



Appreciated the steps taken by the Election Commission of Pakistan and the local administration for conducting elections in smooth, fair and transparent manner

Caretaker Interior Minister
Dr. Gohar Ijaz

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President Alvi greets Ilham Aliyev on his victory in Azerbaijan's presidential elections



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday congratulated Ilham Aliyev on his decisive victory in Azerbaijan's Presidential elections. Conveying best wishes to Azerbaijan's president, the president said his leadership continued to inspire progress and stability.

"Pakistan looks forward to strengthening enduring friendship and cooperation," he added. INP

14th meeting of the Pakistan-Russia Consultative Group on Strategic Stability held

Two sides express satisfaction on the similarity of views on range of issues of global strategic stability, regional security

MOSCOW: The 14th round of Pakistan-Russia Consultative Group on Strategic Stability was held in Moscow under the chairmanship of Additional Foreign Secretary (Arms Control and Disarmament) Mohammad Kamran Akhtar and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs S.A. Ryabkov.

According to a statement issued by Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, the parties had an in-depth exchange of views on international security and regional stability challenges, as well as on various aspects of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

The two sides discussed issues related to the agenda of the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, the Conference on Disarmament, the IAEA and the OPCW.

The issues concerning biological, space and international information security, as well as new and emerging technologies, including the military use of artificial intelligence, came under discussion at length.

The two sides expressed satisfaction on the similarity of views on range of issues of global strategic stability, regional security including matters related to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. Readiness was expressed to continue close coordination at relevant international platforms.

Moreover, the importance of regular meetings of the Consultative Group was also emphasized. It was agreed to hold the 15th meeting of the Group next year in Islamabad. SABAH



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visits various polling stations for the General Elections 2024 in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. APP

PM congratulates nation on conduct of successful polls; says high voter turnout indicates public commitment

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday congratulating the nation over the successful conduct of general elections 2024, said the high voter turnout was a clear indication of public commitment to shaping the country's future.

"The participation and enthusiasm of the people of Pakistan have been the cornerstone of this democratic exercise. The high voter turnout is a clear indication of public commitment to shaping the future of our country," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline following the polling ended after a smooth and peaceful process across the country.

He appreciated the efforts of the Election Commission of Pakistan, interim provincial governments, armed forces, civil armed forces, police, law enforcement agencies, election staff, media and all those institutions and individuals who contributed to the conduct of the free and fair elections. Prime Minister Kakar said that the momentous occasion was not just a testament to the resilience and strength of the country's

PM visits various polling stations of twin cities

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Thursday visited various polling stations for the general elections 2024, in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. During his visit, he reviewed the electoral process and facilities provided to the voters. The prime minister expressed satisfaction over the law and order situation in the electoral process and the facilities provided to the voters.

democratic processes but also the indomitable spirit of the Pakistani people. He said that the voices, expressed through the votes, would contribute to the fortification of the country's democracy, and for

that, the people of Pakistan deserved every bit of appreciation.

Prime Minister Kakar said that despite few incidents of terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, the efforts of armed forces, civil armed forces, LEAs, civilian administration and Election Commission of Pakistan for conducting free and fair elections across the country were commendable.

"Their unwavering commitment to their duties has been instrumental in the smooth conduct of the elections."

He said that in the face of adversity, the people of Pakistan had shown remarkable courage and determination.

He said that the institutions' resolve in the aftermath of the recent terrorism incidents, continuing to participate in the electoral process, was a powerful statement against the forces that sought to destabilize the nation.

It underscores our collective desire for peace, stability, and prosperity, he added "Once again, I congratulate the nation on this historic achievement. May this election be a harbinger of a brighter, more prosperous future for Pakistan," the prime minister remarked.

We extend heartfelt congratulations to nation on generally peaceful & violence free conduct of the general elections, says DG ISPR

Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry says the armed forces remain dedicated to upholding peace & security in the country

ISLAMABAD: Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has said that we extend heartfelt congratulations to the nation on the generally peaceful and violence free conduct of the general elections.



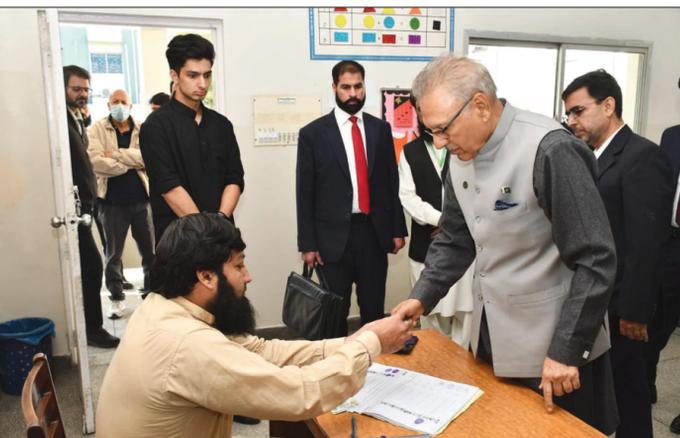
In a statement issued on Thursday, DG ISPR said that the armed forces alongside other Law Enforcement Agencies are proud to have played a pivotal role in providing security during conduct of the sacred electoral process, in aid of civil power, and in accordance with the constitution of Pakistan. With the deployment of 137,000 army personnel and civil armed forces at approximately 6,000 selected most sensitive polling stations and over 7800 QRFs, a safe and secure environment for the public was ensured, he said.

Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said that despite 51 cowardly terrorist attacks, mostly in KP and Balochistan, aimed at disrupting the electoral process, the soldiers remained resolute and effectively ensured peace and security across Pakistan. 12 people (including 10 personnel of security forces and law enforcement agencies) embraced Shahadat and 39 others have been injured in these attacks. Through proactive intelligence manoeuvres and swift action, many potential threats were neutralized, underscoring the unwavering commitment of our security agencies to protect the democratic rights of our citizens. During various operations, 5 Terrorists were also killed.

Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said that gratitude is owed to other law enforcement agencies that worked hand in hand with the armed forces to safeguard the democratic process.

It is our fervent hope that our sacrifices would not be in vain and this election will serve as a catalyst for further strengthening democracy in Pakistan, and that it will pave the way for the realization of the aspirations of the people of Pakistan.

He said that the armed forces remain dedicated to upholding peace and security in the country and stand ready to provide unwavering support in safeguarding the democratic traditions of our state. PR



KARACHI: President Dr Arif Alvi casts his vote in the polling station during General Election-2024. APP

ECP chief commends successful election

ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja expressed his gratitude and congratulations to the nation for the successful conduct of the election.

In a special message, he thanked the people of Pakistan for fulfilling their constitutional and national responsibility, state news channel PTV reported.

Sultan Raja extended his appreciation to all stakeholders involved in the electoral process, including federal and provincial caretaker governments, political parties, security agencies, police, civil administration, Pakistan Army, media, voters, polling staff and election members and their staff.

He expressed confidence in the responsible conduct of the returning officers and urged them to fulfill their duties diligently, ensuring timely ordering and delivery of results. APP



Despite all the difficulties, the people of Pakistan are not disappointed with democracy: Murtaza Solangi

Appreciates the ECP for demonstrating responsibility for conducting the election

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has urged the people to diligently perform their national duty to vote.

He said despite all the difficulties, the people of Pakistan are not disappointed with democracy. He appreciated the Election Commission of Pakistan for demonstrating responsibility for conducting the election. He himself was the first person to cast vote in NA-46 constituency of Islamabad on Thursday morning. The Minister reached the polling station before 8:00 AM and cast the first ballot.

Speaking during the state-run TV's election transmission on Thursday, he said around 120 million Pakistanis are requested to vote for a candidate or party of their choice as elections are the only way to take the country forward. The Minister affirmed with satisfaction that continuity of democratic process has prevailed as all speculations about elections during entire tenure of the caretaker government stand rejected today.

The Minister said voting is a demonstration of patriotism as democratic future and prosperity of a country depends on it. SABAH

169 seats hold key to National Assembly control



ISLAMABAD: In the intricate landscape of the National Assembly, the magic number for political supremacy is a straightforward 169 seats for securing simple majority out of the 336 total seats, which include reserved slots for women and minorities. This uncomplicated majority is the golden ticket that political parties aim to secure to wield influence in the legislative power-house. The National Assembly boasts a total of 266 seats, with 265 dedicated to general representation.

However, a hiccup in the electoral process arose when the polling for one seat had to be

postponed due to the unfortunate demise of a candidate. This incident brought the effective count down to 265 at present.

For those keeping score, a party aspiring to clinch a simple majority needs to secure precisely 169 seats.

This means having the backing of more than half of the available seats, allowing them to steer the course of legislative decisions in their favour.

It is important to note that the significance of these numbers transcends mere mathematics; it represents the power dynamic that can shape the future course of the nation. With the focus on the clear-cut goal of 169 seats, political maneuvers and strategies intensify as parties jockey for position in the race for control.

As the political arena heats up, every move and decision takes on heightened importance in the pursuit of this pivotal majority. The nation watches with bated breath as the drama unfolds, knowing that the path to dominance in the National Assembly is defined by a simple, yet powerful, numerical goal of 169 seats. APP

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Interior Minister Dr. Gohar Ijaz on visited the Control Room, Safe City Islamabad and Polling Station of the Ministry of Interior on Thursday along with the Secretary interior, Chief Commissioner Islamabad and IG Islamabad.

On arrival at the control room, the Coordinator National Action Plan briefed the Interior Minister regarding the security situation during the general elections in the country. The minister expressed satisfaction over the smooth polling process across the country and said that no major untoward incident occurred during the election.

