

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
عائز رضی اللہ عنہما نے بیان کیا کہ پیغمبر صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کے پاس آتے تھے اور آپ سے رہنمائی کرتے تھے کہ قیامت کب آئے گی؟ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم ان میں سے کم عمر والے کو دیکھ کر فرماتے تھے کہ اگر یہ بچہ زندہ رہتا تو اس کے برہانے سے پہلے تمہاری قیامت آجاتے گی۔  
(بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6511)  
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## Death anniversary of Allama Iqbal observed

The nation solemnly commemorates the 86th death anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal today, paying tribute to his struggle and services for a separate homeland for the Muslims of the Subcontinent. Born in Sialkot on November 9, 1877, Allama Iqbal is revered as the national poet of Pakistan. Allama Iqbal's profound vision laid the foundation for the concept of an independent nation for Muslims, ultimately culminating in the establishment of Pakistan in 1947.



## Book of Xi's discourses on talent work published

A compilation of excerpts from discourses on China's talent work by Xi Jinping has been published by the Central Party Literature Press. The discourses answer major theoretical and practical questions such as why does China need to build itself into a strong country in talent, what the goal means, and how to achieve it. (Xinhua)

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## Long live Iran-Pakistan friendship

ISLAMABAD: The Constitution Avenue of Federal Capital decorated with Pak-Iran flags and banners ahead of visit of President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, undertaking an official visit to Pakistan from 22 to 24 April 2024.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Iranian President to arrive on Pakistan's official visit today

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi will make an official visit to Pakistan from April 22-24, a spokesperson of the Foreign Office said on Sunday.

It will be the first visit of any head of state after Pakistan's general elections.

President Raisi will be accompanying a high-level delegation.

Iran's presidential entourage will comprise of the foreign minister, other cabinet members, high officials and a large trade delegation.

During the visit, Raisi will meet the president and the prime minister of Pakistan, chairman of the Senate and speaker of the National Assem-

bly, according to the statement.

President Ebrahim Raisi will also visit and Lahore and Karachi and hold meetings with provincial leaders, foreign office said.

The officials will hold talks to strengthen bilateral relations, trade and cooperation in energy, agriculture and other sectors.

The sides will hold talks over for cooperation over regional and global issues and bilateral cooperation to tackle common threat of terrorism, foreign office stated.

Sources said President Raisi's agenda encompasses bilateral relations, security cooperation, the gas pipeline project and the exploration of potential free trade agreements.

## People rejected PTI's narrative of falsehood: Atta Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Sunday called the victory of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) as a manifestation of the people's trust in the people-friendly policies of the government and a clear rejection of the narrative of falsehood worked out by the leadership of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) from behind the bars. "Preliminary results of today's by-polls have validated the fact that the people of Pakistan firmly believe in the leadership of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and they fully welcome the people-friendly policies of its government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif," said the minister in a video message on the by-polls held in multiple constituencies today.

He said the economic reforms implemented by PM Shehbaz Sharif and his team had given a hope to the masses who shown their trust in the government by voting the PML-N that had kicked off the journey of economic stability in the country by curbing inflation and increasing foreign reserves. On the other hand, the minister said the people had rejected the false and misleading narrative of the PTI whose leadership was allegedly conspiring against the country from behind the



bars to achieve their ulterior motives. "They are issuing statements from jails that seriously damage credibility of Pakistan at international level," he said, adding the anti-state narrative was further pushed through such false statements. The people of Pakistan had rejected the PTI founder's "politics of hatred, chaos, division, falsehood and hypocrisy," the minister remarked. He said the performance of the PML-N governments in federation and Punjab spoke volume and the results of today's by-polls is its true manifestation. PML-N stood victorious in most of by-polls today, he said vowing that the government was aggressively taking measures to restore stature of the country at international level and provide relief to the masses by stabilizing the economy. He paid tribute to the people for exercising their democratic right and standing by truth and burying the narrative of the falsehood. He thanked the Almighty for the victory of PML-N in today's by-polls.

## Finance Minister met to representatives of S-P Global, Fitch Ratings

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Muhammad Aurangzeb, met with the representatives of S&P Global and Fitch Ratings on the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington D. C.

During the meetings, he highlighted positive indicators of the country on the back of the Stand-by Arrangement (SBA) signed with International Monetary Fund (IMF), said a press release issued here on Sunday.

He provided details on the government's ongoing reforms in priority areas, including taxation, energy, and privatization over short, medium and long-term horizons. He also referred to his recent engagements with Managing Director of the IMF,



President of the World Bank, and heads of multilateral institutions including Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

(AIIB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB). He reaffirmed that the World Bank's agenda aligns with Pakistan's priorities on

climate change, digitalization, and human development.

The Finance Minister also mentioned potential investments

in the pipeline from Saudi Arabia.

He also addressed the rating agencies' concerns related to Pakistan's external position, inflation levels, primary fiscal balance, and interest rate regime. Other engagements of Finance Minister included interaction with officers of the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington D. C., media interviews with the Voice of America and The National and Press Conference with Pakistani media.

Finance Minister is leading Pakistan's delegation in the IMF / World Bank's 2024 Spring Meetings being held in Washington DC. Other delegates include Mr. Imdadullah Bosal, Finance Secretary, Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary Economic Affairs Division, Mr. Jameel Ahmed, Governor State Bank of Pakistan and Mr. Adil Akbar Khan, Senior Joint Secretary, Economic Affairs Division

## Raisi's visit to Pakistan signals progress towards economic stability: PUC chairman



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Sunday hailed the visit of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to Pakistan as a positive step towards fostering economic stability for two countries. He, in a statement, said it was another milestone in country's efforts towards economic development following the recent high-profile delegations from Saudi Arabia to Pakistan.

## Roedad Khan passes away at 100

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former civil servant Roedad Khan passed away in Islamabad on Sunday. He was a 100 years old.

"Mourning passing away of National Icon & Legend, Roedad Khan sahib, 101; he lived a full life of service to Pakistan during our tumultuous periods," Mushahid Hussain Syed wrote on Twitter/X.

"Truly a unique, multifaceted personality of our times! He will be missed by his countless admirers!"

"Roedad Khan was a living walking history of Pakistan, with his departure country has lost its connection with the past-and is hurtling like a spaceship into an uncertain unknown future!" journalist Moed Pirzada wrote.



## CM Maryam Nawaz reacts to PML-N worker's killing in Narowal

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has said that the suspects involved in the killing of a Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) worker in Narowal have been arrested.

In a statement, the Punjab chief minister vowed to not tolerate hooliganism, saying that those resorting to violence and personal attacks using politics were the enemies of the nation.

According to CM Maryam Nawaz, politics was meant to serve people and bring reforms rather than violence and intolerance.

It is pertinent to mention that a PML-N worker was killed earlier today after he was hit on the head during a brawl with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) amid the by-election.

## Rangers truck meets accident in Thar; two officials killed

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A truck carrying Rangers personnel met with an accident in Tharparkar on Sunday, as a result of which two personnel were killed.

According to rescue sources, a Rangers truck coming from Nangarparkar met with an accident after a tire burst near Islamkot Tehsil of Tharparkar. Rangers personnel were present in the truck at the time of the accident.

According to MS Islamkot Hospital, two Rangers personnel were killed and 20 personnel were injured in the truck accident. The deceased have been identified as Ibrahim and Shahid. Some injured Rangers personnel were shifted to Basic Health Center Islamkot for medical assistance while four personnel were shifted to Civil Hospital Mithi in critical condition.

## FM Aurangzeb strongly condemns firing on Customs Officials

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb has strongly condemned the incident of firing on Customs Officials in Dera Ismael Khan while performing anti-smuggling duties.

The Finance Minister expressed deep grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of two officials of Customs Department in the incident. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences and unwavering support to families of the martyrs in these testing times.

The Minister also prayed for early recovery of the injured Customs officials in the incident.

## CEC urges candidates to ensure Form 45 collection from presiding officers

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja has urged candidates participating in the bye-elections to ensure their polling agents collect Form 45 from the presiding officers before departing from the polling stations.

He instructed the supervising officers to ensure that Form 45 is handed over to all polling agents at polling stations.

The CEC communicated with the chief secretaries of all four provinces to obtain reports on the day-long election process, inquiring about

electioneering activities. He emphasized that any laxity in ensuring the smooth conduct of the entire exercise would not be tolerated.

The CEC also reached out to regional deputy commissioners and commissioners overseeing sensitive polling station areas, instructing them to guarantee transparent elections.

Meanwhile, the CEC has sought a report from the Inspector General of Police Balochistan regarding the intrusion of armed individuals into the polling station

Continued on Page 8

# IGFC, MPA meeting, consultation on bringing peace & prosperity in Waziristan

Adam Khan Wazir

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: IGFC (South) Major General Haroon Hameed Chaudhary met newly elected MPA PK 114 from South Waziristan Lower Ajab Gul Wazir.

On this occasion detailed consultation on proposals to bring peace and prosperity in Waziristan.

In the meeting, Ajab Gul Wazir acknowledged the sacrifices and efforts of the security forces in bringing peace and stability to the region, and Angoor Adda Border issue highlighted its efforts to resolve the protest and restore commercial activities.

They discussed mutual efforts to initiate developmental projects like sustainable irrigation system (check dam) and agricultural initiatives for



socio-economic recovery in Lower South Waziristan.

During the meeting, IGFC discussed setting priorities for the development and prosperity of the region.

