \$935,016 million during July-November 2023. Among the computer services, the exports of software consultancy services witnessed an increase of 46.67 per cent, from US \$1,710 million to US \$2,508 million this year while the export of hardware consultancy services also surged by 4.15 per cent, from US \$318,041 million to US \$331,251 million. The export of repair and maintenance services however decreased by 63.74 per cent from US \$1,485 million to US \$80,880 million whereas the export and imports of computer software services surged by 4.05 per cent, from \$239,473 million to \$249,179 million. Meanwhile, the export of information services during the months under review dipped by 22.91 per cent from US \$1,796 million to US \$1,380 million. Among the information services, the exports of information-related services increased by 12.37 per cent, from US \$0,485 million to US \$0,545 million whereas the exports of news agency services however decreased by 36.02 per cent, from US \$1,305 million to US \$0,835 million.

ICCI shares input with DG (E) ISI to improve the economy

PPA
ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) held a meeting with Major General Muhammad Hassan Khattak, Director General (E), ISI, and shared the input of the business community with him to improve the economy.

Speaking on the occasion, Major General Muhammad Hassan Khattak, Director General (E), ISI discussed in detail the upcoming trial of the first gold extraction machine designed for extraction of gold found in the Indus River. He also briefed him about the plan of transportation of goods through sea and rivers to meet the needs of the agriculture sector. He informed him about an emergency plan being considered for the drilling of oil and gas to address the shortage of these natural resources in the country. He shared the proposal for mineral extraction to support industrial manufacturing by the establishment of cutting and polishing units to produce value-added gemstone products. He welcomed the input of the business community for expedited measures to fix the railway system. He said that the private sector should focus on chip designing and manufacturing in Pakistan to improve exports. He said that the proposals of the business community for agricultural research and support systems and increasing the production of olive oil, mustard, and sesame need implementation to make tangible progress in these areas. He assured that he would convey the input of the business community to the relevant quarters for consideration and implementation.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that the railway is the cheapest mode of goods transportation, but currently around 94 per cent of goods are moved by road, which is more costly. He stressed that Pakistan Railways should be revamped to increase its share of goods transportation to facilitate the business community. He said that Pakistan has



great potential to produce and export olive oil and stressed that the govern-

ment should encourage the farmers to increase its cultivation. He said that better incentives should be provided to the industry to increase industrial activities and exports. He said that Pakistan can earn billions of dollars from IT exports and the government should give priority attention to its better growth. He said that all the loss-making state-owned enterprises should be privatized as the government has to spend billions of rupees on their bail-out. He said that last year the government spent a huge amount of Rs.1400 billion to run these SOEs. He said that the government should announce a 10-year tax policy to broaden the tax base and attract investment. He said that Pakistan needs a Charter of Economy to achieve sustainable economic growth and all political parties should work on it.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President of ICCI and Secretary General of UBG Pakistan said that Pakistan should realign its foreign policy to promote regional trade blocs on the pattern of EU and ASEAN.

Poverty

ISLAMABAD: Labourers sitting alongside a road are waiting for customers during cold weather in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

SMK Paracha Association launches holistic support for members amid economic challenges



PPA
KARACHI: SMK Paracha Association organized a meeting that brought together a distinguished group of members acknowledged for their outstanding contributions to humanitarian services. The event witnessed the participation of notable individuals, including Dr. Arshad Paracha, Muhammad Usman Paracha, Muhammad Yousuf Paracha, Abdul Rauf Paracha, Dr. Afzal Paracha, Qasim Paracha, Isha Nawaz Paracha, Muhammad Saleem Paracha, Saif Ullah Paracha, Arshad Paracha, Ahsan Paracha, Muhammad Afzal Paracha, Moiz Uddin Paracha, Daniyal Jawaid Paracha, Khurram Farooq Paracha, and Muhammad Ali Paracha.

