Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs Minister announces review of Sehat Sahulat Program

The Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar presided over a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC), today. (Details on Page 8)

High Commission of Sri Lanka celebrates 76th Independence Day

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rajab-ul-Murajjab 27, Thursday, February 8, 2024







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Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the Royal Foundation of Gilgit Baltistan on



Waiting for transparency

Pakistan's key political parties gear up for national polls

Maveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: More than 128 million voters are set to elect their representatives for the national and provincial assemblies on Thursday (today) for the next five years in what appears to be one of the most unpredictable general elections in Pakistan's political

The traditional contest will once again be among the three major parties — Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) and Pakistan People's Party (PPP). However, the Imran Khan-led party will be contesting without its iconic symbol bat after Supreme Court declared its intra-party elections "unconstitutional".

The decision means PTI candidates will contest the elections 'independently'.

Some of these religious groups have fielded more candidates than the number of contestants of other

Faisal Vawda believes

THIS party will get

majority in general

elections 2024



of Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) and Jamat-e-Islami (JI). The TLP has fielded even more candidates than other political parties in the race for provincial assemblies.

Extensive arrangements have been put in place by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in coordination with various supporting departments, including law enforcement agencies

Approximately 18,000 candidates across the country are in the electoral arena to woo the registered voters (128,587,760) for about 855 general seats of National and Provincial Assemblies.

The ECP has announced a public holiday on February 8, in order to provide the voters an opportunity to exercise of right of franchise smoothly and conven-

The Commission has already issued a Code of Conduct for the voters as well for media-persons for Election Day. The poll- been worked out to receive elecing agents have been advised to tion results via WhatsApp display authorization cards.

The ECP said that there would be a complete ban on any campaign within the radius of 400 meters of a polling station and added that no candidate, polling agent or their supporters would interfere or hinder the official functioning.

The ECP has categorised over 17,500 as highly sensitive, 32,508 as sensitive and 42,500 as normal, out of a total of 92,500 polling stations nationwide.

The ECP has completed the training of approximately 1.49 million election staff to ensure the smooth execution of the electoral process.

The Commission has established an Election City in its premises, equipped with the latest technology to swiftly disseminate election results of 855 constituencies to the media.

A comprehensive strategy has

and fax. The ECP has also set up an alternative website to ensure uninterrupted dissemination of results in case of any disruptions.

The Election Management System (EMS) will operate even if internet connectivity were not available. Satellite communication arrangements have also been made in some areas facing connectivity issues.

Under the EMS, the photo of the Form 45 prepared by the Presiding Officer containing the result of the respective polling station will be swiftly transmitted to the respective Returning Officer for compiling of the results of the constituency on Form-47, which will be forwarded to the ECP and also shared with the media.

In case of connectivity issues, the results will be compiled through off-line modules.

Continue on page 7

New Govt will have to pursue another IMF

Caretaker government stood by commitment of holding elections on Feb 8: Solangi

👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Former federal minister Faisal Vawda has come up with a prediction regarding the winner of the General Elec-

tions 2024 and political party's position in the National Assembly.

Faisal Vawda said that results after the polls would be a surprise, reckoning that no party will be able to get the majority in 342-member The former federal minister said that no party

would be able to form the government alone. He reckoned that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz would be the single largest party with 80 to 100 seats in the National Assembly.

Faisal Vawda said that Pakistan People's Party will be runners-up in the General Elections 2024 with 50 to 70 seats. He said that independent candidates would play 'kingmaker' role this time around by winning good number of seats.

The former federal minister has foreseen the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan wining eight to 13 National Assembly seats from urban parts of Sindh. He said that Moulana Fazalur Rehman led Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam would secure nine to 12 seats from its strongholds.

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Wednesday that the caretaker government had stood by its commitment of holding general elections on the schedule given by Election Commission of Pakistan (

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of Media Coordination and Facilitation Center established by Press Information Department here, he said tomorrow morning the voting would start and by midday half of the polling would have been

Referring to speculations, he said there were doubts and concerns in people's minds regarding the elections.

"We stood by the promise

of holding polls and elections are being held (tomorrow), putting aside all fears and rumours," Murtaza Solangi maintained.

The minister said that the caretaker government had taken all possible steps for ensuring the conduct of free and transparent elec-He said after oath-taking

of caretaker government on August 17 last year, in his first press briefing here the very next day, the first question he was asked about the elections and his answer was that elections would be held on the timeframe given by the ECP.

Murtaza Solangi said that this country was established under constitutional democracy and constitutional federal parliamentary system was the foundation of its political

The minister said that Ministry of Information and Broadcasting facilitated the media and provided authentic and verified news to the public through the relevant institutions.

He said that the Press Information Department had set up Media Facilitation Center to facilitate both local and foreign media in coverage of elections.

Federal Information Secretary, Shahera Shahid said that all possible facilities would be provided to the journalists in the Media Coordination and Facilitation Center here and other cities as well.

She said that Press Information Department had been establishing such centres during elections in the past as well and it had a experienced officers and

programme: Shehbaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday asserted that a new government following elections would have to pursue another programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), emphasising major decisions to strength-Speaking to a private

news channel, the former prime minister said that the new government following elections will be compelled to undertake major decisions, urging voters to choose his party for economic stability. Shehbaz Sharif emphasised the need for comprehensive economic reforms, saying that the restructuring of the economy is the need of the hour to address broader issues facing the national economy.

Communication infrastructure, imperative for GB development: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD,: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said that development of the proper communication system and other necessary infrastructure in Gilgit-Baltistan was important to ensure sustainable development of the area.

"The construction of a communication system and other necessary infrastructure can further promote the tourism sector of Gilgit-Baltistan and create opportunities for economic development in the region," he said while talking to a 17-member delegation of Royal Foundation of Gilgit-Baltistan, headed by Raja Nazimul Amin.

Prime Minister Kakar said Gilgit-Baltistan was rich in natural resources and the people of the area were very hospitable.

He said that a positive trend in tourism had been witnessed in the area after the upgradation of Skardu Airport to the international airport.

He said multiple countries were showing keen interest to collaborate with Pakistan in Haq Kakar.

the tourism sector.

The prime minister directed the authorities concerned to devise a strategy to work out a sustainable solution to the issue of electricity in Gilgit-Baltistan.

He also directed to devise a plan for enhancing the quota of GB students in the higher education and technical education sectors of all provinces of the country.

He said the overall development of Gilgit-Baltistan was linked with the social integration across the area. He also appreciated the

services of Royal Foundation

of Gilgit-Baltistan in multiple sectors in the area. The delegation presented proposals to the prime minister to improve the working of

various sectors of Gilgit-Baltistan. The prime minister was apprised that some 1.6 million tourists visited Gilgit-Baltistan

last vear. On the occasion, members of the Royal Foundation of Gilgit-Baltistan also presented a cultural robe as a souvenir to Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-

Election 2024: Blast in Pishin claims 14 lives

₽PA

PISHIN: At least 14 dead and 30 others sustained injuries in a blast occurred near election office in PB-47 Pishin Balochistan ahead of the general election 2024

As per details, Deputy Commissioner Juma Dad said the bomb reportedly planted on a motorbike exploded near the election office of PB-47 Independent candidate Asfandiyar Kakar and claimed the lives of 14 people whereas 30 others sustained injuries.

He said that the law enforcement agencies have cordonedoff the area and injured have been shifted to nearby hospital in critical condition.

Earlier, a bomb blast reportedly occurred outside the office of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) located in Nushki District of Balochistan. The police officials in a state-

ment claimed that the bomb was set outside the gate of the ECP office, meanwhile, no

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has taken notice of Pishin blast and sought report from the IG Balochistan and chief secretary.

casualties have been reported

in the incident.

It is pertinent to mention here that at least six people were killed and 13 others sustained injuries in three violent incidents in Balochistan's Sibi, Quetta and Chaman and Khyber Pakhunthwa's Bajaur district within span of a day.

Related: ECP declares 50% polling stations 'sensitive' or 'most sensitive'

PID makes elaborate arrangements for coverage of polling, elections results



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Press Information Department(PID) has made elaborate arrangements for coverage of the polling and the elections results on February 08, 2024.

For coverage of polling stations 37 media teams of local and foreign correspondents will be conducted at various polling stations in the urban and rural areas by PID headquarters and its regional offices, said a press release issued here Wednesday.

In addition, PID has set up election media centers in Islamabad and its regional offices at the provisional capitals. The center at Islamabad has been equipped with the latest means of communication to enable journalists to file their reports through the fastest available means. The Election Media Centre

will make available to the journalists all the necessary facilitation under one roof, where journalists will be able to instantly receive election results as announced by the Election Commission and transmit the same to their respective media outlets. All the regional offices will also setup media Election Media Centre at their respective stations.

Khanewal finalizes election arrangements for general elections: DCO

👺 Waqar Paracha

KHANEWAL: On the direction of the Election Commission of Pakistan. the district administration of Khanewal finalized the arrangements for the general elections at 1452 polling stations on 4 constituencies of the National Assembly and 8 constituencies of the Provincial Assembly on February 8-in the district.

The total number of registered voters is 1942633, in which the number of male voters is 1043272, while the number of female voters is 899361. 1452 polling stations will be built across the district. Deputy Commissioner / District Returning Officer Waseem Hamid Sindhu and DPO Rana Umar Farooq reviewed the supply of election materials at



Boys Model High School Khanew- the transport used for delivery of elec-

points established at Government al and Kabirwala, Mian Chanu-and

tion materials. Also inspected-Deputy Commissioner on this occasion. While talking, it was said that all the materials will be delivered to the polling stations for the general elections by tonight. The polling for the general elections will be started early in the morning. The plan is formedto disturb the peace. Action will be taken against the guilty candidates and supporters-DPO Rana Umar Farooq said that

Along with police personnel, trained volunteers will perform security duties at the polling stations

A comprehensive plan has been made to provide fool proof security to

the polling stations of the four tehsils The District Police is always vigilant and alert to deal with any unto-

Preparation

ISLAMABAD: Members of polling staff leave after collecting polling material for general elections at a collage sector G-8,



ance, the factories are being sealed and heavy fines are being imposed while the mandate of product registration is with

Committee on Food and Aids to invite DG Food to address concerns of industry

MULTAN: The meeting of Sub-Committee on Food and Aidemeters Committee of Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Multan, discussed on FBRSROs, Food Authority issues, it was decided to invite DG Food to visit the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Multan. In this regard, a meeting of the sub-committee of the House on Food and Aids was held under the chairmanship of the convener Sheikh Faisal Saeed.

Hammad and committee secretary Sajid Ansari attended the meeting Addressing a meeting to discuss invoicing are not immediately feasible, the issue of SROs for digital invoicing especially for small distributors and and registration of food products by the Food Authority, Sheikh Faisal Saeed and Nadeem Ahmed Sheikh said that



the government should consult stakeholders before making or implementing a policy. Advise to solve problems in implementation of government policiesHe said that FBR's SROs for digital retailers. and apply it to the remaining tiers in a phased manner.

The government is only busy in

the Pakistan Standard Quality Control Authority, the Food Authority is not authorized to do so, while the Food Authority is also asking for a heavy fee for registration. implementing laws while not paying attention to the problems faced by

Nadeem Ahmed Sheikh During his address in the meeting, he said that of MultanThe food industry is doing the best in South Punjab by paying taxes and also providing employment opportunities to the people. Organizations related to stakeholders also regarding standards. In the meeting, it was decided that the DG Food Authorier. He also expressed concern over the ty will be invited to visit the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan to expressed and said that registration of solve the problems and issues related food productsIn case of non-complito the food industry.