He said providing Internet service in the region, trade of pine nuts with Afghanistan and value addition of local pines, highlighted the wider opportunities for agriculture in Spinwam and

Shakai.

Apart from this, Major General Haroon Hameed Chowdhury consulted on effective suggestions for planting gardens in Wana and Azamwarsak, resuming Agri Park, making mines in Gomal and birmal operational and taking steps to reward the local people with minerals.

IGFC said on the occasion that NLC company has started the construction of a cargo terminal at the Angoor Ada border, which will lead to increase in transparent trade and communication.

On the other hand, the local tribal welcomed the meeting between IGFC South KP and MPAPK 110.

They expressed hope that due to the meeting of IGFC and MPA, there is a strong possibility of solving most of the problems in the area.

## Wana Police decided to start crackdown against tinted vehicles glasses

Adam Khan Wazir

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: In the light of the instructions of District Police Officer Farman Ullah of Lower South Waziristan district, it has been decided to start a crackdown against vehicles with black glasses across the district.

Spin Dam Police Station SHO Waheed Wazir told Dawn on Saturday that on the special instructions of South Waziristan Lower District Police Officer Farman Ullah, blockages will be installed at various places and in Wana Bazar.

Officials said however, vehicles with tinted glass will be cleaned in any case and no one will be exempted.

Police said they are appealing to the public and first clean the black glasses of the vehicles by your own will, otherwise any excuse will not be acceptable.

Police officials said that it was decided to start the crackdown on complaints from the general public to the DPO about the increase in the use of vehicles with black and tinted glasses.

Police added that people should remove plastic from vehicles with black glass to maintain law and order situation in the area.

On the other hand, District Police Officer Farman Ullah said that the police are in the forefront in protecting the life and property of the people.

DPO said police will not hesitate to make any kind of sacrifice and they will not allow any illegal activities in the area.



## Protest

KARACHI: Gilgit-Baltistan Youth workers protesting outside the Karachi Press Club for the arrest of Shahzad's killers in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## Sardar Attique attend Rabita Alam-e-Islami meeting in Saudi Arabia



Abdul Majeed Tahir

RIYADH/MUZAFFARABAD: Former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir and President of All Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has arrived in Saudi Arabia to attend in the meeting of the Rabita Alam-e-Islami International Conference is being held in Saudi Arabia.

On his arrival at Riyadh airport high ranking officials of Rabita Alam-e-Islami Conference and senior leaders of the Muslim Conference Saudi Arabia welcomed Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan at the airport. Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has been invited to this very important meeting. It should be remembered that the annual meeting of the Rabita Alam-e-Islami Conference was held last month from 17 to 20 March this year at Jeddah was headed by King Sulaiman of Saudi Arabia. The meeting of the Contact Rabita Alam-e-Islami

Conference has been called in view of the increasing threats to world peace in the context of the situation created as a result of the ongoing Israeli aggression in Palestine. An invitation has been given while Mirwaiz Kashmir Maulana Umar Farooq from occupied Jammu and Kashmir will not be able to participate due to detention in jail in IOJ&K.

## Chairman Jafaria Supreme Council condemns U. S. for missile program

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Jafaria Supreme Council Syed Zwar Hussain Naqvi Advocate accused three Chinese companies and one Belarusian company on behalf of the United States of supplying parts and equipment for Pakistan's missile program.

Describing the decision to impose restrictions on providing as absolute cruelty and injustice, it is used as a tactic to stop trade between free and independent countries, as well as to stop every process of development, including science and technology, in developing countries.

In his statement, he condemned this action of the United States in the strongest

terms and said that the United States and Europe have become addicted to imposing restrictions on other countries and their companies as well as individuals like a drug addict for not getting drugs. Feels very uneasy just like every few days until America and European countries ban some country or company or some group they don't get peace of mind.

The rulers of these countries seem to be suffering from psychological diseases who do not have the moral courage to sit down with a nation and peacefully and fraternally discuss controversial issues and present their legitimate or legal position whenever Will talk to anyone, always threaten and try to intimidate nations with their arrogant



arrogance, which is an insult to any free, independent and respectable nation and a respectable nation is never under any power. Can bend He said that it has become necessary to think of an alternative to SWIFT, the current international system of payments, and even if it cannot be used globally, initially Asian, African and Latin American countries should adopt it in their respec-

tive continents. Enforce only to the extent that Europe and America realize their political isolation and perhaps turn to justice and fairness which is far away from them.

He said that God willing, very soon this tactic of sanctions will be ineffective and the nations will be able to get rid of this oppressive Zionist global financial system. He demanded the United Nations to take notice of the unnecessary use of trade and economic sanctions by the United States and some countries in Europe and international organizations should not accept any orders that are outside the United Nations forum, otherwise very soon. The United Nations will lose its status and its existence or non-existence will be the same.

## 42nd Int'l Pak Zoological Congress at UAJK from Tuesday

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) is ready to kick off the three-day 42nd World Pakistan Congress of Zoology, facilitating global discourse on the latest innovations and persistent challenges in the field.

Commencing from Tuesday, April 23, amidst the picturesque surroundings of the King Abdullah Campus, the Congress will serve as the global platform for this significant event, drawing in distinguished scientists, researchers, faculty members, and scholars from across the world.

Under the auspices of the Zoological Society of Pakistan, the Congress will witness the gathering of leading minds in zoology from various countries, includ-

ing the United States, Australia, Switzerland, Greece, China, and Turkey. With an expected attendance of over 1000 participants, the congress assures a rich exchange of ideas, with more than 500 researchers slated to present their latest discoveries.

Confirming their presence, Vice-Chancellors from prominent institutions such as the University of Baltistan, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Sindh, Preston University Karachi, Islamia College University Peshawar, University of Okara, Baba Gurnanak University Faisalabad, Cholistan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Federal Urdu University of Arts Sciences and Technology, among others, will be in attendance to grace the occasion, said a press release issued

here Sunday.

The grand opening ceremony, scheduled for 9:00 AM at the main auditorium of UAJK's King Abdullah Campus, will be honored by Chief Guest Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar Haq. Notable dignitaries including Vice Chancellor UAJK Prof Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi and officials from the Zoological Society of Pakistan will acknowledge the invaluable contributions of researchers in zoology, with medals and awards to be conferred.

Every effort has been meticulously made to ensure the seamless execution of the congress, with all arrangements in place to accommodate the needs of delegates from across the globe, facilitating their participation in this prestigious conference.

## Sardar Saleem says will keep flag of Pakistan People's Party high in Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Divisional President of Pakistan Peoples Party, Parliamentarian Rawalpindi and former Minister of State for Defense Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has said that he will keep the flag of Pakistan Peoples Party high in Attock district, from National Assembly Constituency NA50 Attock Two.

The mandate of the party has been stolen, Pakistan has been made a laboratory of politics, people are frustrated due to inflation and unemployment, politicians have been imposed on the Pakistani people who have never even been a councilor in their life. They are loyal to the party of Pakistan People's Party's patriot, loyal leader, founder PPP Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, along with former provincial minister and senator Malik Hakimuddin Khan and his son, former member of the Punjab Assembly, Malik Shahhan Hakimuddin Khan Shaheed. can never be forgotten, while

after him District Senior Vice President PPP Attock Malik Sahil Sarmad has been maintaining his loyalty to the Pakistan People's Party in a good manner while keeping his bloodline. Slaves have changed the results overnight, my competition was against Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan, Pakistan Muslim League (N) did not even have a name and sign in the entire district, God willing, in the future, not only in the 6 tehsils of Attock district, but Pakistan People's Party.

Apart from the four provinces of Pakistan, the flag of the party will be raised everywhere in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the northern areas of Gilgit-Baltistan. The words are a guiding light for us, he expressed these thoughts while addressing the dinner ceremony in connection with the Eid Milan party on behalf of senior leader of Pakistan People's Party Malik Rashid at the local hotel of City Marriage Hall Madani Chowk Attock.

On this occasion, former candidate of Pakistan Peoples Party for Provincial Assembly Punjab Constituency PP3 Tehsil Attock Sardar Haider Ali Khan, District Senior Vice President PPP Attock Malik Sahil Sarmad, Tehsil President PPP Attock Malik Khalid Khan, Tehsil General Secretary Attock Sheikh Ishtiaq, Ahmed, Riyaz Khan, Chaudhry Mazhar, Sardar Iqbal Khan, Syed Shahzadul Hasan, Wahabuddin Baig, Shaukat Lala, Jamshed Khan, Kala Khan, Aisab Taj Khan of Golra, Ahmed Awan, Khalid Mahmood, Qasim Khan, Yasir Mahmood Moon, Arif Mahmood, Faraz Malik, Abdul Rauf Adil, Sabir, Zahid Khan, Malik Imdad Hussain Awan, Sajjad, Zulfiqar, Abdul Razzaq Mughal.

