



Mushaal for joint struggle to break shackles of Indian slavery

While paying glowing tributes to renowned Kashmiri liberation leader Shaheed Muhammad Maqbool Butt, Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick stressed the need that it was high time people of Kashmir should unite on one platform to work jointly for the just cause of Kashmir freedom struggle to turn the dream... (Details on Page 3)



Dozens of Palestinians killed in Israeli bombing in Gaza areas

A number of Palestinian citizens were killed and dozens were injured after the occupation aircraft bombed areas in Rafah and Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip on the 128th day of the ongoing aggression. Medical sources said that a woman was killed and a number of others were wounded after the occupation aircraft targeted a house north of the city of Rafah, south of the Gaza Strip. (Details on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Meeting

GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan presiding over the meeting regarding the Chitral Express way at CM Secretariat.



Photo: APP/AHS/FHA

President Alvi congratulates people on 'showing' faith in democracy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi congratulated the people of Pakistan on showing faith in democracy by taking part in the electoral process in large numbers.

In a statement on X, formerly known as Twitter, President Alvi said that the people especially the women came out in 8th February's General Elections and exercised their right to vote.

"I must congratulate the people of Pakistan, especially the women for coming out in huge numbers and strengthening democracy. The youth deserve a special mention, and I praise them for having decided to take charge of the country by participating peacefully in the voting process. They have



put their faith in democracy. This belief is very precious, it will write history and must be recognized," the President posted.

He said, "A true mandate is essential to come out of the severe financial crunch, to make difficult decisions, to repair, and to heal the bitterness of the past. We must celebrate this effervescent new focus and show it to the outside world. My confidence in our brilliant future has been strengthened as the people have not only spoken but have shouted out their will."

PML-N 'offers' presidency, NA speakership, Senate chairmanship to PPP

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has 'offered' presidency, NA speakership and Senate chairmanship to Pakistan People's Party, to get support for the formation of governments in centre and Punjab, citing sources.

According to the inside story of the meeting between the Paki-



stan People's Party and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leadership to finalize the matters of forming a unity government as no party gained a simple majority after the Feb 8 elections.

Sources claimed that PML-N has offered three constitutional positions to the PPP to gain its support in centre and Punjab. PPP was offered positions of president, speaker National

Assembly and Senate chairman, while PML-N also agreed to give Balochistan CM ship to the Bilawal-led party.

Furthermore, PML-N also reportedly offered deputy CM ship or the position of senior minister in Punjab.

Both parties have agreed to continue negotiations after discussing the matter in the CECs meeting.

Security forces kills Daesh ring leader in Khyber District IBO: ISPR

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The security forces on Sunday conducted an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the Khyber District and reportedly killed a high-profile terrorist and ring leader associated with the banned organization Daesh.

According to an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the security forces conducted the operation in the Khyber District on the reported presence of high-profile terrorist, Surat Gul alias Saif Ullah of Daesh, who was killed during an intense exchange of fire.

The law enforcers recovered weapons, ammunition and explosives from the possession of the killed terrorist commander.

The ISPR spokesperson revealed that the terrorist was actively involved in activities, including target killing of innocent civilians as well as extortion and was wanted by the law enforcement agencies.



"Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area. Locals of the area appreciated the operation and expressed their full support for the security forces to eliminate the menace of terrorism," the ISPR said.

In a separate incident yesterday, a policeman was martyred as terrorists opened fire on the police vehicle in Darazanda Dera Ismail Khan.

As per details, Additional SHO Deen Muhammad Sherani embraced martyrdom when terrorists attacked a police mobile in Darazanda area of DI Khan.

The police officials further stated that during the exchange of fire three terrorists were also gunned down.

First PTI-backed independent candidate joins PML-N in Lahore

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) backed independent candidate expressed full confidence and announced to join the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N).

Waseem Qadir, the newly elected Member of the National Assembly constituency (NA-121 Lahore-V), held a meeting with the senior vice president of PML-N Maryam Nawaz in Lahore, expressing full trust and confidence in the leadership of PML-N's supreme, Nawaz Sharif. In a meeting with Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the senior vice president of PML-N, Waseem Qadir discussed his decision to align with the party and the shared vision for the constituency.

PTI demands immediate resignation of CEC, ECP over 'shameful' plot to rig election

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Spokesperson strongly rejected the ongoing malicious attempts and shameful drama to tamper with the results to convert PTI's overwhelming majority into minority to impose the people-rejected PDM-2 on the nation once again.

PTI spokesperson, in a strongly-worded statement on Sunday, vehemently denounced the reprehensible plot to deprive people of their true and genuine representatives, as efforts were afoot to steal the public mandate and re-imposed the gang of criminals on the nation.

He made it clear that the people of the country would not accept any such nefarious plan and they would safeguard and protect their mandate come what may.

PTI Spokesperson demanded

immediate resignation of Chief Election Commissioner and members of the election watchdog, who worked as main facilitators in the daylight robbery on public mandate.

He said that the Chief Election Commissioner and member of the ECP did not have any right and moral justification to say anymore on their position since they completely failed in performing their constitutional and legal duties, as they even did not have any regard and respect for the constitution and law.

PTI Spokesperson stated that they opened the door to violating the constitution, flouting the law, tarnishing democracy and desecrating the public mandate.

He stated that PTI, being the largest and most popular party in the country, with representation in all four provinces and a decisive public mandate, had the basic constitution-

al, democratic, moral and political right to form a government.

PTI Spokesperson recalled that the rejected and incompetent PDM group was responsible Pakistan's prevailing economic and administrative disaster.

He went on to say that inflation-weary people of the country rejected the clique of criminals by taking revenge through their power of vote three days ago by inflicting crushing drubbing on them.

PTI Spokesperson recalled that the PDM 16-month-long inept government compounded the public miseries manifolds, as they skyrocketed the inflation and ruined the fast thriving economy.

He made it clear that the people would neither accept any plan to impose criminals on the country nor PTI would allow it to do so in any circumstances

MQM-P denies demand of Sindh governorship

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) Convener Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui denied the demand of Sindh governorship during the party's meeting with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leadership.

Speaking to media representatives, the MQM-P convener said that matters related to the formation of the government were not discussed in the meeting.

Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said that the talks in the meeting were largely related to public issues and the recently concluded General Elections 2024. "There was no discussion on govt formation. We did not demand Sindh governorship or anything else," the MQM-P convener reiterated.

ECP restrains ROs from final notifications of Islamabad's three NA seats

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has restrained Returning Officers from issuing final notifications of Islamabad's NA-46, NA-47 and NA-48 results.

It is to be mentioned here

that according to unofficial results, PML-N candidates were returned successful on all three National Assembly seats of the federal capital territory.

The election commission restrained the Islamabad RO from issuing final notification of the result of NA-46. Independent

candidate Rao Masood had challenged the Form 47 of the constituency's result.

According to the unofficial and unconfirmed results Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's candidate Anjum Aqeel Khan was declared winner in NA-46 constituency. PTI-supported

independent candidate Amir Masood was runner-up according to the result.

In NA-47 of the federal capital PML-N's Tariq Fazal Chaudhry was returned successful, while the PTI-supported rival Shoaib Shaheen was runner-up in the constituency.

In NA-48 an independent candidate Raja Khurram Shehzad was declared successful, while the PTI-supported rival Syed Muhammad Ali Bukhari was the second. Raja Khurram Shehzad had announced to join the PML-N after winning the election.

Elections 2024: PTI-backed independent candidates take lead in NA with 95 seats

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) backed independent candidates have grabbed 95 seats in the National Assembly as unofficial and unconfirmed results of 257 constituencies out of 265 have emerged.

According to details, unconfirmed and unofficial results of seven constituencies are still pending, while the result of one NA constituency is withheld.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz currently stands second in the National Assembly with 78 seats, while the Pakistan People's Party is in third place with 54 seats

The result of NA-64 has been withheld after PTI-backed candidate Qaisara Ilahi challenged her defeat.

Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan has won 17 seats in the National Assembly, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazal 3 while the Istekham-e-Pakistan

Party and the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid have won two seats, each in the lower house of the Parliament.

In addition, the Pakistan Muslim League-Zia, Majlis-e-Wahdatul Muslimeen and Balochistan National Party have grabbed one seat, each.

According to the unofficial and unconfirmed results so far, no party is in a position to form the government single-handedly.

Meanwhile, around 60 million voters went to the polls on February 8 to elect their representatives.

According to the preliminary report of the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN), more than 1.1 million election officials performed election duties.

Additionally, more than 0.7 million police and military officials stood guard across the country and outside polling stations, ensuring peace and order on Election Day.

Pakistan can make history by electing Bilawal as PM: Chaudhry Latif Akbar

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Speaker Legislative Assembly Center Parliamentarian Chaudhry Latif Akbar has said that due to the excellent political planning of Chairman People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in the general elections of Pakistan, his stature has increased in such a dignified way that even the worst opponents are not without comment. Political parties can make a new history by electing Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari as the prime minister by showing understanding and political tolerance.

Bhutto Zardari did not close the doors of negotiations with all democratic forces. He expressed these views while commenting on the situation after the general elections in Pakistan.

The party promoted the collective rights movement of the nation by making sacrifices in every era. He said that the new federal government established in Pakistan should take the



Kashmiri leadership of both sides into confidence and create a new Kashmir policy.

Chaudhry Latif Akbar said. The federal government should form the

National Kashmir Committee by choosing the elected parliamentarians from all the parties and make the parliamentarian who has access to the history of Kashmir as the chairman.

Bhutto highlighted the freedom movement in the houses of the world and said that the security and prosperity of the dear country Pakistan is the greatest desire of the people of Kashmir.

Handicraft

MULTAN: An artisan demonstrating his skills during the Bleu fair organized by the Women Chamber of Commerce.



According to Form 45 of all the Polling Stations 'I have won the Election': Mehar Bano Qureshi

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Tehreek-e-Insaf supported independent candidate Mehra Bano Qureshi and Barrister Taimur Altaf Mahe held a press conference in Multan. In this regard, Mehra Bano Qureshi said that I have Form 45 of all the polling stations according to which I have won, but there is a huge discrepancy between Form 47 and Form 45 issued by the Election Commission. He further said that the final results of Zain Qureshi,



the successful candidate released yet. from NA-150, have not been We have full faith in the

judiciary that justice will be provided to us, we will not let the votes of the people go to waste.