One of the special attendees, Dr. Arshad Paracha, a distinguished group of members acknowledged for their outstanding contributions to humanitarian services. The event witnessed the participation of notable individuals, including Dr. Arshad Paracha, Muhammad Usman Paracha, Muhammad Yousuf Paracha, Abdul Rauf Paracha, Dr. Afzal Paracha, Qasim Paracha, Isha Nawaz Paracha, Muhammad Saleem Paracha, Saif Ullah Paracha, Arshad Paracha, Ahsan Paracha, Muhammad Afzal Paracha, Moiz Uddin Paracha, Daniyal Jawaid Paracha, Khurram Farooq Paracha, and Muhammad Ali Paracha.

The gathering served as a platform for collaboration and discussion, emphasizing the commitment of the SMK Paracha Association and its members to furthering humanitarian causes in the region.

Political parties should consult FPCCI before formulating their economic policies for their manifestos



PPA
KARACHI: Mr. Saqib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI, has appreciated that the Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Senator Siraj Ul Haq, has visited the head office of the apex body to present their economic manifesto; business and infrastructure development plan to the business, industry and trade community. He added that the political parties should consult FPCCI before formulating their economic policies for their manifestos as the business community can provide them with the right grass-root level information.

Mr. Saqib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI, has requested all political parties to present their economic manifestos to the apex body based on practical, detailed and duly planned manner as the business community is only looking to listen to solutions not the rhetoric.

Mr. Saqib Fayyaz Magoon acknowledged that revising the contracts with independent power producers (IPPs) - as mentioned in JI's manifesto - is the need of the hour; however, he emphasized that it should be done through a consultative process to avoid any litigation at national or international forum. The circular debt of the energy sector now stands at an unprecedented and alarming PKR. 5,751 trillion, he added.

Senator Siraj Ul Haq, Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, said that his party intends to provide free electricity to the poor for up to 300 units; collecting zakat from 750

LCCI launches Women Empowerment Lounge for women in Lahore Chamber



Tahir Amin Malik
LAHORE: Kashif Anwar said that LCCI has established a Women Empowerment Lounge for women business community in Lahore Chamber while a Women Entrepreneurs Display Corner in Lahore Chamber is also established where products manufactured by women especially belonging to Cottage Industry and SME sector are displayed for the purpose of marketing.

He said that Lahore Chamber regularly organizes awareness seminars and sessions on important topics to train our women members and keep them up-to-date on various economic issues. LCCI also celebrates International Women's Day every year on a vast scale.

Mushaf Hussain Mullick informed the LCCI President 100-day plan also has uplift for women, rights of transgender and minorities in its field.

Businessmen urge Chairman FBR for measures to curb smuggling

Bureau Report
PESHAWAR: A delegation of businessmen, during a consultation with the Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Malik Amjad Zubair Tanwani at Custom House Peshawar, urged him to take effective measures to curb smuggling instead of imposing restrictions on Pak-Afghan trade. The delegation was jointly led by Coordinator Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi and President Khyber Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Syed Jawad Hussain Kazmi, said a statement issued here on Saturday.

On this occasion, Chief Collector Customs KP, Saeed Akram, Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue Peshawar, Zafar Iqbal Khan,

Member Inland Revenue FBR Islamabad, Mir Badshah Wazir, Collector Custom Enforcement, Khawaja Khurram Naem, Collector Customs Administration, Amjad ur Rehman, Director/Transit Trade, Arbab Qaiser Hameed, Second Secretary Afghan Consulate, Peshawar, Tahir Akif, First Consul Consulate General Iran, Hussain Malik, Afghan Commercial Attache, Waheed Ullah and Director PAJCCI, Imtiaz Ahmad Ali were also present. They told the Chairman FBR that through trade with Afghanistan, Pakistan can also get access to markets of Central Asian Republics (CARs) and the imposition of a ban on this important route would prove detrimental to the country's economy in the longer run. Speaking on the occasion, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi said the bone of contention in the Pak-Afghan trade is



smuggling which can be stopped effectively through increasing monitoring and vigilance at border points. While imposition of a ban on trade or curb smuggling is not a suitable approach and is proving detrimental regarding the expansion of commerce and trade at the regional level with the scope of capturing CARs markets. Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi who is also President

of Frontier Custom Clearing Agents Association, recalled a similar decision taken around 18 years earlier about the imposition of ban on 17 items for trade with Afghanistan.