In addition, a large number of officials and workers of Pakistan People's Party were also present, Sardar Saleem

Haider Khan said that soon Pakistan People's Party will rule this country and the grandson of the founder Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, the central leader and chairman of Pakistan People's Party Bilawal. Bhutto Zardari will become the Prime Minister of this country Pakistan, he said that we all will work together, God willing, so that the leader of the party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, will soon take over the running of this country so that during the reign of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

He said that the candidates of Pakistan Peoples Party have competed well for the seats of the National and Provincial Assembly in the recent general elections 2024 in Attock district, but by rigging the candidates of Pakistan Peoples Party and especially I have been defeated, Sardar Salim Haider Khan said that I swear that between 8 and 9 February at 3 o'clock in the night, I was told that my votes were only 11,000, then after calling and shouting at

my returning officer, my votes were increased to 36,000 within a few hours. have been given, whereas within a short time 36 thousand to 65 thousand votes have been cast, he said that according to form number 45, 86,698 votes have been cast for me, Sardar Salim Haider Khan said that any worker of Pakistan People's Party in Attock district and Apart from the worker, I will not allow any abuse from my voters and supporters, I will give full time to Attock Tehsil like Fateh Jang, Hasan Abdal, Jund and Pindi Gheb Tehsils, he said that Punjab Assembly Constituency PP 3 Tehsil.

The purpose of fielding Sardar haider Ali Khan from Attock was only that the field should not be left empty. In his speech, Sardar Haider Ali Khan, the candidate of Pakistan People's Party for Provincial Assembly of Punjab Constituency PP-3 Tehsil Attock, has said that I had very little time while this constituency was new to me, but still Pakistan People's Party. Ideological voters have

done their right, he said that despite the theft of votes of national and provincial assemblies in all the constituencies of the country, Pakistan People's Party has fought well, Sardar Haider Ali Khan said that soon in Attock city.

The district office of Pakistan People's Party will be inaugurated and Sardar Saleem Haider Khan will come to the district office twice every month to listen to the problems of the people and will try hard to solve them on priority basis, he said that Sardar Saleem Haider Khan. They will not allow any kind of injustice to any questioner, but like other tehsils of the district, they will also give full time to Attock and continue their efforts, District Senior Vice President PPP Attock Malik Sahil Sarmad said. has also addressed, at the end of the Eid Milan party ceremony, Malik Rashid, senior leader of Pakistan People's Party, thanked all the guests for giving their valuable time and paid tribute in wonderful words.



Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr ..... 4:01 am  
Zohr ..... 12:07 pm  
Asr ..... 4:49 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6:44 pm  
Isha ..... 8:13 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) ..... 15  
Bomb Disposal ..... 15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad ..... 1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance ..... 1122 & 4451122  
& Rescue Services ..... 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

AJK minister hails Kashmir Express for its role in freedom movement



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Kashmir Minister of Social Welfare and Development of Women Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi said that the role of newspapers in the freedom movement is unforgettable.

Daily Kashmir Express has progressed in a short time despite adverse conditions. These views were expressed by women councilor Ms. Shabnam Arif Haroon Azad while addressing the ceremony on the occasion of the anniversary of Daily Kashmir Express. Arifa Mehmood Ejaz Kazmi congratulated all the staff including Chief Editor Zahid Tabsum on the anniversary of Kashmir Express. Minister of Government Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi said that the Chief Editor and Bureau Chief of the daily Kashmir Express, journalist Tanveer Ahmad Tanoli always did the right thing. Raised his voice and highlighted the freedom movement through his pen. Tanveer Ahmed Tanoli has done responsible journalism and fought for the rights of the people. Daily Kashmir Express always fought for the rights of the people and raised the voice of the people in an impartial way. On the occasion of the anniversary of the daily Kashmir Express, the editor-in-chief, Zahid Tabsum, congratulates the entire team.

Eid Milan Party

# Students of AIMS Education System Islamabad organize Eid Milan Party

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Eid Milan party was organized by the students of the AIMS Aiwan-e-Quran of AIMS Education System, Islamabad. The students and teachers actively participated in the event.

On the occasion, Qari Tariq Saeed, Head of Hizf Section of the AIMS Education System, Islamabad, while addressing the students, said that the festival of Eid is a source of joy for Muslims. After the blessed month of Ramadan, Allah has blessed us with happiness in the form of Eid. The happiness and well-being of children should be taken care of at all levels so that they never feel deprived and they remain in the stream of national development.

AIMS Education System is looking forward to organizing the Eid Milan Party in honor of the students of AIMS Aiwan-e-Quran.

Along with curriculum education in schools, organizing such an event builds self-confidence in students. And it is the best way to get along with each other. I am grateful to all the management and teachers of AIMS Education System for organizing such an excellent program.



Qari Tariq Saeed said that every year hundreds of children learn memorization from the AIMS Education System.

AIMS School has a distinguished Tehfeez-ul-Quraan section for boys. Hizful Quran is optional for students which starts after passing Grade-II Exam and qualifying the Nazra test.

We have a fast-track Hizf ul Quran system which consists of 2.5 to 3 years. Students are provided with each year's plan to achieve the target. We have daily, bi-monthly, half yearly and annual evaluation exams and report compilation to make the Hizf practice stronger and effective.



To make our Hizful Quran more effective, we do not allow students to listen to each other's sabaq, sabqi and manzil. Therefore, we have maintained a 1:7 Teacher to Student ratio. This helps student's to get most of the attention from the teacher.

During Tehfeez-ul-Quraan, academ-

ic classes for English and Math continue. However, we do not give any homework and exams for academics as our main focus is the Quran during the Hizf-ul-Quran process. Moreover, Hizf Students are allowed Ramadan vacations only. Regular absenteeism will not be tolerated.

Welcome

ISLAMABAD: The Constitution Avenue of Federal Capital decorated with Pak-Iran flags and banners ahead of visit of President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, undertaking an official visit to Pakistan from 22 to 24 April 2024.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## 'Pakistan Environment Awards' to spotlight best green initiatives on June 4

PPA

ISLAMABAD: To celebrate and recognize the commendable efforts of organizations towards environmental stewardship through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and environmental compliance and conservation, Devcom-Pakistan (Development Communications Network) will confer the Pakistan Environmental Award upon the best green initiatives to mark the World Environment Day (WED) on June 4.

Speaking to this scribe about the new initiative, Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed said a number of corporate organizations and projects have delivered exemplary outputs but lack due

appreciation and recognition. The Pakistan Environmental Award will also encourage every organization in the corporate sector to adopt the green technologies, environmental compliance, and engage the communities in environmental conservation and protection. The event will include the presentations of best practices and a conference to explore the way forward for a climate resilient Pakistan.

Devcom-Pakistan aims to spotlight those companies that have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to environmental sustainability, paving the way for a greener and more sustainable future by recognizing their efforts with an exclusively designed award

and providing them an opportunity to narrate their CSR for Environment success stories to the relevant stakeholders and media.

Munir Ahmed said the Pakistan Environmental Award will be given in 12 categories including the Sustainability Leadership Award to recognize the companies or individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in implementing sustainable practices across their operations. The Carbon Footprint Reduction Award will honour the organizations that have significantly reduced their carbon emissions through innovative strategies and initiatives.

The Supply Chain Sustainability Award will celebrate

companies that have implemented sustainable practices throughout their supply chains, promoting transparency, ethical sourcing, and fair labor practices.

The Community Engagement for Environmental Impact Award will recognize organizations that have engaged with local communities to address environmental challenges, promote sustainable development, and foster environmental stewardship. The Corporate Ecosystem Responsibility Award will spotlight the companies that have demonstrated a holistic approach to environmental responsibility by considering the broader impacts of their operations on ecosystems and biodiversity.

## Kotli Sattian roads in terrible condition—letter to Editor

Alishba Zaheen resident of Kotli Sattian write to letter to Editor Daily Spokesman we are publishing this letter for attention to concern authority.



She write "The roads of Kolti Sattian to Chhaint are in terrible conditions. They have not been repaired for quite some time now".

The potholes on the roads are a major cause of concern. Not only do they slow down the traffic but also cause several accidents. As a result, we have been witnessing huge traffic jams in peak hours. During monsoons, these potholes become the breeding ground for mosquitoes as they are perpetually filled with water.

We have tried to bring this problem to the notice of the concerned authorities in the past too. However, all our efforts have gone in vain so far. We hope that the authorities will take some concrete action this time.

Alishba Zaheen.

alishbazhaeenakhtar@gmail.com

## AIOU to hold Lahore convocation on April 28

ISLAMABAD: The convocation of Allama Iqbal Open University (Punjab Chapter) will be held on April 28, 2024, in Lahore. Pro Chancellor of University, Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui will be the chief guest. Many distinguished guests, including vice chancellors of various universities, rectors, renowned journalists and eminent social personalities from Punjab will attend the convocation. Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood and Federal Minister, Dr. Khalid Maqbool will confer degrees and gold medals to students who graduated from semester Autumn 2004 to Spring 2022.

A full dress rehearsal will be held on April 27. This rehearsal is mandatory for all the registered students as convocation gowns and entrance cards will be distributed. Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, has said that 2024 marks the golden jubilee year of AIOU. To celebrate this milestone, the university has planned a grand celebration, which includes holding convocation ceremonies to honour its graduates.

IRS lauds role of journalists in shaping Pakistan  
ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President of the Institute of Regional Studies, recently hosted a distinguished gathering of journalists bringing together a range of media representatives stationed in Islamabad. Held at the IRS premises, the event served as a Meet and Greet Session, underscoring the vital linkage between academia and the journalistic fraternity.

While addressing the gathering, Ambassador Saleem commended media's unwavering dedication to delivering comprehensive coverage amidst the prevalent challenges and the omnipresence of social media.

Emphasizing the paramount importance of fostering robust academia-industry linkages, Ambassador Saleem articulated his vision for the Institute to make it a center of excellence at par with the leading international policy think tanks.

