



Judicial magistrate issues Sumbul Iqbal's arrest warrant

Friday 10 February 2023 Rajab 18, 1443 A.H VOL No: 04 Issue No. 134 Pages 4 Rs.10

# PM forms committee to streamline relief activities for quake-hit Turkish, Syrian people

ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday formed a high-level committee to streamline the relief support for quake-hit people of Turkey and Syria and ensure supply of relief goods.

The prime minister, who chaired a meeting to review the relief activities, said a high-level committee would ensure supply of relief goods to Turkey and Syria on priority basis. The relief goods would be dispatched through land, aerial and sea routes.

To be headed by Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, the committee would comprise Railways Minister Khawaja Saad Rafiq, Information Minister Muzammar Hameed, Education Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain, Religious

Affairs Minister Mufti Abdul Shakoor, NDMA chairman, Pakistan's ambassadors in Turkey and Syria and Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatemi.

The prime minister ordered fundraising at schools, colleges and universities. He also appealed to the philanthropists, industrialists and business community to take part in the fundraising for the distressed people of Turkey and Syria.

He urged the people of Pakistan to donate relief goods at the collection centers of the National Disaster Management Authority. He also instructed the NDMA to enhance its coordination with the provincial governments to speed up the relief activities.

The prime minister said Pakistan stood by its close friend Turkey in this hour of distress. He

said Turkey extended support to the people of Pakistan after floods in 2010 and 2022. Prime Minister Shehbaz also instructed the authorities concerned to arrange blankets, warm clothes, baby food and tents while ensuring the quality of the relief goods being sent to Turkey and Syria. The prime minister said that despite limited resources, Pakistan would leave no stone unturned in supporting their Turkish brethren. He said that Pakistan established an air corridor to supply relief goods and a convoy of trucks would soon leave for Turkey and Syria. The meeting was told that a team along with the equipment for a 30-bed mobile hospital was already serving in Turkey while another mobile hospital was being dispatched along with staff and equipment.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting to review Pakistan's contribution in rescue and relief activities in the post-earthquake situation in Turkey and Syria.

## Earthquake death toll hits 15,000 in Turkey-Syria

ARSHAD MALIK

ISLAMABAD: The death toll from the Turkey-Syria earthquakes has climbed above 15,000 as rescuers race to save survivors trapped under debris in freezing weather.

Turkey's Disaster Management Authority (AFAD) said 12,391 people had died in the country from Monday's quakes, with 2,992 more having died in Syria, bringing the confirmed total to 15,383.

The Syrian Civil Defence group continued search operations across the region as rebel-held parts of Syria as the rescue effort neared the 72-hour mark that disaster experts consider the most likely period to save lives. "We are racing against time. Every minute counts," tweeted the opposition group, who are also known as the White Helmets. The group said hundreds of people remain trapped in the rubble in the town of Janzour in the province of Aleppo. Access to Twitter in Turkey has been restored, the NetBlocks internet observatory has said.

## Court rejects Rashid's post-arrest bail plea

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A district and sessions court on Thursday dismissed Awami Muslim League (AML) chief and former interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed's post-arrest bail plea.

Additional Sessions Judge Tahir Abbas Supra heard the application in the case against the senior politician for leveling murder plot allegations against former president and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) co-chair Asif Ali Zardari.

Sheikh Rashid's lawyers Sardar Abdul Razaq and Intizar Panjotra, prosecutor Adnan and the plaintiff's lawyer appeared in court.

During the hearing, Advocate Razaq said that according to the FIR, Rashid's statement regarding PPP co-chair Zardari's conspiracy to kill Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan aimed to create a clash between the two parties.

## Ashraf says LHC order suspending PTI MNAs de-notification not received

SAMRA ATHAR

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Thursday said that the Lahore High Court (LHC) order suspending the de-notification of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers has not been received by him and maintained that any future course of action would be determined only after the order is received.

In a video posted on Twitter by the official account, the speaker can be seen responding to a question probing his views surrounding speculations that some of PTI's members of the national assembly (MNAs) may be interested in returning to the lower house.