Kashmiris have great hopes for positive outcome from 2024 elections: Sardar Attique

B Abdul Majeed Tahir



RAWALPIN-Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan President Muslim Conference, ex-Premier AJK has said Kashmiris in both parts of

their state have pinned great hopes for nationally and regionally positive outcome from tomorrow, Feb 8, 2024 national elections in Pakistan. "Our Kashmir struggle basically aims at ideological and geographic completion of Pakistan by acceding entire Jammu and Kashmir state to Pakistan. It is our long held dream. For its realization Kashmiris are making unreserved human and material sacrifices. Kashmiri women, s role conflicts, he assured.

in the struggle is upfront".

Sardar Attique Khan made these remarks while speaking to a delegation Wednesday of Mothers and Wives of Kashmiri martyrs at his residence Mujahjd Manzil here. "We salute mothers and wives of brave Kashmiri martyrs offering lives in ongoing Kashmir struggle for a great cause". he added.

He said Kashmiris across dividing line are hopeful of pro-Kashmir victory of ideological forces of Pakistan. Both PMLN and Muslim Conference are committed themselves to strengthen Kashmir cause together at regional and international levels for a peaceful honourable settlement of Kashmir dispute. UN Kashmir resolutions guarantee peaceful solution. We all abide by them. Our stance is clear. Permanent peace in the region should replace

PM AJK chair special meeting on agriculture, livestock

跨 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: An extraordinary meeting of the Department of Agriculture and Livestock was held here with Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Hag in the chair.

the industry and trade. To solve the

problems, the industry, trade organ-

izations and representative organi-

zations have to make a plan togeth-

actions of the Punjab Food Authority.

Besides the officials of the Department of Agriculture and Livestock, the meeting was attended by senior minister Colonel (Rtd) Waqar Noor, Agriculture Minister Sardar Mir Akbar Khan, Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq, Abdul Majid Khan and others.

During the meeting, secretary of Agriculture & Livestock, Amir Mehmood Mirza, gave a detailed briefing about the Department of Agriculture Livestock, Dairy Development, Small Dams, Horticulture, Irrigation and other departments. Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Haq said that agriculture and livestock were very potential sectors in which people could invest and make significant gains. He

said that efforts should be made to convince people, attract and encourage them to get involved in agriculture, especially focusing on planting

He said that the development of agriculture and livestock sectors could be instrumental in creating employment opportunities. He directed the concerned authorities to provide maximum facilities to farmers. "There is a dire need to focus on agriculture and guide the farmers to adopt scientific methods of cultivation to maximize crop vield", he said. He said that besides promoting poultry farming and animal breeding, interest-free must be provided to youth who want to set up dairy

The Prime Minister also directed the Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock and other relevant authorities to submit a detailed report about all completed and incomplete projects of the last five years within a week.

Punjab Police preparing for election security in all districts: IG



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Preparations of Punjab Police are complete for the peaceful conduct of Election 2024.

Police teams in all districts including Multan will take over duty

points today, IG Punjab More than 01 lakh 30 thousand officers and officials of Punjab Police

are posted for election security The installation of more than 32 thousand CCTV cameras has been

completed for monitoring the election process The implementation of the code of conduct of the Election Commission is being ensured, Dr. Usman Anwar

Indiscriminate action is being taken against those responsible for violation of the Election Code of Conduct, Section 144, Arms.

Aerial firing at polling stations, fights and sabotage of election process will be dealt with indiscriminately

Additional personnel, Dolphin Force and other teams including Quick Response will be deployed at 5577 highly sensitive polling stations across Punjab.

Dr. Usman Anwar said that border check posts are being strictly monitored to stop anti-national and evil elements

Army repairs Abbaspur Boys Primary School on Line of Control



Abdul Majeed Tahir

ABBASPUR: Government Boys Primary School Police Pothi located on the Line of Control by Pakistan Army has been repaired and made usable. This school was in a dilapidated condition, the school was affected due to enemy firing, earthquakes and various natural disasters and the teaching activities of the children were also affected. After the renovation, the opening ceremony was held by the Pakistan Army. The newly renovated school building was inaugurated by the mother of a local martyr Muhammad Aslam of 702 Mujahid Battalion of Polace Pothi, who cut a ribbon from her hand. In addition to officers and soldiers, local people also participated. The people of the area appreciated the initiative of the Pakistan Army and the people of the area said that the Pakistan Army is protecting our borde well as doing welfare work. We thank and pay tribute to these public friendly services they added.

Election Commission completes delivery of election materials in Multan: DCO



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Captain Retired Rizwan Qadir said that the delivery of election materials to the polling stations has been completed by the Election Commission and the citizens will be provided with a peaceful voting environment on the day of the general elections.

He said that 262 polling stations have been declared sensitive for

general elections where foolproof security will be provided. He expressed these views while visiting the Central Election Office established in Multan Public School yesterday. The Election Commission officials also gave a detailed briefing on the arrangements.

Deputy Commissioner Captain Retired Rizwan Qadir said that on the instructions of the Election Commission, all the polling stations have been fully activated and the staff has been appointed, while the presiding officers have been handed over ballot papers and polling booths from the Central Election Office. He said that the general elections. All equipment at the polling stations last night for The polling for the general elections will be started early in the morning. The Deputy Commissioner clarified that the presiding officers have been given additional personnel for the security of election materials, while a foolproof security plan has also been formed for law and order. The Deputy Commissioner said that the candidates guilty of disturbing the peace and Strict action will be taken against the supporters

Women Play their Role in Changing the System Through Voting. Dr Humira Tariq

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: General Secretary Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Dr. Humira Tariq and Provincial President Tasneem Sarwar have said in a statement regarding the National and Provincial Assembly elections held on February 8 that vote is a trust and its time should be used properly. The main need is for transparent elections and democracy in PakistanStability is the guarantee of peace and prosperity and honest leadership free from corruption is the real solution to the problems. To participate fairly and honestly in the political process of Pakistan-It is indispensable for development and stability. Vote is a testimony. Proper use of vote is a duty for every conscious person. Dr. Humira Tariq said that prosperity and peace are knocking at your door at this time. Libra. And in the case of trustworthy people, the best chance of selection is available. My appeal to women is that 8Reach the polling station on February and consider this election as a golden opportunity to beautify the country and play your full role in change through voting.

Bilateral success

High Commission of Sri Lanka celebrates 76th Independence Day

B Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The High Commission of Sri Lanka in Islamabad commemorated the 76th anniversary of the independence of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka with a splendid ceremony held at a local hotel in Islamabad.

Dr. Nadeem Jan, the Federal Minister for Health Services, Regulation and Coordination was the chief guest on the occasion. Dignitaries, Sri Lankan High Commission staff, representatives, and friends of Sri Lanka, including the Honorary Consul of Sri Lanka in Lahore, Yasin Joya, and the Honorary Consul in Karachi, graced the occasion with their presence.

Dr. Nadeem Jan extended warm congratulations to the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka for orchestrating a successful event and conveyed felicitations from the Government and people of Pakistan to the Government and people of Sri Lanka on their Independence Day. He highlighted the decadeslong diplomatic, trade, and defence relations between the two countries, acknowledging the shared challenges and mutual cooperation.

In his address, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka Admiral Wijegunaratne (retd) delivered an inspiring speech, shedding light on recent developments and remarkable achievements in Sri Lanka, particularly in the fight against terrorism. He extended gratitude to the Pakistani government and military for their steadfast support across various domains and underscored the need for further fortifying the enduring friendship and robust defence ties between the two nations.

The celebration commenced with the stirring national anthems of both Sri Lanka and Pakistan, performed by a distinguished military band. This moment of unity was followed by the ceremonial lighting of the traditional lamp by the esteemed High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, along with the Chief Guest and other eminent dignitaries, symbolizing enlightenment and

The event also featured an engaging three-minute video showcasing Sri Lanka's development strides and achievements, underscoring the nation's commitment to interna tional collaboration. Notably, the video spotlighted Sri Lanka's significant humanitarian gesture of donating over 30,000 eye corneas to Pakistan, exemplifying the deep-rooted humanitarian bonds between the two nations.







The ceremonial cutting of the Sri Lankan Independence Day cake was a moment of camaraderie, led by High Commissioner Admiral Ravindra Vijaygunaratne, along with Chief Guest Federal Health Minister Nadeem Jan, the High Commissioner of Mauritius, Defense Attaché of South Africa, and other esteemed dignitaries.

Earlier: The High Commission of Sri Lanka in Islamabad, Pakistan celebrated the 76th Anniversary of the Independence of Sri Lanka on 4th February 2024 at the High Commission premises.

The official ceremony in the morning of 04th February commenced with the hoisting of the national flag by His Excellency Admiral Ravindra C Wijegunaratne (Retd), the High Commissioner followed by rendering of the National Anthem in Sinhala, observing two-minute silence to pay tribute to those who made the supreme sacrifice on behalf of the nation.

After the lighting of the traditional lamp by the by the High Commissioner and dignitaries, the religious ceremony commenced with blessings for the country, the leader and the people of Sri Lanka by clergies/ priests representing Buddhism, Islam, Christianity and Hindu reli-

The National Day message of H. E the President was read out by H. E the High Commissioner (Sinhala) followed by in Tamil and English by Mr A Christy Ruban, Minister and Brigadier Kaminda Silva, Minister Counsellor (Defence) of this Mission respectively. Later, Admiral Wijegunaratne

(Retd) made an inspiring and thought-provoking speech, highlighting responsibilities of citizens especially youths' contributions towards the country's development, and long-standing friendly rela-

tions of both nations, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

At the end of the formal event, the invitees numbering around 120 including the Honorary Consul of Sri Lanka to Peshawar, Tri Forces Officers and a large number of students following various courses/ higher studies in the universities in Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Peshawar along with home-based staff and local staff of the High Commission and their family members were served lunch including milk rice hosted by the High Commission.

The occasion concluded with the playing of national Anthem in

Photos by Raja Farid





Dr. Faisal Mushtaq honoured with the prestigious Best Young Entrepreneur in Education Award 2024

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Faisal Mushtaq transformed classrooms but has also Tamgha-e-Imtiaz, a visionary leader and the esteemed Founder & CEO of The Millennium Education Group, has been conferred with the prestigious ber of Commerce & Industry ICCI. This distinguished accolade was presented cation and groundbreaking initiatives within the education sector.

Dr. Faisal Mushtaq's tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to excelheights, making a profound impact on the educational landscape of Pakistan. His visionary leadership has not only

significantly contributed to shaping the future of education in the nation.

The presentation ceremony, held at the illustrious Aiwan-e-Sadr in "Best Young Entrepreneur in Education Islamabad, was attended by a pleth-Award 2024" by the Islamabad Chamora of notable dignitaries, including esteemed government officials, ambassadors, accomplished entrepreneurs, to him by none other than the esteemed and distinguished members of the President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi, in media. President Dr. Arif Alvi graced recognition of his unparalleled dedi- the occasion as the Chief Guest, further amplifying the significance of this prestigious honour.