International organizations are also questioning the transparency of the election. I will give this message to Ali Musa Gilani that he should open his heart and accept his defeat while showing political maturity. On this occasion, Barrister Taimur Mahe said that according to Form 45 in Constituency NA-148, he has a lead of 7000 over former Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani,

which was changed to Form 47, which clearly shows that he is playing with public sentiments. However, Gilani would like to say that he should not resign from his Senate seat and accept your defeat as per Form 45. On this occasion, Zahoor Bhatta, an independent candidate who lost the election from PP 218, said that he was also rigged and 12000 votes were rejected, which is a very wrong process. We will prosecute vigorously and guard the public mandate until they get justice

Astana Alia Ghousia Qadiria celebration of the Ascension of Mustafa (PBUH)

Abdul Majeed Tahir

HATTIANBALLA: Astana Alia Ghousia Qadiria Nadol Sharif Hattian Balla, a grand annual one-day celebration of the Ascension of Mustafa (peace be upon him) and the greatness of Mullah Ali Murtaza (peace be upon him) was held at Jamia Ghousia Nadol Sharif Hattian Balla. While the special guest of the conference was prominent religious scholar Allama Muhammad Yasir Abbasi Hazarvi of Rawalpindi, former chairman of the education board Mirpur Board Qazi Muhammad Ibrahim Chish-ti, Mahtamam Madrasa Syedna Abu Tarab Gujar Bandi Syed Muhammad Ishaq Naqvi, Sajjadhan Astana Alia Alexandria Peer, Fayaz Kazmi, Professor Syed Shabbir Naqvi, Qari Mohammad Arif Abbasi, Syed Asrar Al Hasan Gilani, President of Anjuman Tajiran Syed Faisal Gilani, Mirza Asif Mughal,

Syed Saghir Bukhari spoke while the well-known world-renowned poet and great admirer of Rasool Sahibzada Pir Syed. Altaf Hussain Kazmi entertained the participants of the conference with his beautifully written Chneidh Kalam and presented Naat Sharif and Manqbat Maula Ali (peace be upon him) in a unique style. Others presented Naat Sharif and Allama Professor Syed Shabbir Naqvi performed the duties of the stage secretary. Speaking on the occasion, the scholars said that the ascension of Prophet Mustafa (PBUH) is a miracle that Allah Almighty called the last Prophet (PBUH) to him on Arsh Maali. The event we talked about with you, the ascension, is actually the ascension of humanity. The last of the Prophets, the Messenger of God, said that prayer is the ascension of the believer, and this great gift was obtained only in the ascension. Bowing down to Allah is a sign of exal-

tation and servitude to the Messenger of Allah. To be free, and similarly, the servitude of Allah and the obedience of the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) is the guarantee of success in this world and the hereafter. May Allah Ta'ala grant us all the opportunity to follow the teachings of Islam fully. The training made Bab Madinah the great position of knowledge. His courage and bravery has become proverbial. Hearing your name, the enemies of the religion used to be in awe. You are the source of the spiritual fountains of religion. No one can even reach the vicinity of Wilayat without bowing before Ali. Maula Qaradiya. According to the hadith of the Prophet, looking at the face of Hazrat Ali and mentioning him has the status of worship. According to the advice of the perfect saints, the love and reverence of the Holy Prophet should be included in every aspect of life. Respect and respect

for the Holy Prophet was the motto of the noble Companions, Ahl al-Bayt, Tabi'in and predecessors. This respect and love is the source of man's salvation in this world, Barzakh and the Hereafter. Islamic states weakened due to our internal disturbances. Because of this weakness, we cannot talk about the Al-Aqsa Mosque today, about the oppressors and martyrdoms of Palestine and Gaza. One has to take care of the sanctity and sanctity of the cloak and the four walls and one has to promise oneself not to do anything that comes in the form of slander and accusation. A large number of people participated in the conference. On this occasion, Sajjada Nashin Darbar Alia Nadol Sharif, Pir Syed Arshad Hussain Gilani, spoke LIVE to the participants of the conference from the UK, while the closing prayer was given by Sahibzada Pir Syed Fayyaz Kazmi and participants distributed langar in the conference.

Shah pays eulogizing tributes to Shaheed Maqbool Bhat on his martyrdom anniversary

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Senior Hurriyat leader and chairman Democratic Freedom Party Shabir Ahmed Shah has paid rich tributes to renowned Kashmiri liberation leader Shaheed Muhammad Maqbool Bhat who on this day in 1984 was hanged to death in New Delhi's Tihar Jail.

In his message from Tihar jail the incarcerated leader, while paying tributes to JKLF ideologue Muhammad Maqbool Bhat, said that Bhat was an icon of resistance movement who sacrificed his life for the noble cause of freedom.

The DFP leader termed the execution of Maqbool Bhat as a judicial murder saying that so-called democratic state violated the fundamentals of justice system by denying him the right to fair trial.

Highlighting the supreme sacrifices of the JKLF leader, he said that Bhat was a man of integrity and honesty who devoted his entire life for the collective cause, went through trials and tribulations and ultimately sacrificed his precious life in pursuit of long cherished ideals.

Bhat's supreme sacrifices for the noble cause, he said have inspired a new generation of Kashmiri youth who continue to strive and struggle to achieve the ultimate goal for which the Kashmiri martyrs had laid down their precious lives.

He expressed the hope that the day was not far when subjugated but determined masses of Kashmir will see the dawn of freedom.



Finally been proved the peaceful conduct the general election. Dr Rubina Akhtar

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Political leader Dr. Rubina Akhtar has said that February 8 was finally the line on the stone and all institutions deserve congratulations for holding elections on that day. was taken forward which is welcome, he said that now it will be a difficult phase of government formation because no party could get a huge mandate and now there are probably preparations to form PDM-2 but this process has failed miserably after forming PDM for the first time in which \$270 on the rupee and inflation skyrocketed, it would be better if all the political parties should be taken into confidence and with mutual consultation, a political party should be brought forward that has the right understanding of how to get Pakistan out of trouble and represents the people rightly.



We will continue the mission of Imran Khan Malik Aamir

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Newly Elected Member of National Assembly Malik Muhammad Aamir Dogar has expressed his gratitude to Multan for his and the panel's wonderful success and said that I am thankful for the blessings of Allah Kareem millions of times. I pay that they have rendered our service in exchange for capital Faqit gave priority and supported Imran Khan's struggle with perseverance and ideology and made me and my panel successful. My uncle Malik Liaquat Dogar was elected Member of National Assembly in 2002 from Constituency 149 of Multan. He trusted me and elected me as a member of the National Assembly. In the election, the richest sugar tycoon landed as a parachute on the basis of his wealth, but the citizens gave importance to our service over Multan, successfully coped with. Malik Amir Dogar further said that we will continue the mission of service and service of our late father Malik Salahuddin Dogar, naming our glorious victory in the name of our parents and citizens, elders, PTI workers. He reiterated that our doors are open to solve people's problems Multan. Tehreek-e-Insaf NA-149 Member National Assembly Malik Amir Dogar, Tehreek-e-Insaf PP 216 Malik Adnan Dogar, Malik Usman Dogar President High Court Bar Association Rana Asif Saeed, Mian Ali Bhatta, Asifa Saleem, Rana Shakeel, Munir Asi, Muhammad Yusuf, Yahya Gujar and others congratulated.

Women of Pakistan People's Party celebrate success of Pakistan's Party in Multan



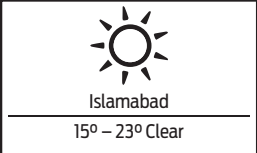
Kiran Asim

MULTAN: People's Party Women leaders Hina Shah and Rubina Shaheen Distributed sweets in celebration of the success of the People's Party. A large number of women were present on this occasion. With the success of this, the deprivations of South Punjab will end and Multan will become a province will remain and Multan has proved that Multan is the treasure trove of Pakistan People's Party. Paid, he added that Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will be the Prime Minister of Pakistan and Asif Ali Zardari will be the President of Pakistan

CM pays a visit to the Mazar Bibi Pak Daman to review progress

PPA

LAHORE: A new route from the Empress Road will be built for the facilitation of pilgrims at the Mazar Bibi Pak Daman. Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid a visit to the project late at night. CM reviewed the progress being made on the construction of the road to link the Mazar Bibi Pak Daman with the Empress Road. Mohsin Naqvi inspected the allocated site for car parking along with the construction of the new road. CM also inspected the construction activities from the Empress Road up to the Mazar along with removing the building structure causing obstruction during the construction work. Mohsin Naqvi ordered the remaining structure at the earliest. He directed to expeditiously move forward the road construction work along with removing the structure. CM apprised that the pilgrims will be provided easy access to the Mazar with the construction of a 20 feet wide road up to the Empress Road. More space is being allocated for the parking of vehicles so as to provide facilitation to the pilgrims. Secretary C&W gave a briefing about progress being made on the project. Officials of C&W, LDA, IDAP and administrative officials were also present on the occasion.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:33 am
Zohr	12:22 pm
Asr	4:09 pm
Maghrib	5:48 pm
Isha	7:12 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

Mushaal for joint struggle to break shackles of Indian slavery

PPA

ISLAMABAD: While paying glowing tributes to renowned Kashmiri liberation leader Shaheed Muhammad Maqbool Butt, Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick stressed the need that it was high time people of Kashmir should unite on one platform to work jointly for the just cause of Kashmir freedom struggle to turn the dream of dream of breaking the shackles of Indian slavery once and for all.

Speaking at a function organized at Koshar School at refugees camp Mankpian to mark 40th martyrdom anniversary of Maqbool Butt, where a special prayer and Quran recitation was held for him, Mushaal said that the legendary Kashmiri liberation leader had been sent to the gallows in New Delhi's infamous Tihar jail on this day in 1984 for his role in Kashmir freedom movement.

However, she lamented that the fascist Indian authorities did not hand over the

dead body of the celebrated Kashmiri leader to his heirs despite the lapse of four decades, who was buried in the premises of an infamous jail.

On the occasion, the participants held special prayers for incarcerated Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik and other Kashmiri leaders and activists.

The SAPM on Human Rights and Women Empowerment stated that Maqbool Butt was an icon of the resistance movement who sacrificed his life for the noble cause of freedom of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

She went on to say that people of Kashmir were neither given the right to live nor to die, adding that they were as well as neither they have the right to bury their loved ones.

Mushaal said that her husband Yasin Malik was being subjected to brutal and inhuman treatment as he was denied all legal, constitutional and fundamental rights.

She feared that the notorious Indian government was hell-bent to hang Yasin



Malik, who was the most powerful voice of people of Kashmir, adding that he was implicated in frivolous and politically-mo-

tivated cases to silence his voice. SAPM called upon the world community and UN bodies to force India to ensure

his release and let Kashmir decide their fate as per the aspirations of the people of IIOJK.

She vowed that Kashmiri people would leave no stone unturned and will continue their struggle till the last drop of their blood to break the yoke of Indian slavery.

Mushaal said that Maqbool was a man of integrity and honesty who devoted his entire life for the collective cause, went through trials and tribulations and ultimately sacrificed his life in pursuit of long-cherished ideals.

She made it clear that the notorious Indian government should bear in mind that it could not dampen the courage of brave Kashmiri people despite facing all state terrorism and fascism, hoping that the day was not far when the masses of Kashmir would see the dawn of freedom.

On the occasion, Yasin Malik daughter Rizia Sultana urged for the unity of people of Kashmir to realize the dream of freedom of Kashmir. Mushaal held a conversation with the children of the kosher school.

Faiz Mela

Lahore: Woman artist making clay made items on her stall during Faiz Mela at Al-Hamra.



People are waiting for stability: Sarfraz Mughal



PNP

ISLAMABAD: Prominent social and business leader and former president of supermarket Sarfraz Mughal has expressed his opinion that in the current situation people are eagerly waiting for economic and political stability. The problems faced in running the wheel of the industry along with controlling the foundations, reforms in health education and poverty alleviation

People are waiting for the solution. Chairman of the Election Commission, Mr. Gahrat Rana Mohammad Safdar, a businessman, has said that the restoration of the economy is the best move for the country's interest, for which the newly elected government will have to face numerous challenges. Sincere actions for the betterment and service of the country and the nation with the spirit of.