Without providing



many details, Speaker Ashraf said that "no order has yet been received by us from the LHC; it is not in front of us, we cannot read it nor have any details been shared with us on the matter".

"We have only heard from media reports that we have been made a party to the case, we have not received a notice for that yet. So, I believe, once the decision is received and we get a chance to read it and discuss it with our experts, we will then

decide what the future course of action on our part should be," he added.

It may be noted that PTI had tendered en masse resignations in protest after Imran Khan was voted out of office as prime minister in April last year. While then deputy speaker Qasim Suri had accepted the resignations, the incumbent Speaker Ashraf had re-initiated the phase-wise process of accepting the resignations, insisting each member confirm their resignation in person. After months of delay, the resignations of the last lot of PTI MNAs were accepted in January, only to be challenged by the lawmakers claiming they had withdrawn their request and never confirmed the resignation in person.

## Hearing of cases against Imran Khan to be conducted on day to day basis; demands Tarar

IQRA ZAHOR ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Interior Attaullah Tarar on Thursday demanded the hearing of cases against Imran Khan on a day to day basis and live broadcast of their proceedings so that the nation would know about his real face. Talking to media persons here, he appealed to the relevant agencies to ensure hearing of the cases against Imran Khan on a day to day basis as the PTI chairman had been using delaying tactics instead of facing them. It



is to mention that IHC had to hear a petition on Thursday seeking former prime minister Imran Khan's disqualification for concealing his alleged daughter Tyrian White in his nomination forms submitted to contest the 2018 general election. Tarar said Imran Khan had been using delaying

tactics instead of making arguments and resorting to technicalities for the delay. During the trials against PML-N leadership in the past, Attaullah Tarar said that the hearing was conducted on a day to day basis but Imran Khan had been avoiding to argue the cases on merit and trying to challenge the jurisdiction of the court. He said that Imran Khan delayed the foreign funding case with Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for six years and the same tactics were being used by him in Toshakhana and Tyrian White cases.

## IHC seeks arguments on admissibility of Imran disqualification petition

SEHRISH NAZ

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday sought final arguments on the admissibility of the petition seeking disqualification of former prime minister Imran Khan for not disclosing his daughter in the nomination papers.

The case was presented before a larger bench, headed by Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, which adjourned the hearing until March 1.

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday sought final arguments on the admissibility of the petition seeking disqualification of former prime minister Imran Khan for not disclosing his daughter in the nomination papers. The case was presented before a larger bench, headed by Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, which adjourned the hearing until March 1. At the request of Imran Khan's lawyer, Salman Akram Raja, the hearing was postponed to allow time for further preparation. The court discussed the admissibility of the disqualification case against the ex-PM and heard arguments from both sides. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani asked the petitioner's lawyer Salman Butt if the respondents could be compelled to submit a reply.

## Imran deprived KP of development: Maryam Nawaz

PEAK POINT

ABBOTTABAD: Chief Organizer and Vice President Pakistan Muslim League (N), Maryam Nawaz Sharif Thursday said that Imran Khan had deprived the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of development and failed to deliver in all fronts despite his in party 10 years rule in the province. Addressing a big workers conventions, she said that former PTI government had closed down his own created Ehtasab Commission to protect its loot and plunders. She said that Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project was constructed on huge cost of



Rs128 billion while on the same amount PML-N had constructed a metro bus projects. Instead to make plantations under billion trees Afforestation Project, she claimed that forests were ruthlessly cut in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

She said that Imran Khan had neither completed 350 dams nor honoured

his promise of providing jobs to 10 million people and that unemployment were significantly increased in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the tenure of PTI.

She accused Imran for using KP Government helicopter, CM and Governor houses for personal politicking. Maryam Nawaz said that if the anti terrorism funds of Rs 417 billion given to KP government under NFC Award were properly utilized on strengthening of counter terrorism Department and Police in KP, the brutal incident of police lines mosque blast could not happened.

## Dar confident Pakistanis to soon hear 'good news' on IMF talks

IRFAN SADOZAI

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Thursday was confident that matters will be settled with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and said that the people will soon hear "good news".