The "Best Young Entrepreneur in Education Award" serves as a testalence have propelled The Millennium ment to Dr. Faisal Mushtaq's exception-Education Group to unprecedented al vision, leadership, and unwavering dedication to educational excellence Over the span of 18 years, Dr. Faisal Mushtaq has consistently demonstrat-



redefined the educational landscape of ed exemplary leadership, spearheading transformative initiatives that have

Quoting the founding father of technological advancements. Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who once said, "Pakistan is proud of her youth, particularly the students, who are nation builders of tomorrow," Dr. Faisal Mushtaq epitomizes the spirit of this statement through his relentless pursuit of educational excellence. His endeavours encompass a myriad of initiatives, ranging from fostering academic excellence to promoting extracurricular achievements, environmental awareness, and international collaborations.

Under Dr. Faisal Mushtaq's dynamic leadership, The Millennium Education Group has emerged as a beacon of educational excellence, offering worldclass CAIE results in both IGCSE, AS & A Levels, alongside innovative teaching methodologies infused with the latest

Indeed, Dr. Faisal Mushtaq's unwa-

vering commitment to excellence and tireless efforts in the realm of education epitomize his stature as a dynamic force and an exemplary figure within the education sector.

Speaking to the media on the occasion, an accomplished and elated Dr. Faisal Mushtaq said that; "I dedicate this award to the Youth of Pakistan: My dear youngsters, I would like you to know that education is the best tool to bring a positive change in society, to develop a generation of responsible individuals and contribute to the development of good human beings. Education will give you wings; will tell you where to fly; will make you socially aware and will finally tell you what's right, what's wrong"

Thursday, February 8, 2024

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Israeli offensive in 'overcrowded Rafah' could amount to 'war crimes'

ny move by Israel to extend its full-scale invasion of Gaza into the massively overcrowded southern city of Rafah could lead to war crimes which must be prevented at all costs, the UN Aid Coordination Office, OCHA, Tuesday. "We, as the UN and Member States of the UN, can bear witness," OCHA spokesperson Jens Laerke told journalists in Geneva. "We can make clear what the law says: under international humanitarian law, indiscriminate bombing of densely populated areas may amount to war

The development came as OCHA reported an "increase in strikes" in the Rafah governorate on Sunday and Monday. At the same time, thousands of Gazans continue to flood into Rafah, including many who have fled intense fighting in Khan Younis. "To be clear, intensified hostilities in Rafah in this situation could lead to large-scale loss of civilian lives, and we must do everything possible within our power to avoid that," Laerke said. Confirming accounts of ongoing heavy fighting in Khan Younis, Tommaso Della Longa from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) reported that 8,000 Gazans who had been sheltering at Al Amal Hospital had left the facility on Monday after Israeli authorities guaranteed safe passage. Despite this positive development, the situation in Gaza is "beyond catastrophic...a nightmare" that continues to get worse, the IFRC spokesperson said, as he mourned the death of aid worker, Hedaya Hamad, from the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), killed during shelling at Al Amal Hospital compound last Friday. "In the last more than two weeks, the hospital was surrounded by heavy shelling, fighting, no way in, no way out, (it was) hit several times and the last time was last Friday when this colleague was killed," Della Longa said, describing desperate shortages of medicine, food and water and the "almost impossible" task of replenishing stocks and of gaining access for ambulances. Almost 100 people remain inside the ailing health facility, including staff and volunteers as well as elderly patients and others with disabilities who could not be moved. "I don't want even to think about the possibility of whether Al Amal will close in the next coming days," said the IFRC spokesperson, noting that the same scenario had played out at another hospital, Al Quds, in Gaza City, which the PCRS declared closed on 12 November. "The reality is that if the situation does not change, it will be very difficult to continue the activities in the hospital."

Election 2024: Reaffirmation democratic journey - II

Qamar Bashir

the choice of political entities to engage rather than opt for boycotts, delays, or advocate for autocratic solutions underscores a pivotal shift towards deepening democratic norms indicating a resilient commitment to democratic principles amidst adversity. not scientifically struc-This collective resolve of Pakistan's political factions, intellectual community, and citizens arguably emphasizes the importance of democratic integrity and continuity, effectively curtailing any attempts by undemocratic elements to impose their agenda, thereby safeguarding the democratic process and ensuring its resilience against potential disruptions.

PML(N) is running a vigorous campaign, primarily concentrated in central Punjab and Hazara Division allegedly supported by the state machinery while neglecting other key provinces like KP, Sindh, and Balochistan. The PML(N) campaign is well-organized and directed by Nawaz Sharif, with Maryam Nawaz and Shahbaz Sharif providing strong support. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s ability to run an effective campaign is highly compromised due to the absence of its chairman and key leaders, coupled with the lack of its own election symbol. Moreover its public meetings have completely been blocked on the mainstream media, and as alternative it is struggling to leverage Social media that too is subjected to planned slow down as and when required. Meanwhile, the PPP campaign, led by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari with Asif Zardari making a positive impression, seems to be gaining traction.

both traditional and social, have been provincial power as more lucrative and exceptionally active, providing extensive coverage of the election campaigns. Renowned anchorpersons took to the streets, engaging with everyday citizens

to gauge their electoral preferences. While these interactions were tured, they did unveil some regional inclinations. In Central Punjab, there seems to be a tilt towards PML(N), with PTI also receiving notable support. Sindh's rural areas are predominantly leaning towards

PPP, while urban centers show a preference for MQM. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (formerly NWFP), a significant sympathy vote appears to favor PTI, reflecting the party's strong foothold in the region. Meanwhile, Balochistan presents a more diverse picture, with no clear dominance by any national party, indicating a fragmented political landscape.

Unfortunately there is also a growing belief that mainstream parties are prioritizing forming provincial governments in the upcoming elections. This stems from the perception that provinces offer larger budgets, greater decision-making freedom with less scrutiny, and fewer financial obligations compared to the federal government. The center, conversely, faces stricter oversight, smaller budgets, and heavier debts, often relying on foreign loans to function, while spending primarily occurs in the provinces, seemingly without responsibility for

less accountable, raising concerns about national priorities and fiscal responsi-

The crude findings are also supported by According to different surveys,

reflecting a close race, showing leading parties PTI and PML-N neckand-neck. Economic woes and security concerns loom large, while Khan's disqualification adds uncertainty. Other parties like PPP hold regional strongholds.

Based on the discussion, survey reports, and media analysis, the PML-N, led by Nawaz Sharif, is likely to have a significant advantage in forming the government at the center due to its established political base and apparent mending of ties with the military, which plays a crucial role in Pakistan's political landscape. The PTI, despite facing significant challenges including legal battles, the disqualification of its leader Imran Khan, and issues surrounding its election symbol, may still manage to retain some influence, particularly in provinces where it has a strong support base. In Punjab, the competition between PML-N and PTI is expected to be fierce, with both parties vying for dominance. The political maneuvering and alliances formed in the run-up to the elections could be key to determining the outcome in this crucial province.

PPP, led by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari,

In this election season, media outlets, loan repayment. Essentially, parties see may continue to hold sway in its traditional stronghold of Sindh but could face challenges expanding its influence beyond this province due to the current political dynamics and its need to form crucial alliances in Punjab. In Khvber Pakhtunkhwa, PTI has historically had strong support, but the party's current challenges might impact its performance in the upcoming elections. Balochistan's political landscape is often more fragmented, with local parties and alliances playing significant roles. The situation in Balochistan may remain fluid, with various parties and independent candidates likely to influence the formation of the provincial government.

Amidst challenges, Pakistan's move towards the 2024 elections epitomizes the nation's resolve to sustain its democratic ethos. Despite the pre-election phase's uneven playing field and significant political entities facing hurdles, the unanimous decision against election boycotts or delays reflects a collective dedication to democratic values. This commitment, coupled with a notable surge in voter registration highlighting gender inclusivity, underscores the importance of a transparent, fair electoral process for Pakistan's democratic integrity and future stability. The forthcoming elections are a critical juncture, symbolizing not just a political transition but a reaffirmation of Pakistan's democratic journey in the face of adversity.

Writer Is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former MD, SRBC



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

Corps Commanders Conference and Public Endorsement for Pak Army - I

at the forefront of security, ensuring the safety and well-being of its citizens. Recognizing and valuing the sacrifices and service of these courageous men and women goes beyond a mere patriotic duty; it becomes an essential imperative.

The primary role of any nation's armed forces is to safeguard its freedom and sovereignty. Our military personnel dedicate their lives to defending the principles and values that constitute the benefit society as a whole. foundation of our society. Expressing love for the

army is a manifestation of our gratitude for the freedoms we enjoy and the sacrifices made to preserve them. A robust and well-supported military is crucial for ensuring national security. The affection and backing of the public contribute significantly to the morale of the armed forces, nurturing a sense of unity and purpose.

A nation that holds genuine affection for its army recognizes the pivotal role it plays in maintaining peace and stability, both within the country and on the international stage. Beyond their defensive duties, armed forces often play a vital role in disaster response and humanitarian efforts. Demonstrating love and support for the army extends to acknowledging their efforts in times of crisis, whether it involves providing aid during natural disasters or participating in peacekeeping missions. Their willingness to serve in diverse capacities demonstrates a commitment to the well-being of the global community.

Soldiers willingly endure personal sacrifices, including time away from family, rigorous training, and exposure to danger. Acknowledging and appreciating these sacrifices is an expression of lives on the line for the greater good. It is a recog-

the character of those who serve.

The armed forces instill values such as discipline, leadership, and professionalism in their members. These qualities contribute not only to the effectiveness of the military but also to the development of responsible and capable individuals. Loving the army reflects our respect for the positive values they instill in their personnel, values that often extend beyond the military and

Armed forces often play a significant role in national development, contributing to infrastructure projects, technological advancements, and community outreach. Supporting and loving the army involves recognizing their multifaceted contributions to the progress and prosperity of the nation, extending beyond their traditional defense functions. A strong military acts as a

deterrent to potential threats, helping to prevent conflicts and maintain global peace. Loving the army acknowledges its role in preventing the escalation of tensions and fostering an environment where diplomatic solutions can be pursued.

Abdul Basit Alvi

Youth, often hailed as the backbone of a nation, play a pivotal role in shaping the future and driving progress. The importance of the youth in a country cannot be overstated, as they represent not only the present but also the promise of a brighter tomorrow.

One of the pivotal contributions of young individuals to a nation lies in their innate ability to think innovatively and challenge the established norms. The enthusiasm and fresh perspectives of young minds frequently lead to the innovation and development of novel technologies, love for the individuals who selflessly put their methodologies, and ideas, crucial for a nation's competitiveness in the global arena. The youth

n every country, the armed forces stand inition of the courage and dedication that define form a significant portion of the workforce, and their active involvement in the economy is indispensable for sustained growth. A dynamic and skilled young workforce not only drives productivity but also attracts investments and fosters entrepreneurship. Nations with a youthful demographic are better positioned to adapt to economic changes, ensuring resilience in the face of challenges.

Youth often spearhead social movements, advocating for positive change and contributing to the evolution of societal norms. Their passion for justice, equality, and environmental sustainability can lead to transformative social policies, fostering a more inclusive society. The energy and commitment of the youth contribute to building a nation that values diversity and respects human rights. Investing in the education and skill development of the youth is an investment in the nation's future. Equipping young people with knowledge, skills, and training enhances their employability, enabling them to make meaningful contributions to the workforce. A well-educated youth population lays the foundation for a knowledge-based economy, driving

long-term prosperity. Youth engagement in politics and governance is crucial for a vibrant democracy. The active participation of young individuals in the political process introduces fresh perspectives, new ideas, and a commitment to addressing contemporary challenges. Empowering the youth in decision-making processes helps build a more representative and responsive government. The youth play an instrumental role in preserving cultural heritage while contributing to its evolution. Their engagement in the arts, literature, and cultural activities ensures the continuity of traditions, while their creative expressions add vibrancy and dynamism to the cultural landscape.