The gathering was a testament to the Institute of Regional Studies' unwavering dedication to fostering meaningful dialogues and collaborations to build a future defined by innovation and progress.

With collective determination, the Institute remains poised to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of regional studies to produce quality research and provide actionable input to policymakers.

# IMCG Bhara Kahu struggles without a regular principal

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Model College for Girls (IMCG) Bhara Kahu finds itself in disarray as the absence of a regular principal continues to paralyse both administrative and financial operations, leaving over 1200 students and staff directionless.

The crisis emerged following the reshuffling of principals by the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) on March 20. Ms. Najmun-Nisa, the former principal of IMCG Bhara Kahu, was transferred to IMCG I-8/3 as principal on "temporary duty."

In a chain reaction, Ms. Shazia Wazir was slated to replace her, but according to sources at the FDE, she refused to assume the role, citing concerns over the seniority principle in her transfer.

However, conflicting reports

suggest that concerns over substantial funds embezzlement in the students' fund of the college during the past few years might be influencing her reluctance to join IMCG Bhara Kahu, thus plunging the college into a leadership vacuum.

In an attempt to settle the issue, the FDE has given Ms. Shazia Wazir time until the end of the summer vacation to address her apprehensions, signaling a compromise that some perceive as a display of weakness on the part of the authorities.

Meanwhile, attempts to fill the leadership void have proven futile. Ms. Abida Parveen, an associate professor at IMCG (Postgraduate) G-10/4, was transferred to IMCG I-14/3 but remains in limbo, awaiting Ms. Shazia Wazir's departure.

With Ms. Shazia Wazir's relieving now delayed until August, Ms. Abida Parveen and the college find

themselves in an extended state of uncertainty. To mitigate the crisis at IMCG Bhara Kahu, the FDE has reportedly requested another principal to oversee the affairs of IMCG Bhara Kahu in addition to her own college.

However, the administrative debacle has left teachers and students in disarray, with mounting concerns over the integrity of the college environment. Anonymous sources within the IMCG Bhara Kahu while talking to APP paint a grim picture of the situation, highlighting the repercussions of the absence of a principal.

Pending bills and budget allocations of the fourth quarter risk going unused, with the looming deadline of June 30 threatening the lapse of funds. Moreover, the utilization of student funds requires the approval of a regular principal, further exacerbating the college's

financial woes.

"There seems to be no writ of FDE. It is as if there is a vacuum of authority, leaving educational institutions adrift without proper guidance or oversight. The FDE should really think things through before making transfers" expressed a vice principal, highlighting a breakdown in governance within the education sector.

An associate professor of a college speaking on condition of anonymity told APP, "These transfers reflect a lack of rational decision-making and a violation of basic principle of seniority on the part of the FDE. Moreover, the syndrome of 'temporary duty' disrupts educational institutions, compromising teaching quality and administrative efficiency."

Teachers attribute this chaos to the absence of a regular Director General leading the Federal



Directorate of Education, leading to haphazard decision-making and undermining the educational system's integrity.

They urge the Minister for Education to intervene and appoint a seasoned Director General to rectify past wrongdo-

ings and ensure appointments of Principals based on seniority, restoring stability to educational institutions.

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 Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

# Transforming education sector: from job hunters to job creators

**Dr. Fasiha Safdar**

The theme of the 2024 Earth's Day "Planet vs. Plastics" is a much needed and a long-due call for action on the most pressing issue of today i.e. plastic pollution. Plastic is all around us, from being inside the food that we eat to clothes we wear, from remote mountain tops to deeps ocean trenches; plastics and microplastics have become embedded in our environment. The fact that plastic is not biodegradable adds to the problem: over time plastic does not disappear but breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces known as micro and nano plastics, which accumulate in the biosphere. The figure below (released by UNEP in 2021), depicts the plastic problem in data; out of the 9200 million tons plastic produced since 1950, 5300 million tons has been discarded, which is polluting the different parts of the planet while 2900 million tons is still in use and a very small percentage has been incinerated. Plastics burnt in incinerators releases microplastics and toxic gases into the atmosphere. Production resins and fibres for plastics in projected to keep growing for years in sight. Virtually every piece of plastic that has ever been produced still exists somewhere on the planet.

Over the years, plastic industry and growing consumerism have encouraged

the idea that plastics are unavoidable, and they made the public believe that any issues with plastics is centred around the 'trash' problem—an issue which they claim could be overcome if we would embrace recycling. The deeper problem, however, it is just not the trash, it is the health impacts of plastics and their assimilation into our food chain, that is the biggest hazard. A report released by earthday.org titled "Babies vs. Plastics" has highlighted the gravity of the health issues posed by plastics to human beings, especially babies. The report has stressed the urgency of action on this matter. Studies have found microplastics to be presents in many organs of human body, including lungs and brain. They are now proven to be able to cross the blood-brain barrier and are classified as endocrine disruptors. Plasticizers (substances added to plastics to make them soft and more flexible) such as BPA (Bisphenol A) and PFAS (per and poly-fluoroalkyl substances) have been linked to decrease in memory and learning issues because of their effect on the central nervous system. Studies have found a link between autism spectrum disorder in mice and microplastics. A study has found that kids with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) had more levels of microplastics in their bodies compared to other kids. These facts have rung alarm bells, which must be paid heed to, as the stakes are too high to be ignored. According to Kathleen

Rogers, President EarthDay.org;

"Our reliance on plastics could be the biggest gamble in the story of human health, in history. We are all ingesting and inhaling microplastics. They are everywhere. Are we just hoping they are safe, or is even the remotest possibility they might be toxic so terrifying, that we can't contemplate it?"

The second gruesome impact of plastics is the waste generated by single-use plastic. According to UNEP, we produce about 400 million tonnes of plastic waste every year. Most of this waste lands into the oceans. It is estimated that 75 to 199 million tonnes of plastic is currently found in our oceans, which is deteriorating the marine ecosystem, killing fish and turtle species and adding up in their system to reach human food chain. Fish and other smaller creatures, consume tiny microplastics in our waterways and oceans. When these fish, crustaceans, and sea birds are in turn consumed, the microplastics inside them keep traveling up the food chain, through a process called "trophic transfer", until they reach us in bioaccumulated form.

In Pakistan, Plastic pollution is visible all around us in the form of garbage lying around, choked waterways and sewerage lines, burning and flying plastic shoppers causing odour and visual pollution. Plastic pollution is the major threat to the marine turtles in Pakistan. Turtles mostly mistakenly ingest plastic bags, which is fatal to their survival, and we

regularly hear of such cases in Pakistan where turtles are found dead because of ingesting plastic bags.

The solution to the issue of plastic pollution would start with a complete stop to single use plastic. Governments are key players in the plastic value chain, and they must ban the production of single use plastic. Shifting to circular economy with plastic being circulated in the cycle rather than going to dumping sites, is another area the governments must act on. Responsible consumption is an option that rests with people and we as global citizens have to play our role.

This Earth Day with its theme "Planet vs. Plastic" serves as an opportunity to contemplate our life choices and influence our policy makers to make tough decisions. Earth Day is observed in 192 different countries and has served as a powerful platform for citizens of the world to send a loud message to world leaders that they care about the environment and that we must make concerted efforts to protect our planet on priority. We, as a responsible nation, need to play a similar role and take ownership of our environment to save the planet and our future generations.

*The writer holds a PhD in Environmental Sciences/Climate Change and is currently associated with the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), Islamabad. She can be reached at [fasiha.nima@bahria.edu.pk](mailto:fasiha.nima@bahria.edu.pk)*

## Achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals

Pakistan has called for the development of infrastructure connectivity to fortify global resilience and promote sustainable development, especially in developing countries. Ambassador Munir Akram made the call in his capacity as co-chair of the Group of Friends of Sustainable Infrastructure Investment, while delivering a statement during the U. N, General Assembly's Sustainability Week in New York, on the theme: "Informal dialogue on building global resilience and promoting sustainable development through infrastructure connectivity."

"The achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and our climate goals requires a major transition to sustainable infrastructure – in energy, transport, housing, communications and industrial and agricultural production and consumption," the Pakistani envoy said, noting that this was recognized in the 'Just Energy Transition' document adopted at COP-28. "Yet," he said, "public and private investments in sustainable infrastructure are not commensurate to realize either the SDGs or the climate goals, pointing out that a majority of developing countries do not have the public resources to finance infrastructure investments nor are they able to secure sufficient private investment. To achieve a 'just transition', he called for mobilizing significantly larger concessional finance to mitigate country and project risks, enhance credit quality, improve financing terms and thus incentivize private infrastructure investment in the developing countries. In this regard, Ambassador Akram cited the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which said there was a funding gap of \$2.5 trillion annually in infrastructure, two-thirds of which is in the developing countries. "Cumulatively, for a 1.5°C Scenario, financing needs for clean energy are estimated to be about USD 4.3 trillion per year up until 2030, increasing thereafter to USD 5 trillion per year up until 2050," he said, pointing out that investment in renewable energy only reached USD 0.5 trillion in 2022, the majority concentrated in developed countries. The Pakistani envoy also underscored the need to create a pipeline of viable and bankable projects in the developing countries which can attract public and private investments. Pakistan, he said, advocates the establishment of a public-private entity under UN auspices to help developing countries formulate and structure such a pipeline of viable infrastructure projects utilizing the UN country offices. "Such a public private entity could bring together all stakeholders – recipient and donor countries, development institutions and the private sector; develop a template for national and international regulatory frameworks and develop de-risking measures to incentivize private investment in developing countries and present the projects for financing to the appropriate public and private sources of investment capital."