The martyrdom of a jawan in the attack on the Quick Response Force

Interior Minister visits control room, polling station



in Tank is very sad said the minister adding that the polling process is being closely monitored across the country. He said that no one would

be allowed to violate the law and order situation and hoped that the process of elections would be completed peacefully throughout the country.

Moreover, the Interior Minister also visited Safe City Islamabad along with Dr Good Luck Jonathan, Head of the Commonwealth Observer Mission. Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad gave a detailed briefing regarding law and order in the city and polling in the capital and informed that the Election process in Islamabad is going on peacefully.

IGP told the minister that at present no complaint has been received of any untoward incident in any constituency. DNA

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No permanent enemies

HUSAIN HAQQANI

Recent developments in Northern Ireland are the latest blow to the notion that peoples and communities nurture 'ancient hatreds', which periodically lead to conflict and war. Northern Ireland, comprising the six predominantly Protestant counties of Ireland, last week elected a Catholic opposed to the partition of Ireland as its 'first minister', marking an end to the belief that Catholics and Protestants in the province were destined to fight each other forever. Michelle O'Neill of Sinn Fein (the political wing of the Irish Republican Army) will share power with a die-hard member of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) – the most hardline offshoot of the Unionists, whose belief that Protestants from Ireland's north formed a distinct nation led to the 1921 partition of Ireland. For thirty years before the Good Friday Agreement of 1998, Northern Ireland was overrun by what is known as 'the troubles'. At the time, there was terrorism and insurgency by the Irish Republican Army (IRA), violence against Catholics by hardline Unionists, and use of force by British forces that claimed they were only trying to keep the peace. Catholics, who generally support the reunification of Ireland, and the Unionist Protestants seemed like irreconcilable enemies. But after thirty years of strife, the two sides negotiated a complex power-sharing agreement. That agreement, too, has had a rocky history. The Northern Ireland Assembly has not always functioned smoothly, mostly because hardline Unionist factions have worried about the erosion of their separate identity and a gradual assimilation into a non-sectarian Ireland. One of the more beneficial results of the truce resulting from the Good Friday Agreement was an improvement in Northern Ireland's economy. But that has of late been threatened by Britain's exit from the European Union. Now, the Irish Republic is still in the European Union while Northern Ireland, as part of the United Kingdom, is not. While both countries were in the EU, Europe could trade freely with both parts of Ireland. Now, the terms of trade with EU member Ireland and non-EU Northern Ireland have changed. The DUP and Sinn Fein were far apart on this and other issues and since the Northern Irish elections of 2022, the DUP had boycotted the Regional Assembly. The DUP's return to the assembly has been made possible by a deal between the party and the British government. But, since the real subject of this article is reconciliation between erstwhile enemies and not the minutiae of Northern Ireland's politics, let us skip to how, once the assembly met, it accepted the result of the 2022 election and allowed a Catholic from Sinn Fein head the government of a Northern Ireland created to have permanent Protestant dominance. O'Neill is a committed Irish nationalist and belongs to a family that suffered discrimination against Catholics and lost lives in the past decades of conflict. Her deputy first minister, Emma Little-Pengelly, similarly recalls IRA bombings and maintains her Unionist beliefs. But both seem willing to focus on what they can agree upon, instead of insisting on what they must fight about. O'Neill declared after her election that she would be "a first minister for all" – unionists and republicans, Protestants and Catholics, those who want a 'united Ireland' and those who want to remain 'British forever.' "None of us are being asked or expected to surrender who we are. Our allegiances are equally legitimate. Let's walk this two-way street and meet one another halfway," she added. Little-Pengelly declared, "Michelle is an Irish republican, and I am a unionist. We will never agree on those issues, but what we can agree on is that cancer doesn't discriminate, and our hospitals need [to be] fixed." She explained that a mother in Northern Ireland waiting on her cancer diagnosis was not defined as being republican or unionist. "She is defined by sleepless nights and [the] worry that she may never see her children grow up. The daddy fighting to get the right educational support for his child is not defined by orange or green, but by the stress and anxiety for the future of the child they love." The new power-sharing government in Northern Ireland says it will focus on health service reform, school reform, improving public services, and making the region prosperous. In the spirit of reconciliation, O'Neill said, "I am sorry for all the lives lost during the conflict. Without exception," and added, "I will never ask anyone to 'move on,' but I do hope that we can 'move forward.'" If Northern Ireland, divided by the sectarianism of its 'Two Nations Theory', can move forward with reconciliation, can other nations similarly alienated also find common ground? One can only hope. The key is to set aside the issues that divide and move forward on issues of common concern. One thing is certain, the cliché about 'ancient hatreds', which became popular soon after the breakup of former Yugoslavia is continuously being proved wrong in several parts of the world. It was incorrect to argue that the Serbs hated the Croats because of what one did to the other during World War II or that the Serbs hated Muslims for taking over Kosovo in 1389. People remember historical wrongs only when they are reminded of them constantly. Hatred is learned behaviour and is often the result of leaders and elites encouraging it. Ending hatred once it has been unleashed is difficult. But in the interim, focusing on shared problems (as is being done in Northern Ireland) is a good idea. In a speech delivered to the Pakistani National Assembly in December 1996, China's President Jiang Zemin had advised South Asian nations to pursue a similar approach. He said that as neighbours, "it is difficult not to have some differences or disputes from time to time" but proposed looking at the differences or disputes from "a long perspective." According to President Jiang, "If certain issues cannot be resolved for the time being, they may be shelved temporarily so that they will not affect the normal state-to-state relations." In other words, there is no need to have permanent conflict or consider others permanent enemies.