CM visits P&SHC Department, inaugurates FM Radio 'Sehat Zindagi'

PPA

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid a visit to the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department located at the Birdwood Road and inaugurated FM Radio "Sehat Zindagi" by the health department. CM inspected the studios and various sections of the FM Radio "Sehat Zindagi". Mohsin Naqvi recorded a message for FM Radio Sehat Zindagi. He stated that launching of FM Radio "Sehat Zindagi" is an appreciable step of the Health department. The people can be provided awareness to prevent themselves from various diseases and undergo their treatment through the FM Radio "Sehat Zindagi". CM stated that the specialists from various medical departments should be invited on the FM Radio "Sehat Zindagi" and



the people should be provided awareness with regard to health issues and their cure. Mohsin Naqvi underscored that FM Radio "Sehat Zindagi" will prove to be a beneficial project in the health sector. CM maintained that the standard of the radio industry has definitely declined but FM Radio is listened to even today. The broadcast of FM Radio "Sehat Zindagi" can be heard within approximately 50 km range of

Lahore. The Provincial Minister and Secretary for P&SHC deserve congratulations on the successful launching of FM Radio "Sehat Zindagi". The Health department can make an effective awareness campaign through the platform of FM Radio "Sehat Zindagi". Secretary Health despite having scarce resources has launched an excellent project. The FM Radio "Sehat Zindagi" has to only focus on

the programs relating to the health sector. Mohsin Naqvi apprised that various hospitals have been upgraded in a short span of time while the upgradation of few other hospitals are in their final phases of completion. The hospitals which have not been upgraded yet, will be upgraded in the next phase. CM stated that we have provided non available facilities in the hospitals. We will arrange new operation theatres, MRI machines and other facilities in collaboration with the private sector. Mohsin Naqvi also inaugurated HRIMS, ORIM and HIDU. CM also inaugurated the van especially being prepared for the video link along with the coaster project. Provincial Minister for P&SHC Dr. Jamal Nasir, Chief Secretary, Secretary C&W, Secretary Health and concerned officials were also present on the occasion.

In partnership with Faiz Festival, feminist magazine 'Risala Tarz' debuts at Faiz Festival

PNP

LAHORE: Celebrating the vibrant spirit of feminist literature, a stall showcasing the inaugural edition of "Risala Tarz," a feminist literary magazine, was set up at "The Faiz Festival" in collaboration with the Faiz Foundation in Lahore on February 9th, 10th, and 11th, 2024. Founded and led by Zara Nazir and Haani Hashim, the magazine boasts the creative brilliance of graphic designers Emaan Shahid and Amna Ali.

Drawing a crowd of 20 to 30,000 attendees annually, "The Faiz Festival" is a cornerstone of Lahore's cultural landscape. Against this backdrop, "Risala Tarz" boldly explores feminist themes, resonating with the festival's ethos.

The magazine's mission to uplift young Pakistani artists and provide them with a platform to flourish is exemplified by its fully youth-led core team, all women aged 18 or younger. The event's success underscores the significance of this endeavor, which extends beyond literature to cultural empowerment.

In addition to the magazine, merchandise such as tote bags and postcards, all designed by the "Risala Tarz" team, further amplifies the magazine's presence and impact. This initiative not only promotes feminist discourse but also empowers young artists, making it a pivotal moment in Lahore's cultural narrative.

Malik Abrar Hussain awarded an honorary PhD degree

PNP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's honor, Malik Abrar Hussain has been awarded an honorary Ph. D. degree by the State University of Maryland.



This honor was given by the American University to 50 experts from 30 countries of the world in the ceremony of awarding honorary degrees held in Dubai.

The central president of All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association has made great efforts for the improvement of private educational institutions from the platform of the organization.

Another honor of Pakistan, the famous Pakistani educationist Malik Abrar Hussain was awarded an honorary doctorate degree by the State University of Maryland, USA, in recognition of his valuable services in the field of education. This honor was given in a ceremony held in Dubai on the occasion of awarding honorary degrees to fifty experts from thirty countries of the world.

According to reports, fifty experts from thirty countries around the world were awarded honorary doctorate degrees by the State University of Maryland in a prestigious ceremony held in Dubai in recognition of their excellent services in their respective fields. Malik Abrar Hussain, the central president of All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association, is also included among them. Malik Abrar Hussain, who received this honor for Pakistan, created the All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association and made great efforts for the improvement of private educational institutions from the platform of the organization.

Dar Arqam School students completed 22nd annual completion of the Qur'an

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: 500 male and female students of Dar Arqam School Division completed the ceremony of memorizing the Qur'an at Rifa University Satyana Road, Dr. Mudassar Ahmed, Chairman Dar Arqam Foundation Pakistan; 223; It was held under the chairmanship of Rafah International University Faisalabad, the ceremony was attended by local and foreign reciters who came from all over the division. On this occasion Qari Fyazur Rahman taught the last lesson to the students. In the ceremony, Hafiz Abdullah Mudassar (Director of Dar al-Raqam School, Faisalabad Division), Qari Abdul Rahman Asad, Director of Quran Memorization Department of Dar al-Raqam Schools, Faisalabad Division, Dr. Ramzi Al Habib (Egypt), Qari Abu Ali Al Maati (Tunisia), Dr. Ishtiaq Gondal, Director of Dar al-Raqam School Pakistan, and Qais Anjum Jafari, (CO Dararqam School Pakistan; 223; General Secretary Al Khidmat Foundation Pakistan) also participated. Addressing the ceremony, Chairman Dararqam Foundation Pakistan; 223; The chairman of Rafah International University said that while Dar al-Raqam schools are providing religious education to children, they also organize religious education. The 22nd annual completion of the Quran is proof that Dar al-Raqam school connects children with Islam in other schools. Those parents of those deserving of congratulations who make their children memorize the Qur'an cannot make it meaningful. He said that the solution to all our problems lies in following the Holy Qur'an, the Holy Qur'an is the book that tells how to live in it, that's why Dar al-Raqam schools emphasize the teaching of the Holy Qur'an. He said that lakhs of children have received education from Dar al-Raqam schools and are rendering their services in every field of life. Director of Dar Arqam Schools, Faisalabad Abdullah Mudassar said that it is a matter of pride for us that we are making 500 students complete the Quran.

Political Rivalry in Pakistan: PML-N vs. PTI

Faiza Siddique

In the dynamic landscape of Pakistani politics, two major contenders stand out: the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). The rivalry between these parties has shaped the country's political discourse and influenced its governance for years. Let's delve into the key aspects of this enduring rivalry.

Historical Context

The roots of the rivalry between PML-N and PTI can be traced back to Pakistan's tumultuous political history. PML-N, led by the Sharif family, has been a dominant force in Pakistani politics since the 1980s. On the other hand, PTI, founded by former cricketer Imran Khan in 1996, emerged as a formidable challenger to the estab-

lished political order. **Ideological Differences**

PML-N is often associated with center-right politics, advocating for economic liberalization and pro-business policies. The party draws support from various sections of society, particularly in Punjab, Pakistan's most populous province. In contrast, PTI presents itself as a populist and reformist force, promising to fight corruption, improve governance, and uplift the marginalized segments of society.

Leadership and Personalities

The leadership dynamics of both parties play a crucial role in shaping their ideologies and strategies. PML-N has been synonymous with the Sharif family, particularly Nawaz Sharif and his brother Shehbaz Sharif. Their strong presence and political experience have cemented PML-N's

position as a stalwart of Pakistani politics. PTI, on the other hand, revolves around the charismatic persona of Imran Khan, whose popularity as a cricketing legend translated into a significant political following.

Electoral Competition

The electoral battle between PML-N and PTI has been intense, with both parties vying for power at the federal and provincial levels. Elections in Pakistan are often marred by allegations of rigging, corruption, and electoral malpractice, further fueling the rivalry between the two parties. Despite PTI's rise to power in the 2018 general elections, PML-N remains a potent force, particularly in its stronghold of Punjab.

Policy Differences and Governance

The policy differences between PML-N and PTI have been reflected in their approaches to governance.

While PML-N has focused on infrastructure development and energy projects during its stints in power, PTI has emphasized anti-corruption measures, social welfare programs, and human development initiatives. The contrasting governance styles have led to debates over the effectiveness and sustainability of their respective policies.

Conclusion

The rivalry between PML-N and PTI encapsulates the complexities of Pakistani politics, characterized by shifting alliances, power struggles, and competing visions for the country's future. As Pakistan navigates its democratic journey, the competition between these two parties continues to shape the nation's political landscape, influencing policies, electoral outcomes, and the aspirations of its people.

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IK dedicates PTI's win to 'Ghulami Na Manzoor' - I

According to Barrister Gohar, following the PTI's surprise lead in the elections-2024 in the center, as well as its outstanding performance in Punjab and KP, PTI founder Mr. Imran Khan dedicated the resounding victory to "Ghulami Na Manzoor" with tremendous calm and poise.

Imran Khan's faith and belief in winning the elections was so strong that even when he was incarcerated with conviction on three major accounts, Toshakhana, Ciphra, and illegal Nikah, his party was shattered, his workers were thrown into jail in thousands, their homes and businesses were destroyed, his close associates deserted him, his party was deprived of election symbols, in an V-log a month ago said without any iota of doubt that his party, no matter what comes, will win.

Contrary to his claims, only two days ago, many media persons, politicians, political observers and opinion makers rejected his claim, as if he is asking of the moon an impossible task in the face of the entire state power, administration, parliament and judiciary all poised against him willingly or unwillingly. No one with a sane mind was ready to take his tall claim as serious or having any substance. But perhaps the same minds were not sane enough to gauge and comprehend the insanity of his supporters and were capable of grasping the reality that his popularity and charisma was increasing directly proportional to state

power poised against him. All without expectation, the observers, commentators, opinion makers were predicting and anticipating PTI securing under thirty seats nationally, facing defeat in Sindh, Punjab, and Balochistan, while only performing moderately well in KP. The expectation was for the state-backed favorite to secure a commanding majority at the center, likely forming a government with ease in center and Punjab, possibly even with a two-thirds majority.

Many expected Nawaz Sharif as Prime Minister, Ishaq Dar as Finance Minister, and Maryam Nawaz as Punjab's Chief Minister, predicting a clear path for PML(N). However, the unexpected surge of PTI support challenged these forecasts, making the meticulous planning of state operatives, legislative efforts aimed at weakening PTI, and extensive election commission strategies to sideline the party appear ineffective. The judiciary's efforts to detain Imran Khan and his associates, along with administrative intimidation of PTI candidates, were also seen as futile against the determined PTI supporters and voters.

It was up until 12 p.m. on February 8th when the whole election results were overwhelmingly in favor of the PTI in the National Assembly and provincial assemblies of Punjab and KP province. This

deprived the PML(N), Establishment, Judiciary, and Election Commission of sweet dreams, and all forces rallied to avoid the death knell. The head of PTA, the head of securities agencies, and the head of the Election Commission allegedly launched a rapid action from their comfy mattresses. The PTA slowed down the internet, the Election Commission asked the Returning Officer to halt the issuance of form 4, and security operatives were ordered to invade certain polling stations in order to change the results.