The decision caused a loss of around Rs. Three billion on annual basis to Pakistan Railways under the pretext of freight while all those banned items found the ways to Afghanistan through flights from UAE and then penetrated in Pakistani markets through smuggling, Zia claimed. The similar practice, he continued, was repeated on October 9, 2023, when the Ministry of Commerce through issuing SRO 1380 imposed a ban on 14 items which in detail became 212 different items in daily use. In the same way through another SRO 1387, a 10 per cent processing fee on transit cargo has been enforced besides the imposi-

tion of a 100 percent bank guarantee. Earlier, transit cargo was going under insurance guarantee and during the last 13 years around one million containers crossed Afghanistan from Pakistan smoothly, Zia continued. He said that hundreds of trucks were carrying different goods including petroleum products, edible goods, cigarettes, auto parts etc from Iran on daily basis. Even then, no proper measures are being taken to curb this smuggling which is inflicting huge damage to the national economy, he said. Zia said that frequent closure of Pak-Afghan trade was creating a lot of problems for the business community, exporters, importers and transporters, adding that the delay in clearance of goods-laden trucks had become a routine practice, burdening the business community with extra payment

of demurrage and detention charges. He also stressed on timely completion of Border Terminal being undertaken by National Logistics Cell (NLC).

After completion of the terminal, local people of the area should be given job on priority basis as promised with them, Zia continued. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman FBR, Malik Amjad Zubair Tanwani apprised the businessmen about measures being taken for provision of ease of doing business to them. He said the country is passing through a difficult phase and every individual has a role to play for bringing the economy out of this quagmire of slump. He said the government is giving due attention to stabilizing the economy and on promotion of commerce and trade and for this purpose all possible measures would be taken.

GTR Tyre Presents Kaliwali Zamli Cricket League Season 3

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Kaliwali Zamli League Season 3, proudly presented by GTR Tyre, has culminated in an extraordinary cricketing spectacle...



The climactic final round of the Kaliwali Zamli League Season 3, which took place at Kabul Ground Swat from December 29th to 31st, 2023, showcased an intense battle among the top eight teams...

In Phase 2, the 34 district champion teams engaged in intense competition to qualify for the final round of Kaliwali Zamli League Season 3. The top eight divisional champions...

42nd Punjab Open Golf Championship

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: In the 42nd Punjab Open Golf Championship backed by Punjab Golf Association (PGA) in progress at the par-72 Lahore Garrison Greens Golf Course...

fours and par fives and on the shorter par three holes, rewardingly accurate were his approach shots which mostly yielded birdies or regulation pars...

Rawalpindi Golf Club, the very steady Muhammad Shahzad (Garrison) and Ahmed Baig (Royal Palm), considered the dynamic one of the national golf scene.

few holes did take the game out of his great effort and he had to confront stroke losses on holes 11, 14 and 16 while his birdie excellence appeared on holes 12 and 3 and on the back nine on holes 15 and 17...

overall effort has been admirable and is certainly resolute about his performance. Others seeking honors and wholesome cash rewards are Muhammad Shahzad, placed at a score of 144. Ahmed Baig at 145, Muhammad Asif (Defense) at 146, Anam Mahmood (Margalla Greens) and Muhammad Nazir (Rawalpindi) bunched together at 146...

Championship activity on Sunday will become a frightening affair. Muhammad Alam had the best round of the day on Saturday and his round of gross 69 helps him to elevate his position to second slot and his two rounds score is 143. One under par and he intends to make a competing thrust on Sunday. Another champion with enormous aspirations is Minhaj Maqsood (Rawalpindi). His

SA20: Sunrisers Eastern Cape edge MI Cape Town in a thriller

A Sports

GQEBERHA: Tom Abell and Aiden Markram scored brisk half-centuries to lead Sunrisers Eastern Cape to a thrilling victory over MI Cape Town in the 50th match of the SA20 here on Saturday.