To be continued

Comparative analysis of the economic stewardship during the tenures of PDM and PTI - I

Kiran Asim

during the tenures of the Pakiexamination of their respective economic net reserves of \$3 billion, derived by subtracting management strategies and outcomes.

It is incumbent upon us to scrutinize the effi-(PDM) economic stewardship, specifically juxta-

Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI) administration for a comprehensive assessment.

Given the truncated tenure of the PDM administration, it is imperative to juxtapose its efficacy over an analogous preliminary interval with that of the PTI government, thereby facilitating an equitable eval-

We shall endeavor to juxtapose the magnitude of crises confronting the PTI administration at its inception in August 2018 with the circumstances bequeathed to the PDM government come April 2022. Subsequently, we shall scrutinize the pivotal metrics encapsulating the outcomes attained by both the PTI and PDM

Initially, let us delve into the magnitude of the predicaments. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) assumed responsibility amidst a current account deficit amounting to 6.1% of the gross domestic product (GDP), while conversely, the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) was bequeathed a current account deficit of 4.6%

The incumbent Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) administration assumed a current account

nalyzing the fiscal stewardship deficit approximately one-third more severe than the deficit bequeathed to the preceding stan Democratic Movement Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) govern-(PDM) and Pakistan Tehreek- ment. Examining the reserves at the commencee-Insaf (PTI) involves a nuanced ment of the PTI tenure, the State Bank exhibited forward swaps from gross reserves.

Upon the ascendancy of the Pakistan Democacy of the Pakistan Democratic Movement's cratic Movement (PDM), the State Bank of Pakistan's net reserves amounted to a sum of \$6 posing it with the governance of the Pakistan billion. In simple terms, it can be delineated that

> the external crises bequeathed to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) administration were notably more severe in nature.

During the inaugural year of the PTI administration, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) experienced a modest ascent, registering a growth rate of 3.1%. Concurrently, the manufacturing sector exhib-

ited a marginally higher expansion, recording a growth of 3.5% within the same timeframe.

According to the estimated GDP figures released by the PDM administration in 2023, economic growth plummeted to a mere 0.3%. Consequently, the per capita income has experienced a decline that year, owing to the population growth rate of 2.5% per annum, as reported by the 2023 census. The manufacturing sector witnessed an even graver downturn, with largescale manufacturing shrinking by a substan-

The economic landscape was unequivocally eviscerated as a consequence of the measures undertaken, or the absence thereof, by the PDM

To be continued

'Foundation of The Country, Support of The State'

Mal Saidov

"...(Alisher's) titles were written like this: "The guide, the highest point of honor and respect, the head of religion and statesmen, the strength of the leaders of the country and nation, the initiator of good deeds, the developer of charity institutions, the pillar of the kingdom, the ruler of kings Amir Alisher, the leader, the hope and trust of the sultan's state, the sultan's close friend, the law of truth and religion."

From the work "Ravzat us-safo" by Khondamir

his year, on February 9, the 583rd anniversary of the birth of the great poet and thinker Alisher Navoi is widely celebrated. All the cultural and educational activities related to this blessed day will logically complement each other and will be of great importance in raising the spirituality of our country.

A new work on the life and work

Alisher Navoi as an enlightened person was mentioned in historical sources both during his lifetime and in later periods, and was widely described and described in poetic works. For more than five centuries, many books have been written about the life path and creative activity of His Holiness Navoi.

The ideas of humanity and tolerance, goodness and justice are embodied in the life philosophy embedded in the core of Hazrat Navoi's works. Our contemporaries, who are building a new Uzbekistan and rebuilding the foundation of the Third Renaissance, should have such good qualities. Why, the call of the President of Uzbekistan that "Spirituality should be ahead of other areas, become a new force, a new movement" requires exactly that.

Only in the 20th century, such outstanding scientists and writers as Izzat Sultan, Vahid Zohidov, Oybek, Aziz Qayumov, Hamid Sulaymanov, Natan Mallaev, Suyima G'anieva published their scientific, historical, literary and artistic works dedicated to various aspects of Alisher Navoi's work. At the beginning of the new century-in New Uzbekistan, the consistent research of Navoi scientists and writers is rising to higher levels.

Shuhrat Sirojiddinov is a dedicated researcher and one of the leading authors of this field. We share this opinion with the scientist's book "Amir Alisher" published in 2023. The book "Life and activity" clearly confirms this.

In what respects does the new book differ from other works? As noted in the summary (resume) on the first page of this publication, the main distinguishing features are:

firstly, the first manuscript sources related to Alisher Navoi's life and work were revised;

secondly, the degree of differentiation of information from early sources in the period before the 20th century was determined;

thirdly, some unknown aspects of the life of the great poet and statesman are clarified;

fourthly, by presenting a number of new information, it was possible to fully imagine the details of His Holiness Navoi's

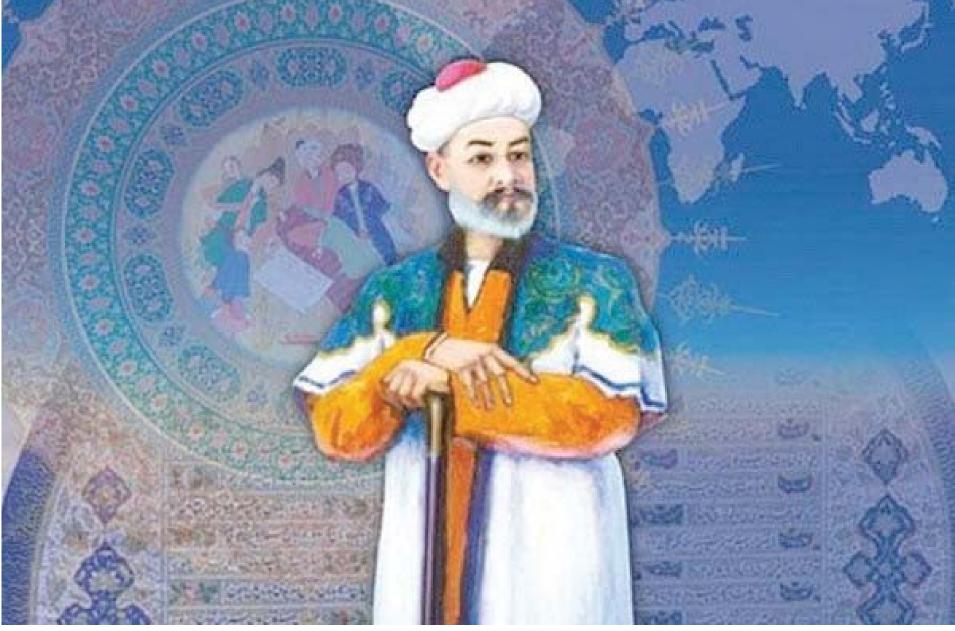
In this sense, the new book is a synthesis of the long-term research of the well-known naveistologist. This work is, so to speak, a weighty summary of in-depth scientific and creative research processes on a specif-

Alisher Navoi as a great figure of the Second Eastern Renaissance

In this book, as the author himself admits, "the biography of Alisher Navoi based on the information given in the oldest, first sources" is covered. This is very important from a scientific-historical point of view.

Because today's reality related to New Uzbekistan puts on the agenda to promote Alisher Navoi's great contribution to the development of our nation and world culture and science. In this case, it is necessary to study Navoi's biobibliography in full and to create a true biography, to research the creativity and spiritual heritage of the nation with a deep understanding of its essence, and to use it consistently and efficiently.

Such new practical steps are necessary first of all for the rise of our spirituality and the restoration of our old history. At the same time, such a modern



approach is to study the rich scientific-literary heritage of Alisher Navoi and dozens of other scholars, poets and thinkers who brought the culture of the peoples of the East closer with their life and work, by translating, publishing and popularizing the unique books and manuscripts left by them into different languages of the world. supporting related initiatives is extremely important in realizing the goals of making this universal material and spiritual heritage serve to strengthen the friendship of peoples.

Therefore, His Highness Navoi, the great Uzbek poet and thinker, famous state and public figure, patron of education and Rector of Tashkent State science, spirituality and culture, University of Uzbek Language our native language and literaand Literature named after ture is among the bright figures Alisher Navoi, Academician who had a strong and effective influence on the formation of the spiritual world of our people. Alisher Navoi occupies a special place in the history of world civilization as a major representative of the Second Eastern Renais-

> The literary heritage of our great ancestor is huge and colorful, his poetic works alone contain more than 100 thousand lines. In the words of Academician Sh. Sirojiddinov, "It is no exaggeration to say that such a poet is few in world literature."

> The researches of our grandfather Navoi not only as a poet, but also as a literary critic were very important, and his effective work in this direction was of great importance in the development of Turkish and Persian literature. In the words of the author of the book we are interpreting, "He organized the aruz system in the work "Mezon ul-Avzan", but he paid special attention to restoring the genres of Eastern poetry, such as problems and odes. which were almost forgotten by the 15th century."

Another important aspect is that the sultan himself created great conditions and facilities for the development of the literary environment of Herat led by Navoi. In this way, the name of Alisher Navoi became famous as the patron of the virtues of the seven climates and artists.

Many tazkiranavis, historians, poets, scientists have testified about Navoi's benevolent virtues in their works. The proof of this can be found in the works of our great ancestor's contemporaries, even in various hymns written in honor of Navoi by many calligraphers and scribes.

Alisher Navoi is the founder of Turkish literary language

The President of Uzbekistan has been paying attention to solving a number of urgent issues in the field of spirituality and enlightenment based on the tasks that today's complex and dangerous life puts before us. One of these priority tasks is to actually strengthen the status of the Uzbek language as a state

At the extended meeting of the Republican Council of Spirituality and Enlightenment held on December 22, 2023 under

the chairmanship of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, special attention was paid to the issue of increasing the effectiveness of teaching the Uzbek language. It was noted that the teachers of the subject "Uzbek language and literature" who have a national certificate will be paid a 50 percent bonus starting from the new academic year.

The head of our state also noted that measures will be taken to encourage our compatriots who have received education in other languages to learn the state language. It was noted that the hours of teaching the state language in schools specializing in other languages will be increased, and an international science Olympiad on the Uzbek language will be organized.

In this sense, "Amir Alish It is worth noting that the book "Life and activity" presents interesting information about the fact that Alisher Navoi is the founder of the Turkish literary language. On the one hand, this shows how relevant this work is, and on the other hand, the scientific information related to the formation and development of our native language, especially the complex and extremely important efforts to bring it to the status of a state language in distant history, will serve to fundamentally increase the knowledge of our contemporaries, especially our youth...

For example, when thinking about Alisher Navoi's struggle to raise the status of the Turkish language, it is appropriate to first of all dwell on the work 'Muhokamat ul-lughatayn". After all, in the form of this work, its author showed himself as a great linguist who showed the rich possibilities of our language and proved that it is a beautiful and powerful language in no way inferior to Arabic and Persian languages.