They were aware that, despite their efforts to change the results, the candidates possessed the signed and endorsed form 45 by the presiding officers. However, they had made their own calculations that most of the candidates who have been deprived of their legitimate win will not have the means and resources to knock at the doors of the judiciary to seek justice, and a few who will have the tenacity, courage, grit and resources may get their seats restored, but in balance, they will achieve many purposes, the people at large will start accepting the results, the parties will start working on the forge results, assemblies will be formed and will become preoccupied with electing the Prime Minister, Speaker of the Assembly, and President, and even if a few seats are restored due to judicial intervention, it will make a little

difference. According to PTI calculations, they have won 170 seats in the Punjab Assembly and 145 seats in the center, putting them in a strong position to form governments in the Centre, Punjab, and KP provinces. They are certain that the results will be recounted and recompiled on the basis of form 45, and results will be re-announced with the required corrections to the correct results. Gohar Ali Khan, Chairman of the PTI, stated that there are still a few days to establish assemblies and expressed optimism that the results would be corrected.

On the other hand, PML(N), PPP and MQM are discussing possible alliances in the Centre, Punjab and Balochistan. PPP has communicated its agreement to support PML(N) in Punjab in lieu of PML(N) support in Balochistan. PPP may also agree to make alliance with PML(N) in center with possible bargaining of Bilawal Bhutto as Prime Minister or Asif Ali Zardari as President

Barrister Gohar however, ruled out any negotiations or alliances with either the PML(N) or the PPP, citing his belief that the PTI is well-positioned to form a government alone in the Centre, Punjab and KP. While discussing reserve seats for women and minorities, he stated that after their stolen seats are restored, PTI winning candidates will join a smaller party and claim the reserve seats. He expressed the hope that receiving the correct results and claiming reserve seats will be completed within one week.

To be continued



Analysis
Qamar Bashir

WHO documents 721 attacks on healthcare in Palestinian territory

The unrelenting war in Gaza hasn't spared hospitals, their staff or the people sheltering there, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) has said as it unveiled data indicating more than 350 attacks on healthcare in the enclave since hostilities erupted. A total of 645 people have died since 7 October and another 818 were injured as a result of these incidents, said WHO spokesperson Tarik Jasarevic, his comments coming amid allegations that a nurse was shot and critically injured while inside an operating theatre at a hospital in Khan Younis.

"These attacks have affected 98 healthcare facilities, including 27 hospitals damaged out of 36, and affected 90 ambulances, including 50 which sustained damage," Jasarevic told journalists in Geneva on Friday. In its latest update on the crisis, the UN aid coordination office, OCHA, reported more "intense fighting" in Khan Younis in southern Gaza on Thursday involving shelling and heavy gunfire. Citing UN partner the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PCRS), the UN aid coordination office said that Nasser Hospital and Al Amal Hospital - reportedly under siege for 17 days - had continued to be particularly badly affected by the violence which "is driving thousands of people" from the city further south to Rafah. The OCHA update also relayed reports from the Gaza health authority of continuing "allegations of sniper shooting in the vicinity of Nasser Hospital" and allegations that the Israeli military had prevented the movement of ambulances and access to the facility. "On 8 February, a nurse was reportedly shot and critically injured while inside the operations room in Nasser Hospital and two Palestinians were reportedly shot and killed in the vicinity," the OCHA update said. "On 7 February, a Palestinian woman was reportedly shot and killed while purportedly fetching water from Nasser Hospital." The latest WHO data also highlighted the growing number of attacks on healthcare in the occupied West Bank since the Gaza-Israel war erupted on 7 October, after widely condemned Hamas-led attacks left 1,200 Israeli and foreign nationals butchered and more than 250 taken hostage. Some 364 attacks on healthcare have happened in the West Bank, resulting in 10 fatalities and 62 injuries, Jasarevic said. He noted that 44 health facilities had been affected, including 15 mobile clinics and 24 ambulances.

The latest toll from the fighting in Gaza is at least 27,840 fatalities with more than 67,300 injured, according to the Palestinian health authority. As of 8 February, 225 Israeli soldiers have been killed with 1,314 injured in Gaza since the beginning of the ground operation, according to the Israeli military. UN humanitarian officials continued to highlight that the risk of famine in Gaza is increasing "by the day", particularly in northern Gaza. Hundreds of thousands of people there have been "predominantly cut off from assistance", OCHA said, despite the fact that this is where the greatest needs are, with many reportedly grinding animal feed to make flour. Since the onset of the crisis, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) has delivered 1,940 trucks - 19 per cent of all aid trucks, it said - carrying over 32,413 tons of lifesaving food supplies.



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

11 February: International Day of Women and Girls in Science

On 22 December 2015, the General Assembly decided to establish an annual International Day to recognize the critical role women and girls play in science and technology, through Resolution A/RES/70/212.

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science, celebrated on 11 February, is implemented by UNESCO and UN-Women, in collaboration institutions and civil society partners that aim to promote women and girls in science. This Day is an opportunity to promote full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls. Gender equality is a global priority for UNESCO, and the support of young girls, their education and their full ability to make their ideas heard are levers for development and peace.

Tackling some of the greatest challenges of the Agenda for Sustainable Development—from improving health to combating climate change—will rely on harnessing all talent. That means getting more women working in these fields. Diversity in research expands the pool of talented researchers, bringing in fresh perspectives, talent and creativity. This Day is a reminder that women and girls play a critical role in science and technology communities and that their participation should be strengthened.

Over the next 30 years, the majority of the world's new workers may well be on the African continent, where 60 per cent of the population, like Natacha, is currently under 25. Skills in science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) will play an important role in the jobs of their future—and across the world. We need to invest in this opportunity—in young women in every country—ensuring that they have the right skills for these jobs and that they are not

held back by negative stereotypes and discrimination. And we need to ensure that current and future workplaces are environments that attract, retain, and advance women scientists.

Both representation and retention of women are essential for the science and digital technology sectors to be more creative, innovative, and profitable, reflecting issues that matter to women. Currently, women remain significantly under-represented, making up just 29.2 per cent of all STEM workers, compared to 49.3 per cent across non-STEM occupations. Hostile work environments remain pervasive and deter women's career longevity. A 2022 study conducted in 117 countries found that one in two women scientists reported experiencing sexual harassment at work, with 65 per cent of respondents reporting that this negatively impacted their career.

Partnerships and engagement that change these workplace issues represent a huge opportunity to boost women's participation in STEM, with the private sector currently estimated to represent approximately 70 per cent of global expenditure on science. The Women's Empowerment Principles offer a framework for just such an engagement among private sector companies, in collaboration for progress with governments and academia. Currently, more than 9,200 CEOs across 160 countries have committed to implement policies and practices that attract, retain and promote women into leadership positions, including in science and broader STEM fields, fostering an inclusive corporate culture, eliminating stereotypes and discriminatory practices.

As we head towards the UN's Summit of the Future in September this year, including a new Global Digital Compact, we must take every

opportunity to act quickly and effectively to counteract bias and discrimination, and to equip and support the bright minds and imaginations of our young scientists, like Natacha and her peers.

Facts & Figures
 Although Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields are widely regarded as critical to national economies, so far most countries, no matter their level of development, have not achieved gender equality in STEM. Global average percentage of female researchers and only 35% of all students in STEM related fields of study are women of all countries with data available on the national share of women researchers had reached parity in 2016. Despite statistics that show close performance of girls and boys in science and mathematics, strong gendered stereotypes prevail: many girls are still less encouraged in STEM fields and have limited choices (if any) for their education and career development. Even countries that have reached gender parity in terms of researchers are still facing important challenges in achieving it in all aspects, since vertical and horizontal segregation persist as barriers.

Women occupy a small minority of top-level positions despite an improvement in recent years and only 22 women have been awarded a Nobel prize in a scientific discipline to date.

The 2030 Agenda includes a bold commitment "to leave no one behind" to shed light on the intersecting inequalities through the collection & analysis of data that are systematically disaggregated by sex, age, income, disability, ethnicity & other relevant factor.

On this International Day of Women and Girls in Science, let's reiterate this fundamental message: women need science, and science needs women. Only by tapping into all sources of knowledge, all sources of talent, can we unlock the full potential of science, and rise to the challenges of our time. (UNESCO)



Analysis
Shaukat Ali



Analysis
Abdul Basit Alvi

Remarkable Role of Govt, Election Commission and Pak Army in Conducting the Fairest Elections - I

Elections constitute more than a mere ceremonial aspect of democracy; they epitomize its pulsating core, the indispensable mechanism through which citizens assert their collective will and chart the trajectory of their nation's destiny. Globally, elections serve as the cornerstone of governance, furnishing a peaceful and orderly avenue for citizens to elect their leaders, demand accountability, and guard

prudence and integrity. The prospect of electoral defeat compels politicians to heed the concerns of their constituents, tackle pressing issues, and fulfill their pledges, lest they face repercussions in the form of electoral ousting. Moreover, elections cultivate legitimacy and stability within governance, serving as a barrier against the arbitrary exercise of power and the rise of authoritarian regimes. In democratic contexts, the peaceful transition of power via transparent and equitable elections epitomizes political stability, affirming to both local and global audiences that the populace's will is acknowledged and respected. Conversely, in nations where elections are tainted by deceit, corruption, or coercion, the government's legitimacy is cast into doubt, leading to unrest, instability, and a deterioration of confidence in democratic institutions.

Aside from their governance role, elections act as a catalyst for societal transformation and advancement. Through electoral mechanisms, marginalized and underserved demographics can amplify their voices, advocate for their rights, and champion their interests within the political sphere. Historically, women, ethnic minorities, and other marginalized groups have utilized elections to challenge bias, disparity, and injustice, paving the way for enhanced inclusivity and representation in governmental bodies.

To be continued

Dozens of Palestinians killed in Israeli bombing in Gaza areas

Wafa

GAZA: A number of Palestinian citizens were killed and dozens were injured after the occupation aircraft bombed areas in Rafah and Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip on the 128th day of the ongoing aggression.

Medical sources said that a woman was killed and a number of others were wounded after the occupation aircraft targeted a house north of the city of Rafah, south of the Gaza Strip.

The sources added that there were two killed people and one wounded person in critical condition inside the departments and courtyards of Nasser Hospital as a result of the continuous shooting at the hospital.

Since the morning, 10 civilians have been killed at the Nasser Medical Complex and the European Gaza Hospital as a result of the ongoing Israeli aggression on the Khan Yunis Governorate in the southern Gaza Strip.

The Israeli occupation army also blew up a residential square west of Khan Yunis in the south of the Gaza



Strip, and forced a large number of displaced people inside the shelter schools in the vicinity of the Nasser Medical Complex to evacuate towards the Al-Mawasi area.

Israeli warplanes destroyed a number of houses of more than three

floors between the northern Khan Yunis camp and the project area in Khan Yunis.

According to sources, the Palestinian death toll in Gaza has now risen to 28,176 martyrs and 67,784 wounded since the beginning of the

Israeli aggression on Gaza on October 7 of last year.

Thousands of victims remain under the rubble and on the streets, as Israeli occupation forces continue to obstruct the arrival of ambulance and civil defense teams.