The minister made the remarks during his brief interaction with media persons at the concluding ceremony for the Road Safety Conference for Parliamentarians in Islamabad.

Pakistan and the IMF are holding talks for the completion of the 9th programme review and its successful culmination can unlock the \$1.1 billion loan tranche.

Until the IMF deal was announced, the other multilateral and bilateral lenders would not opt to give major new loans to Pakistan. A day earlier, talks between Pakistan and the Fund had boiled down to two most crucial issues - the credibility of the government's assur-

ances and the reliability of foreign loans committed by other nations, delaying the handover of the Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP).

In order to break the deadlock, Dar and IMF Mission Chief Nathan Porter met, away from the media glare and behind closed doors at the PM House. The meeting venue was changed from the finance ministry to the PM House to avoid the media.

## Fawad warns CEC, provincial governors of Article 6 if Punjab, KP polls delayed

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senior Vice-President Fawad Chaudhry on Wednesday said that elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces should be held within 90 days after the dissolution of the assemblies as per the constitution.

Fawad Chaudhry said that if elections were not held within 90 days as per the constitution after



the dissolution of Punjab and KP assemblies, it would be a violation of the Constitution. He said that any attempt by the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) or provincial govern-

ors to defer the elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa beyond the 90-day period allowed by the Constitution, Article 6 of the Constitution will be applicable on them. He said that President Arif Alvi in letter has asked the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to immediately announce the date of elections for provincial assemblies of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar addressing the "Road Safety Conference for Parliamentarians, a global perspective, Pakistan-2023".



# HBL PSL 8 trophy unveiled at historic Shalimar Gardens

**ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN**

**LAHORE:** National team's motto, artistry, recognition and prestige were conveyed in the brand new HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) 8 trophy, which was unveiled on Thursday in an eye-catching and memorable ceremony here at the historic Shalimar Gardens by the chairman of the PCB M A N a g e m e n t Committee, Najam Sethi, in the presence of franchise owners, HBL representatives and elite cricketers.

The 24-karat Supernova Trophy, as it will be called, has been made in Pakistan and showcases the country's skilled craftsmanship and the Pakistan Cricket Board's dedication towards supporting local businesses.

The three pillars of the trophy, which are studded with 9,907 sparkling zircon stones, represent the national cricket team's motto: Unity, Passion, and Strength, while the main pillar at the back is further embellished with crystals, representing the dedication and hard work that has gone into ensuring the team's success.

Najam Sethi, chair of PCB Management Committee, said: "The HBL PSL is very close to my heart and it has always been my commitment and endeavour for it to become bigger, better and stronger each year."

"With this in mind, and to also celebrate the pinnacle PCB event taking place in front of home fans, we decided to design a new trophy that



encompasses our spirit as a proud nation and launch it at the Shalimar Gardens, which is a national treasure and a symbol of pride for all of us.

"The Supernova Trophy is a testament to the passion and perseverance of Pakistani people and serves as a source of inspiration for future generations of cricket players.

"The creation of this trophy was a true labour of love and, as the league continues to grow in success, the HBL PSL trophy has become a symbol of

excellence and achievement, something that players and teams strive to lift and hold aloft in victory each year.

will provide extra incentive and motivation to the players, which, in turn, will get the best out of them to make this year's event most exciting, enthralling and entertaining for all the cricket fans and followers within and outside Pakistan."

Ali Habib, HBL's Chief Marketing and Communications Officer said: "I am honoured to represent HBL at the HBL PSL 8 unveiling of the Supernova Trophy, marking eight years of partnership with the PCB."

"We, at Multan Sultans, cannot wait to add the Supernova Trophy to our cabinet." Ali Naqvi, owner of Islamabad United said: "We are excited to see the launch of season eight of the HBL PSL with the unveiling of this season's trophy.

are and wishes the teams and the players the best for the HBL PSL 8.

"No matter which team wins, Asal Jeet Tu Pakistan Ki Hai!"

Alamgir Khan Tareen, owner of Multan Sultans said: "Finally, the biggest event in Pakistan is around the corner and one can already feel festivity in the air."

"Multan Sultans have had an incredible run in the HBL PSL and I have no doubt that our boys will do great in the upcoming edition."