As noted by Academician Sh. Sirojiddinov, during Navoi's lifetime, Persian was considered the language of poetry, Arabic was considered a scientific language, and Turkish was regarded as the language of the common people. This, of course, is the result of problems related to the many thousand years of experience of statehood and the rich spiritual and literary heritage, glorious history and humanitarian values of the Turkic peoples, which were destroyed by the Mongol invasion, and the fact that it was difficult to restore the fascinating language.

Therefore, as the author of the book points out, "Even in Temur's palace, the work of bringing the Turkish language to the level of the state language has not been completed. In such a situation, Alisher Navoi set himself the goal of restoring the status of the Turkish-Uzbek

In this sense, today, in the development of modern technologies for learning the Uzbek language abroad and in our country, it is extremely helpful that the love for the mother tongue, the feeling of honoring it, realizing its incomparable

wealth and greatness entered our thoughts and hearts first of all with the works of Navoi. Already, our great ancestor achieved his noble goal of restoring the status $of the \ Uzbek \ language-he \ made$ the whole country yakkalam, i.e. monolingual.

As recognized in the famous ode "Uzbekistan" by our beloved poet Abdulla Oripov: "The place where Temur's blade did not touch Alisher took it with a

Thus, in the words of the President of the Nation, "The great poet, in his poetic and prose works, showed high universal ideas, the incomparable vocabulary and limitless possibilities of expression of our mother tongue the hearts of millions of readers

on earth." Studying Navoi's heritage: unexplored or controversial topics interpretation

In the years of independence, narratology also made remarkable progress. A number of researches were created on topics forbidden during the Mustabid regime, including the Qur'anic foundations of the work of the great poet, and Sufi worldview.

At the same time, one cannot turn a blind eye to the fact that there are still some problems that have not vet been thoroughly examined, certain topics that are fragile and "delicate". Academician Sh. Sirojiddinov deeply analyzed some of these topics from a scientific and historical

point of view. The author of the book took into account that in the course of this complex research, the honor and love, value and value, reputation and attention of our grandfather Navoi would not be harmed. At the same time, we believe that it is noteworthy that any controversial issues are covered on the basis of various primary sources, in which the principles of historical truth and scientific objectivity are consistently observed.

It should also be said that in the previously published researches of the Navoi scholar, in particular, in the work entitled "Alisher Navoi: comparative-tvpological, textological analysis of sources" published in 2011, the original state of the information known to Navoi studies was studied. It is worth noting that by conducting a comparative typological-textological analysis of these data, the degree of difference of the data from the sources created in the period before the 20th century was determined.

For example, academician Sh. Sirojiddinov, during a detailed study of historical sources, comes to the conclusion that Abu Sa'id Bek, the grandfather of His Holiness Navoi, was a very close person to Husayn Boygaro in the Timurid period. In this place, "We even assume that Abu Sa'id Boykara may have been a close friend of Mirza, and in this sense Boykara was with him wherever he lived," writes the author of the book.

On this basis, the navoi scholar comes to such a conclusion, which is unexpected, but has a certain historical and scientific-theoretical basis. That is, Mir Alisher, one of the four sons of Amir Temur-Husein Boygaro, who was severely punished for his rebellion during the reign of Shahrukh Mirza and was accused of poverty, deeply realized that it was impossible to iustify in historical works and at the same time be proud of his grandfather, who was his close comrade.

As Academician Sh. Sirojiddinov rightly assessed, our grandfather Navoi was a supporter of not overshadowing the histowon a worthy and solid place in the book: "The reason why Mir Alisher Navoi is a fair statesman are not true. Alisher does not mention the names of the Boykara family and his ancestors can be explained

Another confusing topic that has been unclear in Navoi studies: Was Alisher Navoi exiled to Samarkand? Our attention was drawn to the fact that in the book, by studying a number of sources related to the issues surrounding this question and analyzing them on a new basis, they tried to put forward the most appropriate answer.

In particular, based on the words of V. Bartold Babur, he approved the idea that Alisher Navoi was exiled to Samarkand by Abu Sa'id. Although Mir Alisher himself said that he went to study, he denied this evidence with the comment that "They did not go from Herat to Samarkand to study at that time." As a result, most Navoi scholars relied on V. Bartold's argument that "Navoi's departure from Herat to Samarkand should be considered as an exile" and went on to develop it.

On the other hand, E. Bertels in his monograph "Navoiy" considered Navoi's visit to Samarkand as an exile. He explained his conclusion with the opinion that "at that time, Samrqand was not a center of science".

Academician Sh. Sirojiddinov, while critically analyzing various approaches in this regard, first of all, it is significant that he drew attention to the misinterpretation of Babur's opinion. In particular, Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur actually asked, "Why did Abu Sa'id exile Nawai to Samarkand?" not that, but "I don't know, for what sin was he expelled from Herat?" the scientist said.

In the book, the Uzbek scientist's assessment of the same issue is also presented. That is, as Academician Sh. Sirojiddinov noted, "As Navoi himself admitted, "helplessness, disaster, fate and sadness" caused him to leave Herat, but it happened for reasons known only to him. Navoi was a poet who was not involved in politics during the time of Abu Sa'id Mirza.

In addition, it is openly recognized that there are different views in Navoi studies about the reasons for sending Alish-

er Navoi as governor to Astrobod. Because it is not a secret to ance, justice, wisdom, politickanyone that our modern Neviology views the sending of our great ancestor to Astrobod as

The author of the book put truth as possible to this problem. In particular, based on the conclusions of a number of Navoi scholars like A. Semyonov, province of Sultan Husayn, in which mainly princes or highly Astrobad was a "distant prov-

Interest in the life and work of Alisher Navoi has not faded from "Makorim ul-Akhlaq" ("Good his time to the present day, especially in recent years, it has been growing. Naturally, as socio-historical development progresses, human thinking shows different views on certain events.

If we assume that such views are born on the basis of ideological-aesthetic directions that appeared in each period. the activity of historical figures is the fruit of complex thinking of this ideological-artistic phenomenon. The second part of the new book "Amir Alisher and the palace" written by Academician Sh. Sirojiddinov is fully devoted to the details of the time of our grandfather Navoi's 35 years in the service of the palace.

When talking about the history of the Timurid state. we proudly acknowledge that the name of Alisher Navoi is mentioned as a famous statesman. This recognition is fully confirmed by the description of as "the pillar of the country, the support of the state".

In this sense, in the opinion of the Uzbek scientist, the reasons why the name of Alisher Navoi will be engraved forever in history are due to the following three reasons:

the first basis is that he wrote works that show his unparal-

the second reason is that he was a famous statesman:

the third reason is that he has reached the level of the possessor of worthy behavior, which elevated him to the status of a

In fact, Navoi always acted in accordance with Sharia laws and the Sunnah of our Prophet (pbuh) in the interests of the state and the people. In each case, he solved the problems of the oppressed from the point of view of justice.

Alisher Navoi Amiri Kabir-As the Prime Minister, he always state and the people in the most important and sensitive parts of the state administration, such as the judiciary, internal affairs, tax system, foreign diplomatic relations, internal conflicts, border problems, public gatherings and events protected. On the other hand, as the author of the book

wrote, "Navoi's qualities of tolering and caring for the citizens helped the Sultan to manage the state fairly."

It is very important that Academician Sh. Sirojiddinov forward ideas as close to the put forward completely new, as the saying goes, "untouched" thoughts on these issues. He confidently stated, "The reason why our scientists deviated far he said that "Astrobad was the from historical reality was that richest and most important they relied on each other rather than expressing their opinions. Based on the ideology of trusted people of the sultan were the Soviet regime, the interpregovernors, and the appointment tations of the first Navoi scholof Alisher as the governor of ars that Sultan "exiled him to get rid of his poisonous words" ry of the Timurids. Therefore, ince" It cannot be understood because Navoi was "a poet who with all its charm and grace, and it is logical that it is written in as "honorary exile", he believes. was not afraid to tell the truth"

manners"), Navoi had the right to appeal to the king up to nine times in order to defend his opinion on a decision or issue. However, as a contemporary Navoi scholar rightly noted, "As a subordinate of Alisher Navoi Sultan, he was never able to tell the truth clearly, but tried to

explain it with mawridi." Academician Sh. Sirojiddinov rightly stated, "Two important sources written specifically about Alisher Navoi's life and work have reached us. This is a collection of memories written by Ghiyaziddin Khondamir and Zayniddin Vasifi."

In particular, Khondamir was able to fully reflect the spiritual image of Navoi in his work "Makorim ul-akhlaq". When talking about the admirable qualities of Alisher Navoi, the famous historian described Amir Alisher as "a person whom God looked upon from childhood", Sultan Husayn Boykara ul Zat and on another page he paid special attention to showing the character of Navoi, which proves the truth of the same opinion.

At the same time, the wellknown Navoi scholar was able to find the fault of the author of the work "Makorim ul-Akhlaq". The fact is that "the author had the opportunity to provide accurate information, firstly, in many cases, he did not mention the dates of the events, and secondlv, he did not reveal Navoi's life in chronological order", writes academician Sh. Sirojiddinov.

From this point of view, the scientist's "Amir Alisher. In the book "Life and Activities" it is commendable that Amir Nizamiddin Alisher's personality and activities as a statesman are covered based on a clear chronology.

This book is a continuation of the author's monograph "Alisher Navoi: comparative-typological, textological analysis of sources" published in 2011. Because in the new work dedicated to His combined the interests of the Holiness Navoi, the rare historical works and information from tazkiras, which were not analyzed in the previous book, are thoroughly analyzed and deserve attention and recognition.

> Author is academician, doctor $of {\it legal sciences}, Member {\it of the}$ Union of Writers of Uzbekistan

Bull & Bears

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Percentage	Time	
-0.11%	7 Feb, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market	Forex	Rates
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	183	184.8
Bahrain Dinar	743.68	751.68
Canadian Dollar	206	208
China Yuan	39.09	39.49
Danish Krone	40.25	40.65
Euro	304	307
Hong Kong Dollar	35.74	36.09
Indian Rupee	3.37	3.48
Japanese Yen	2.1	2.18
Kuwaiti Dinar	908.35	917.35
Malaysian Ringgit	58.87	59.47
NewZealand \$	169.12	171.12
Norwegians Krone	26.13	26.43
Omani Riyal	726.28	734.28
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Germany provides EUR 45 million assistance to **Pakistan**

Commerce Desk

Qatari Riyal

Saudi Riyal

Swiss Franc

U.A.E Dirham

UK Pound Sterling

Thai Bhat

US Dollar

Singapore Dollar

Swedish Korona

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Germany on Wednesday signed Euro 45 million assistance agreements on Technical Development Cooperation for starting new bilateral cooperation projects.

Dr Kazim Niaz, Secretary for Economic Affairs Pakistan, and Mr Alfred Grannas, German Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, witnessed the ceremony for the signing of Euro 45 million agreements on Technical Development Cooperation for starting new bilateral cooperation projects, said a press issued here.

The new agreements are the result of a longstanding and trustful partnership between the two countries. The newly commissioned projects align with the German development cooperation thematic areas of Climate and energy, just transition; Sustainable economic development, training and employment; Health, social protection and population policy.

All ongoing and new projects work hand in hand with a holistic approach building synergies for well-rounded solutions to effectively tackle complex and global challenges like climate change and inclusion of vulnerable groups such as women and

Both parties highlighted the immense efforts taken in the past decades. The impact of the German development cooperation is proof for a successful cooperation targeting the development sectors in need. Germany stands Shana ba shana with Paki-

Ambassador Alfred Grannas: "The German-Pakistani development cooperation has left its footprints in the country. With the agreement we signed today, we aim to continue our joint path towards a sustainable future in Pakistan. Recently Svenia Schulze, our German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, said 'International cooperation doesn't just help others. Above all, it helps us, because global problems can only be solved together.