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

## Need of SIFC Investment for AJK - I

Pakistan has actively worked to cultivate an environment conducive to economic growth and development by prioritizing investor-friendly policies. Recognizing the pivotal role of both foreign and domestic investments in stimulating the economy, the government has implemented various measures to streamline the investment process and foster a favorable business climate. One noteworthy initiative in this regard is the establishment of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), marking a significant milestone in Pakistan's journey towards becoming an appealing destination for investors. The SIFC was established with the objective of providing a unified platform for investors to efficiently navigate approvals, resolve issues, and receive support at every stage of the investment cycle. Its mandate encompasses attracting foreign investment particularly in sectors such as Agriculture, Livestock, Hydro Power, and Tourism. Operating under the umbrella of the Board of Investment (BOI), which serves as the apex body for promoting and facilitating investments, the primary goal of the SIFC is to expedite the investment process and address any obstacles encountered by investors. By offering a dedicated forum for resolving investment-related challenges, the council aims to enhance transparency, streamline processes, and ensure accountability within the investment ecosystem. The SIFC extends a range of facilitation services to investors, including assistance with regulatory approvals, land acquisition, utility connections, and resolving inter-agency coordination issues. With its team of experts, the council provides comprehensive support

to investors, guiding them from project conception to implementation. Acting as a voice for investors, the SIFC advocates for policy reforms and regulatory changes to foster a more conducive investment environment. By engaging with relevant stakeholders, the council works towards removing barriers to investment and promoting entrepreneurship.

In instances of disputes or conflicts, the SIFC offers mediation and arbitration services to facilitate amicable resolutions, thereby safeguarding investor interests and promoting trust in the investment framework. Since its inception, the SIFC has played a crucial role in attracting investment across various sectors, expediting project implementation, and reducing investment lead times. Numerous success stories underscore the impact of SIFC's facilitation efforts, particularly in infrastructure projects such as energy, transportation, and telecommunications. Through targeted initiatives, the council has spurred industrial expansion and modernization, attracting both domestic and foreign investors to sectors like manufacturing, textiles, and technology. By supporting export-oriented industries and facilitating access to international markets, the SIFC has bolstered Pakistan's export sector, enhancing its competitiveness globally. The investments facilitated by SIFC have not only spurred economic activity but also created job opportunities, thereby contributing to poverty reduction and socio-economic advancement. Looking forward, the Special Investment Facilitation Council

is positioned to play an even more substantial role in Pakistan's economic makeover. As the nation persists in implementing reforms to enhance the business environment and attract investments, SIFC will remain at the forefront of these endeavors, acting as a catalyst for sustainable progress and prosperity. Indeed, the establishment of the Special Investment Facilitation Council marks a bold stride towards cultivating a more investor-friendly climate in Pakistan. By delivering comprehensive facilitation services, advocating for policy changes, and nurturing an entrepreneurial ethos, SIFC is paving the path for heightened economic well-being and inclusive development. As investors increasingly recognize the potential of Pakistan's dynamic economy, the council stands prepared to bolster and catalyze investment opportunities, propelling the nation's development agenda forward.

Nestled in the foothills of the Himalayas, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) emerges as an undiscovered jewel of natural splendor and serenity. Endowed with lush valleys, clear rivers, dense forests, and snow-draped peaks, AJK presents a captivating canvas of landscapes that mesmerize and calm the spirit. As explorers venture into this untouched haven, they encounter scenes of awe-inspiring beauty and endless tranquility, each corner unveiling a new facet of nature's magnificence. AJK harbors a multitude of picturesque valleys, each boasting its distinct charm and appeal. The Neelum Valley, often hailed as the "Blue Gem of Pakistan,"

enchants visitors with its turquoise rivers, verdant meadows, and towering peaks. The Neelum River meanders through the valley, offering a serene backdrop to the charming villages and terraced fields that adorn the scenery. Similarly, the enchanting valleys of Leepa and Jhelum boast emerald forests, alpine meadows, and cascading waterfalls, inviting travelers to lose themselves in the serenity of nature.

Flowing through the heart of AJK are pristine rivers and streams, nurturing the region's diverse wildlife and enhancing its scenic splendor. The Jhelum River, originating from the Himalayas, meanders through lush valleys and fertile plains, sustaining communities along its banks. The Poonch River, with its crystalline waters and rocky shores, provides a tranquil setting for leisurely activities, while the Kunhar River, renowned for its rapids and pristine beauty, attracts adventurers and nature lovers alike.

AJK's dense forests teem with a rich array of flora and fauna, making them a haven for wildlife enthusiasts. The sprawling forests of Banjosa and Rawalakot harbor a lush canopy of pine, oak, and cedar trees, providing sanctuary to various bird and mammal species.

Dominating AJK's skyline are the majestic peaks of the Himalayas and Karakoram ranges, standing as guardians of nature's magnificence. Mount Toli Pir offers panoramic vistas of the surrounding valleys and mountains, while Shounter and Ganga Choti beckon adventurers to conquer their heights. For mountaineers and trekkers, AJK presents abundant opportunities to explore remote alpine regions and witness awe-inspiring panoramas.

*To be continued*

## Blue Economy and short interaction with Pakistan's economy

The Blue Economy is a unique concept for us, but it's an old terminology that is extensively used in economics. It is also known as "Blue Growth". Blue resources encompass marine, seas, oceans, and rivers. These resources play a pivotal role in uplifting the economy, and economic activity and development related to them are known as the Blue Economy. Until now, this sector has been neglected and not prioritized by the government. However, it is said that this sector could be a leading figure in Pakistan's economy if it is focused on. It has the potential to create one million jobs and accelerate the entire economy by providing various opportunities.

The main component of the Blue Economy is the "ocean industry," which includes fishing, shipping, transportation, salt production, oil and gas extraction, chemical manufacturing, marine engineering, and other related industries. All of these industries have the potential to become significant players in the

national economy by creating numerous jobs and attracting local and foreign investment in various related activities.

For a country like Pakistan, whose 95 percent of trade relies on the sea, this sector is particularly crucial. Before the planning of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), it was largely neglected. However, after the initiation of CPEC planning, the government has started to focus on it, especially due to Chinese interest in the Gawadar coastal areas for fishing, shipping, and international trade. As a result, Pakistan has begun to show interest in this field.

Our current Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaisar Sheikh, is particularly dedicated to the future of this sector. Since assuming office, he has actively engaged with foreign and domestic investors to improve this sector, particularly emphasizing the hotting industry. It's imperative that we further focus on this sector to develop it fully, as it could be a savior for Pakistan.

*Writer is student of University Of Sargodha*

# Houthis launch 'indoctrination' summer camps

Saeed Al-Batati

Children in Houthi camps taught how to make models for military equipment, sectarian ideas that inspire hatred, violence, says analyst

AL-MUKALLA: The leader of the Houthi militia has called on families in regions under his control in Yemen to encourage their children to join summer camps, a move that has renewed accusations against the militia of child soldiering.

Abdul Malik Al-Houthi announced the opening of the annual summer camps on Saturday, saying they would fill in the free time of the country's children during the summer and teach ideas rooted in the "faith identity" of Yemen, which would allegedly protect them from foreign ideas and also motivate them to confront their enemies.

"The enemies are disturbed by the summer courses, and their media outlets usually start organized campaigns attacking the courses and those responsible for them," Al-Houthi said, urging his supporters not to listen to critics.

After their leader's speech, Houthi officials in Sanaa, Hajjah, Hodeidah, and other areas controlled by the militia launched summer camps in their cities and encouraged parents to send their children.

Similarly to summer camps in previous years, the Houthis have faced accusations from Yemeni government officials, journalists, activists, and human rights organizations that they exploit schools, mosques, and other facilities used for these camps to indoctrinate, recruit, and train children for military purposes against the government.

"The Houthi militia has converted these summer camps into mobilization camps before conscription. This is the initial step in the recruitment process," Ali Al-Fakih, editor of Al-Masdar Online, told Arab News.

Instead of teaching children peace, human values, music, and sketching, Al-Fakih said, children in Houthi camps are taught sectarian ideas that inspire hatred, violence, and killing, as well as how to make models for military equipment.

"Unfortunately, all of the ideologies taught in these camps promote sectarianism, instigate hatred and violence, and create time bombs," he said.

Videos from Houthi summer camps in recent years have shown Houthi figures instructing youngsters how to wield weapons while some children were taken on a tour of the graves of deceased Houthi warriors.

Other children were observed screaming Houthi slogans, professing

allegiance to the militia leader, vowing to battle militia opponents such as Israel and America, and participating in mock military parades.

Critics have warned families living in Houthi-controlled areas not to listen to the militia's calls to join summer camps, noting that many graduates of those camps have turned their guns on their own families.

"To parents in areas controlled by the terrorist Houthi militia, boycott Houthi summer camps to save your children's lives. Beware of clerics, charlatans, and deceptive phrases," said Saleh Al-Qutabi, a Yemeni army officer in the central city of Marib.

In their most recent report to the UN Security Council, released late last year, the UN Panel of Experts accused the Houthis of committing the majority of human rights violations in Yemen, including child soldiering.

It said that Houthi summer camps exist in three forms: open summer camps for boys and girls, model summer camps for children, and closed residential summer camps where boys aged 13 to 17 spend at least a month without seeing anyone, including their families. The report said that the latter camps provide boys with military training.