Palestine foreign ministry condemns Israeli massacre of 6-year-old in Gaza Strip



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates strongly condemns the heinous crime committed by the occupation forces against the child Hind Rajab (6 years old) and her family, and the Palestinian Red Crescent ambulance crew that went to rescue her, and considers it a vivid and clear example that expresses the massacre committed by the occupation forces against Palestinian civilians in general and children among them in general. Special, as the number of child martyrs according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health reached more than 12 thousand.

The Ministry believes that this complex, clearly defined and documented crime raises a grave alarm about the lives of tens of thousands of missing Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, especially in light of the control of the revenge mentality over the decisions and actions of the occupation army throughout the Gaza Strip, which prompts us to repeat the Ministry's demand for the necessity of forming an investigation team. An international organization to begin its work immediately and in the field to document the massacres and crimes of the occupation and to investigate the lives of detainees and missing persons.

The Ministry reiterates that the martyrs of our people, including children, are not numbers and should not be dealt with on this basis. Rather, they are the life story of citizens living in their homeland, which the occupation forces stole and destroyed. Entire families were removed from the population registry. The story of thousands of children who became homeless without any means. A father, mother, or breadwinner as a result of the barbarity of the occupation and its disregard for the principles of human rights, the rules of international law, and the obligations of the occupying power.

The International Criminal Ministry calls for immediate action to issue subpoenas and investigations against the perpetrators and murderers and to prosecute Israeli war criminals and those behind them at the political and military levels.

UK deeply concerned about Israel's military offensive in Rafah

Wafa

RAMALLAH: The UK Foreign Minister David Cameron said that he is 'deeply concerned about the prospect of an Israeli military offensive in Rafah, as "over half of Gaza's population are sheltering in the area."

"Deeply concerned about the prospect of a military offensive in Rafah - over half of Gaza's population are sheltering in the area," he said on his page on X. "The priority must be an immediate pause in the fighting to get aid in and hostages out, then progress towards a sustainable, permanent ceasefire."

Tajikistan hosts Anti-Taliban Resistance Leader Masud

News Desk



ISLAMABAD: The leader of the Afghan National Resistance Front (NRF), which opposes the radical Taliban (banned in Russia), Ahmad Masud, arrived in Tajikistan on October 30. The visit was confirmed to the TASS Agency by Kabir Wasik, resistance spokesman and ex-Deputy Governor of Panjshir province.

According to Wasik, 'Ahmad Masud is currently in Tajikistan, but sometimes he visits Afghanistan to meet with resistance units in the country's regions'. The sources in Dushanbe told that the resistance leader is trying to seek the support of various states in countering the Taliban. 'Masud strives to convince the region's countries and the entire global community to fight the Taliban. He travels to different states to draw attention [to the NRF] and gain support,' said the spokesman for the Afghan resistance front.

Wasik also noted that the national resistance maintained good relations with Tajikistan, which 'had been providing substantial assistance to the Afghan people in their fight against the Taliban and keep on with joint efforts to this day.'

On October 29, Fergana News Agency reported that the NRF had opened its representative office in Dushanbe. At this time, the office, which is located in the capital's core Ismoil Somoni district, is undergoing renovations. Upon the completion, the members of the anti-Taliban resistance forces are set to hold a press conference with an expected program statement on their activities in Tajikistan.

Moreover, NRF had already established its operating outpost in the United States with the mission to convince Washington to support the Afghan opposition. The NRF officials emphasized that the resistance movement in Afghanistan seeks 'to be the defender of American investments in Afghanistan, which have been made over the past 20 years, and a force that will relieve the country of bigotry and terrorism.'

Masud - the son of legendary Afghan politician and anti-Soviet resistance commander Ahmad Shah Masud, who fought Taliban and was killed in 2001 in a terrorist attack - announced the creation of the National Resistance Front of Afghanistan a day after the fall of Kabul to the Taliban on August 15. In early September, the Taliban managed to partially dislodge the resistance forces from the Panjshir province. Pro-Taliban resources reported that Masud Jr. fled to Tajikistan, but NRF representatives flatly denied that.

Currently, the resistance forces are conducting an armed guerrilla struggle against the Taliban in the provinces of Panjshir, Balkh, Badakhshan, Baghlan, Parwan, and Kapisa.

China-Spring Festival-Celebrations

BEIJING: Tourists watch a lion dance in Bijie City, southwest China's Guizhou Province.



Photo: Xinhua

UN chief calls for gender equality in science to build better world



News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has stressed that gender equality in science is essential to building a better future for all, as he marked the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. "Sadly, women and girls continue to face systemic barriers and biases that prevent them from pursuing careers in science," he noted in a message for the day, which is celebrated on Feb. 11.

Today, women make up only a third of the global scientific community and, compared to men, they get less funding, are underrepresented in publications and hold fewer senior positions in major universities, it was pointed out. In some places, women and girls have limited or no access to education, with the UN chief describing this situation as not only harmful to the societies concerned, but also a terrible violation of human rights. The Secretary-General believes that it is essential that women and girls participate equally in scientific discoveries and innovations, whether in the field of climate change, health or artificial intelligence. "This is the only way to ensure that science benefits everyone," he said. "Addressing gender inequalities requires overcoming gender stereotypes and promoting role models that encourage girls to pursue scientific careers, developing programmes that encourage the advancement of women in science, and creating work environments that nurture women's talents, especially those of women from minority groups," he added. "Women and girls belong in science. It is time to recognize that inclusion fosters innovation, and let every woman and girl fulfil her true potential," the UN chief added. The theme chosen for this year's International Day by UNESCO and UN Women, the two UN agencies leading the celebrations, is "Closing the gender gap in science".

Pakistani Community in Beijing joins in Chinese New Year celebration

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: As the Chinese people are embracing the Year of Loong (Dragon), the Pakistani community residing in Beijing is enthusiastically participating in the Chinese New Year celebrations, showcasing the strong bond between China and Pakistan. The streets of Beijing are adorned with red lanterns and festive decorations as locals and foreigners gather to ring in the Lunar New Year. The Pakistani community, known for its rich cultural heritage and close ties with China, is actively engaged in the festivities, adding its unique flair to the traditional celebrations.

Shahid Afraz Khan, a Pakistani expert in Beijing, expressed his joy at being able to partake in the Chinese New Year celebrations. He said, "This is my eighth Chinese New Year in Beijing, and I am overwhelmed by the warmth and inclusivity of the cele-



brations.

It's amazing to witness how traditional cultures blend during this festive season." The Pakistani Embassy in Beijing is also decorated with lights and traditional lanterns before the Chinese Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, which began on February 10, as a gesture of goodwill toward the Chinese people.

Zubair Bashir, who has

been working in Beijing for five years, said the Pakistani community's participation in the Chinese New Year celebrations not only adds diversity to the festivities but also showcases the strong bond between Pakistan and China.

The cultural exchange and mutual respect observed during this joyous occasion exemplify the enduring friendship between the two nations,

further strengthening the bilateral relationship, CEN reported.

As the Chinese New Year festivities continue, the Pakistani community in Beijing exemplifies the spirit of unity and cultural integration.

By embracing and actively participating in the celebrations, they demonstrate their commitment to promoting friendship between the two nations.

Pakistan fully capable of becoming AI development hub in South Asia

News Desk

BEIJING: CPInS Lab Director Dr Wu Jun has said that Pakistan, through further cooperation with China, is fully capable of becoming an artificial intelligence (AI) development hub in South Asia and the wider region. The CPInS Lab has been officially established at Pakistan's National University of Science and Technology (NUST) in the beginning of year 2022 with joint efforts with the Guangzhou Institute of Software Application Technology.

At present, various researches are in progress in an orderly manner.

"We have made great progress in areas such as UAV control systems and AI recognition localization. Our lab is starting the application of smart cities in Pakistan," Dr Wu said in an interview with CEN. "Through this platform, our mature research results could be deeply connected with local projects in Pakistan, providing smart city-related products and intelligent solutions according to local conditions. "We are able to effectively implement

core technologies and products such as smart street lights and smart videos to improve local urban governance ability," he added. "Sci-tech cooperation is of great importance to Pakistan's socio-economic development," Seemab Latif, Head of the Pakistani side of the lab and Associate Professor at the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (SEECs) at the NUST, said. China's AI industry, he said, "leads the world, as well as Pakistan's scientific and technological development has huge potential,

thus by deepening bilateral cooperation, Pakistan can make great progress in the field of Sci-Tech, by which own the potential to become an AI development center in South Asia." According to Latif, that the lab was using technology from China to develop smart city projects such as efficient traffic management systems and infrastructure monitoring systems in Pakistan. At present, on the basis of local conditions, the license plate recognition system and intelligent security system developed by the lab

have begun to be piloted in Pakistan. More Pakistani residents will be able to experience the safety and convenience brought by the application of intelligent systems, CEN reported. "Up to now, the results of cooperation are mushrooming," Dr Wu said. Considering that Pakistan is often threatened by floods, he said, scientists from both sides pooled their wisdom to develop a vital result "UAV-assisted edge framework for real-time disaster management", which provides a more scientific and

effective solution for local flood fight. Apart from bringing technology overseas, talent exchange and training could be said to be another key purpose of establishing the lab, he added. Nowadays, he added, the lab had recruited four outstanding postdoctoral fellows from Pakistan to work in Guangzhou for a long time, and would continue to recruit students in years to come. "We are working on a variety of exciting projects with Chinese counterparts, including activity detection, gait recognition, automatic

license plate detection and real-time recognition, as well as waste management," said lab researcher Sahar Ershad. As an emerging economy, Pakistan's infrastructure is booming day by day. A large number of road cameras and other equipment have not been intellectualized yet, which shows that the CPInS Lab has a great potential in the future. Generally speaking, the field of artificial intelligence in Pakistan has not yet formed an industry, but the country is never short on sci-tech talents.

Political stability essential for smooth economy, high growth: DFPA

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Disposable Food Packaging Association (DFPA) has said that political stability is essential for smooth economy and high growth, as the newly-elected government that comes into office after general elections would be faced not by only stagflation, and a very difficult debt situation, but will have to make a lot of climate-related expenditure so that the country can meaningfully move towards becoming a climate-change-resilient economy.

The DFPA President Ahsan Shahid said that business community is anxious to improve the economic situation in dialogues with the new government because the central thing in dealing with all of these issues is that the economy grows at a meaningfully high rate, and that such growth is inclusive, and green.

New govt will have to take proactive steps to stabilize economy: PIAF

PPA



ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial & Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has stated that the new government will have to take proactive measures to encounter external and domestic challenges, besides stabilizing the economy.

In a statement issued here today, the PIAF Chairman Faheem Saigol said that the upcoming government should be committed to transforming the economy of the country, as the process of transforming the economy is already underway in the country, acknowledging that structural reforms in every sector takes time.

Faheem Saigol mentioned that the new elected government will have to take joint action to combat currency smuggling and narrow the difference in dollar rates between official and open markets.

Incoming govt needs to set economic priorities as fiscal constraints an uphill task: BMP

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has called upon political parties to announce clear and robust economic strategies, as the country has stuck in low economic growth situation, where double-digit policy rate for the last few years, including 22 percent policy rate, has diminished capacity to increase domestic production, and exports, negatively impacting domestic resource mobilization.

The FPCCI former president and Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar pointed out that the new strategies should not only focus on short-term gains but also encompass a long-term vision for sustained progress. He emphasized that such transparency from political leaders is crucial for instilling confidence in the business community and investors.