Secretary Dr Kazim Niaz: "We deeply appreciate the strong support that we have received on technical development cooperation. It would contribute to the Socio-economic development of the country".

Voters should try for a stable government: Mian Zahid Hussain

№ Tariq Khattaq

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that political instability and weak economy are the root of all problems.

He said that an unstable government would never be able to stabilize autonomy, and the masses would continue to reel under multiple problems; therefore, voters must use their votes for a party that can form a stable govern-

Mian Zahid Hussain said a coalition government after the elections would be unfortunate as they can never resolve the issues confronting the masses and the economy.



Speaking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that a stable

ensure the country's development, so voters should prioritize a stable government above all other factors.

He said that there have been dozens of experiences with unstable governments that have bankrupted a prosperous country like Pakistan, where hunger, poverty, ignorance, diseases and inflation are on the rise.

Pakistan is not essentially a poor country, but the endless series of political engineering has made it a beggar who cannot take a step without the consent of the IMF, he added.

Currently, over two and a half million children are out of school; 40 per cent are malnourished, and seven per cent die before reaching the age of five, while other health

indicators are also very depressing. Moreover, unemployment is increasing to bleed the economy.

government could stabilize the economy and rapidly, and industry, agriculture, and remittances are failing; the law has been reduced to books. Youths want to flee the country in desperation. Various parts of the countries are victims of militancy and terrorism.

> The business leader said that the Pakistani currency has become a tissue paper, and the weak economies of the region are performing better than Pakistan.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the voters should decide between prosperity or remaining in the same conditions.

The voters should know that a stable government can resolve their problems because, in the case of a coalition government, the rulers will not be able to make economic reforms, and electricity and gas losses will continue. The failed government institutions will continue

Barbeque

LAHORE: A vendor is preparing chicken tikka barbeque for customers at his roadside workplace, in



A Futuristic Fusion of Cutting-Edge Retail, Entertainment and Technology in Dubai Creek Harbour

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: Emaar Properties, the prime real estate development company, has completed the detailed design of "Dubai Square," set to become the second-largest shopping and entertainment mall in Dubai Creek Harbour.

This significant project represents a step in establishing Dubai as a prime global destination for shopping and leisure. "Dubai Square" will feature breakthrough technologies and innovative concepts in retail, dining, and entertainment, offering an unparalleled experience that goes beyond traditional shopping environments.

"Dubai Square" is characterized by its advanced technologies, and contemporary and innovative design and will be linked to the new Dubai Creek Tower, giving it a distinctive position in the heart of Dubai Creek Harbour.

Emaar has also highlighted the project's significance as a perfect opportunity for employee skill development, particular-



ly for young Emirati nationals, reflecting the company's dedication to boosting local expertise and supporting national devel-

Mohamed Alabbar, founder of Emaar Properties, said: "After fifteen years of cater- ers' advice as we do this development."

ing for a hundred million visitors on a yearly basis and over 1,500 retailers, Emaar has a great wealth of knowledge and experience and is perfectly capable of doing the same with the new project while still seeking retail-

Rupee gains 08 paisa against dollar

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Wednesday gained 08 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 279.34 against the previous day's closing of Rs 279.42. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 279 and Rs 281.5 respec-

The price of the Euro increased by 11 paisa to close at Rs300.59 against the last day's closing of Rs300.48, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen remained unchanged to close at Rs1.88, whereas an increase of Rs1.63 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 352.52 compared to the

Kyrgyzstan is interested in boosting business ties with Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: H. E. Ulanbek Totuiaev, Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan said that his country is enjoying friendly relations with Pakistan and is interested in further boosting its business ties with Pakistan to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. He stressed that both countries should develop sustainable business relations as they have good potential to cooperate in many sectors of the economy. He said that a business delegation from Pakistan should visit Kyrgyzstan to explore joint ventures and business partnerships. He said that Kyrgyzstan is importing pharmaceuticals, sports goods, and some other products from Pakistan while it is exporting dry fruits, and agricultural products to Pakistan.

Speaking at

wari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan can cooperate in many areas including agriculture, industry, energy, and tourism. He said that the geographical location of both countries offers them good potential to increase collaboration and play a role in promoting regional trade in their respective regions. He said that Pakistan can provide Kyrgyzstan with easy access to many promising markets including the Middle East and South Asia. Similarly, Kyrgyzstan can provide Pakistan with easy access to the Central Asian States. Therefore, strong trade and economic relations would be very beneficial for both countries and regions.

Faad Waheed Senior Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan should share expertise to sion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhta- benefit each other.

Faysal Bank doubles operating profit for the year ended 2023

KARACHI: Faysal Bank Limited (FBL) a prominent Islamic bank in Pakistan, has shown strong performance in the inaugural year as an Islamic Bank, showcasing its healthy business fundamentals as well as prudent risk management.

Bank's recently The published financial report reveals that FBL has doubled the operating profit and reached PKR 42.3 billion along with a key milestone of achieving a 1 trillion mark in deposits. The Bank is now positioned as a key player in Pakistan's Islamic banking sector. On a standalone basis, FBL has set a new record with a Profit Before Tax (PBT) of PKR 41.4 billion, 85% higher than PKR 22.4 billion in the last year. FBL's net profit reached PKR 20.0 billion and an impressive growth of

around 80%. Main Muhammad Younis,

Chairman of Faysal Bank on this occasion said, "This significant milestone of achieving PKR 1 trillion in deposits marks a reaffirmation of trust and confidence reposed in us by our customers." He added that "We look forward to continuing this journey of excellence, innovation, and best in class Shariah Compliant Islamic Banking, ensuring a positive impact on

all our stakeholders.' Yousaf Hussain, President & CEO of Favsal Bank said, "We are grateful for the unwavering support from all our stakeholders, which has been a driving force behind this unprecedented journey of growth of Faysal Bank. It is our aspiration to not only sustain this momentum but to elevate Faysal Bank to the pinnacle of excellence in Islamic Banking whist focusing on our strong and growing customer base and through our customer centric products and services."

Saqib Rafiq chairs the Board of Management meeting of Punjab Arts Council Rawalpindi

₿ PNP

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Board of Management of Arts Council Rawalpindi was held under the chair of President Chamber of Commerce and Industry Rawalpindi and President Punjab Arts Council Saqib Rafiq.

During the meeting, agenda matters including arts council's activities and upcom-



ident Saqib Rafiq assured the members that all possible measures will be taken for the promotion of culture and the welfare of artists.

First ever Minerals Investment Conference will be held in Punjab: Minister

₿ PNP

LAHORE: Provincial Minister of Mines and Minerals Ibrahim Hasan Murad said that today is a historical day as the Mines and Minerals Department organized the first ever Minerals Investment Conference in the Punjab province. Pakistan, especially Punjab, is undoubtedly blessed in terms of minerals resources. To realise the full potential of the sector, the department has made a Revenue Generation plan of 150 billion for the next three years, but we will need the help of the private sector in this regard. These views were expressed by the provincial minister while addressing the Punjab Minerals Investment Conference.

A documentary was also screened at the conference, showing the important initiatives taken in the last one year, to improve policies, increase and highlight investment opportunity and welfare of mine workers. Secretary Mines and Minerals Babar Aman Babar in his welcome address highlighted the aims and objectives of the Conference, he said that today's conference is of unique importance that such a platform is being provided to inform the private sector about the investment opportunities and potential of the Mines and Minerals Sector. The private sector is encouraged to invest in the mining sector. DG Mines Rana Abdul Shakoor informed the participants about the new areas of different minerals which will be placed in the upcoming auctions. CFO PMC Rana Faisal while giving a presentation on Chiniot Iron informed about its potential and exploration work done till todate.

In his address to the forum, the provincial minister said that District Mines and Minerals Committees have been formed

ties and steps taken for the safe- to identify new areas of minerals, prevent illegal mining and to facilitate the investors. Online inspection and monitoring system has been introduced and e-tendering and e-auction is being launched for transparencv. He further said that 27 zones of rock salt and 150 new sand zones have been identified, along with other numerous steps have been taken including identification of 09 blocks of placer gold, in which reserves of 2.8 million Tolas are expected. Various proposals and sugges-

tions were presented by the business community in the Conference, in which hospitals for mine workers, testing laboratories for minerals, Mines and Minerals investment bank, collaboration with insurance companies, more opportunities for local traders and continuation of policies were emphasized. Colonel Owais from SIFC, MD PMDC Asad Ahmed and others also addressed the participants.

tively.

last closing of Rs 350.89.

WAPDA to face SNGPL in President's Trophy final

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) and Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) are set to play the final of the President's Trophy Grade-I at the Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi from February 9 to 13. WAPDA and SNGPL qualified for the final after topping the points table after seven rounds of matches, with all seven departmental teams playing six match-



es each. WAPDA, with five wins out of six, had 62 points, whereas SNGPL had 57 points owing to four wins and

WAPDA, while SNGPL will be led by Asad Shafiq.

Umar Akmal is currently leading the run charts for WAPDA as he amassed 489 runs in six games. Left-arm spinner Asif Afridi's has been a successful bowler for the team, grabbing 32 wickets in five games - the second highest of the tournament so far, behind Ghani Glass' Mohammad Rameez Jnr's tally of 42 wickets. Abid Ali is the top-scorer for SNGPL with 532 runs in six games.

Iftikhar Ahmed will be captaining Leg-spinner Arif Yaqoob and rightarm pacer Mohammad Ali are the joint-highest wicket-takers for them.

Arif bagged 19 scalps in three games, while Ali equaled the tally in six games. WAPDA will be heading into the final on the back of three-wicket win against Pakistan Television (PTV), which came in the last round of President's Trophy. In the same round, SNGPL also claimed a dominant 109-run win over Higher Education Commission (HEC).

Giants rally to stun Dubai by 19 runs in a low scoring battle

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Gulf Giants, through an exhibition of superb teamwork and resilience, fought tooth and nail to defend a meagre total of 126 for 9 in 20 overs and pull off a 19-run win over Dubai Capitals in the 24th match of the DP World ILT20 season 2 at the Dubai International Stadium on late Tuesday. This was the lowest total defended in the history of this tournament. The UAE's 18-year-old left-arm spinner Aayan Afzal Khan bagged two wickets at a crucial stage of the match while his skipper James Vince produced two runouts to derail Capitals' chase towards the easy target, according to information received here.

Dasun Shanaka pushed Capitals closer to the target in 20 overs. The Gulf Giants through an unbeaten 24 but the third batter to fall for a the disaster by skipper Vince run out. Capitals were thus bowled out for 107 in 18.3 (34) through a 51-run partleijn (3 for 29) ran through a mess of the ride towards



a lethal combination of use of slower deliveries to restrict Giants to 126 for 9 were reeling at 17 for 4 at one (32) and Shimron Hetmyer Giants' batting line-up with the target, losing both their en for 7, the target looked

openers for 30 runs. The first accurate pace and judicious to go was their skipper and opener David Warner for 11 caught by Chris Jordan at mid-off to Jamie Overton, followed by opener Rahmanlast man Haider Ali became stage but were lifted out of ullah Gurbaz, who was caught by Jordan at longon off Blessing Muzarabani for 15. When Jordan clean overs. Capitals' Olly Stone nership for the fifth wicket bowled Sam Billings for 12 (4 for 14) and Scott Kugge- off 42 balls. Capitals made and Gerhard Erasmus too clean bowled Max Hold-

unreachable. **Brief scores:**

Gulf Giants by Dubai Capitals by 19 runs.