To get youngsters into their camps, the Houthis offer incentives such as



waiving their registration costs for the following school year. Families that refuse to send their children to the camps are penalized by being denied humanitarian help and having their

children abducted and sent to the conflict.

Al-Fakih said this year that Houthis in the province of Ibb would not release students' school year results if they did

not attend summer camps.

"They tied the submission of results for the last school year to the student's attendance at summer centers," Al-Fakih said. Courtesy Arab News

## Eid reception

ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Malaysia H. E. Azhar Bin Mazlan, Ambassadors of Thailand, Philippines, Nepal, Brunei Darrusalam & Morocco alongwith Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari, President Chakwal Chamber of Commerce & Industries Waqar Bakhtawari at a dinner reception hosted by Ambassador Azhar Bin Mazlan.



## Sultan of Oman to visit UAE on Monday



WAM

DUBAI: Sultan Haitham of Oman will visit the UAE on Monday for talks with President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, state news agency WAM reported.

During the visit, both leaders will discuss "the deep-rooted, historical relations between the UAE and Oman and cooperation in various fields," the agency said. The two leaders will also discuss a number of regional and international issues of common interest.

## Afghanistan resumes Türkiye-bound export via railway linking Iran

Xinhu

KABUL: Afghanistan has resumed the export of goods to Türkiye via the Herat-Khaf railway linking the country's western port to Iran following a pause of five years, local TV channel TOLONews reported Saturday.

"For a period of one month, one train will travel daily from Afghanistan to Iran and vice versa," Mohammad Naseem Mohammadi, head of the Herat railway authorities, told the local media.

"After a month due to the increase in traders' goods, two trains will operate daily, and passenger services are also planned for the future," he said.

# Shooting in Memphis party kills 2, with other half dozen injured

Authorities said Saturday at least two people were killed and others six were injured after a deadly shooting in Memphis erupted during a block party where around 300 people were present.



The gun violence was believed to be caused by two people at the party, Police Chief CJ Davis said, as officials have not yet arrested any suspects.

Authorities are also in the process of ascertaining the motive behind the shooting in Memphis.

Memphis Police was quoted by

CNN that officials responded to the scene where they encountered five victims having gunshot injuries.

Two people were pronounced deceased while three injured were

taken to the hospital.

Authorities further noted that multiple people with gunshot wounds came to the hospitals on their own and the sixth wounded was critical.

The police department earlier raised the figure of victims to 16 however, it later investigated and brought it down to the right including two deceased.

"We believe the error occurred with several victims being reported multiple times," Memphis police said in a post on X, former Twitter.

Police Chief Davis said the department has received video footage from the scene and is looking for those responsible.

"We are working tirelessly tonight to identify the individuals who were involved in this shooting," Davis said Saturday evening.

As many as 115 mass shootings have been reported this year according to the Gun Violence Archive. The mass shooting is defined as one in which at least four people are shot, excluding the shooter.

## Women Empowerment

# Indian Channels Tried their Best but Failed to get a Single Word against my country—Dr Saveera Parkash

Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: The candidate of PPP for KP Assembly in election Feb 2024 at KP 25, District Bunair, Dr Saveera Parkash has said that Indian channels tried their best to get something from my mouth against my country Pakistan but failed. Malala is doing good abroad. She can return but only she can better decide when to return. Reserve seats of women should be allotted to hard worker women of remote areas and neglected segments of

society.

She said this in a forum on the topic "Share of Women in Parliamentary System and Status of Minorities in Pakistan" hosted by Magazine "Pakistan in the World" in collaboration with Koh e Noor TV Channels and IMARAT group powered by Grana dot Com and Agency 21 at Diplomatic Enclave Islamabad on Friday, 19 April 2024. Her father Dr Om Parkash also accompanied her in the forum.

Bunair as like some other districts of KP has been radical-

ized and affected with terrorism in the past but Dr Saveera and family survived there and did not leave the place like many others. She said, "we did not leave our home because we have trust in the state to protect us and let us flourish on equal basis in all fields including the politics."

The organizer of the forum Senior Journalist Mr. Tazeen Akhtar shed light on the topic in his introductory remarks. Other collaborators Mr. Kamran Arshad of MK Associates, Mustafa Khan of Koh e Noor TV and



Syed Mansoor ul Hassan were also present

Ambassador of Nepal, H. E. Tapas Adhikari, Acting Ambassador of Tajikistan, H. E. Saeed-jan Shafi, DHM Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Mr. Yasin, Counsellor Ukraine Embassy Ms Oksana, Advisor Portugal Embassy Mr. Miguel Silva, Second Secretary Azerbaijan Embassy Mr. Behbood participated in the forum and shared their views as well. Editor Daily Spokesman Mr Naveed Ahmad Khan also took part in the discussion.

She lost the seat to PTI supported candidate but made the headlines in the press and media of not only Pakistan but in India as well.

During and after the election she was approached for interviews from Indian media 200 times. In every interview she was questioned in a way to speak



something against Pakistan but she did not provide a single word to Indian media.

Dr Saveera recalled the old days when she was student of school and college as very hard days because their region was among the worst hit areas with radicalization.

She recalled that they had to remain inside home basement for many days. She said that we decided not to leave our place as it was our ancestral homeland. She said that we are thankful to people of our area and constit-

uency that they respect us and live with us in peace and like good friends.

To a question about Malala Yousufzai who were injured in Swat in reportedly in Taliban attack and then left the country and till them has not returned to Pakistan so far, Dr Saveera Parkash said that we have mutual friends and I hold Malala in high esteem. She is doing very good abroad for the education purpose like Malala Fund is helping many Pakistanis in getting education at Oxford level institutes.

As long as her return to Pakistan is concerned, she can return, it is her homeland. But only she can better decide when to return.

Dr Saveera said that women need more representation in the assemblies to play their role in the development of the country. For that reserve seats should be fulfilled with hard working political workers.

She said that she will continue to take part in politics to contribute in the welfare of the people of her constituency and for the prosperity of her country





# New Zealand overpower Pakistan in third T20I

Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: New Zealand outclassed Pakistan in the third Twenty20 international in Rawalpindi on Sunday as Mark Chapman single-handedly led his side to victory to level the series.

Pakistan bowlers failed to produce wicket-taking deliveries in the match. They only managed to get three players out of the visitors. Chapman was not out for 87 runs.

In the first innings, all-rounder Shadab Khan and skipper Babar Azam led Pakistan to 178-4 in the match.

Shadab hit a 20-ball 41 with two sixes and four boundaries while Azam scored a 29-ball 37 after Pakistan were sent in to bat by New Zealand on a flat Pindi Stadium pitch.

Opener Saim Ayub scored a robust 22-ball 32 and Muhammad Irfan Khan chipped in with a 20-ball 30 not out as Pakistan added 54 in the last five overs.

Azam and left-hander Ayub gave Pakistan a brisk start of 55 as the duo played some aggressive shots.

Shadab and Irfan boosted the innings with a brisk 62-run stand for the fourth wicket.

For New Zealand, leg-spinner Ish Sodhi was the best bowler with 2-25.

New Zealand, who lost the second match by seven wickets at the same



venue on Saturday, made two changes with pacer Will O'Rourke and allrounder Zac Foulkes making T20I debut.

They replaced Ben Lister and Ben Sears.

Pakistan rested pacer Mohammad Amir in a like-for-like replacement in

The first match, also in Rawalpindi, was washed out after just two deliveries. The remaining matches are in Lahore on April 25 and 27.

Teams

Pakistan: Babar Azam (captain), Usman Khan, Abrar Ahmed, Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammad Rizwan, Abbas

Afridi, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi

New Zealand: Michael Bracewell (captain), Mark Chapman, Cole McConechie, Jacob Duffy, Dean Foxcroft, Jimmy Neesham, Tim Robinson, Will O'Rourke, Zac Foulkes, Tim Seifert, Ish Sodhi

# Haseebullah replaces Azam Khan in Pakistan squad for New Zealand T20I

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Wicketkeeper batter Haseebullah Khan on Sunday, replaced Azam Khan in Pakistan's squad for the ongoing five-match T20I series against New Zealand.

"The national selection committee has announced wicketkeeper/batter Haseebullah as the replacement player for Azam Khan, who was sidelined from the T20I series against New Zealand due to a tear in his right calf muscle, stated PCB in a brief press release.

According to the details, Haseebullah will join the Pakistan team after the third T20I and will be available for selection in the remaining two T20Is, scheduled to be played in Lahore on Thursday and Saturday, respectively.

The 21-year-old Haseebullah made his sole T20I appearance against New Zealand earlier this year.

For the unversed, Azam Khan, who missed the first T20I due to discomfort in his

right knee and right calf muscle, was subsequently ruled out of the entirety of the series on Saturday.

"Azam Khan has been advised to undergo a 10-day rest following radiology reports



confirming a Grade One tear of his right calf muscle," stated PCB.

"Consequently, Azam will be unable to participate in the ongoing T20I series against New Zealand, which culminates in Lahore on April 27," the statement added.

Notably, the five-match series between Pakistan and New Zealand is squared off at 1-1

after Mark Chapman's astonishing knock powered the visitors to a comfortable seven-wicket victory in the third T20I.