Markram's decision to bat first after winning the toss, paid dividends for his side as they notched up a commendable total of 175/6 in the allotted 20 overs with him and Abell leading the charge. The Eastern Cape, however, had a contrasting start to their innings as they lost Jordan Hermann (2) with just 10 runs on the board in the second over. But, Abell, who walked out to bat at number three, stitched an anchoring 54-run partnership with Dawid Malan, who fell in the ninth over after a scratchy 18. Abell then partnered strongly with Markram and they scored 63 runs amid their game-changing third-wicket partnership.

The stand lasted in the 15th over with Abell falling victim to Kieron Pollard. He remained the top-scorer for the Eastern Cape with a 44-ball 60, laced up with eight boundaries and a six.

Meanwhile, Markram stood his ground firm and carried his bat till the penultimate over. He walked back after scoring a quickfire 54. His 32-ball knock included two boundaries and

two sixes. Wicketkeeper batter Tristan Stubbs, who scored 23 off 13, was the other notable run-getter for the Eastern Cape. Nwan Thuzana and Kagiso

Rabada bagged two wickets each for MI Cape Town while Pollard and Thomas Kabir made one scalp each. In pursuit of the 176-run target, MI Cape Town could score 166/6 in the allotted overs. After a shaky start, lost wickets at regular intervals which halted the flow of runs and they eventually fell four runs short despite Kieron Pollard's fighting 30 at the death. He was the joint top-scorer for MI Cape Town with Sam Curran while Ryan Rickelton (27) and Dewald Brevis (26) were the other significant contributors. Otriel Baartman picked up two wickets for the Eastern Cape while Liam Dawson, Marco Jansen and Daniel Worrall took one wicket each. The narrow four-run victory strengthened Sunrisers Eastern Cape's grip on the third spot in the SA20 standings with 19 points in seven matches.

Level-1 Coaching Certification Course concludes



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail was the chief guest at the closing ceremony of 6-day Level-1 Coaching Certification Course held under the auspices of Sports and Youth Affairs Department Punjab. He distributed certificates among all the participating coaches on this occasion. Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail congratulated all the coaches for completing Level-1 Coaching Certification Course successfully. He also appreciated the ISSP team for organizing valuable courses and imparting modern techniques to participating coaches through qualified master trainers. Talking on this occasion, Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail said that these courses will play a key role in improving the standards of sports across the province. Ultimately, the participating coaches will transform their modern techniques and skills to young players in their respective areas which would be a major factor in improving the overall sports standards of the province. Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail informed that the successful coaches will be invited to take part in Level-1 Coaching Course in the next phase. As many as 35 coaches including a blind coach from Multan M Jamal also participated in the course conducted on the directions of Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail. Principal ISSP Chand Parveen and Chief Instructor Hafeez Bhatti, Instructors Shaista Qaiser, Sajid Ali, Malik Naair, Master trainers Dr Naseebullah Khan and Shafiq Ithatti were also present at the closing ceremony.

A.S. Natural Stone U-19 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-II Whites moved into Quarter Final after winning all matches in Group 'C'. Zone-I Whites also moved into Quarter Final after secured 2nd Position in Group 'C'. Summarized Scores: Zone-II Whites beat Zone-VI Blues by 171 runs at Young Fighter Ground. Zone-II Whites 249/6 in 45 overs. Ifthakhar 60, 7x4 x6, Abdullah Waleed 52 6x4 not out, Aun Abbas 48 4x4, Muhammad Danish 33, Muhammad Sheehar 23, Burari Ali 30. Zone-I Whites 131/1 in 29 overs. Zone-VI Blues 78 all out in 24.2 overs. Abdul Sami 26, Waheed Khan (mf) 4/23, Muhammad Ayan (sk) 3/16, Adnan Ansari (ob) 2/10.