The writer, former ambassador of Pakistan to the US, is Diplomat-in-Residence at the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy in Abu Dhabi and Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute in Washington DC.



Kamila Hyat

What are we voting for?

The PTI appears a little confused in what it is aiming for. This is a familiar pattern from elections in the past. This election is however somewhat different from those held in previous years. There is a much greater element of tension and animosity between the parties and a bigger role played by other forces. But we will need to see how people decide where to cast their votes and how many of them turn out to do so. The turnout will in many ways be crucial to determining what way the election swings and who emerges as the victor in the end. This brings us to the wider question of what purpose the elections serve.

houses it has promised for the flood-affected people of the province who are still homeless more than one and a half years after the floods occurred. The same is true of the PML-N's vision of an economic turnaround with a return of Nawaz Sharif. There are people everywhere who ask what exactly Nawaz Sharif gave them and if they want more. The PTI has a cult-like following but again it is unclear if people will continue to back it as they have in the past. It is likely however that at least some of its vote bank will stay intact just as will that of the PML-N in Punjab and the PPP in Sindh. The outcome in

time. Pakistan has over 130 political parties in the fray and the vote that goes out to smaller parties affects the overall situation in the 'first past the post' system used in electioneering in the country. So in the next few days, as talk shows and election specials continue on TV screens, we will know who the victors are or what the party positions are to be for 2024. This is significant. But we also know other powers are significant as well. Pakistan has now been left with no option but to return to the IMF, the so-called lender of last resort, to keep its economy viable and afloat in the given situation. The main question for people then is whether the economy can make any kind of comeback and if there will be some fall in the crippling inflation which has hit almost everyone across the country.

Experts have offered solutions of various kinds. The main one among these is a change in taxation to ensure that land is taxed and that the wealthy pay out more to subsidize the lives of the desperately poor one-third of people in the country. No political party has put forward a clear agenda on this point or stated how it is going to ensure that we see the changes the other countries have been able to make. These include an increase in exports and a decrease in imports. At present, Pakistan has far fewer exports than nations such as Bangladesh, Vietnam, and others in the region. It needs to at least catch up with these countries to bolster its economy and finally be able to stand on its own feet. We need to see what will happen in the weeks that lie ahead. And if any true solution can be found to the many problems of the nation as it goes into its latest polling exercise.

The writer is a freelance columnist and former newspaper editor. She can be reached at: kamilahyat@hotmail.com

This election is however somewhat different from those held in previous years

The reality is that people want their immediate problems resolved. They are not interested so much in long-term economic policies as much as they are in short-term outcomes such as a decrease in inflation. In some cases, the inflation has led to suicides. This is a desperate situation. Perhaps the most desperate the country has ever faced. The question for any party then will be how it is going to put forward policies and then implement them to save Pakistan.

The truth is that no party has been very successful in putting forward any clear and trustworthy ambition that people can believe in. Simply big words and nicely manufactured pamphlets or social media posts are not enough to convince people now. After all, Pakistan today has a significant history of democracy even if most of its seven decades or more have been under authoritarian rule. But people everywhere ask why the slogan of Pakistan's first election, in 1970 – 'Roti Kapra aur Makan' – has not been fulfilled even today. They ask how the PPP is to build tens of thousands of

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in particular will be interesting with the JUI-F vying for power in the province at the same time as its leader Maulana Fazlur Rahman vies for the post of president of the country. This too will be something to watch even if in Pakistan's strictly parliamentary system, the president has very few real powers.

Perhaps the final decisions will be made by the smaller parties. The TLP has gone out of its way to try and make itself a little more acceptable by putting up slogans such as protecting the rights of minorities. The reality however is that this is difficult to believe given the past of the party. The TLP has however picked up a significant number of votes notably in Punjab in past by-polls and could be a player in terms of determining what voting patterns are in particular constituencies.