Pakistan squad for New Zealand T20Is

Babar Azam (c), Moham-

mad Rizwan (wk), Saim Ayub, Usman Khan, Iftikhar Ahmed, Haseebullah (wk), Imad Wasim, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah, Mohammad Amir, Abbas Afridi, Abrar Ahmed, Fakhar Zaman, Irfan Khan Niazi, Usama Mir, Zaman Khan

Reserves: Mohammad Ali, Agha Salman, Sahibzada Farhan, Mohammad Wasim Jr.

# Faisalabad Electric Supply Company wins 49th WAPDA Kabaddi Championship



Sports Desk

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (Fesco) won the 49th WAPDA International Kabaddi (Asian Style) Championship 2024 and won the gold medal. This kabaddi competition was held under the auspices of WAPDA Sports Board from April 17 to 20 at WAPDA Sports Complex Lahore, in which WAPDA and Kabaddi teams from distribution companies across Pakistan participated. In this event, matches were played on a league basis. In the final competition, Fesco won the first position, while the team from LESCO (Lahore) came second and the team from GAPCO (Gujranwala) came third.

The Chief Executive Fesco Engineer Muhammad Amir has congratulated the Fesco team for winning the gold medal and said that this victory of the Kabaddi team definitely includes the tireless efforts of the team management, coaches and players. He expressed hope. It is hoped that the other sports teams of Fesco will also shine the name of Fesco and the country by showing the best game with the spirit of victory and dedication.

In the closing ceremony, the special guest Secretary/GM WAPDF Fakhruzzaman Cheema presented the trophy to the Kabaddi team of Fesco. GM WAPDA Sports Board Mian Imdadullah Memon, Secretary Sports Board Malik Umeed Aslam, Chief Executive LESCO Engineer Shahid Haider, Manager Fesco Kabaddi Team Shakeel Haider Lak, Assistant Manager Adnan Afzal, Sports Manager Fesco Sajid Mehmood and others were also present on this occasion..

# Sindh Olympic chief announces need to streamline sports in Sindh

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Provincial Sports Minister and Sindh Olympic President Sardar Mohammad Bux Khan Mehar called a meeting of sports associations after assuming the portfolio of Sports Minister. In which Sindh Olympic Association Secretary Ahmed Ali Rajput, Asghar Baloch, Gulfaraz Ahmed Khan, Shah Naeem Zafar, Sana Ali, Imtiaz Ahmed Sheikh, Haider Hussain, Khalid Rahmani, Muhammad Taqi, Shahid Masood, Abdul Hameed, Asif Azim, Kamran Qureshi, Kaleem Awan, Nafees Ahmed, Muhammad Ali and 18th Sindh Games Media Coordinator Kashif Ahmed Farooqui and others were present. While Secretary Sports Jhaluddin Mehar of Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Chief Engineer Muhammad Aslam Mehar, Additional Secretary Mohammad Toufiq, SO Sports Ali Dino Gopang, PRO Hamid Ali Khan were also part of the meeting. On this occasion, the Sports Minister said that to consolidate the parallel associations in Sindh and to improve the sports infrastructure. He also stressed on finalizing the mega sports city project as soon as possible. He assured the organization of National Games. Implementation of National Beach Games and Sindh Games as soon as possible and before Sindh Games and National Games games will be held at Divisional level. At the end of the meeting, Secretary of Sindh Olympic Ahmed Ali Rajput and Sana Ali presented the shield and souvenir of Sindh Games and also congratulated Sardar Muhammad Bux Khan Mehar for becoming Minister of Sports for the second time



# FCKPK clinch Bhandara Memorial Polo Cup title

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Frontier Corps (FCKPK) clinched the 120th M. P Bhandara Memorial Polo Cup title at the Race Corse Park Polo Ground Rawalpindi on Sunday. FCKPK defeated Pakistan Air Force (PAF) by 8-5 in the Bhandara Memorial Polo Cup Final.

For FCKPK, Shahzad scored 6 goals while Wali and Usman bagged one goal each. PAK scorers include Hamza 2, Fahad Hadid 2 and Shahryar 1. On the occasion while talking to reporters after prize distribution ceremony, Chief Executive Murree Brewery Company Isphanyar Bhandara said ample sports strengthen youth's mental and physical ability. Sports build character and personality in young people and strengthens their mental abilities. This builds their character along with improving patience and courage in their personalities, because self-confidence in a person can play an important role in the country's development, he said. He said players were assets of the nation and play an important role in promoting sports for the formation of a healthy society. Bhandara also lauded the efforts of chief minister Punjab for the promotion and uplift of the sports activities. CM encouraged local government to develop sports complexes across Pakistan, he said. Meanwhile, dignitaries, diplomats, government officials and people from different walk of life enjoyed the historic event.

# National Amateur Golf C'ship concludes



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Smart City 63rd National Amateur Golf Championship concluded with resounding success here at Margalla Greens Golf Club, on Sunday. The championship, which commenced with two practice rounds on April 16 and 17, saw its official start on April 18, marked by a grand opening ceremony and the inaugural tee shot by distinguished guests.

Former National Team Champions, Wing Commander Ishrat Nishat Khokhar (R) and Mrs. Tahira Nazir, ceremoniously opened the championship by teeing off at Margalla Greens, setting the stage for an exhilarating competition. Approximately 225 players participated across three categories: Amateur Men, Amateur Ladies, and Amateur Seniors (Men), showcasing the diverse talent within Pakistan's golfing community. Despite encountering heavy rain and thunderstorms, Tournament Director Lieutenant Colonel Zahid Iqbal (R) and his dedicated team, alongside the unwavering support of Cdr Majid Satti, Secretary of Margalla Greens Golf Club, ensured the successful completion of the championship, demonstrating resilience and professionalism in adverse weather conditions. Smart City proudly sponsored the event as the title sponsor, underscoring its commitment to promoting sports and community engagement. Additionally, W Wilson generously sponsored the meals and prizes, contributing to the success and enjoyment of the championship. It was a truly international affair with players from Qatar, Germany, China, and Sri Lanka joining their Pakistani counterparts in showcasing their golfing prowess and fostering international camaraderie on the greens of Margalla Greens Golf Club. In the competitive arena, Parkha Ijaz emerged as the National Champion in the Ladies Category, while Rizwan Rashid clinched the title of Senior National Champion. The main trophy was fiercely contested, culminating in a thrilling tie between Ralfay e Aslam Raja and Shahzeb Jahan. Ultimately, Raja secured victory after a gripping sudden death playoff that lasted until the third hole. Gracing the occasion as Chief Guests were Muhammad Shabbir Iqbal and Mrs. Yasmeen Mubarik, who added to the prestige of the event with their presence.

During the prize distribution ceremony, National Star Muhammad Shabbir Iqbal presented the National Trophy to Ralfay e Aslam Raja, while Mrs. Yasmeen Mubarik, Former National Lady Champion, awarded Parkha Ijaz with the Champion trophy. The distinguished presence of Admiral Ravindra C. Wijegunaratne, Former Chief of Joint Staff, Chief of Naval Staff of Sri Lanka, Major General Najam ul Hassan, Commodore Asif, President MGGC, and members of the Organizing Committee added grandeur to the event. In recognition of Margalla Greens Golf Club's exceptional arrangements and conduct, Secretary of Pakistan Golf Federation announced a cash prize to the club, underscoring their commitment to excellence in golfing events. The Smart City 63rd National Amateur Golf Championship not only showcased outstanding golfing talent but also exemplified the spirit of sportsmanship, camaraderie, and perseverance, further elevating the stature of golf in Pakistan.

# M. P Bhandara memorial polo cup 2024



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: "Ample sports strengthen youth's mental and physical ability, Isphanyar Bhandara" Sports build character and personality in young people and strengthens their mental abilities.

Chief Executive Murree Brewery Company Mr. Isphanyar Bhandara says that sports help in developing the mental and physical abilities of the youth. This builds their character along with improving patience and courage in their personalities, because self-confidence in a person can play an important role in the country's development. He added that the players are assets of the nation and play an important role in promoting sports for the formation of

a healthy society. He expressed his views while talking to reporters after distributing prizes in the successful team at the 120th M. P Bhandara Memorial Polo Cup Final in Rawalpindi.

He also said we appreciate the efforts of CM Punjab for the promotion and uplift of the sports activities and CM encouraged local government to develop sports complexes across Pakistan.

Dignitaries, Diplomats, Government officials and the people from different walk of life enjoyed the historic event.

Chief guest appreciated the efforts of the Murree Brewery team for the promotion of sports event.

The historic M. P. Bhandara Memorial Polo Cup was started in 1904.



## Assistance

Karachi: In solidarity with the people of Gaza, Pakistan is sending another relief consignment. Palestinian Ambassador Ahmad Rabaie received the shipment. Additional Foreign Secretary, Ahmed Amjad Ali, President Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan Professor Dr. Hafeezur Rehman, representatives of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and various relief organizations were also present at the ceremony.



Photo: Spokesman

## Pakistan sends another relief consignment to Gaza in support of Palestinian people

PPA

ISLAMABAD: In solidarity with the people of Gaza, Pakistan is sending another relief consignment consisting of food items, medical supplies and other relief goods. The 400 tons of shipment will be dispatched from Karachi port for Port Said in Egypt. This is the 8th relief consignment being sent on behalf of the people and government of Pakistan for the people of Gaza.

A handing over ceremony was organized at Karachi port today, where Palestinian Ambassador Ahmad Rabaie received the shipment. Additional Foreign Secretary, Ambassador Ahmed Amjad Ali, Representatives of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and various relief organizations were also present at the ceremony.