Deflated Djokovic considering break from tennis after Australian Open exit

World number 1 tennis player Novak Djokovic is considering taking a break from tennis after Italy's Janik Sinner ended his winning streak at the Australian Open on Friday. A day earlier, Sinner felled Djokovic's bid for a record 25th Grand Slam title during the tournament's semi-final. For the first time in six years and the Serb called his match against Sinner his "worst ever" in his "Grand Slams" as the 35-year-old failed to make one break point in the entire game. The gutted Serbian may not return to the court till March, when Indian Wells Masters start, as per his website. Djokovic will skip the Dubai Championships in February, which he has been playing for the last two years. The 24-time Grand Slam winner's calendar remains unsure as he told Serbian media after his semi-final defeat that he needs time to process the loss. "Let's see how things will unfold in the future. When you leave the court after a loss, the head is still hot - you are fighting to be rational, but there are many irrational thoughts going through your head," the world No. 1 said per Tennis Majors. "I want my thoughts to settle - when I calm down, I will move on and see what tournaments I will play. I made a commitment to myself that I will give it my all this year, with the priority being Slams and the Olympics. We'll see whether something will change, in this stage of my life and my career some surprising decisions are maybe more expected compared to twenty years ago." Djokovic won three Grand Slams in 2023 and was aiming for a "Golden Slam" - winning all four Slams including the Olympics - this year but the Serb's dream of achieving the milestone is over.

Lahore division clinches Rising Punjab Games football title

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Exhibiting great fighting spirit Lahore division football team defeated strong Faisalabad team by a narrow margin of 2-1 to win Rising Punjab Games 2024 football title at the Punjab Stadium on Saturday. In Rising Punjab Games Badminton Championship, Ghazala Siddique of Sargodha clinched the Women's Singles title while the Men's Singles title went to Gujranwala's Anjum Bashir at Nishtar Park Sports Complex Gymnasium Hall on the same day. Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail was the chief guest at the final competi-

tions of Rising Punjab Games Football and Badminton Championships. He witnessed thrilling competitions and appreciated the fighting game skills of young badminton players. The finalist teams and officials also had group photographs with DG Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail. Director Sports Yasmeen Akhtar, Director Youth Affairs Rana Nadeem Anjum, Assistant Director Zarina Waqar, District Sports Officer Lahore, Inam Shah, Chief Sports Consultant Hafeez Bhatti, Rauf Bajwa, SBP PRO Abdul Rauf and other officials were also present on this occasion. Director Sports Yasmeen Akhtar, Director Youth Affairs

Divisional Sports Officer Lahore Rana Nadeem Anjum, Divisional Sports Officer Faisalabad Tariq Nazir and Divisional Sports Officer DG Khan Rana Hamid distributed trophies and medals among the players. It is worth mentioning that Rising Punjab Games are being organized as the first sports event of Sports Board Punjab's revolutionary Annual Sports Calendar Programme. Talking to media on this occasion, Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail said that the competitions of Rising Punjab Games are being conducted quite successfully. "So far we have organized events of four games - hockey, volleyball, football and badminton

under the banner of Rising Punjab Games. We will organize Spring Games and Summer Games after competing Winter Games under the umbrella of Sports Calendar Programme. All the participating players have been selected through merit-based trials. New talent is emerging from Rising Punjab Games. The best arrangements have been made for conducting all the competitions of Rising Punjab Games". Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail further said Sports Board Punjab is organizing all sports events in a systematic manner under a comprehensive development plan. All possible measures are being taken for the development of healthy activities across the province. The top performing players of Rising Punjab Games are given Rs 70,000, Rs 50,000 and Rs 30,000 stipends

per month in three categories Diamond, Gold and Silver. In Rising Punjab Games Football event, the triumphant team was given a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh while the runners up team pocketed Rs 10 lakh. In the badminton event, Anjum Bashir of Gujranwala bounced back after losing the first set at 19-21. However, he defeated Mueqat Tahir of Faisalabad in the next two sets by 21-19 and 21-12 to clinch the Men's Singles title. In Women's Singles title holder, Ghazala Siddique of Sargodha dominated the final match right from the beginning and thrashed her opponent Usman Usman of Bahawalpur in straight sets by 21-15, 21-10,



Group photo

KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photograph at the 31st Convocation Ceremony of the University of Karachi on Saturday.



Photo: PIO

Nation has potential to put country on development path: President

Bureau Report

KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi said on Saturday that the nation had the potential to put the country on the path to prosperity and development.

While addressing the 31st Convocation of the University of Karachi here, he said that the country could be rehabilitated in five to ten years.

He said that humanity is reaching the skies through science and technology these days.