## Cricket fans of twin cities excited for PSL 8

**SAMRA ATHAR**

**ISLAMABAD:** The cricket fans of the twin cities (Islamabad & Rawalpindi) would have a lot to cheer, when the HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) 8 begins at Pindi Stadium, hosting 14 matches of the tournament from March 1 to 12.

The Pakistan Super League 8, would be played across four venues from February 13 to March 19. The Multan and Karachi-leg matches would be held from February 13 to 26, before action shifts to Lahore and Rawalpindi where 20 matches will be played from February 26 to March 19. The opening match between defending champions Lahore Qalandars and Multan Sultans in Multan. The cricket matches in Rawalpindi would begin with the 17th game of the league with Peshawar Zalmi facing Karachi Kings on March 1. The Rawalpindi leg would see three women exhibition matches in place for the league.



Rawalpindi matches schedule: March 2: Lahore Qalandars vs Quetta Gladiators; March 3: Islamabad United vs Karachi Kings; March 5: Islamabad United vs Quetta Gladiators; March 6: Quetta Gladiators vs Karachi Kings; March 7: Peshawar Zalmi vs Lahore Qalandars & Islamabad United vs Multan Sultans; March 8:

Women Exhibition match & Peshawar Zalmi vs Quetta Gladiators; March 9: Islamabad United vs Lahore Qalandars; March 10: Women Exhibition match & Peshawar Zalmi vs Multan Sultans; March 11: Women Exhibition match & Quetta Gladiators vs Multan Sultans; March 12: Islamabad United vs Peshawar Zalmi.

The fans who were very excited for the games didn't stay back in expressing their views on their favourite teams. A Islamabad United fan, Aqeel Khan said, "I'm waiting for my favourite team to play at Pindi and I hope to see all of Islamabad United's subscribers."

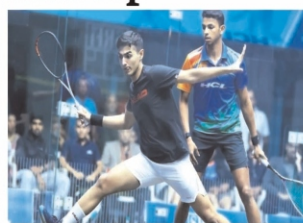
Subhan Ahmed said, "I love to watch Peshawar Zalmi play. I'm supporting them and hope they win the league second time," he said. Ayesha Raiz who cheers for Karachi Kings and Lahore Qalandars said, "I'll come with my whole family to watch the Kings play but most of my family members like Lahore Qalandars team and we wish them both all the success." Akhtar Hussain said, "I wish Rawalpindi hosts the ninth edition final of PSL next year. The die heart cricket lovers of Rawalpindi deserve to see a final at the Pindi Stadium.

## Pakistan down Korea, HK in Asian Jr Squash championship

**PEAK POINT**

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan outplayed Korea and Hong Kong in the pool matches of the 21st Asian Junior Squash Championship at Chennai, India on Thursday.

On the second day of Pool Matches, the Pakistani team defeated Korea in the morning session by 3-0. Noor Zaman of Pakistan beat Seo Jin Oh of Korea by 6-11, 11-6, 11-6 and 11-7 in 28 min. Hamza Khan of Pakistan beat Kim Kim 12-10, 7-11, 11-8, 9-11 and 11-6 in 35 min and Ashab Irfan of Pakistan beat Teo Kyung Jung 11-5, 11-3, 11-4 in 18 min.



In the 4th Pool match also, Pakistan defeated Hong Kong by 3-0 in the evening session.

Noor Zaman of Pakistan beat Arthur Law Pak Ki (HKC) 11-8, 11-7, 11-3 in 21 min, Hamza Khan of Pakistan beat Kelvin Lu Chun Yu of Hong Kong 11-7, 11-5, 11-6 in 22 min and Ashab Irfan of Pakistan beat Tam Tse Shing of Hong Kong 11-6, 11-7, 11-6 in 25 min.

## Inter-Provincial Netball Championship on today

**IQRA ZAHOR ABBASI**

**ISLAMABAD:** The Inter-Provincial Men and Women Netball Championship would kick off at the Hamidi Hall of the Pakistan Sports Complex on Friday.