It is also possible that at least one or two of the major parties may try to bring it into an alliance of one kind or the other. Other parties in a similar position including smaller groups are either making a comeback or putting up candidates for the first

Disclaimer: Views expressed by writers in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect The Asian Telegraph's point-of-view

Today in History

History of Pakistan



This experience was of immense value to the Muslims later during the Pakistan Movement. The collapse of the Khilafat Movement was followed by a period of bitter Hindu-Muslim antagonism. The Hindus organized two highly anti-Muslim movements, the Shudhi and the Sangathan. The former movement was designed to convert Muslims to Hinduism and the latter was meant to create solidarity among the Hindus in the event of communal conflict. In retaliation, the Muslims sponsored the Tabligh and Tanzim organizations to counter the impact of the Shudhi and the Sangathan. In the 1920s, the frequency of communal riots was unprecedented. Several Hindu-Muslim unity conferences were

held to remove the causes of conflict, but, it seemed nothing could mitigate the intensity of communalism.

MUSLIM DEMAND SAFEGUARDS

In the light of this situation, the Muslims revised their constitutional demands. They now wanted preservation of their numerical majorities in the Punjab and Bengal, separation of Sindh from Bombay, constitution of Balochistan as a separate province and introduction of constitutional reforms in the North-West Frontier Province. It was partly to press these demands that one section of the All-India Muslim League cooperated with the statutory commission sent by the

British Government under the chairmanship of Sir John Simon in 1927.

SIMON COMMISSION

The other section of the League, which boycotted the Simon Commission for its all-White character, cooperated with the Nehru Committee, appointed by the All-Parties Conference, to draft a constitution for India. The Nehru Report had an extremely anti-Muslim bias and the Congress leadership's refusal to amend it disillusioned even the moderate Muslims.

ALLAMA MUHAMMAD IQBAL

Several leaders and thinkers, having

insight into the Hindu-Muslim question proposed separation of Muslim India. However, the most lucid exposition of the inner feeling of the Muslim community was given by Allama Muhammad Iqbal (1877-1938) in his Presidential Address at the All-India Muslim League Session at Allahabad in 1930. He suggested that for the healthy development of Islam in South-Asia, it was essential to have a separate Muslim state at least in the Muslim majority regions of the north-west. Later on, in his correspondence with Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he included the Muslim majority areas in the north-east also in his proposed Muslim state.

To be continued....

Showbiz

Dakota Johnson reveals 'bleak' truth of industry: 'Majorly disheartening'

Dakota Johnson is famous for her role in 'Grey's Anatomy'



Dakota Johnson opened up about why she thinks things are "really fucking

bleak" in the entertainment world. The Madame Web actress stated in an interview with L'Officiel magazine that she and Ro Donnelly want to develop complex, nuanced stories with strong female protagonists at their core through their production firm TeaTime Pictures. The actress did not hold back when asked if she felt she had to produce shows like that to get them made. "I am discovering that it's really fucking bleak in this industry," she told the publication. "It is majorly disheartening. The people who run streaming platforms don't trust creative people or artists to know what's going to work, and that is just going to make us

implode. It's really heartbreaking." She revealed that, as evidenced by her most recent film, Daddio, she has had difficulty getting things created that are original and "very forward" in the narrative they're attempting to tell. She claimed it required a lot of fighting to have the picture made, even though Sony Classics purchased it at the Telluride Picture Festival. "People are just so afraid, and I'm like, why? What's going to happen if you do something brave? It just feels like nobody knows what to do and everyone's afraid," she said. "That's what it feels like. Everyone who makes decisions is afraid. They want to do the safe thing, and the safe thing is really boring."

Tech

Saturn's 'Death Star' moon Mimas probably has ocean — here's to know more



Scientists have found evidence that Mimas, a tiny moon of Saturn, might contain the makings of a habitable planet because there may be a liquid ocean beneath its thick frozen crust. This startling discovery fundamentally alters our understanding of what an ocean moon is and may ultimately influence how we look for extraterrestrial life on solar system moons. For this reason, Mimas, dubbed as the "Death Star" due to its resemblance to the Empire's space station in Star Wars doesn't initially appear to be the type of body that scientists would anticipate to maintain an ocean. It doesn't even appear to be able to hold such a large amount

of liquid. According to the study team responsible for this exciting discovery, the ocean lies between 12 and 18 miles (20 and 30 kilometers) below the surface of Mimas's ice crust. It is also thought to be quite new, having formed between 2 million and 25 million years ago. Still, the ocean seems to make up at least half of the moon's volume, even if it has been submerged for millions of years. "The major finding here is the discovery of habitability conditions on a solar system object which we would never, never expect to have liquid water," Valery Lainey, discovery team member and a scientist at the Observatoire de Paris, told Space. "It's really astonishing." Mimas now bears an even greater resemblance to Enceladus, the sister moon of Saturn, which scientists had previously known to have a subterranean ocean. The ice-covered moon Enceladus, which is around 310 miles (500 km) across, and the similarly icy Mimas, which is slightly smaller at 246 miles (396 km) across, are both similar in size and exist at similar distances from the gas giant Jupiter.