First batch of 600 Pakistani professionals embark on international careers

In a landmark moment for employment mobility, 600 Pakistani professionals embarked on international careers, following the successful negotiation of strategic employment agreements with global partners.

This departure marks a "significant milestone" in the initiative led by the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, underscoring Pakistan's commitment to enhancing global employment opportunities for its workforce, the ministry said in a statement.

"The initiative, under the guidance of Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Jawad Sohrab Malik has seen the fruition of agreements signed merely 90 days ago."

"This effort has opened thousands of job avenues across diverse sectors for Pakistani professionals, reflecting the country's proactive engagement on the international stage," the statement read.

Departing from major cities including Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, and Peshawar, the professionals expressed gratitude for the seamless process facilitated by the government.

A split mandate may not ensure political and economic stability

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Dr Murtaza Mughal, President of Pakistan Economy Watch, said on Sunday it is unfortunate that not a single party could get a whole mandate in the elections.

In the absence of a majority, a party can only form a government with the help of other parties; therefore, ensuring political and economic stability in the country would be challenging.

He added that the major parties and the independent candidates are meeting to agree on the new government while those who lost elections are accusing rigging.

In a statement today, Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that many Western countries are concerned about elections that interfere with Pakistan's internal affairs.

The Western countries that are expressing reservations about the electoral process in Pakistan are ignoring the massacre of Palestinians and extending all possible help to Israel.

Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that the party coming to power would have to do it with the help of other parties and independents, resulting in an army of ministers and advisers.

A coalition government will spend billions of rupees to keep allies happy. It will not be able to find time and resources to strengthen the economy or provide relief to people. It will further burden the masses, who are already reeling under the cost of living crisis.

He remarked that the establishment of coalition governments in the center of Punjab and Balochistan is written on the wall, which may impede development.



It seems that the PML-N and PPP will

form a government by joining hands as both parties criticized each other during the election campaign but within limits.

Dr. Mughal said political leaders should complete consultations and form the government as delay will damage the economy.

To stabilize the economy for the next few years, severe economic decisions would be necessary, while a fresh IMF program would also be necessary.

Given the ideological differences between the PML-N and PPP, a coalition administration can substantially impact the intended results of tax reforms and raise revenue.

He said the stock market is already falling due to uncertainty that should not be allowed to spread, adding that the coalition government may be unable to deliver as expected by the masses.

Group photo

Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Envoy to the UAE, representing Pakistan, in a group photo with other delegates during the 7th Ministerial Consultation of Abu Dhabi Dialogue on Sunday. Pakistan is the current Chair of Abu Dhabi Dialogue.



CDNS attains Rs 58 billion in Islamic investment bonds

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has secured Rs 58 billion in Islamic finance bonds during the current fiscal year 2023-24 till February 9. "The National Savings had issued the Islamic bonds for the promotion of the Islamic finance system, which will help the development of the Islamic economy in the country," a senior official of the Directorate of National Savings told APP.

The official said that the CDNS had set the target of collection Rs 75 billion from the Islamic finance bonds in the financial year 2023-24. Some Rs 16 billion were collected through the bonds during July 2023, the first of the ongoing fiscal year, he added.

Replying to a question, he said the CDNS had achieved the target of Rs 60 billion during the last fiscal year (2022-23) from



the Islamic bonds, and that was why it aimed to introduce new dimensions in the Islamic finance sector. "The Islamic finance now has a very important role in the global financial sector. A large part of the economy of many major countries currently includes Islamic finance," he added. The official said that work was being done on institutional reforms in the CDNS.

Given the current market trend in the country, an ambitious target had been set to further improve the savings culture, he added. To another query, the official said that the CDNS had achieved the target of Rs 990 billion in fresh bonds from July 1, 2023 to January 19, 2024 in the current fiscal year.

FPCCI demands rapid rail transportation of goods from Karachi to up country

PPA

KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has demanded that Pakistan railways should offer reliable, cost-effective and expanded cargo services to the business, industry and trade community of Pakistan from Karachi to up country; as Karachi is country's industrial and trade hub. It has been a longstanding demand aimed at capitalizing on the railway's differential advantages over conventional trucks, he added.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh explained that rail-based cargo transportation is not only cost-effective; but, also has enormously high carrying capacity - making it the mode of choice for most of the developed countries where they have to cover long stretches of land in inter-city, inter-state or province and even intra-city destinations.

It is pertinent to note that the business community has held



a detailed, consultative meeting with Mr. Abdul Rasheed Solangi, Secretary Industries & Commerce (I&C), Government of Sindh, over the goods transportation issues. Mr. Aman Paracha, VP FPCCI, represented FPCCI's President.

Mr. Aman Paracha maintained that Karachi demands a

proper, world-class road infrastructure to transport goods to rest of the country as Northern Bypass is a single-track highway; which subsequently connects to M-9 and rest of the country. We need to have multiple options that remain operational 24/7 to cater to the needs of the consumers in the length and breadth

of the country or, alternatively, Northern Bypass should be expanded at the earliest.

Mr. Abdul Rasheed Solangi called upon the business community to install weight stations for the effective implementation of the axle load regime at the points of origin at all industrial zones.

PFC delegation off to USA for Las Vegas Expo

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) delegation Sunday left for Las Vegas, USA, to partake in a three-day expo commencing on February 13 to showcase the diverse range of Pakistan's furniture products and to explore new opportunities in the global market.

The delegation comprises representatives from various segments of the furniture sector including manufacturers, designers, and exporters, all poised to highlight the richness and uniqueness of Pakistani furniture designs.

PFC CEO Mian Kashif Ashfaq told the media that with an aim to bolster the country's furniture indus-



try on an international platform, the delegation was set to exhibit the craftsmanship, innovation, and quality synonymous with Pakistani furniture.

He said the expo in Las Vegas presents an ideal opportunity for the PFC to engage with potential buyers, distributors and investors, fostering partnerships and collaborations that can propel the industry to greater heights.

Why AI Adoption is important for Businesses

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is set to become an important part of almost every business. Many of us are taking the benefits of AI without realizing it. Businesses that don't understand the importance of AI will be left behind in the race for sustainable development and growth. Therefore, embracing AI is becoming increasingly important for businesses.

AI is going to reshape and transform businesses to stand out in the crowded marketplaces and compete effectively. AI enables businesses to improve various functions ranging from manufacturing, operations, marketing, customer care, etc. to provide customers with unique experiences. In this piece of writing, we will explore the impact of AI on businesses and why businesses need to adopt it.

Cutting Business Costs: It is the key goal of almost every business to get maximum output with minimum input. AI applications help businesses automate repetitive tasks, reduce human errors, and get quick and precise results, which leads to oper-

ational efficiency and significant cost reduction. With the help of AI, businesses can automate data entry tasks, optimize supply chain systems, predict maintenance needs in manufacturing, and free up many valuable resources for more strategic initiatives.

Making Informed Decisions: In this age of digitalization and knowledge economy, businesses are flooded with vast amounts of information. AI tools enable businesses to extract relevant and actionable insights from huge pools of data and make informed decisions. Machine learning algorithms can analyze complex datasets to identify patterns, trends, and correlations. Therefore, AI tools empower businesses to make data-driven decisions across various functions and stay ahead of the curve.

Customizing Customer Experiences: AI has made it possible for businesses to engage with their customers in a personalized manner and

provide them with customized experiences. AI tools enable businesses to predict and analyze customer behaviors, know about their preferences, and deliver them tailor-made solutions. AI facilitates businesses to get personalized product recommendations from customers on e-commerce platforms and provide instant customer services through AI-powered chatbots. In this way, businesses can foster close connections with customers and achieve long-term loyalty.

Improving Productivity and Innovation: AI technologies are empowering employees to work smarter and improve capabilities and productivity. From automating administrative tasks through virtual assistants to collaborating with workers for remote work, businesses can leverage AI to enhance workforce efficiency. AI-driven insights and predictive analytics fuel innovation as they help identify market trends, uncover unmet customer needs, and

inform product development strategies, enabling businesses to stay ahead in rapidly evolving markets.

Optimizing Resource Allocation: Resource allocation is a critical aspect of business management, and AI plays a key role in optimizing this process. Through advanced forecasting algorithms and predictive modeling, businesses can optimize resource allocation across various functions like staffing, inventory management, and capital investment. By leveraging AI-driven insights, businesses can allocate resources more effectively, minimizing waste, maximizing profits, and fostering sustainable growth.

Enhancing Security: In an increasingly digitized world, cybersecurity and risk management are top business priorities. AI technologies are enabling businesses to reduce risks and fortify security measures. AI-powered cybersecurity systems can detect and respond rapidly to cyber threats, and leverage machine learning to adapt and evolve alongside evolving threats. Furthermore, AI-driven risk management solutions can assess and mitigate operational, financial, and regulatory

risks, enabling businesses to cope with uncertainties with confidence.

Facilitating Business Transformation: AI helps businesses to adapt and transform with ease according to the evolving business environment. Whether it's optimizing internal processes, enhancing customer experiences, or driving innovation, AI facilitates organizational change and adaptation. Businesses that embrace AI-driven transformation are better positioned to thrive in the digital age and leverage technology to drive growth fast in an increasingly competitive landscape.

Conclusion: The impact of AI on businesses is profound and far-reaching, touching every aspect of organizational operations and strategy. From enhancing operational efficiency and data-driven decision-making to personalizing customer experiences and driving innovation, AI is set to reshape the business landscape in unprecedented ways. As businesses continue to embrace AI-driven transformation, those that leverage AI power strategically will emerge as leaders and achieve sustainable growth in the future.



Muhammad Ramzan

SNGPL outclass WAPDA to win President's Trophy Grade-I

Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: The SNGPL secured a resounding victory over WAPDA in the final of the President's Trophy Grade-I, triumphing by a massive 519-run at Pindi Cricket Stadium Rawalpindi on Sunday. The five-day final ended inside three days. SNGPL not only won the trophy, but also took away prize money of PKR three million. WAPDA had to settle for the runners-up trophy and prize money of PKR 1.5 million.

Resuming their second innings at the overnight score of 121 for five in 36 overs, SNGPL declared their innings at 346 for eight in 82 overs, courtesy century by Bilawal Bhatti (101, 114b, 14x4s, 2x6s) and 91 from Mubasir Khan. The pair knitted a 108-run partnership for the seventh wicket. Mubasir's innings included 14 fours and a six.