Congratulating the graduating students and scholars, Dr. Arif Alvi said that around two crore and 62 thousand children were out of school.

He said that the elite segment of society should come forward and play its role in bringing these children to the schools.

Stressing the need for creating an environment of moral and ethical thinking and values, he said that education did not become only the base of morality and ethics.

The president said that moral and ethical values were promoted by parents, teachers, and the environment of society.

He urged the graduating students to play a specific role in the promotion of moral values.

Speaking on Israeli brutalities in Gaza, he said that the intellectual battles had turned into western interests in the world.

He said that the circulation of video and audio clips on social media had created an environment of out-of-context conversations and

stressed the need for learning communication skills to cope with these challenges.

Earlier, the Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, and Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Khalid Iqbal also addressed the convocation.

The President, who is also the Chancellor of the public universities, put medals on the graduating students and scholars on the occasion.

Israel ignores urgent need of aid for Gaza Strip: Palestine Ministry

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Hardly a day goes by without the United Nations and its various specialized offices and directors working in humanitarian affairs issuing a warning of the consequences of the spread of famine in the Gaza Strip and the exposure of more than 2 million Palestinians to its dangers in a real and serious manner, stressing that every individual in the Gaza Strip is in dire need of aid.



Various types, starting from food, water, medicine, electricity, fuel, and safe shelter, especially in light of winter, heavy rain, and extreme cold. This is in addition to hundreds of daily demands and appeals issued by all countries, leaders, and officials, which demand the provision of basic humanitarian needs for our people in the Gaza Strip, but the occupying state does not care about those. They did not pay any

attention to the warnings and demands, and continued to continue the episodes of genocide for the 113th day in a row, deepening the humanitarian catastrophe and expanding it to include all the residents of the Gaza Strip, dooming them to a cycle of certain death in all aspects of their lives, imposing more forced

displacement on them, and now cramming more than 1.5 million Palestinians in the Rafah area to suffer the scourge of bombing, destruction, the policy of thirst and starvation, and deprivation of their basic rights. Not only that, but the occupation forces and police allowed the families of the Israelis kidnapped

to the Gaza Strip to enter the Kerem Shalom crossing, preventing the entry of aid for the fourth day in a row, in further evidence of the intentions of the occupying state and its insistence on implementing the threats of its officials and leaders to deprive all residents of the Gaza Strip of... Basic humanitarian

needs, despite the precautionary measures taken by the International Court of Justice and its official Israeli disdain for the fact that...

The Ministry believes that the systematic Israeli failure of Resolution 2720 and the continuation of the genocidal war against our people in the Gaza Strip after the issuance of the International Court of Justice decision, the closure of the Kerem Shalom crossing, and the prevention of the entry of aid are sufficient evidence to confirm the UN Security Council that only an immediate ceasefire will guarantee the protection of civilians and provide for their needs. Basic humanity.

FIA springs into action over 'anti-judiciary' campaign

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Following the formation of JIT, the Federal Investigation Authority (FIA) on Saturday sprung into action over the malicious anti-judiciary campaign.

As per details, the investigation authority has issued notices to 63 individuals, including 47 people from mainstream media and social media.

The hearing regarding these notices will be held on January 30 and 31. The FIA action against these individuals shows the severity and seriousness of this crime. Moreover, the FIA warned against spreading misinformation about the Chief Justice of Pakistan and other institutes.

It is pertinent to mention here that the caretaker government JIT to investigate a campaign reportedly launched against the judiciary following the Supreme Court's (SC) verdict that upheld



the Dec 22 decision of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) depriving PTI of its iconic symbol — 'bat'. According to a notification — a copy of which is available with ARY News, the federal government constituted a JIT in terms of Section 30 of Prevention of Elec-

tronic Crimes Act, 2016. Additional Director General (Cyber Crime Wing) FIA would be the Convener of the committee, which comprises representatives of Intelligence Bureau (IB), Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and DIG, Islamabad Police.

The JIT would ascertain facts behind 'malicious' social media campaign' attempting to malign the image of Judges of the apex court. Later, the authorities have officially decided to include the names of individuals leading anti-judiciary campaigns on social media in the Exit Control List (ECL) and the Stop List.