Why iced drinks are harmful for kids?

Regulators warn parents to not give slushies to their children after two kids almost died from consuming sugary drink

Slushies, the cold and icy drink, are universally loved by people of all ages. However, be aware that slushies can be dangerous, so much so that regulators have issued warnings to parents to not give slushies to their children after two kids almost died from consuming the sugary drink. A four-year-old boy named Albie became unresponsive after drinking a slushy from a school event, DailyMail reported. In a similar case that occurred days later, three-year-old Angus suddenly collapsed in the mall after having a slushy for the first time. In both cases, doctors blamed glycerol, an addi-

tive lurking inside the child-friendly drinks. Glycerol, or E422, gives the drink that desired slushy texture. While mildly toxic to humans, the amount does not pose a danger to adults or older children but a buildup of the ingredient can cause problems in the future. However, the same isn't true for younger children. Due to their much lower body weight, even a small amount of glycerol can spark a serious health emergency. The mild symptoms of glycerol intoxication include headaches and vomiting. However, it can send people into shock, where the circulatory sys-

tem that pumps oxygen-rich blood around the body starts to fail, depriving vital organs of what they need to function. Signs of shock include having pale, cold, clammy skin, as well as sweating, rapid or shallow breathing, weakness or dizziness, nausea and possible vomiting, extreme thirst, and yawning and sighing. Hypoglycemia, or low blood sugar, is another effect of glycerol intoxication. In its most severe form, hypoglycemia can lead to fits and a loss of consciousness.

Health



Pakistani envoy meets Czech PM



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Pakistan to the Czech Republic Ayesha Ali held a meeting with Prime Minister of Czech Republic Petr Fiala on Thursday at his reception for the diplomatic corps in Prague. In a post on X, she said, "I conveyed the greetings of our leadership and looked forward to further strengthening bilateral relations of Pakistan and Czech Republic." APP

Cops to perform duty till return of staff, shifting of stuff to ECP: IG

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General Islamabad, Dr Akbar Nasir has said that the police will remain on duty till safe return of the election staff and shifting of electoral material to Election Commission of Pakistan. In a statement issued on Thursday, the IG Islamabad appreciated the police personnel who performed duty during the general elections. Dr Akbar Nasir said that peaceful and smooth polling in the federal capital was a major success.

Female voters of Sargodha's Liliani town cast vote for first time

SARGODHA: In February 8, 2024 general elections, female voters of Liliani town of Sargodha cast vote for first time.

According to details, women hailing from Liliani town of tehsil Kot Moman have been given permission for first time to cast vote in the constituencies NA-83 and PP-73.

Earlier, in 2013 and 2018 general elections, the female voters of the said constituencies were not allowed to cast vote.

After getting permission, a large number of women voters through the polling stations to elect their representatives for next five-year tenure. INP



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (R) Maqbool Baqar talks to media just after casting his vote at Government Boys Secondary School No.2, Block-6, PECHS. APP

Kashmir a 'flashpoint' between nuclear-armed India, Pakistan: Masood

NEW YORK: Pakistan's Ambassador to the US, Masood Khan, has called Kashmir a "flashpoint" in tensions between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan, saying the two countries should not only discuss their decades-old dispute but also negotiate nuclear confidence-building measures.

"I think that realistically speaking, we should have talks not only on the future of Jammu and Kashmir and the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, in accordance with international law and the U.N. Security Council, but we should also have nuclear confidence-building talks, so that we establish reliable communication channels," he told NEWSWEEK, a weekly American weekly magazine.

"Kashmir is a flashpoint," Pakistani envoy said. "And India thinks that it has taken care of it. But Kashmiris don't think that, and Pakistanis don't think that."

Newsweek correspondent Tom O'Connor, who interviewed the ambassador amid the Israeli war on Gaza, wrote that the presence of weapons of mass destruction on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) adds another dimension to the conflict, and cited Masood Khan arguing that it needed to be addressed by Islamabad and New Delhi to avoid a major crisis, intended or otherwise.

"India and Pakistan should have some sense of where we are, what our capabilities are, what our intentions are, as a matter of fact, and so that our entire approach to the region is not accident-prone," he added. "And as two responsible nuclear weapons states, we must resolve outstanding disputes in Kashmir as well."

With India-Pakistan ties remaining virtually

frozen, Newsweek pointed out that Pakistani officials have often lamented what they view as a lack of international attention being paid to the issue of Kashmir, where New Delhi carried out a mass crackdown since Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi revoked Jammu and Kashmir's semi-autonomous status in August 2019.