For WAPDA, Asif Afridi was the most successful bowler, taking five wickets for 149 runs. In turn, chasing 686 to win, WAPDA were dismissed for 166 for nine in 32 overs. Ayaz Tasawar, coming to bat at number six, top-scored for his side with a 30-ball 51, smashing seven fours and three sixes. Test batter Umar Akmal,



who scored 28 runs in the first innings, didn't come to bat in the second innings as he was ill. Right-arm fast Shahnawaz Dahani, who bagged seven wickets in the first innings, managed to get two scalps in the second innings, and ended up with match figures of 94 runs for nine wickets. Left-arm pacer Mir Hamza was the most

successful bowler in the second innings, grabbing three wickets for 50 runs in nine overs. Dahani and Sahibzada Farhan were declared joint player-of-the-match. KRL's Abdul Faseeh and Ghani Glass' Mohammad Rameez Jnr were declared joint player-of-the-tournament. Scores in brief: SNGPL beat WAPDA by 519 runs

SNGPL 479-7, 80 overs (Sahibzada Farhan 161, Saud Shakeel 123 not out, Kamran Ghulam 101, Mubasir Khan 44; Tahir Hussain 2-78, Iftikhar Ahmed 2-105) and 346-8 decl, 82 overs (Bilawal Bhatti 101, Mubasir Khan 91, Abid Ali 38, Saud Shakeel 34, Kamran Ghulam 28; Asif Afridi 5-149, Ali Shafique 2-53)

WAPDA 140 all out, 34.4 overs (Iftikhar Ahmed 52, Umar Akmal 28; Shahnawaz Dahani 7-42, Mir Hamza 2-30) and 166-9, 32 overs (Ayaz Tasawar 51, Umar Abid Kayani 40; Mir Hamza 3-50, Bilawal Bhatti 2-29, Shahnawaz Dahani 2-52)

Player of the match - Shahnawaz Dahani and Sahibzada Farhan (SNGPL) PKR 100,000 Player of the tournament - Abdul Faseeh (KRL), 637 runs from six matches, 3x100s, 1x50 and Mohammad Rameez Jnr (Ghani Glass, 42 wickets from five matches, five five-wicket hauls) PKR 100,000

Best batter of the tournament - Abdul Faseeh (KRL) PKR 100,000

Best bowler of the tournament - Mohammad Rameez Jnr (Ghani Glass) PKR 100,000 Best wicket-keeper of the tournament - Shahbaz Javed (Ghani Glass, 26 dismissals) PKR 100,000.

South Africa beat DR Congo in shootout to finish third at AFCON

Sports Desk

ABIDJAN: Captain and goalkeeper Ronwen Williams was the hero again as South Africa beat the Democratic Republic of Congo 6-5 on penalties in the Africa Cup of Nations third place play-off on Saturday.

After a 0-0 draw following 90 minutes in Abidjan, Williams saved spot kicks from Chancel Mbemba and Meschack Elia to give Bafana Bafana the bronze medal in the Ivory Coast.

Before Elia had his kick saved, Siyanda Xulu converted to give South Africa what proved the decisive lead in the shootout.

Williams saved four shootout kicks last weekend to help South Africa get past Cape Verde after a goalless quarter-final.

DR Congo will regret many missed chances during regular time in a lively match while South Africa maintained a perfect record in third place play-offs having beaten Tunisia on penalties 24 years ago.

South Africa made three changes to the team beaten in a penalty shootout by Nigeria after an incident-packed semi-final three days ago.



Nkosinathi Sibisi, Thapelo Morena and Mhlahli Mayambela came in for suspended Grant Kekana and injured duo Mthobeni Mvala and Percy Tau.

DR Congo retained only two of the side that lost to hosts Ivory Coast in the other semi-final - captain and centre-back Mbemba and midfielder Samuel Moutoussamy.

But eight of the nine who were dropped sat on the bench, leaving French coach Sebastien Desabre with multiple options should he wish to make changes.

Threatening Although the Congolese had less of the ball in the opening half at Stade Felix Houphouet-Boigny in the Ivorian economic capital, they were the more threatening team in the attacking third.

Physically imposing Silas Mvumpa came close to breaking the deadlock after just eight minutes, but as he tried to round Williams in the area, the goalkeeper snatched the ball.

Simon Banza worked his way into a dangerous position close to the South

African goal midway through the half, only to deliver a weak shot that posed no danger.

Despite some neat build-up play, it took South Africa 43 minutes to get a shot on target, and the effort from Mayambela went straight to goalkeeper Dimitry Bertaud.

As the match reached the mid point of the second half, Congo continued to look the side more likely to break the deadlock.

When Williams fumbled the ball and lost possession, the ball went across the goalmouth and Silas fired wide when he should at least have hit the target.

So should Mbemba, who had ventured forward for a free-kick, but he blazed over when the ball fell invitingly into his path close to goal. Substitute Fiston Mayele also wasted a chance.

A captivating tournament concludes on Sunday in another Abidjan stadium with the Ivory Coast facing Nigeria in the final with a seven million dollar prize on the line.

The countries met at the group stage last month in the same venue and the Super Eagles won 1-0 thanks to a William Troost-Ekong penalty.

Chinese Zhang Zhizhen wins history-making doubles title at ATP Marseille

Xinhua

PARIS: Chinese Zhang Zhizhen made another breakthrough on Sunday as he claimed the men's doubles title with Tomas Machac at Marseille, becoming the first mainland Chinese men's player to secure an ATP Tour doubles championship.

The duo demonstrated exceptional form, overcoming Finnish pair Patrik Niklas-Salminen and Emil Ruusuvuori 6-3, 6-4 in the final to lift the trophy at the Open 13 Provence.

"I'm grateful that I can play with Zhizhen by my side," Machac said. "We are so happy that we managed to win the final for sure. Because if you lost the final, it's always sad."

Zhang Zhizhen (R) and Tomas Machac communicate during the match. (Photo courtesy of ATP)

This victory marks another significant



milestone in Zhang's career, which has already seen remarkable

success in singles over the past year, including reaching the quarterfinals

at the Madrid Masters, advancing to the third round at both the French Open and the US Open, and breaking into the top 50 in the ATP singles rankings.

The 26-year-old is currently the flag-bearer of the Chinese men's tennis team.

Since teaming up with Machac, the pair have quickly made their mark in the doubles circuit, highlighted by their impressive run to the semifinals at the Australian Open last month on their team debut.

"Looking ahead, I think depend on how we choose tournament, if we had the same week for sure, we're going to get in [doubles]," Zhang said after the final.

The singles final will take place between Bulgarian star Grigor Dimitrov and French player Ugo Humbert later in the day.

ITF Pakistan Khawar Hyat Khan Memorial World Junior C'ships begins

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The qualifying rounds of boys singles of ITF Pakistan Khawar Hyat Khan Memorial World Junior Championship Leg-1 were held at PTF SDA Tennis Complex Islamabad on Sunday.



As many as 45 international players, both boys and girls from Kazakhstan, Turkey, USA, Hongkong, China, Russia, Belarus, Uzbekistan, South Korea, Romania, Switzerland, Sri Lanka and Thailand are participating in the Championships.

Pakistan has fielded 27 players, both boys girls are in the championships.

The results are as under:

Boys Singles Qualifying Final Round:

Lin Kieran(USA) bt Hamza Rehmat (PAK) 6-0,6-1;Kang Kaigaoge (CHN) bt Park Joel(USA)6-2,6-3;Daniil Varaksa(-Belarus) bt Cetinkaya(TUR) 6-4,4-6(11-9); Ivan Makarov (RUS) bt Dalbusin Ulad (Belarus) 6-1,6-4

The main draw matches will start on Monday at 10:00 am.

Yang clinches China's ninth diving gold at world championships



Sports Desk

LAHORE: With six months to go until the Olympic Games, China ended the World Aquatics Championships diving events on Saturday with a ninth gold medal thanks to Yang Hao.

Yang, 26, claimed his first individual world title in the men's 10m platform with 564.05 points to pip compatriot and Olympic champion Cao Yuan, second on 553.20 points. Ukraine's Oleksii Sereda came third with 528.65.

Chinese athletes have claimed 13 diving medals in total in Qatar, to go along with seven golds in artistic swimming.

Before the 2022 worlds in Budapest, China had won only one gold medal in artistic swimming in the previous 18 editions of the world championships.

The country has since won four in Budapest and three in Fukuoka, Japan last year.

Sunday marks the beginning of the indoor swimming events during the final week of the championships. There are two more golds at stake in the high diving, which starts on Tuesday.

The Paris Olympics run from July 26 to August 11.

Red-hot Australia defend 253 to win fourth Under-19 World Cup

Australia 253 for 7 (Harjas 55, Weibgen 48, Peake 46*, Limbani 3-68) beat India 174 (Adarsh 47, Abishek 42, Beardman 3-15, MacMillan 3-43) by 79 runs.

A fearsome four-pronged pace attack, spearheaded by the thunderous Callum Vidler and Mahli Beardman, who had Anrich Nortje transfixed to the action, led Australia to Under-19 World Cup glory in Benoni.

The pace pack snuffed out seven Indian wickets to bring their unbeaten campaign to a juddering halt after the top order had no answer to Australia's heat and hostility. Beardman inflicted maximum damage, finishing with 3 for 15 off seven overs.

The win was also, in no small part, thanks to a vital contribution from middle-order batter Harjas Singh, who injected momentum into Australia's innings to top score with 55. In doing so, Harjas repaid the faith of the team management after a lean run had him score just 49 runs, including a highest of 17, in six innings prior to the final.

Most admirable was the manner in which he overcame a slow start and made up for it with his superb takedown of India's excellent spinners that powered them to 253 for 7, which was 79 too many for India.

After losing twice previously to India in the finals of the Under-19 World Cup (in 2012 and 2018), Hugh Weibgen's class of 2024 won the title for the first time since Mitchell Marsh's batch won in 2010. Australia have now beaten India in three ICC finals back-to-back.

India's chase hardly got out of second gear. Adarsh Singh, the opener, painstakingly made 47 and hung around till the 31st over in the hope of trying to pull off a late heist after the top order that brushed past attacks in the lead up to the knock-outs folded cheaply.

Rybakina sets up Kasatkina showdown in Abu Dhabi final

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Top seed Elena Rybakina made a fast start before battling past Russian Liudmila Samsonova 6-0 4-6 6-2 in the Abu Dhabi Open semi-finals on Saturday to book an intriguing title clash against Daria Kasatkina.

The former Wimbledon champion, seeking her second title of the season following her Brisbane triumph, breezed through the first set in double quick time by unleashing her big serve and heavy groundstrokes.

But eighth seed Samsonova had other ideas and went ahead 4-1 in the second set, mixing up her power game with deft drop shots before levelling at one set apiece to keep alive hopes of a fifth win over the Moscow-born Kazakh in as many meetings.

Rybakina ramped up the pressure and grabbed a break in the fourth game of the decider after an untimely double fault by Samsonova and there

was no looking back, as the world number five wrapped up the contest.

"It was a really tough battle," Rybakina said. "Really happy I managed to win in the end. I started pretty well. A few shots went my way. It was going really well."

"In the second set the focus and energy went down a bit. Liudmila always plays very aggressive. It's not easy to play against her."

Earlier, seventh seed Kasatkina also shook off a mid-match blip to move into her second final of the season with a 6-3 4-6 7-6(2) victory over Beatriz Haddad Maia in an absorbing contest lasting nearly three hours.

"Beatriz is a huge fighter, one of the biggest on tour. Her level of giving everything on court is just incredible. She was not giving me anything for free. I had to earn this," Kasatkina said after an 83-minute final set.

"Really happy and a bit exhausted, but it was a great match. I hope every-

one enjoyed it."

The Russian dropped serve twice in the opening set but took full advantage of her sixth-seeded opponent's struggles to break four times and wrest the early advantage in the match.

Haddad Maia rediscovered her rhythm, however, and led 4-2 in the next set before Adelaide runner-up Kasatkina squandered the opportunity to draw level and allowed the 27-year-old to take the contest into a decider.