Pakistan Permanent Mission attends int'l event at WCO



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Permanent Representative has attended an event marking the International Customs Day 2024, on Saturday at the World Customs Organization (WCO), in Brussels, Belgium. Ian Saunders, new Secretary General WCO, spoke on the theme "Customs Engaging Traditional and New Partners with Purpose". Pakistan Permanent Mission to WCO in Belgium posted on X. https://x.com/PakCustomsWCO/status/17509568732708947867 s=20 The event was attended by all customs representatives based in Belgium.

India has no right to call itself a republic: Mushaah

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaah Husain Mulk said that the apartheid and supremacist Indian state had no right to celebrate its Republic Day in the bleeding Kashmir.

Mushaah criticised the RSS-led Indian government for celebrating the abrogation of the constitution, targeting minorities, and undermining the so-called democratic values, said a press release issued here.

The SAPM went on to say that it was shameful for India to call itself a republic despite the illegal occupation of Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK), which was converted into a world largest tortured cell.

Mushaah said that the notorious Indian authorities usurped fundamental rights of the Kashmiris, as top Kashmiri leadership including Yasin Malik were put in jails in fake and fabricated cases just to silence their voices.

SAPM lamented that India was committing the worst atrocities and usurped all legal and constitutional



rights of Kashmiris but the international community, UN bodies and human rights organization still called it the largest democracy, which was disgusting.

Mushaah remarked that Indian PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the idol of Lord Ram at the new temple constructed on the site where the Babri Masjid stood for centuries before being demolished by a Hinduva mob.

India's support for terrorism in neighboring countries violates UN Charter: Prof Cheng

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: India's support for terrorism and continuous masterminding and implementation of overseas assassinations with terrorist organizations is one of the main reasons for proliferation of international terrorism and its impact on global peace and stability, Cheng Xizhong, Visiting Professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law said on Saturday. The international community should strongly condemn India's acts of state terrorism, firmly protest India from using the "proxy war" to disrupt the social stability and economic development of neighboring countries, he said in a statement.

Prof Cheng noticed that after Pakistani Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi fully exposed the involvement of Indian agents in two terrorist attacks in Pakistan and India's years of hiring, financing and supporting terrorists in Pakistan, based on irrefutable evidences, at a press conference on Janu-



ary 25, the international media has conducted extensive coverage, which has aroused strong indignation among people across the world towards the Indian state terrorism. He pointed out that due to India's beggar-thy-neighbor policies, neighboring countries now have become victims of Indian state terrorism, India's "proxy war" and support for terrorism in neighboring countries seriously infringe on their sovereignty and violate the United Nations Charter, which is completely unacceptable. Terrorism is the common enemy for human kind. China firmly opposes double standards on counter-terrorism and stands ready to step up cooperation with other countries and jointly combat all forms of terrorism, he concluded.

No trust on new Election Management System, good turnout

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The participants of a webinar on fair and free elections were shown their doubts on a reasonable turnout for the February 8 poll of the February 8 elections. That is why the election campaigns are yet to take the conventional hype. On the other hand, the general public seems reluctant after the PTI is divided into factions, and one faction is pushed to the wall. It would hamper the overall turnout. Secondly, the people believe that the new Election Management System, a PKR 280 million system to ensure timely transmission of election results, would be used for maneuvering.

Dr. Khushboo Ejaz was having not seen any fair and free elections in the history of the country. The coming elections will be the worst in the form of pre-election rigging. One party has already been divided and sidelined, while social media mapping is used for segregation of voters' polling stations. Even the women of the same family have been assigned different polling stations, in most of the cases far away from each other.

Dr. Hassan Daud Butt said 2024 will be the historic year as 60 percent of the world will be going to elections including Pakistan, India, Russia and the US. It would have a significant impact not only on the internal situation of the respective country, but its spillover to the region and internationally.

Dr. Hassan highlighted that though our electoral process is aged, and needs reforms as it favours the elite, yet people should vote based on their own ideologies and agendas and support candidates who promote development and create opportunities.