Gulf Giants 126 for 9 in 20 overs (James Vince 32, Shimron Hetmyer 34, Scott Kuggeleijn 3 for 29, Olly Stone 4 for 14)

Dubai Capitals 107 in 18.3 overs (Dasun Shanaka 24n.o, Aavan Afzal Khan 2 for 8)

Player of the Match:

Tamasha to live stream PSL 9

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest homegrown OTT video streaming and entertainment platform, Tamasha was once again, bringing HD live streaming of the HBL Pakistan Super League 2024 (PSL9). Cricket enthusiasts across Pakistan can now enjoy HD live streaming of all HBL PSL 9 matches on the Tamasha mobile app, said a press release. A signing ceremony

between Tamasha and Walee Technologies leadership where Tamasha acquired digital broadcasting rights for the tournament, bringing HD live streaming of all HBL-PSL 9 matches straight to the smartphones of millions of Pakistanis, regardless of their network. Sharing his thoughts on this exciting development, Aamer Eiaz, Chief Digital Officer at February 17, in Lahore, The Jazz, said, "Catering to the opening match would feature March 18. Previously, Pakiundying love of millions of Lahore Qalandars, two-time Pakistanis for the game of winners and defending the T20 World Cup (2022), cricket, Tamasha is set to champions, facing Islama- FIFA World Cup (2022), bring high-definition live streaming of yet another the 2016 and 2018 editions. thrilling PSL season. I hope the new PSL season shatters would be spread across four records and establishes new cities - Karachi, Lahore, streamed on Tamasha during a shot at winning amazing milestones in Pakistan's digi- Multan, and Rawalpin- the Cricket World Cup 2023,



The 9th edition of the HBL PSL was set to kick off on bad United, the winners of HBL PSL (2023), Asia Cup The tournament's matches

six-team event would be the final at the National Bank Stadium in Karachi on stani users enjoyed watching (2023), and the ICC World Cup 2023 on Tamasha. While over 26 million people

tal entertainment landscape." di. The culmination of the the app also trended as the #1 app on the Apple App Store & Google Play Store and emerged as the second most searched tech term on Google right after ChatGPT in 2023. Besides HD streaming, Tamasha users would be able to engage in exciting activities such as the Jazz Fanpulse quiz and Jazz Cricket Fantasy league for

Jasprit Bumrah becomes first Indian pacer to top ICC Test Bowling Rankings



DUBAI: Indian pace bowler Jasprit Bumrah claimed the top spot in the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's Test Bowling Rankings for the first time in his

The right-arm pacer jumped three spots with 881 points and dethroned team-mate Ravichandran Ashwin as the number one Test bowler, who dropped two spots to third with 841 rating points.

Bumrah became the first pace bowler from India to reach the pinnacle of the ICC Test Bowling Rankings as the highest-ranked Indian pace bowler was legendary Kapil Dev, who held the second spot in

Overall, he is the fourth Indian bowler to aim the top spot in the ICC Test Bowling Rankings after Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Bishan Bedi.

He achieved the historic feat on the back of his match haul of nine wickets, which led India to a 106-run victory over England to level the series 1-1. Chasing a daunting 399-run target,

the visitors skittled for 292 in the second session on day four despite an attacking Jasprit Bumrah, who claimed a six-fer

in the first innings, carried his momentum and bagged three more in the second innings to seal the victory for his side.

Meanwhile, Ashwin who held the number-one spot since March last year. managed only three wickets in the aforementioned match, resulting in him dropping two spots as South Africa's Kagiso Rabada remained unfazed at second spot.

Indian batter Yashasvi Jaiswal also made substantial gains after his double-century in the first innings of the second Test against England.

The 22-year-old jumped 37 places to reach 29th spot in the ICC Test Batting Rankings.

England's opening batter Zak Crawley registered scores of 76 and 73 during the second Test, which resulted in him gaining eight spots to 22nd.

New Zealand's Kane Williamson continues to rule the Test batting rankings with 864 points, while England's Joe Root dropped one spot to pave the way for Australia's Steve Smith to reclaim the second position.

Four more matches decided in Khansortium Karachi Region Senior Inter District tourney

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Four more matches were decided in the Khansortium Karachi Region Senior Inter District Cricket Tournament. The highlights of the days play was Deadly bowling by Hassan Shahab and Muhammad Makki.

Scores in Brief:

Zone-II Blues beat Zone-III Reds by 6 Wickets at Naya Nazimabad Ground.

Zone-III Reds 140 all out in 35.2 overs. Abdullah Marwat 40, Shahroz Siddiqui 36, Syed M. Mehdi 25. Hassan Bin Shahab

Zone-II Blues 141/4 in 29.4 overs. Obaid ur Rehman 86 9x4 6x4, Hamza Sarwar 40.

In the 2nd Match Zone-I Whites beat Zone-II Reds by 53 runs at Young Fighter Ground. Zone-I Whites 168/9 in 45 overs. Zubair Dilawar 35, Wahab Zafar 27, Haider Ali 26. Sikandar Ali (ob) 4/12, Umer Eijaz 2/23.

Zone-II Reds 115 all out in 37.1 overs. Sikandar Hasan 53. Umair Sheikh (rls) 4/12, Ahhmed Farooq (sla) 3/32. M.

In the 3rd Match at Oval Cricket Academy NBP Stadium Zone-VI Blues beat Zone-VII Reds by 140 runs. Zone-VI Blues 269/8 in 45 overs. Saifullah 96 7x4. 7x6 not out, Muhammad Ali 52, Nadir Shah 28, Adeel Meo 26, Malik Faizan 23. Luqman Shah (mf) 4/49, Saad Bin Yousuf 2/55.

Zone-VII Reds 129 all out in 36 overs. Sadam Khan 57, Gahangir Javed 22. Muhammad Makki (mf) 5/34, Nadir Shah

In the last match of the day Zone-VII Whites beat Zone-II Greens by 21 runs at RLCA (G). Zone-VII Whites 227/9 in 45 overs. Muhammad Majeed 86 9x4 1x6, Hamza Qureshi 79 8x4 2x6, Zain ul Haq 26. Izahar ul Haq (mf) 3/52, Munir ur Rehman 2/38. Ahsan ullah 2/39.

Zone-II Greens 206 all out in 38.3 overs. M. Jalib Sheikh 47, Owais Ali Khan 40, Munir ur Rehman 25, Wajih Fawad 23. Najeeb ur Rehman (mf) 4/47, Fawad Khan 2/20, Aftab

Adil Rashid-led Sharjah Warriors crush Abu Dhabi Knight Riders



₿ A Sports

ABU DHABI: Adil Rashid spun a web around Abu Dhabi Knight Riders to skittle them at a meagre 94, which was comfortably chased by Shariah Warriors in the 25th match of the ILT20 here on Wednesday.

This was Sharjah Warriors' only third victory in the ongoing season of ILT20, however, they are still lying at the bottom of the table due to their inferior net run rate.

Sharjah Warriors opted to field first and Chris Woakes provided an early breakthrough as he castled Joe Clarke on the third ball of the innings. Michael Pepper and Alishan Sharfu joined hands to knit a

solid stand of 61 runs from 48 balls before Adil Rashid ripped through the Knight Riders' batting line-up. Rashid got Sharfu caught behind and followed it with

Pepper's wicket three balls later. Sharfu scored 26 off 28, while Pepper top-scored with a

21-ball 32, which featured five boundaries. Rashid's double-wicket over opened the floodgates as the

Knight Riders failed to recover from it and collapsed miserably from 62-3 to 94 all-out in 17.1 overs. Except for Sharfu and Pepper, Laurie Evans was the only

other batter who reached double-figures with 13 off 8. Rashid returned with bowling figures of 4-12 from his four overs, while Joe Denly picked two wickets in his solitary over.

Sharjah Warriors suffered an early blow with Josh Little shattering Tom Kohler-Cadmore's stumps in the second over. However, Niroshan Dickwella and Liam Livingstone killed

any hopes of the Knight Riders as they produced a 52-run partnership from 26 balls. Imad Wasim ended the thrilling partnership, getting

Livingstone caught behind after he played a sensational knock of 30 off 13, featuring three sixes and as many boundaries. Dickwella was also removed by Wasim after scoring 30. He

took 29 balls, which included two boundaries and one six. Martin Guptill (13) joined hands with Denly (18) and together they took their team to the finishing line in 13.5

Imad Wasim claimed bowling figures of 2-20 for the Abu Dhabi Knight Riders.

Mallorca, Real Sociedad settle for stalemate in Copa del Rey semifinal

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Real Sociedad striker Umar Sadiq spurned a string of opportunities to earn his team a first-leg advantage in a 0-0 Copa del Rey semi-final draw at Real Mallorca.

Imanol Alguacil's side, who won the 2019-20 Copa del Rey, with the final played in 2021 because of the Covid-19 pandemic, will feel they should have taken a win back to the Basque Coun-

Sadiq, said La Real coach Alguacil, "knows it's a semi-final. He knows that this goal would the second leg, but here, when we slip up, we slip up together, when we win, we win together."

chances at Mallorca's Son Moix in the early stages but Mallorca stadium, many wasted by Nigerian forward Sadiq, although the hosts created a couple of excellent openings themselves.

We deserved more," Real Sociedad midfielder Martin Zubimendi told Movistar.

Real Sociedad have struggled for consistency in La Liga, sitting sixth, but have impressed in cup competitions — they will face Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League last 16.

La Real winger Ander Barrenetxea appealed for an early penalty after hitting the ground when knocked by Giovanhave given us an advantage for ni Gonzalez in the area but the referee waved away his appeal.

Takefusa Kubo, back with Real Sociedad after playing at the The visitors had the better Asian Cup with Japan, was bright

did well to diminish his influence on the game.

Sadiq missed the first clear chance for his side before halftime, heading over from Barrenetxea's superb cross.

Abdon Prats missed Mallorca's most presentable opportunity early in the second half, prodding narrowly wide of the post from the edge of the area.

After going close twice in the second half when he might have scored, Sadiq missed the game's best chance from point-blank range, sending Kubo's low cross over the crossbar.

"It's easy to criticise him," said Alguacil. "The important thing is to generate those chances, and the more we can score the better, but it's football and we have to

support him."

Mallorca, who won the Copa del Rey for the first and only time in 2003, held on to head to San Sebastian for the second leg on February 27 on level footing.

"With this opponent, who are better than us, who have a lot of resources, I'm happy with the result," said Mallorca coach Javier Aguirre.

"We knew they were going to put us under pressure, it was a game where we had to work a lot, run a lot, maybe not the most attractive, but the tie is open."

Atletico Madrid host Athletic Bilbao in the first leg of the other semi-final on Wednesday night.

Record 31-time winners Barcelona and reigning champions Real Madrid were knocked out by Athletic and Atletico respectively.



blasts and prayed to Allah Almighty for the peace and elevation of the

PM Kakar directed ensuring prompt treatment of the injured

and sought a report into the inci-

dents from the Chief Secretary of

the elements wanted to sabotage law

and order in the country, reiterating the firm resolve of the government to

hold the general elections in a peace-

He vowed to foil every attempt of

ranks of departed souls.

the Balochistan province.