"We would say that attention from Kashmir is moving away because of Ukraine or the preoccupation of the Western world with China as a competitor, as a challenger to the existing order, and so on," Masood Khan said.

"Now, in addition to Ukraine and the Indo-Pacific politics, you have the Middle East." "So, Kashmir is no more on the radar screen of the international community, and yet the oppression continues there," he added.

"So, I've always said this is a blind spot, and this is very dangerous, this is very perilous for the international community because the Kashmiris' freedoms are as sacrosanct as the freedoms of any people in any part of the world." Pakistani officials have also often drawn connections between the Kashmir dispute and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, owing to some common historical roots, it was pointed out.

Masood Khan too referenced these commonalities, but also the "dissimilarity" as well, noting particularly how Palestinians, despite their ongoing struggle for self-determination, have garnered global support and even observer status at the United Nations as well as statehood recognition from the majority of U.N. member states.

"Kashmir used to enjoy that kind of support, but it is no more," the Pakistani envoy said.

"Because of that, I remain more worried, more concerned about Kashmir."

While dialogue remains stalled with India, the report said Pakistan has engaged in ongoing talks with Taliban-led Afghanistan in hopes of ushering in a sense of security and stability for the region. But the ambassador noted, "For the rest of the world, the war on terror has come to an end, not for Pakistan."

"(Masood) Khan also saw the opportunity, however, at the end of U.S. engagement in Afghanistan, which deeply complicated the relationship between Islamabad and Washington. Now, he hoped to continue to build more substantive ties between the two nations, based not only on security but also in various other fields such as investment, education, and climate change," according to correspondent O'Connor.

"This comes as concerns remain in Pakistan over the increasingly robust relations developing between the U.S. and India. Khan said Pakistan was willing to put aside these uncertainties, however, just as he hoped to assuage Washington's concerns over the strategic partnership forged between Islamabad and Beijing." The ambassador said, "At least, this is our endeavor, that India's close ties with the United States should not negatively impact our relations with the United States. And similarly, we've been assuring Americans here that our relations with China are not at the expense of the United States."

As for the bilateral relationship between Pakistan and India, Masood Khan emphasized that he felt only engagement could overcome their deep-rooted dispute and the risks associated with it. APP

Pakistani peacekeepers protect thousands of South Sudanese from floods via dykes: UN

UNITED NATIONS: Hundred of kilometres of dykes, built and maintained by engineers from Pakistan serving with the U.N. Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) four years ago, are keeping some 300,000 residents of Bentiu, the capital of the country's Unity state, protected from flood waters, the Mission said Wednesday.

These dykes, which earned widespread praise from the communities, were erected in 2020 when overflow from a swelling Nile River crashed through the state and never receded. "We may not be the ones saving people from bullets, but we are protecting them from floods," said Captain Taimoor Ahmad, a Flood Officer with the Pakistani engineering unit in Bentiu, which is surrounded by large bodies of water. His (Capt. Taimoor's) words underscore the evolving nature of UN Peacekeeping where environmental catastrophes pose as great a threat as armed conflict," according to the Mission's press release. Incessant rainfall and consequent flooding have erased villages, submerged critical infrastructure and made agriculture – once the primary source of income and food – all but impossible, propelling hundreds of thousands to seek sanctuary in the Bentiu Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp, safeguarded by the dyke system. "These protective mud structures, however, demand constant surveillance and maintenance," the press release said.

For over three years, it said, Pakistani 'Blue Helmets' have tirelessly worked to preserve them, a task that has become crucial for the survival of both the IDP camp's residents, the UNMISS Bentiu Field Office, as well as for the secure delivery of critical humanitarian assistance. The durability of the dykes, which have withstood many challenges, reflects the Pakistani engineering unit's adaptability and commitment, it was pointed out. "We monitor over 80 kilometres of dykes daily. Over three years, we've accumulated significant knowledge, ensuring the well-being of everyone here," said Major Saad Sultan, a Pakistani operations officer, during an inspection on the southern dyke. APP

Governor Sindh lauds ECP arrangements for polls, smooth election process

ISLAMABAD: Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori has appreciated the arrangements of Election Commission for general elections 2024 and efforts for smooth flow of election process in most parts of the province. While talking to a private news channel after casting his vote on Thursday, he said that minor complaints were reported but the overall set up and arrangements of the election commission for the polling was laudable.

Kamran Tessori while responding to a question regarding shutdown of mobile signals and internet facilities said that the step was taken to protect people's lives and property and that was the top priority of the caretaker government.

He said that all necessary measures were taken for security reasons, and safety of the citizens. INP

Only PPP gave a people-friendly election manifesto: Asif Zardari



NAWABSHAH: Former president and co-chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Asif Ali Zardari has said that PPP only political party

with gave a people-friendly manifesto for 2024 general elections.

This was stated by him while talking to media persons while casting his vote in Nawabshah on Thursday.