According to President of Pakistan Netball Federation (PNF), Mudassar Arain, all arrangements for the Championship have been finalised in the Organizing Committee meeting held under the chairmanship of Sameen Malik.

"A total of seven teams from all over the country, are participating in the Championship, including Punjab, Khyber



Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Sindh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Islamabad," he added. He said trophies, medals and

certificates would be distributed among the winning teams at the end of the tournament while the manager's meeting would be held on Friday.

The Championship is being played under the auspices of the Pakistan Netball Federation in collaboration with Pakistan Sports Board.

Friday fixtures- men's matches: Balochistan vs Gilgit-Baltistan, KP vs Islamabad and Sindh vs AJK. Women's events: AJK vs Gilgit-Baltistan, KP vs Balochistan and Islamabad vs Punjab. Meanwhile, the National Men's and Women's Netball Championship would begin on February 11.

## Five players to watch at the Women's T20 World Cup

**PEAK POINT**

**PARIS:** As the women's T20 World Cup gets ready to start in South Africa on Friday, here's five players to watch in the tournament.

India: Shafali Verma At the end of January, Shafali Verma led India to victory in the Under-19 World Cup. Barely two weeks later, is the 19-year-old batter back in South Africa to help India in their bid to win the women's T20 World Cup.

As a child she disguised herself as a boy in order to play but after breaking into the senior women's game, there has been no stopping her.

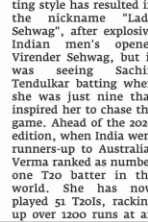
Youngest international, youngest to score 50 which she did against West Indies in her first game. As the youngest to play in all three for-



mats for India.

impressive strike rate of 134.5

England: Alice Capsey If England are to unseat defending champions Australia they will need their 18-year-old all-rounder Alice Capsey to live up to and exceed her already remarkable progress.



First, though, they need her to be fit - she broke her collarbone during England's tour of the West Indies in December. But if she is firing on all cylinders the batting all-rounder will be crucial.

## Zohra Abdullah wins Kashmir Day KP Junior Squash Championship

**PEAK POINT**

**PESHAWAR:** Top seed Zohra Abdullah clinched the trophy of the Kashmir Day Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Junior Squash title after defeating her strong rivals Manahil Aqeel in the U19 final played here at Qamar Zaman Squash Complex on Thursday. Asian Games gold medalist Aamir Atlas, Administrator Peshawar Sports Complex Deputy Director Syed Jaffar Shah, Director Blue Tone Squash Academy, former World

Champion Qamar Zaman, Squash Coach Tahir Iqbal, Muhaammad Wasir, Chief Referee Munawar Zameer were also present and witnessed the three finals. In the final of the U19 Age Group category, Zohra Abdullah defeated Manahil Aqeel in a hotly contested 2-battle, Zohra Abdullah, who is also a consistent winner, lost the first two sets by 9-11, 10-12 but she made a strong comeback and marched into victory in three consecutive sets.

## ITF Jrs Tennis C'ships matches called off due to rain

**PEAK POINT**

**ISLAMABAD:** The matches of the ITF Pakistan Juniors Tennis Championships leg-1 2023 here at PTF-SDA Tennis Complex were called off due to rain on Thursday.

A large number of foreign players (boys/girls) from Turkey, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Thailand, the UK, Malaysia, Romania, Singapore, China, Poland, South Korea, Canada and Pakistan were participating in the event. The matches (Boys/Girls) would now resume in Friday.



**PESHAWAR:** Former World Champion Qamar Zaman inaugurating Winter Sports Festival, President Peshawar Press Club M Riaz also present.



## President for greater cooperation with Sri Lanka in trade, economy & education

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday called for promoting greater cooperation between Sri Lanka and Pakistan in the fields of trade, economy and education.

He said the two brotherly countries enjoyed cordial relations that needed to be further expanded for their mutual benefit. He underscored the need for increased cooperation in the areas of higher education, academia, and research to promote mutual understanding between the people of both countries. The president expressed these views while talking to a delegation of senior civil servants of Sri Lanka here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. Currently, 20 senior civil servants of Sri Lanka are attending a two-

week training programme related to International Relations, Peace and Strategic Studies, Public Policy, Leadership and Management, at the National Defence University, Islamabad.