The breaks continued to flow in the final set, where the rallies seemed never-ending, but Kasatkina raised her game in the tiebreak to quell the challenge of Haddad Maia.

Rybakina said she expected another tricky match against Kasatkina.

"A complete different style of the game. Tomorrow isn't going to be easy," Rybakina added. "I have to have really good footwork and play aggressively."



Attack

The al-Qaida-linked militant group al-Shabab claimed an attack that killed three Emirati troops and a Bahraini military officer on a training mission at a military base in the Somali capital, Mogadishu.



Photo: Farah Abdi Warsameh/AP

Al-Shabab claims attack in Somali capital that kills 4 Emirati troops and one Bahraini officer

AP

DUBAI: The al-Qaida-linked militant group al-Shabab claimed an attack that killed four Emirati troops and a Bahraini military officer on a training mission at a military base in the Somali capital, Mogadishu. Details about the attack and whether it killed others remained scarce Sunday, though Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud offered his condolences to the UAE for the loss of its troops.

Early Sunday, the UAE's state-run WAM news agency reported the killing of three of its troops and the Bahraini officer in a "terrorist act." A fourth later died en route back to the Emirates, WAM reported.

WAM released footage of three flag-draped caskets coming off of an Emirati Boeing C-17A Globemaster III at Al Bateen Executive Airport in Abu Dhabi with an honor guard present.

WAM identified the dead as a colonel, two warrant officers and a corporal.

Anwar Gargash, a senior Emirati diplomat, offered condolences to those killed and a quick recovery for the

wounded.

"No treacherous act will prevent us from continuing the message of security and safety and combating extremism and terrorism in all its forms," Gargash wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

The military of Bahrain, an island nation in the Persian Gulf off the coast of Saudi Arabia, later acknowledged the death of a major in a statement carried by the state-run Bahrain News Agency.

Al-Shabab claimed the attack in a statement online, alleging it killed multiple people involved in the Emirati military effort. It described the UAE, a federation of seven

sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula, as an "enemy" of Islamic Shariah law for backing the Somali government in its efforts to battle al-Shabab.

Al-Shabab, or "the youth" in Arabic, is a Sunni Islamic extremist group in Somalia born out of that country's years of anarchy following its 1991 civil war. The affiliate of al-Qaida once held Mogadishu. Over time, an African Union-led force, with the backing of the U. S. and other countries, pushed the militants out of Mogadishu. In the years since, al-Shabab has remained a threat as it seeks to overthrow the Western-backed Somali govern-

ment.

Al-Shabab has carried out attacks in neighboring Kenya as well, since Nairobi provides troops and materiel to the African Union force in Somalia. The U. S. under every president since George W. Bush has launched airstrikes against militants in Somalia, with the number of strikes now exceeding 300, according to New America, a Washington-based security think tank. The vast majority of those strikes took place under then-President Donald Trump.

The U. S. Embassy in Somalia on Sunday condemned what it called a "cowardly attack" against the training mission.

Pakistan strongly condemns the terrorist Attack at a military base in Somalia

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemns yesterday's heinous terrorist attack against the UAE military trainers and under training Somali soldiers at a military base in Mogadishu.

We offer our deepest condolences to the Governments and the people of the UAE and Bahrain and to the families of victims and pray for the early recovery of all the injured.



Pakistan rejects terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stands in firm solidarity with the Government of Somalia in combating terrorism.

Nawaz-Shujaat post-election meeting postponed

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The meeting between Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) supremo Nawaz Sharif and Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid-e-Azam (PML-Q) chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has been postponed.

The Nawaz-Shujaat post-election meeting was scheduled to be held on Sunday in Lahore would now be taken place in Islamabad next week.

PML-Q leader Chaudhry Shafay Hussain while confirming the development said that Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain will leave for Islamabad on Monday.

The meeting between Nawaz Sharif and Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain will be held in Islamabad



next week. It is pertinent to mention here that the scheduled meeting between leaders of PML-N and PML-Q was aimed at developing consensus to form the federal and Punjab governments.

The PML-Q with three National Assembly and 10 Punjab Assembly seats possesses significant importance in formation of the governments in the centre as well as in the province.

ECP halts result of PB-21, orders recount

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a significant turn of events, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) put a pause on the electoral results and mandated a recount of the votes in the PB-21 constituency.

The decision comes in response to the joint request for a recount by the Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) and the National Party, highlighting the intensity and importance of the electoral contest in the region.

The Election Commission, in its commitment to transparency and fairness, has accepted the plea for a recount, emphasizing the significance of ensuring the accuracy of the election results.

It is pertinent to mention here that during the initial results from PB-21, the candidate of Balochistan National Party (BAP) Muhammad Saleh Bhutani emerged as successful, securing the victory over his opponents with 30,910 votes.

The unofficial and unconfirmed results of 51 general seats of the Balochistan Assembly completed, showing JUI-F and PPP leading with 11 seats, each.

According to unconfirmed and unofficial results of 51 seats, the Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) and JUI-F have won 11 seats, each, followed by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) with 10 seats.

Here are the complete results of the Balochistan Assembly.

Struggle for power in center and provinces intensifies as ECP announces final results

Arooj Anmol

Around 60 million eligible voters participated in the electoral process in Pakistan on February 8, 2024, casting their ballots to elect representatives across 265 National Assembly and 590 Provincial Assembly constituencies.

This marked one of the nation's most fiercely contested political battles, with an estimated voter turnout ranging from 45 to 50 percent.

Following a period of heightened anticipation and amidst considerable turmoil, the general elections have concluded without major incidents, and the results have been officially announced.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has announced official results for the majority of constituencies, revealing a fragmented political landscape.

However, the outcome has triggered a flurry of discontent among contestants, with accu-

sations of electoral irregularities and rigging flying between rival parties. Legal challenges have been mounted against the declared results.

Nonetheless, behind the scenes, political maneuvering is underway as parties engage in negotiations to woo independent candidates and bolster their positions to secure government formation at both the national and provincial levels.

Meanwhile, the incoming government is poised to confront a myriad of pressing issues, spanning from economic instability and security concerns to the increasingly urgent matter of climate change.

National Assembly

The National Assembly comprises a total of 266 seats, with 133 seats needed for a party to secure a majority and form a government.

Official results have been disclosed for 262 constituencies, reflecting a voter turnout

of 45.49%, with 58,284,465 votes cast.

Results for only two constituencies are still pending, while outcomes for NA-15, NA-46, NA-47, NA-48, and NA-88 constituencies have been withheld. Furthermore, elections for NA-8 have been postponed.

According to the ECP's findings, the distribution of seats in the National Assembly is as follows: Independent candidates supported by the PTI hold the highest number of seats, totaling 101, followed by the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) with 75 seats.

The Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) secured 54 seats, while the Muttahida Qomi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) claimed 17 seats.

The Pakistan Muslim League (PML) secured 3 seats, alongside Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Pakistan (JUI-P) and Iste-hkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) each with 3 and 2 seats respec-

tively. The Balochistan National Party (BNP) also acquired 2 seats in the National Assembly.

Punjab Assembly

In the Punjab Assembly, where 297 seats are up for grabs, Independent candidates dominate with 138 seats, narrowly edging out the PML-N with 137 seats.

The PPPP and PML trail behind with 10 and 8 seats respectively.

Sindh Assembly

The Sindh Assembly consists of a total of 130 seats, with results declared for all constituencies except PS-18, where a re-election is scheduled.

PPPP emerged as the leading party in the Sindh Assembly, securing 84 seats, followed by MQM with 28 seats. Independent candidates claimed the third position with 13 seats, while Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan (JI) obtained 2 seats.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, there are a total of 115 seats,

with results declared for 112 constituencies. However, outcomes for PK-79, PK-82, and PK-90 are currently withheld.

However, elections for PK-22 and PK-91 have been postponed.

The KP Assembly witnesses a strong showing by Independent candidates, capturing 90 seats, with JUI-P trailing behind with only 7 seats, leaving the PML-N and PPPP with 5 and 4 seats respectively.

Balochistan Assembly Balochistan, however, emerges as a beacon of stability, with results declared across all 51 constituencies, showcasing a diverse representation with PPP and JUI (P) leading the pack with 11 seats each, followed by PML-N with 6 seats.

The coming days are crucial as political negotiations intensify, and the nation waits with bated breath for a resolution to the post-election turmoil.

Attique felicitates nation, institutions for conducting peaceful general election

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: President Muslim Conference, Ex-Premier Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has congratulated the whole nation, all institutions for conducting the general election 2024 in a fair, free and peaceful manner.

Talking to overseas Pakistanis and Kashmiris on arrival at Dubai airport on a week-long visit to UAE, he said the future of Pakistan's democracy is brighter keeping in view the high enthusiasm of the

people demonstrated in the Feb 8, general election, said a news release issued here.

He said every healthy and positive act on the national level powerfully reflects on Kashmir's plight. He termed, "Kashmir is an integral part of the Pakistan."

Commenting on Kashmir's deplorable situation, Sardar Attique made it clear that whatever anti-Kashmir measures perpetrated by India in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) are all in flagrant violation of United Nations resolutions.



Seven injured in fire at Karachi's govt hospital

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Seven persons sustained burn injuries as a fire broke out in the emergency centre of Sindh Government Hospital Liaquatabad.

As per reports, four people are critically injured with two of them being 100 percent burnt.

According to Bomb Disposal Squad, a short circuit triggered the fire in the emergency ward of Sindh Government Hospital Liaquatabad situated in a densely populated area of Karachi.

The injured persons were rushed to another hospital. The smoke filled the entire hospital, causing inconvenience for the

patients and attendants.

Meanwhile, Caretaker Health Minister Saad Khalid Niaz visited the hospital and conceded that there is no fire extinguishing system and emergency exit in the building.

He said that seven employees of the hospital sustained burn injuries and four of them are in critical condition.

The caretaker health minister said that two persons sustained 100 percent burns, Health Minister. Saad Naz said that no patient of the hospital was affected by the fire.

Meanwhile, Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori has taken notice of the incident and sought a

report from Medical Superintendent of Sindh Government Hospital Liaquatabad. Kamran Tessori also prayed for the speedy recovery of those who sustained injuries in the fire incident.

Earlier on 6th December 2023, at least five people died in Karachi's Ayesha Manzil where fire erupted in furniture shops and quickly expanded to residential units of Arshi Shopping Mall.

The fire was doused by the rescue workers after hours of struggle.

Rescue 1122 has confirmed the safe evacuation of 300 individuals from the affected building. Fortunately, no damage has been reported to nearby structures.

Firdous Ashiq Awan booked for roughing up cop at polling station

Bureau Report

SIALKOT: The Sialkot police has registered a case against Iste-hkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) leader Firdous Ashiq Awan for allegedly slapping a policeman deputed at a polling station. A video went viral on social media showing the IPP leader roughing up a policeman appointed at the Government High School Gana Kalan in Sialkot NA 70 when Firdous Ashiq Awan misbehaved with the policeman and slapped him.

According to police, Firdous Ashiq Awan had slapped a policeman in Sialkot on Thursday – the election day.

The case has been registered against Firdous Ashiq Awan for slapping the policeman on the complaint of ASI Amjad. According to the FIR, a police official was on election duty at Government High School Gana Kalan in Sialkot NA 70 when Firdous Ashiq Awan misbehaved with the policeman and slapped him.