Asif Zardari said that no other political party other than PPP has given pro-people election manifesto.

He said that the future of Pakistan Peoples Party was bright and those affiliated with it will bear the fruit soon.

The co-chairman PPP claimed that his party would clean sweep the 2024 general elections. INP

Nawaz Sharif wants majority govt

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme and former prime minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Thursday urged voters to give him a majority in the National Assembly to pull the country out of crises, while ruling out the possibility of forming a coalition government. The three-time prime minister made these comments after casting his vote in the provincial capital along with his daughter and party's chief organiser Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

He was accompanied by Isteqkam-i-Pakistan Party leader Awn Saqlain Chaudhry. Nawaz Sharif, who is contesting from NA-130, urged the masses to come out and vote as the country needs a one-party majority to bring stability. "We rendered sacrifices to witness the day where we are today. We have to end this culture of abuse and indecency." The PML-N leader, eyeing a record fourth term in the 2024 polls, hoped that the poll would bring prosperity to the country which is facing grave economic and security challenges.

When asked to comment on the formation of a government after the elections and what would be his priority, Nawaz said a party must get the majority to rule independently without dependence on others. SABAH



QUETTA: February 08 - Chief Justice Balochistan High Court, Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan casts his vote at Boy Scout Polling Station during General Election-2024. APP

CM pays a visit to the central control room of the home department to review monitoring arrangements for holding the general elections

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid a visit to the Central Control Room being established by the Home Department at the Civil Secretariat to review and monitor the arrangements being made for holding the general elections across the province.

CM went to the Central Control Room and conducted a detailed review of the monitoring arrangements. Secretary Home gave a briefing to the CM about the arrangements being undertaken to ensure holding of general elections in a peaceful environment along with the monitoring system. Mohsin Naqvi stated that by the

Grace of Allah Almighty and due to day and night hard work of the Punjab government, the crucial phase of holding general elections has been completed in a peaceful and nice manner. The police, administration and law enforcement institutions jointly maintained the law and order environment during the general elections. CM acknowledged that excellent arrangements have been made for holding the general elections in every city of Punjab including Lahore. IG Police Dr. Usman Anwar, CCPO Lahore and concerned officials were also present on the occasion. PR



ISLAMABAD: A disabled person casts his vote at a polling station during the country's parliamentary elections, in the Federal Capital. ONLINE

Balochistan launches large-scale solar projects under CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki inaugurated an extensive solarization project of converting of various public department buildings including educational, institutions, healthcare facilities and civic departments over renewables that will provide clean, affordable and uninterrupted power supply to the public facilities of Balochistan.

The Balochistan government, with the support of Chinese government, has completed the solarization of 12 educational institutions, computer labs & hospitals that have been equipped with modern solar power facilities.

The Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong participated in the inaugural ceremony and expressed his views through video link held at Chief Minister's secretariat, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday.

Pakistan's total solar installed capacity was 1.24 GW by 2022, representing a 17 percent increase over 2021.

initiatives to increase the share of solar energy in the country. By now, Pakistan's Solar Energy Market is estimated to increase at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 49.68 percent from 1.30 gigatonnes in 2023 to 9.77 gigatonnes in 2028. In the specific case of Balochistan, according to the Central Asia

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Regional Economic Cooperation Program, Pakistan's total technical solar and wind potentials are 2,900 GW and 340 GW, respectively.

Additionally, Balochistan has the potential to implement greater than 14 GW of Renewable energy within 5-10 years through least-cost pathways, including PV utility scale plants of 9,500 - 11,500 MWp.

Balochistan's geography, irradiance, and location make it one of Pak-

istan's most high-potential provinces, with respect to renewable.

Decentralized microgrids paired with solar generation could be used to increase reliable electricity access for rural residents.

While microgrids generally only provide basic electrification (high qual-

ity lighting and charging of a mobile phone), it is able to do so for multiple households at a significantly lower cost over in the long run. An estimated 36 percent of Balochistan is electrified, so this pairing has immense potential for the province. In the future, the province is poised to become the country's most booming solar power growth hub.

In a remarkable turning point, International Energy Agency (IEA)

recently reported solar energy is set to attract more capital investment than traditional oil for the first time ever.

In 2023, an average of approximately USD 1 billion per day (USD 380 billion for the year) are being invested in the solar industry, exceeding investment in oil production for the first time (USD370 billion for the year).

"Under such a background, Pakistan stands at a crucial juncture," Ali Majid, Pakistan General Manager of Global leading solar provider LONGi, underlined, "through constantly renovate clean energy technology, not only solar, we can secure a sustainable and clean energy future while reaping the economic benefits that come with the global shift towards renewable energy sources.

Obviously, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has also played a crucial role in fostering solar energy cooperation between the two countries, we are going to play a leading role in the industry, making CPEC a greener corridor." INP