The president urged bureaucracy to be responsive to the people's needs, improve the system's efficiency, and their capacity and intellect for ensuring fast-paced development. He said developing countries should focus on the development of education and health sectors, besides making fast decisions to help address the challenges being faced by them. The president said bureaucrats and politicians must adept to emerging technologies and make timely decisions to build intellectual pathways for the development of the information

technology (IT) sector.

He said the intellectual edge made nations great, and countries should focus on developing knowledge economies and investing in the intellectual development of their people. He stated that developing countries could achieve accelerated economic growth by focusing on the development of the IT sector and adopting conducive business policies. The president also highlighted the need to become more financially disciplined to overcome perennial financial issues of developing countries. He added that common people alone could not be burdened again and again to bear the brunt of bad economic decisions and the elites must also share the burden for the greater good of the country.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with senior Civil Servants from Sri Lanka who are attending a two-week training programme at National Defence University, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Government to promote barter trade to ease dollar pressure: Governor Punjab

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Governor Punjab Eng Muhammad Balash UR Rehman Thursday said that the government was fully encouraging the promotion of barter trade to ease dollar pressure on Pakistan economy.



He was talking to Chairman Kyrgyzstan Trade House and Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis at a reception hosted in his honour in Lahore by Dr Waqar Ch.

The governor said Pakistan would export bitumen to Kenya and Kenya in return would export tea to Pakistan under barter trade system. He said negotiations in this regard were in final phase by the private sectors of both countries. He said in prevailing financial crunch, it was one of the way out to meet requirements without involving foreign exchange.

He said Prime Minister Muhammad

Shehbaz Sharif in the wake of fragile economy, had categorically directed federal ministries of finance, commerce, export promotion bureau and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, Federal Board of Revenue and all other relevant departments to encourage the concept of barter trade and facilitate the private sectors on top priority. He hoped economic situation would improve in the days to come as all out endeavours were being made to cope with financial setback in the wake of covid and catastrophic floods.

He said the barter system was simple with no complexities involved unlike monetary system, natural resources would

## IHC permits Imran Khan to submit documents in Tyrian White case

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A larger bench of Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday granted permission to PTT's chief Imran Khan to submit extra documents till March 1, in a case seeking his disqualification for hiding information about his alleged daughter Tyrian White in his nomination papers.

A larger bench of the IHC headed by Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and comprising Justice Mohsin Akhter Kayani and Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir heard the case filed by a citizen Muhammad Sajid.

During the course of proceedings, the court instructed the petitioner's lawyer to submit to share a copy of the application and relevant documents with the counsel of Imran Khan. The court also accepted the request of Imran's lawyer Salman Akram Raja for submission of extra documents in the case. The chief justice remarked that the

admissibility of the case was also a matter before this bench. Justice Aamer Farooq observed that the court would hear the arguments on case merits if the petition was declared maintainable. He remarked that it had taken one year to submit comments on Faisal Vawda disqualification case and when the answer was submitted he was no more a member national assembly. The chief justice noted that the petitioner had alleged the PTT's chief for hiding information in his nomination papers and affidavits as well. The ECP's counsel said that the institution could provide verified copies of the documents if the court issued directions in this regard. He said that they would submit an answer if the petitioner challenged the notification of ECP. Petitioner's counsel Suleman Butt requested the court to grant permission for submission of comments on the case merits.

## Government fully acknowledges significance, role of opposition: AJK PM

PEAK POINT

MIRPUR [AJK]: Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that the government would take on board the opposition to develop consensus on issues of vital national interest.



The AJK premier said this while talking to former President and Prime Minister Sardar Muhammad Yaqub Khan and former Prime Minister Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan who called on him at Jammu Kashmir house on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion the AJK PM said that he held the opposition in high esteem. He

issues of national interest was key to success.

During the meeting the trio expressed satisfaction over the unanimous resolution adopted by the joint session of the Parliament on Kashmir and said that the resolution was of great importance.

They observed that lasting peace in South Asia was inescapably linked to a just and equitable solution of the lingering Kashmir dispute.

Appreciating the existing unanimity on the issue of Kashmir, they agreed that there was a dire need that Kashmiri leadership should also speak in one voice on national issues, especially the Kashmir issue.

## Military busy with counter-terrorism and census, won't be able to perform poll duties, govt tells ECP

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Interior Ministry has informed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) that the armed forces would not be able to perform security duties during the provincial assembly elections in Punjab and KP as well as by-elections on 64 National Assembly seats as it was busy conducting census and counter-terror operations, it emerged on Thursday.

Earlier this week, the electoral body had written to the federal government, seeking the deployment of troops of civil armed forces for the conduct of general and by-elections in various constituencies of the nation-

al and provincial assemblies. In its correspondence dated Feb 8, which Dawn.com has seen, the Interior Ministry said that Pakistan was going through a difficult security situation as evidenced by a recent spike in incidents of terrorism across the country.

It mentioned the multi-dimensional security concerns which include border security, internal security duties, maintenance of law and order and deployment at forward posts to counter the increased terrorist activities by miscreants and anti-state elements.

The ministry noted that intelligence agencies and the National Counter

Terrorism Authority (Nacta) have been issuing threat alerts regarding the security situation prevailing in the country, which have also been shared with the provincial governments.

It regretted that a number of terror incidents recently took place in the last month leading to the loss of precious lives. One of these was the suicide bombing at a mosque in the Peshawar Police Lines that killed more than 80 people, mostly policemen. In this context, it is to be noted that security forces are fully engaged in combating the threats posed by terrorists to the peace and stability of the country and the life and

property of the people, the letter said.

It said the onslaught of terrorist activities testing the capacity of the law enforcement agencies to the maximum extent leaving little room to spare for other activities. It further highlighted that a terrorist organisation had openly threatened politicians and there was apprehension that the political leadership could be potential targets during the election campaign. The Interior Ministry said that the ECP's request was also taken up with the Military Operations Directorate at the General Headquarters (GHQ) as it was a key stakeholder.

## Gold prices decrease by Rs.3,300 to Rs.194,700 per tola

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.3,300 on Thursday and was traded at Rs.194,700 against sale at Rs.198,000 the last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.2,829 to Rs.166,924 against Rs. 169,753.

**LOST**

Mr Residential Plot File Registration No. BWC40F48S4 application form no. BWC-CB-E-0403 situated at Blue World City Lahore 1-10/M has been lost. If found please dispatch at the address, Izzat Shah s/o Arif Shah Mohallah Miangan Swabi. 0347-9050900

## Federal Educational Institutions raising funds for Earthquake affected Turkiye and Syria

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: In the wake of recent earthquake in Turkiye and Syria, Federal Directorate of Education under Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training has instructed educational institutions to raise funds to help earthquake victims.

The amount will go to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for Earthquake Victims, to generate funds for Turkiye and Syria, which was rocked by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake on Monday. The decision was made in the meeting held on Thursday, chaired by Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanveer Hussain. To kick start the campaign, fundraising activity has immediately started in 5 schools including Islamabad College for Girls, F-6/2, Islamabad College for Boys G-6/3, Islamabad Model College for Girls F-7/4, Islamabad



Model College for Girls F-7/4 and Islamabad Model College for Boys F-8/4. The students and administration set up a donation box to collect donations and teachers and students had awareness and motivational sessions for students to encourage them in taking part in this activity. Schools administration has asked students to contribute to the funds, with as little as Rs. 10. Together they can make the difference in the lives of affected people. In the next step, this campaign will expand to a greater number of schools, ultimately involving all educational institutions under FDE in this fundraising campaign.

Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanveer Hussain reassured that they will leave no stone unturned in helping earthquake victims, and this is one of the many initiatives that the ministry is undertaking to contribute toward relief fund. Pakistan's government has already started dispatching of assistance packages to the victims. He also said that the aid should not stop till the complete recovery of the earthquake-affected people.



ISLAMABAD: Samra Athar Kakakhel Resident Editor English "Daily Peak Point" Islamabad Receiving 1st Media Award.