The shipment will be received by the Ambassador of Pakistan to Egypt at Port Said and handed over to the Egyptian Red Crescent for its onward delivery to Gaza.

Pakistan remains committed to addressing the urgent needs of our Palestinian brothers and sisters as they face a dire humanitarian situation.

## Palestinian death toll in Gaza rises to 34,097: ministry



Xinhua

GAZA: The Palestinian death toll from ongoing Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip has risen to 34,097, the Hamas-run Health Ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

The Israeli army killed 48 Palestinians and wounded 79 others during the past 24 hours, bringing the total death toll to 34,097 and injuries to 76,980, since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas conflict on Oct. 7, 2023.

Mahmoud Basal, spokesman for the Civil Defense Service in the Gaza Strip, told reporters that rescuers had recovered more than 50 bodies from various places in the city of Khan Younis. The Israeli army withdrew from Khan Younis on April

7, four months after launching a ground operation. Basal said the bodies had been buried collectively by the Israeli army, adding that search operations were underway as thousands of people were still missing in Gaza.

The spokesman accused the Israeli army of "enforcing disappearance of the people in the Gaza Strip in a systematic and deliberate manner." Israeli forces "destroyed dozens of bodies" before burying them and withdrawing, he said.

Israel launched a large-scale offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip to retaliate against a Hamas rampage through the southern Israeli border on Oct. 7, 2023, during which about 1,200 people were killed and more than 200 were taken hostage.

## Results start pouring in by-elections held on 21 constituencies

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: As per unofficial results as the counting of votes was under way for 21 national and provincial seats on Sunday after polling concluded amid the temporary suspension of cellular and internet services in specific districts of Punjab and Balochistan to "safeguard" the electoral process.

The elections were held for five National, 12 Punjab Assembly, two Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, and two Balochistan Assembly seats.

Polling began without interruption at 8am and concluded at 5pm for seats vacated by candidates who won multiple seats or where polling was delayed in the Feb 8 general elections due to the death of a candidate.

According to the Election Commission of Pakistan, the repolling in PB 50 Killa Abdullah was also held.

## Unofficial results

Below is the list of unofficial and unverified election results received so far by Aaj News.

NA-196 in Sindh's Qambar Shahdadkot

PPP candidate Khursheed Junejo got 114 votes

TLP candidate Muhammad Ali got a mere 16 votes

PK-91 in KP's Kohat

SIC candidate Dawood Shah leads with 1,345 votes

Independent candidate Abdul Samood got 574 votes

NA-44 in KP's DI Khan

SIC candidate Faisal Amin Gandapur received 237 votes

PPP candidate Rasheed Khan

Kundi got 46 votes

NA-8 in KP's Bajaur

Independent candidate Mubarak Zeb Khan got 3,268 votes

SIC's Gul Zafar bagged 1,693 votes

NA-132 in Punjab's Kasur

PML-N's Malik Rashid Ahmed Khan got 3,198 votes

SIC's Sardar Muhammad Hussain Dogar received 658 votes

PP-36 in Punjab's Wazirabad

PML-N's Adnan Afzal Chattha got 5,123 votes

SIC candidate Muhammad Fayyaz Chattha got 4,801 votes

PP-22 in Balochistan's Lasbela

PML-N leader Zareen Magsi got 3,943 votes

Independent candidate Shah Nawaz Jamoot bagged 116 votes

PP-32 in Punjab's Gujrat

PML-Q candidate Musa Ilahi got 16,029 votes

SIC leader Pervaiz Ilahi got 2,624 votes

PP-290 in Punjab's Dera Ghazi Khan

PML-N candidate Ali Ahmed Laghari got 19,675 votes

Independent candidate Sardar Muhiuddin Khosa got 4,532 votes

PP-149 in Punjab's Lahore

SIC candidate Zeeshan Haider got 131 votes

IPP candidate Shoaib Siddiqui got 32 votes

PP-147 in Punjab's Lahore

SIC candidate Muhammad Madni got 145 votes

PML-N leader Malik Riaz got 116 votes

## Background

The polling for NA-8 Bajaur and PK-22 Bajaur was delayed on Febru-

ary 8 following the assassination of a candidate, Rehan Zeb Khan. Additionally, polling will take place in NA-44 Dera Ismail Khan, where the National Assembly seat was relinquished by Ali Amin Gandapur, who opted to retain his provincial assembly seat in order to assume the role of KP's chief minister.

Similarly, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif vacated her NA-119 seat in Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore, choosing instead to keep the PP-159 constituency that she also won.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif won elections on two provincial and National Assembly seats. He left the NA-132 Kasur and Lahore's PP-158 and PP-164 seats vacant, preferring to retain the NA-123 Lahore constituency.

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari won two National Assembly seats. He retained the NA-194 Larkana constituency, leaving the NA-196 seat in Qamber Shahdadkot vacant.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) provided 6.23 million ballot papers to the relevant Returning Officers (ROs) for the upcoming by-elections in 21 constituencies.

Approximately 2.55 million Pakistanis are expected to participate in voting for the five National Assembly constituencies, while around 3.61 million individuals will cast their votes for 16 provincial assembly seats nationwide.

A total of 174 candidates are contesting in the by-elections for 12 provincial constituencies in Punjab,

where the voter count stands at approximately 4.04 million.

According to the Election Commission of Pakistan, the by-elections for two provincial constituencies of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have a total of 1.47 million voters. In the race, there are 49 candidates, and 892 polling stations have been set up, with 139 identified as sensitive.

In NA-196 in Sindh, two candidates will compete, with 423,781 voters eligible to cast their ballots across 303 polling stations, 158 of which are sensitive, according to the ECP.

The ECP has announced that by-elections will take place for two provincial constituencies, PB-20 and PB-22, in Balochistan. A total of 396,246 voters in the province will participate, with 354 polling stations designated for the process.

Nine candidates, including Ali Pervaiz and Shehzad Farooq, are vying for the National Assembly seat NA-119, while 11 candidates, including PML-N nominee Malik Riaz independent Muhammad Khan Madani, are competing in PP-147.

Additionally, 14 candidates, including Muhammad Shoaib Siddiqui and Qaiser Shehzad from the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party, are contesting in PP-149. In PP-158, there are 22 candidates, with Chaudhry Nawaz and Moonis Elahi of the Sunni Unity Council among them.

Furthermore, PP-164 has 20 candidates in the fray, with PML-N leader Rashid Minhas and Muhammad Yusuf of the Sunni Ittehad Council among the contenders.

## Sarfarz Bugti felicitates Shahzaib on his victory in Karate Combat 45 competition



Bureau Report

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfarz Bugti felicitated Shahzaib Rind on his victory in the Karate Combat 45 competition. Sarfarz Bugti in a statement issued here on Sunday, said that Shahzaib Rind had made the nation proud by defeating the Indian player.

In the decisive fight, Pakistan's Shahzeb Rind defeated India's Rana Singh in the last-round clash of the 3 vs 3 team fight in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), on Saturday.

Pakistan emerged victorious over India with a score of 2-1 in the Karate Combat 45 competition in Dubai, on Saturday night. Shahzaib Rind showcased an impressive performance, overpowering India's Rana Singh to secure the decisive win.

Sarfarz Bugti said that the youth of Balochistan had always raised the green flag in the sports fields and brought laurels to the country. The CM said that he was proud of the youth of Balochistan who were making the name of Pakistan famous all over the world.

## CEC urges candidates...

Continued from Page 1

of PB-50 Killa Abdullah and instructed for strict action against the perpetrators.

At the behest of several candidates and the The Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, the Election Commission has promptly sought a report from the Provincial Election Commissioner Balochistan and Deputy Commissioner Killa Abdullah regarding the reported abduction of polling staff in constituency PB-50 Killa Abdullah.

The DC of Killa Abdullah verbally stated that no abduction of polling staff occurred. The Election Commission requested a written report from him regarding this matter, to facilitate a proper decision on the aforementioned applications.

The Chief Election Commissioner reached out to District Police Officer Narwal via phone to request a report on the death of a person near polling station PP-54, Narowal, and directed strict action against those accountable.

## MQM-P threatens to stage protest against PPP

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Muttahida Qaumi Movement - Pakistan (MQM-P) issued a robust response to a recent statement made by Mayor Karachi, Murtaza Wahab, ARY News reported on Sunday.

The Sindh Assembly Members of MQM-P have strongly criticized Murtaza Wahab's recent statement, labeling it as baseless, absurd, and riddled with unfounded accusations and warned PPP to avoid such political tactics.

Following the media reports showcasing instances of weapons being smuggled in vehicles belonging to People's Party ministers, the assembly

members highlighted that the arrogance, incompetence, corruption, and alleged support for criminal elements within the leadership of the PPP has been exposed to public.



Furthermore, the MQM-P members accused PPP government of issuance of arms licenses to the people in the province, resulting in the raise in violent activities, including incidents

of kidnapping for ransom and targeted killings, in the metropolis.

MQM-P also pointed fingers at the PPP for allegedly supporting gang wars under the guise of Aman committees in areas like Lyari and other slums of Karachi during 2012 and 2013. They asserted that those who did not comply with the Aman committee condition were met with lethal consequences.

Regarding the Sindh police, MQM-P members argued that instead of focusing on law enforcement, PPP ministers have politicized and corrupted the police force. They demanded a thorough scrutiny of all police recruitments made in the past 15 years.