The Spokesman

Group photo Islamabad: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo during his visit to the office of the Wafaqi Mohtasib on Thursday. FEDERAL OMBUDSMAN OF PAKISTAN

Wafaqi Mohtasib resolves 193,028 complaints

B Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Wafaqi Mohtasib has resolved a total of 193,028 complaints against the maladministration of government departments and provided relief worth Rs 4.898 billion to the citizens during

The Mohtasib processed a record 1,94,099 complaints during 2023, with processing witnessing a surge of 18 per cent, while the disposal of complaints increased by 22 per

cent, as compared to 2022. Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman) Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi briefed President Dr Arif Alvi who visited the office of Wafaqi

Mohtasib on Wednesday. The president had a briefcitizens during the year 2023, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

Briefing the president, the federal ombudsman highlighted the role and performance of the institution.

He informed that 1,93,028 complaints were addressed in 2023, with monetary relief of Rs 4.898 billion provided to the complainants.

Furthermore, on the recommendations of Wafaqi Mohtasib, as many as 18,000 street children were enrolled in briefed on the Integratgovernment schools in Islam-

that 85.4 percent of Wafa-

ing on the complaints received qi Mohtasib's decisions were and resolved by the Ombuds- implemented last year, with man to ensure prompt relief to efforts underway to further improve the ratio of the imple-

> It was stated that the increased use of technology in Mohtasib had enhanced people's accessibility, with 48,190 complaints registered online in 2023, marking an increase of 47 per cent from 2022. Similarly, 22,321 complaints were received through Mohtasib's mobile App in 2023, representing a 21 per cent increase from 2022.

The meeting was also ed Complaint Resolution System, processing 18,469 cance of Mohtasib in the provi-The meeting was informed complaints in 2023, alongside sion of expeditious justice and Mohtasib's teams conducting curbing corrupt practices, the

Khuli Kutcheries and inspection visits to address people's grievances against government agencies. Additionally, 2,113 cases were disposed of through the Informal Resolution of Disputes.

During the meeting, the steps taken for the facilitation and resolution of complaints filed by Overseas Pakistanis were highlighted.

The mohtasib further informed that the awareness campaign undertaken by the ombudsman had greatly increased its outreach and helped address people's

complaints at their doorsteps. Highlighting the signifiPresident said that Mohtasib was striving to promote good governance and deliver free-ofcost justice to people.

He stressed the need to further enhance awareness among the people about the role and services of Mohtasib in providing timely justice against maladministration of government departments.

He urged the need to further expand the outreach of the Mohtasib to far-flung areas of the country, besides improving people's access to Mohtasib by utilizing modern technology.

President Alvi lauded the performance of the Wafaqi Mohtasib, stating that it was doing a remarkable job by providing prompt relief to

members of those martyred in the ful environment. **Commonwealth observer** condemns terrorist attacks in Pakistan in run-up to polls

PM strongly condemns

Pishin blasts

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime

Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on

Wednesday strongly condemned the blasts that took place in Khanozai and

Qila Saifullah areas of Balochistan's

In a condemnation message, the prime minister expressed deep grief

and sorrow over the loss of precious

He sympathized with family

Pashin district.

lives in the blasts.

Commonwealth Observer Group the Commonwealth Charter values on Wednesday condemned the of peace, democracy, tolerance, the run-up to the general elections.

Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, the chairman of the group, said the condolences to the families of the Commonwealth stood in solidarity with Pakistan.

of Pakistan and are united in our cases of violence.

ISLAMABAD: The chair of the desire to see the strengthening of recent fatal attacks in Pakistan in respect and understanding," he said in a statement.

Dr Jonathan expressed his sincere victims and wished a quick recovery to the injured. He lauded the security "As the Commonwealth, we and polling officials for their bravery stand in solidarity with the people in ensuring the elections despite the

Gohar Ejaz pledges to ensure robust security for upcoming Polls-2024

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Interior Minister, Dr. Goher Ejaz, on Tuesday expressed his commitment to ensure robust security for upcoming general elections scheduled to be held on February 8. Speaking at a joint press conference, he outlined the government's comprehensive preparations in place for the upcoming elections.

The minister was flanked by Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi, and Federal Secretary for Interior, Aftab Akbar Durrani. Highlaw and order during the elections. between security agencies and the administration to prevent any unlawthe presence of trained commandos in Balochistan and the support of the armed forces in ensuring the safety of the electoral process. Providing an overview of the election preparations, the interior minister shared that out of 90,777 polling stations across the country, 44,000 were declared normal, 29,985 deemed sensitive, and 16,766 labeled as highly sensitive. He reassured the public that security would be deployed in three levels, with 7 to 8 law enforcers stationed at each polling station.



Despite concerns and challenges, Dr Ejaz expressed hope for a "transparlighting the security measures, Dr. ent", and peaceful election. He urged Ejaz assured that there would be the public to exercise their right to no compromise on maintaining vote with confidence, acknowledging the dedication of the 511 000-strop He underscored the collaboration police force guarding the poling stations. The minister recounted his visits to Karachi and Balochistan, ful interference. Dr Ejaz emphasized addressing specific challenges in each region. In Sindh, he noted the absence of enmity between political parties, while in Balochistan, he highlighted the disruptive actions of terrorists tarnishing Pakistan's image. Dispelling rumors surrounding the elections on February 8, Dr. Ejaz clarified that, as of now, no decision had been made to shut down mobile or internet services. However, he emphasized that, if necessary, considerations would be made based on security requests from specific districts or provinces.

Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs Minister announces review of Sehat Sahulat Program

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar presided over a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC),

The meeting was attended by the Minister for Energy and Petroleum Division Mr. Mohammad Ali, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Mr. Sami Saeed, Minister for Communication Maritimes and Railwavs Mr. Shahid Ashraf Tarar, Minister for Information and Technology Mr. Umar Saif, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Dr. Muhammad Jehanzaeb Khan, Advisor to PM on Finance Dr. Waqar Masood, Federal Secretaries, officers of the relevant minis-

The ECNEC was briefed about the summary from Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives regarding "Sehat Sahulat Program (3rd Revised)" with the submission to maintain the continuity of the said of Planning Development and in this fiscal year.



program until 30th June of this year with provision of assistance only to the population below the poverty line (less than 32.5PMT). The forum gave approval with the direcregarding technical scope and design, financial plan, regulatory framework and other institutional arrangements for upcoming government to take decision for continuation of the project beyond June 2024.

The project of Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives regardand other senior government ing "Establishment of Infectious Disease Laboratory (IDL)" with the total cost of Rs. 8,289.913 million was approved owing to advance level 4 lab for handling pathogens, Research and Development for indigenous virus and bacteria after COVID-19.

Another project of Ministry

Special Initiatives regarding "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Roads Development Project (KP-RRD)-Asian Development Bank (ADB) Assisted" was placed for the considtions to prepare all modalities eration of the ECNEC at the total cost of Rs. 105,450.000 million. The forum approved the project for improved rural accessibility, connectivity and unlocking the economic and development opportunities

> for inhabitants of KP province. The project of "Construction of Additional Carriageway of Torkham- Jalalabad Road Project (ACW TJRP) in the Afghanistan (2nd Revised)" was presented by Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives in detail. The ECNEC gave approval of the project at the total cost of Rs. 17,140.622 million without FEC with the direction to complete the said project with-

with the summary of "Criteria and Procedure for Incorporation of Price Adjustment Provision in the on-going contracts, 2022(amended June 2023-modified January 2024)". The forum gave approval to the proposed recommendations of the summary.

The Revised PC-I for the Installation of Telemetry System for Real Time Discharge Monitoring at 27 Key Sites on Indus Basin Irrigation System "(IBIS) was placed before ECNEC by Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives at a total cost of Rs. 23,834.707 million and got approved. Another Summary of Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives regarding "Peshawar Northern Bypass Project (PNBP)- 32.2 Km (3rd Revised)" was also approved by ECNEC with the direction to complete before

ending of this fiscal year. from summary Economic Affairs Division regarding "Relending of Loans to Provincial Governments Obtained by the Federal Government for Polio Erad- to approval of CCI.

The ECNEC was presented ication Program" was approved owing to the fact that three provinces have already agreed to relent the loan obtained by the Federal Government. The provincial share of loan for repayment will be calculated by Ministry of Health Services, Regulations and Coordination in consultation with respective finance and health departments.

The summary of Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives regarding "Development of National Irrigation Network for Green Pakistan Initiative" was discussed in detail with the submission to Ministry of Water Resources and Provinces to allocate priority to strategic canals in accordance with National Water Policy. Greater Thal Canal Project(Phase II) was also discussed, on which Government of Sindh showed its concerns. The ECNEC directed Government of Sindh to present its views regarding techno-economic viability of Greater Thal Canal (Phase II) project to Council of Common Interest. The forum gave approval of Greater Thal

Canal (Phase II) project subject

Security for elections



From front Page

The government has deployed over 648,000 security personnel nationwide to ensure the safety of voters, as well as, conduct of fair and transparent polling process.

The government has completed all arrangements for holding safe, fair, and transparent elections.

Out of 648,000 security personnel deployed, 137,000 are from army and paramilitary force, while 511,000 policemen will perform duties during the election.

An average of seven to eight security personnel will man each of the 90,777 polling stations across the country.

In the first tier, the police will perform the duty, along with the civil armed forces in the second tier and the

armed forces in the third tier. A special aerial Quick Reaction $Force\left(QRF\right) has also been established$ to promptly deal with any untoward

CCTV cameras and other modern gadgets have been installed to ensure peace and security on the polling day.

The Ministry of Interior has set up a national crisis information management system that will monitor the electoral process round the clock.

"Some 111 political parties have nominated 280 women candidates to contest the elections on general seats, making up 4.6 percent of the total of 6,037 candidates they have fielded," the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) said in a statement.

According to Section 206 of the Elections Act, 2017 (Selection for Elective Offices), each political party is required to ensure at least five percent representation of women candidates while selecting candidates for general seats for elective offices, including membership of the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) and Provincial Assemblies, through a transparent and incident, especially in the Balochistan democratic procedure.

ECP sets up complaint desk for women, minorities, physically challenged voters

City Desk

KARACHI,: The Election Commission of Pakistan has established a complaint desk for the convenience of women, physically challenged voters and voters belonging to minority communities. The voters including women, physically challenged persons and those belonging to minority communities can register their complaint on 99205338021 or 99202624021 while on WhatsApp 0327-5056610.

Pakistan fully committed to inclusive democratic process; security plans finalised for Feb 8 polls: FO

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch on Wednesday said that Pakistan was fully committed to foster an inclusive democratic process and uphold the rule of law. The spokesperson's remarks came in response to the media queries on the statement by UN Human Rights High Commissioner Volker Türk who had urged authorities in Pakistan to ensure that parliamentary elections this week

were free and appealed to ensure a

fully free and fair vote and recommit to the democratic process and



tution," the spokesperson remarked. She said the security plans have been finalized to hold the elections on February 8, 2024, as per the electoral laws of Pakistan. The spokesperson said that Pakistan's judicial system provided for fair trial and due process. Domestic legal remedies are protects human rights. "Pakistan is available in case of any complaints in

sive democratic process, upholding

the rule of law and protect human

rights and fundamental freedoms

guaranteed in its laws and Consti-

fully committed to fostering an incluthe electoral process, she added. Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi