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**CNS** emphasizes

collaboration among

regional navies for

# **Progress, prosperity of people of Balochistan among priorities** of government, says PM

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar for according significance to climate resilience, finance aspects in Balochistan hydro projects; Directs for expediting the matters related to the construction of a two-lane highway from Khuzdar to Karachi

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Tuesday stressed upon focusing the climate resilience and climate finance aspects in all the water projects of Balochistan and reiterated that progress and prosperity of the people of province were among the top priorities of the government.

The caretaker prime minister chaired a review meeting on the important matters pertaining to the Balochistan province. The meeting was attended by Caretaker Balochistan Chief Minister Ali Mardan Domki, Education Minister Dr Qadir Baloch and Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir, Caretaker Federal Minister for Planning Sami Saeed,

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Caretaker Federal Minister for Law and Water Resources Irfan Aslam, and relevant senior officials, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The chief secretary gave a briefing over different projects of the province. The prime minister further directed for expediting the matters related to the construction of a two-lane highway from Khuzdar to Karachi and observed that with its construction, the different parts of the country would get an alternate leeway, besides strengthening of the linkages. He also asked for an immediate resolution of the financial issues faced by the universities in the province



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Hao Kakar chairs a meeting on matters related to Balochistan.



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf interacting with Heads of various Navies during 8th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) in Bangkok, Thailand

## **Balochistan people stand beside** Pak Army to thwart enemies' nefarious designs: Achakzai

QUETTA (APP) Balochistan Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai on Tuesday said that the people of



tering of youth. Mr. Jan Achakzai

said

of Chaman while payment would be made after regis-

that Sarfaraz

members, a Pakistan Navy news release said on Tuesday. During the IONS Con-clave of Chiefs, bilateral

meetings between Chief of the Naval Staff and naval leadership of IONS member states were also held. The CNS called on

maritime security ISLAMABAD (APP): Naval Forces, C-in-C of Chief of the Naval staff (CNS) Admiral Naveed Royal Thai Navy, Deputy C-in-C of Russian Navy, Ashraf visited Thailand to Commander of Royal Navy of Oman, CNS of attend eighth Indian Ocean French Navy, Commander of Iranian Navy, Fleet Commander of Royal Navy, UK and Vice Chief Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs at The event involved of Japan Maritime Self

panel discussions on issues related to cooperation in Defence Force and dismaritime security of Indian cussed matters of mu-Ocean and Blue Economytual interest. Admiral ways forward for sustain-Naveed Ashraf focused able development of IONS on PN contributions to regional maritime security and emphasized on collaboration between the regional navies to enhance

maritime security of the re-

greater collaboration between Indian Ocean countries to exploit potentials of Commander of Qatar Emiri blue economy

Mehmood Achakzai & Lashkari to contest from NA-263:

# **PHC suspends ECP** verdict revoking bat as **PTI election symbol**

PESHAWAR (APP): ECP's decision ear-The Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Tues-day suspended the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision of declaring the PTI's intra-party but to take place on the PTI's intra-party the PTI's intra-party polls as unconstitutional and the revocation of its election symbol 'bat' till the final verdict on its petition.

The single-mem-ber bench comprising Justice Kamran Hayat Miankhel an-Kamran nounced the verdict which it had reserved on the petition of Pa-He also stressed upon

**ECP** warns

govt. employees

against political

involvement

ISLAMABAD (APP)

The Election Commission

of Pakistan (ECP) on Tues-

day has issued a pre-gen-

eral election advisory, in-

structing government offic-

ers and employees to re-

frain from participating in

that government officials

and employees were pro-

hibited from taking part in

circular, the government

officials and employees are

restricted from engaging in

seeking leave must obtain

approval from Returning Officers (ROs), while dis-

trict officers are obli-

gated to seek permission

from the District Return-

ing Officers (DRO) for

According to the ECP advisory, federal govern-

Government officials

The advisory specifies

According to the issued

political activities.

election activities

election activities.

their leaves.

about to take place on February 8, 2024, and that the last date for allotting the election symbols was January

He said that the arguments of all the parties involved in the case were heard. PTI lawyers, including Barrister Ali kistan Tehreek-e- were carried out on revocation of its elec-Insaf against the the orders of the ECP tion symbol 'bat.

could form a party or be a member of any party

Judge Miankhel directed that notices be issued to the ECP and other respon-

dents in the case. It may be mentioned that the ECP on December 22 declared the intra-party Zafar pleaded that elections of the PTI the intra-party polls null and void, besides



Tuesday

Balochistan stood beside the Pakistan Army which was thwarting the nefarious design of enemies for maintaining peace in the country.

Addressing a press conference at Quetta press Club, the Minister said that Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir was backing the government in efforts to improve the national economy.

Jan Achakzai said that Balochistan government the unemployed youth under the leadership of of Chaman by accepting Balochistan Caretaker the long-standing demand Chief Minister Mir Ali of the unemployed youth

#### Amanullah Kanrani says **Bureaucracy third big pillar** of state & civil servants are agents of real charge

#### Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Law & Parliamentary Affairs Prosecution, and Amanullah Kanrani has stated that the bureaucracy is the third big pillar of state and the civil servants are the agent of real change because they enforce the policies at the lower level.

The caretaker Provincial Minister was speaking to the Certificates awarding ceremony among the 2nd Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC) graduates of Balochistan Civil Services Academy held at Governor House Ouetta on Tuesday.

The ceremony was at- as the chief guest of the tended by Senior event

**QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Law** and Parliamentary Affairs Amanullah Kanrani distributing certificates among participants of 2nd Mid-**Career Management Course** loss.



Bureaucrates, Senior Aca-

dia Representatives.

of the course.

Mr.

ration. Mardan Khan Domki was Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul Haq Kakar trying to solve the problems of the people of had directed Pakistan Rail-Chaman. ways, thanks to which the

He said that at least 20 problem has been resolved thousand rupees per ne said month would be given to

#### Jan Achakzai said that the ticket for Bolan Mail train from Quetta to Karachi is 2200 rupees which is reasonable. Syed Farooq Shah

wo days. expresses grief

#### **Deputy Director** DGPR Hazrat Ali passes away Independent Report

demicians, Members of Corporate Sector and Me-QUETTA: Deputy Director, Directorate General of Public Relations Balochistan Civil Ser-Balochistan Hazrat Ali vices Academy held its' passed away here on 2nd graduation ceremony Tuesday. He was laid to of 26 Mid-Career Trainee rest at Mehmoodabad Officers in Govenor graveyard. House Quetta in which the He was brother of graduating officers were

Daulat Khan, photografrom Balochistan Civil Serpher DGPR and father of vices Group, Balochistan Master Saadullah, Dr Secretriate Services



Nasibullah, Niamatullah

and Qudratullah. His Fateha khawani is continue at Haji Sardar Gul Jama **Khushhal Road Street** No. 1, Achakzai Colony

Pashtoonabad Quetta. Meanwhile the Chief Editor Independent Group of Newspapers Syed Muhammad Farooq Shah has extended his condolence on the demise of Hazrat Ali. In a statement, he ex-

pressed profound grief over the death of Hazrat Ali. He prayed that May Almighty Allah rest the departed soul in eternal peace and give the bereaved family the courage and patience to bear the

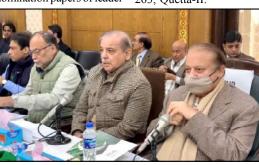
faiths.

#### Scrutiny of nomination papers of candidates continues in Quetta

**Independent Report** of Pashtoonkhaw Milli QUETTA: The process of Awami Party, Nawab Ayaz scrutiny of the nomination Khan Jogezai and leader of papers of the candidates is Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf continued for the provincial (PTI) and former Governor and national assemblies on Balochistan, Syed Zahoor second consecutive day, Agha were found corrected. They had filed nomination

According to the papers for NA-262 sources of Provincial Elec-Quetta-I tion Commissioner office, Similarly, the nomina-tion papers of PKMAP the scrutiny of papers of some 240 candidates has chairman. Mehmood Khan been completed during last Achakzai and Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani were also

On second day, the found corrected for NAnomination papers of leader 263, Quetta-II.



LAHORE: PML-N Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif presiding over 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of Parliamentary Board.

#### National conference calls to promote interfaith harmony in country

Department of International Relations of the University of Karachi in collaboration with the Ministhe world.

try of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony organized a national conference on "bridging beliefs: interfaith harmony in Pakistan", at the KU Chinese Teachers Memorial Auditorium

on Tuesday. The conference called to promote the interfaith harmony culture in the country and emphasizes the importance of interfaith harmony, tolerance, love, dialogue, acceptance, and respect for all religions and

Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed, in his address as the chief guest said that every person in the country condemned the incident of Jaranwala Town in Faisalabad district which was reported in August will not al 2023. He recalled that our any level.

KARACHI (APP): The scholars opened the doors of mosques for the Christian community and that gave a positive message to The minister asked the

audience to play their role in promoting interfaith harmony culture in their social circle so that conspiracies against our motherland can be foiled on every platform.

This is the first program arranged by the Ministry at any educational institution, he added. The federal minister stressed the importance of refraining from using the

Due to the explosion. ASI Khuda-e-Dad among 5 persons were injured who Jinnah's words, he reiterated the principle of freedom for were shifted to the hospichurches, mosques, and temples in Pakistan. tal.

Meanwhile Caretaker The speakers of the Home Minister Balochistan conference urged that it Mir Zubair Iamali conwould play a key part in demned the attack on the developing a society that police in Nawan Killi area will not allow intolerance at of Ouetta

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi talking with media men.

#### Murtaza Solangi says Govt to explore legal options to redress journalist layoffs issue

# Workers' forced dismissal from media houses unacceptable

Authoritv

He said the meeting of

under the law to effec-

pathies are with media

workers. It is our respon-

sibility to implement the

legal protection that media

"Government's sym-

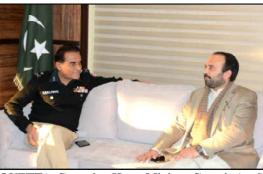
tively tackle issue.

ISLAMABAD (APP): of journalists is not accept-Caretaker Federal Minister able," he said. He said he for Information and Broadhad an earlier discussion casting, Murtaza Solangi on with the Chairman of Paki-Tuesday said the governstan Electronic Media Regument would explore maxilatory (PEMRA) regarding the forced dismissal of journalmum options to redress the problems of journalist fra-ternity, and seek legal acists and media workers. tion, in accordance with the the Senate Standing Constitution, to restrict forced job layoffs of media Committee on Informa-

tion and Broadcasting persons. Talking to the media would be held on Friday after the walkout of jourafternoon, adding :"This nalist during the 334th ses-sion of the Senate in the issue will also be discussed with Chairperson of the press gallery, he ex-pressed full solidarity Standing Committee, Senator Fauzia Arshad. Murtaza Solangi said with the journalist commuthe interim government would take all the steps nity regarding the forced dismissal by some media

houses Solangi said the legal provisions would be explored to take punitive action and extend support to safeguard the rights of media workers.

workers and journalists "I stand with journalists and media workers; the have in the Constitution,' issue of forced dismissals he said



QUETTA: Caretaker Home Minister Captain (retd) Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali in a meeting with Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh

ment employees up to grade 19 can have their leave sanctioned by DROs. ASI among 5 injured in hand grenade attack on

police mobile **Îndependent Report** QUETTA: A hand grenade exploded on a police mo-bile on patrol in Nawan Killi

area of Quetta.

term 'minority' for other religions, asserting that citizens of all faiths are equal in Pakistan. Recalling Quaid-e-

Azam Muhammad Ali

#### Page 02

Wednesday December 27, 2023

# Daily A oice of Masse Independent

**Nominations done** 

From a state of uncertainty only a couple of weeks ago centring on the question of whether or not the general elections would take place, the poll process is now firmly moving forward.

Nominations for both the federal and provincial legislatures wrapped up on Sunday evening, with big guns representing the mainstream political parties throwing their hats into the ring. Meanwhile, the migratory tribe of 'electables' is also present in the contest, offering their services to those believed to have the blessings of the powers that be. Nawaz Sharif, Asif Zardari, Imran all mainstays of the political landscape — have filed their nomination papers, though PTI hopefuls have repeatedly said obstacles are being placed in their way.

From here onwards, parties are expected to switch to election mode, and this requires them to communicate their programme for Pakistan's uplift to voters. It should be remembered that elections are not a popularity contest, as people expect solutions to their myriad problems from the the stigma. parties vying for their votes.

In this regard, it is a matter of concern that most mainstream parties, with the exception of Jamaat-i-Islami, have not yet released their election manifestos. Perhaps the parties themselves were not expecting the polls to take place on Feb 8, hence their lethargy in finalising their policy proposals in the form of manifestos. But, as the Supreme Court has said, no more delays will be tolerated and the polls are to take place on schedule. Therefore, the parties need to release their manifestos soon. It is true that unlike in many mature democracies, the politics of clan and ethnicity still dominate Pakistan's political culture, meaning that a fair percentage of voters will care little about party programmes.

Yet it must also be said that younger and more tech-savvv voters will demand answers from the parties to their problems, and will be swayed less by cults of personality, or how their respective clans/ tribes vote. ter abuse

Parties have a moral obligation to inform the people of Pakistan — in both dusty villages and the sprawling cities — how they intend to fix the economy, improve healthcare and education, bring down crime, etc. Hollow promises should kistan. A woman is raped not be enough; firm policy is required.

every two hours — a sta-Meanwhile, as has been mentioned in these tistic that is potentially columns, it is essential that the electoral exercise has legitimacy. And this cannot be achieved of such incidents occurwhen one party is being excluded from the demoring every 20 minutes by groups such as Pakistan cratic process. The state's attempts to cancel the PTI must cease, and all parties need to have Men Against Rape. a level playing field during elections. Let the people of Pakistan decide who is to steer the ship of state for the next five years. Political manoeuvring has never worked, and will only exacerbate our multiple crises.



system. A number of forms that provide robust protections for those with against them.

OPINION

sessments in court pro-Pakistani women are health

encumbered with a disproportionate share of mental health conditions compared to men. While attention has been drawn to public health matter and not cluding karo kari ('honour' a criminal one. killings often seen in Balochistan and Sindh), watta satta and child mar-

riages, the struggles of women in less visible ruknowledged. Despite Pakistan's

pledge to the WHO Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan (2013-2030), women are brutally punished for perceived immorality. Such barbaric pracfound physical and psychological trauma, often mental health framework leading to myriad mental

trained services health and human rights is the impact of blasphemy laws on the mentally ill. Between 1986 and 2010, an alarming surge in blas-

The existing laws, increasingly stringent and far-reaching, ensnare individuals with mental health The distressingly conditions such as schizolow rate of cases being phrenia and autism, often reported and even fewer misused to conceal abuse

mental health challenges, ensuring that blasphemy laws are not weaponised Pakistan stands at a critical juncture with recent legal reforms pointing to-

wards progress in mental care. The decriminalisation of at-Elections are in the air, tempted suicide was a comand potted plants are bemendable step away from ing transplanted to suitpunitive measures, signalable soil with the most ling the emerging recognition of mental illness as a earthworms and compost available. Sunshine is es-

**Shahzad Sharjeel** 

Electoral and consti-

Kush range.

underpasses.

ing an iconic status.

tutional democracy de-

mands constant vigilance

by 'we the people.' Stamp-

ing a ballot paper can neither be the starting nor the

high point of the demo-

cratic process. Due dili-

gence of election manifes-

tos of political parties,

their past record in deliv-

ering on their promises,

and an utmost commit-

ment to hold them ac-

countable throughout

their tenures in office is

The most common

sential, but the time to make hay is later. In a no-However, the realiholds-barred environties of mental health care ment, logic is the first cain Pakistan, as evidenced by high suicide rates juxsualty. How does one explain a televised interview taposed with an insuffiby an 'encounter specialcient number of mental ist' accusing the leaderhealth professionals and ship of a political party of facilities, particularly in the all manner of crime? Some rural areas, highlight a landscape in desperate people believe he did it at need of reform. With a the instigation of the budget that fails to adpowers that be. Fine. How do you then explain minequately address mental isters resigning from the health and a medical comcaretaker cabinet to join munity yet to fully acknowledge psychiatric subspecialties, Pakistan's the same party, again, ostensibly at the same power's behest?

is alarmingly inadequate. Forensic psychiatry in Pakistan is at a pivotal juncture, facing the challenge of reconciling its colonial legacy with contemporary human rights and psychiatric practices. Our legal system, which often places an unreasonable onus on defendants to prove mental illness with insufficient support, calls for urgent modernisation. Pioneering decisions like the Supreme Court's

the bedrock of a functionruling in the Safia Bano ing, representative polity. case are indicative of an increasing awareness of refrain during the election season is 'We will turn these critical issues and underscore the imperative Larkana into Paris'. While for systemic legal reforms. Pakistan's struggle with the French capital's reputation has so far not been mental health stigmatisation and human compromised, many a chateau in the south of rights breaches requires a France routinely becomes legal overhaul. The justice system, failing to shield the stomping ground for vulnerable groups, particu-larly the mentally ill, highthese peddlers of promises from Larkana to Raiwind. lights the need for incorporating psychiatric evalu-

#### Take Karachi and most of its iconic landmarks; for instance, Frere

# Daily **Independent**

**Plantation drive** Hall was built by the bad 'chinaman delivery' got old Brits when they ruled its name. It is the same

us. How greedy, unscrupulous, shameless, and downright evil the colonisers were has been recorded quite sufficiently and is being rubbed in these days by Shashi Tharoor and many others. That we have no love lost for the colonisers and their Raj is axiomatic. However, it is worth

with 'china cutting. While the former is widely known in the world of cricket as a leftarm spin delivery, the latter is restricted to Karachi, though just the name as the practice of appropriating public property for personal gain is rampant countrywide. In the spirit of fair summarising that the Britrepresentation, let us look at Rawalpindi. Here, ish conceived and conthe textbook practice is

structed most structures putting a trash dumpster worth declaring as monuments or heritage sites in on any spot with commercial potential. Rest this metropolis. Take Denso Hall, Merewether assured, we will dump all sorts of trash every-Tower, Empress Market, Jehangir Kothari Parade, where but in the dumpster. Soon, the Pavilion, and Bandstand at Clifton. The Brits built place becomes a hell of miasma for the residents them with much help from the city's Parsi and Hindu and commuters.

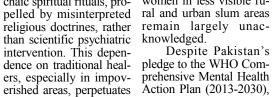
communities. Rupchand The next step is to Bilaram Park, a magnifiremove the dumpster, cent facility, was made level the plot, and grant possible by its namesake. the prime piece of land for a nursery. The change It has now been conveniently appropriated as of scene could not be Bagh Ibn-i-Qasim. Many more dramatic, from a a committee tasked to give mountain of trash with a similar 'Islami-touch' accompanying flies, stray must have rued their indogs, feral cats, and hovering kites to pots of sap-lings and flowerbeds ability to rename the Hindu One can argue that amidst rows of terracotta since foreign masters and ornaments. Everybody conqueror-despots like breathes a sigh of relief. the Mughals were not ac-The civic bodies and countable to the popucantonment boards are lace, they could spend praised instead of being from the exchequer as they asked how the lease for wished on grand schemes the nursery was granted and on what terms. The and fantastic monuments to themselves and their grantees are kicked out loved ones. In modern after a couple of years, and a spanking cashtimes, elected, accountable administrations can and-carry is built. The only undertake public process has been honed works for the good of the to perfection. The same populace and not for community that created the trash problem and mere aesthetics and leavwas first nauseated and ing a name for themselves. The problem tothen relieved on its evoday is that the only such lution now throngs the 'public welfare' schemes shopping centre with that come to mind are their trolleys laden with overhead bridges and undernasses. While stuff, a lot of it from China soon to be turned most of these are helpful into trash. Another pubto the public, they tend lic amenity plot, another to crumble and flood, trash site, another nurswithout any accountabilery, more saplings, ity and much too quickly more transplants; the cash-and-carry busifor any chance of attainness continues.

Not sure where the Courtesy Dawn



#### Ali Burhan Mustafa

Pakistan is grappling with the stigma surrounding mental health. A social fabric steeped in tradition often finds itself at odds many of the sociocultural with the critical need for practices responsible, inprogressive mental healthcare solutions. This clash is exacerbated by misguided reliance on shamans and archaic spiritual rituals, pro-



as detailed by the Human

Rights Commission of Pa-

Child sexual abuse in Pakistan, with its dismal conviction rates, casts a tices inflict fear and prolong shadow over our human rights record. Chilling statistics from organisations like Sahil, health disorders.

This crisis is exacerreveal thousands of cases with a conviction rate of bated by the lack of adless than two per cent. equately healthcare providers who Despite initiatives like the Zainab Alert Bill and na- can recognise and assist tional sex offender regisvictims and violence — a shortfall highlighted by the tries, the acute scarcity of child psychiatrists and Unicef-initiated mental underdevelopment of health and psychosocial specialised branches, support such as forensic and com- programme in 2021. Medimunity psychiatry, are a cal studies corroborate glaring oversight in adthis gap. In Pakistan, the dressing mental health afintersection of mental brought into sharp relief by Pakistan faces a dire human rights challenge,

phemy accusations resulted in over 50 extrajudimore frequent, with claims cial deaths.

convictions exposes deep against them. There is a ation into judicial proflaws within the justice critical need for legal re- cesses. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce** News

# IPO, PITB join hands for automation, digitalization of IPO-Pakistan

The Intellectual Property awareness are the major Organization (IPO) and priority of IPO at this time, Information Punjab Technology Board (PITB) to the business classes and on Tuesday joined hands and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the digitalization and automation of IPO- support of PITB, which was Pakistan. The MoU was an important tool for signed by Director modernizing institutions in General, IPO Ms. Shazia the modern world, which Adnan and Director General, PITB Saima R. Shaikh for automation and digitalization IPO to facilitate the common masses and business in the country.

On this occasion, Chairman IPO, Ambassador Farukh Amil said that the visibility on indifferent

during the trading session.

Caretaker Provincial Minister for Transport,

Livestock, and Mines &

electric vehicles to provide

transportation to control

"Punjab wants to

manufacturing of electric systems.

friendly

air pollution.

Murad Tuesday said that incentives

a sustainable and eco- encourage

**Punjab shift from** 

conventional transport to

electric vehicles: Minister

channel.

mode of manufacturing, he said,

ISLAMABAD (APP): platforms and public or other facilities in IPO. was currently making the which will make it accessible youth aware of IPO in universities educational institutions, especially the youth. The Chairman IPO said that at present we were working on digitalization of IPO with the provided facilities to the public and business classes. He said that a large

part of the population of Pakistan consisted of youth and the youth were currently mostly connected to IT and social media and after this facility, they would be able to make online complaints

which would increase the trend of financial education among them. He said that after automation in the IPO, there would be transparency and simplification of processes in the institution. On this occasion, Director General, IPO, Shazia Adnan said that after this agreement with PITB, online payments and

Farukh said that IPO

and

another documentation process would be made easy in the next two months and this would also promote Ease of Doing Business (EODB) in IPO

#### **Rupee gains** 15 paisa

ISLAMABAD (APP) Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday witnessed the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive recovery session as it gained 15 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs282.37 against the previous day's closing

of Rs282.52. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar

respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 47 paisa to close at Rs311.27 against the last day's closing of Rs 310.80, according to the State Bank of Pakistan

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs1.98; whereas a decrease of Rs 17 paisa was witnessed in the

exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at making a big push for vehicles and batteries to boost economic growth and Rs358.48 compared to the addition to achieving food issues. local last closing of Rs358.65. The exchange rates of adding, that other provinces should also the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased focus on shifting their auto by 05 and 04 paisa to close become a "global hub of industry towards EV

respectively.

Caretaker Federal Minister of Commerce and Industry, Dr. Gohar Ejaz interacting with the members of the Chairman Chamber of Commerce and

# 80mn commuters utilized BRT Peshawar during the year 2023

PESHAWAR (APP):Bus commuters-a significant (CEO) of TransPeshawar, Rapid Transit (BRT) surge compared to the system has achieved an meagre 2% estimated impressive ridership of before the implementation approximately 80 million of the BRT system. Due to people during the outgoing calendar year 2023. contributing to a total commuter of 215 million since its inception in August 2020, said annual report shared by the TransPeshawar operator of system here on Tuesday. It said that a noteworthy shift was reflect our dedication to

Industry at the Commerce Ministry in Islamabad.

world-class transit system observed in the gender ensuring that everyone can that caters to the diverse access and benefit from our needs of our community while duly accounting for

security in the country, He said that the said University of fertility of land was Agriculture Faisalabad Vice decreasing with the passage

agricultural

### Call to equip youths with latest technologies to root out poverty, unemployment

Youths must be equipped with latest skills and had

institutions must play their key role, said Dr Šajjad Arshad, Acting President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry

(FCCI). of the Punjab Vocational Dr Sajjad Arshad said that capabilities for the uplift of bankruptcy.

FAISALABAD (APP): the country. He said that China and other countries successfully technologies to root out revolutionized their poverty and economies by efficiently unemployment and in this utilizing their youths. He connection government said that 20 million youths were unemployed and we must devise strategies to train them in different market-driven skills.

"It will not only make them productive for In a meeting with themselves but also for the Madam Bushra Nawaz, country", he said and added Senior Manager Public that the skilled human Relations and Marketing resource could start their own businesses instead of Training Council (PVTC), running after jobs. He said that Pakistanis in the world youths are our most were sending hefty precious asset but we are remittances which had not utilizing their saved Pakistan from



**ISLAMABAD:** Chair-Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan (IPO) Farukh Amil, witnesses the Signing Ceremony for the IPO-Pakistan & Punjab Information Technology (PITB) landmark agreement regarding launching of PayZen Agreement at IPO-Pakistan Headquarters.

### Hybrid seed can increase sunflower production manifold: experts

Agriculture experts have its production manifold. A spokesman for the Agriculture (Extension) Department said here on

Tuesday that Pakistan had could be saved by

FAISALABAD (APP): country. He said that sunflower was a precious advised farmers to use oil-seed crop as its seed hybrid seed of sunflower had 40 to 50 percent oil varieties as it can increase and its production could play a major role in trimming down the export bill of edible oil in addition to catering to domestic needs. He said that the to spend Rs.300 billion per growers should prefer seed annum on the import of of hybrid varieties as it edible oil and the amount could give maximum production and help them promoting cultivation of mitigate their financial oil-seed crops in the constraints.

against Dollar KARACHI: Stockbrokers monitor the share prices during a trading session at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi, Pakistan, 26

December 2023. The Pakistani benchmark 100 index 59,170.97 was down 2534.12 with points in the open market stood at Rs282.7 and Rs285.2

ISLAMABAD (APP): vehicles", he said while (SBP). talking to a Private news The government is Minerals Ibrahim Hassan also planning to offer for the Punjab government was manufacturing electric

Ahmad Khan. at Rs 76.88 and Rs75.27

Modern technology can make agriculture more profitable: UAF VC

FAISALABAD (APP): Strategy Plan 2023-2033, Modern trends and tangible he said that agriculture researches should be was facing soil fertility, disseminated at doorsteps inputs, mechanizations, of farmers to make markets, water, seeds, agriculture profitable in fertilizers and other agriculture profitable in

Chancellor Prof Dr Iqrar of time for which Chairing a meeting of recommendations would the Punjab Agriculture have to be adopted.

#### social equity. Growers advised to water wheat crop timely FAISALÂBAD (ÂPP):

Agriculture experts have advised growers to water their wheat crops on time to get healthy and bumper production. A spokesman for the Agriculture (Extension) Department said here on Tuesday that in most of wheat areas, growers did not care about

Dr. Tariq Usman Saeed.

upgrades to the Zu app

enhance user experience,

offering features like recharging through Omni

The transformative

balance

timely watering wheat crops, which affected the quality as well as quantity of the production

dynamics of ridership, with women constituting services seamlessly, said 30% of the total the Chief Executive Officer

the increasing popularity and demand, the system is constantly expanding. "Zu Peshawar is unwavering in

Shop, comprehensive travel histories, and NFCsupported its commitment to fostering inclusivity and embracing technological advancements. Our ongoing the urban transport efforts to make the system more welcoming for

uploads, he added. He said that their focus on network expansion for wider city coverage through new feeder routes aligns with

specially-abled individuals our vision of creating a

#### Daily \_ doice of Masser Independent

Wednesday December 27, 2023

# National News

Page 03

### **Punjab Governor says: Circumstances under** which Bangladesh separated reminded of a painful past

**Independent Report** LAHORE: High High Commissioner of People's High Republic of Bangladesh to Pakistan Ruhul Alam Siddique called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman and discussed promotion of bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade and education during a meeting at the Governor's House, here on Tuesday.

The Honorary Consul General of Bangladesh Qazi Humayun Fareed was also present on the occasion, says a handout issued here by the Governor's media team.

Governor Puniab

Muhammad Balighur translated into even Rehman and Bangladesh stronger economic, trade, Commissioner investment, educational, expressed concern over the and cultural linkages to the Israeli bombardment and benefit of both nations. atrocities on the Palestinian He said it is heartening people. Muhammad to know that Pakistani Balighur Rehman said the circumstances under which

medical and dental students are studying in Bangladesh Bangladesh was separated on scholarships. He said reminded of a painful past. He said Pakistan and that there should be maximum exchange of Bangladesh have once been student delegations in the a nation and country, and educational institutions of both of them share common the two countries. He said faith, history, and culture. that he would also talk to the Higher Education The Governor Puniab for

said both countries can Commission scholarships for Bangladeshi students in move forward as good neighbours, adding that goodwill existing between Pakistani educational both countries needs to be institutions

#### **CM** visits Bibi Pakdaman

shrine LAHORE (APP): With the completion of 97 percent of the renovation and expansion works, the historic Bibi Pakdaman shrine is set to reopen its doors to pilgrims before December 31st

Punjab Minister Mohsin Naqvi **RAWALPINDI: Workers of Pakistan Peoples Party** visited the site on light up the candles in memorandum of Former Tuesday to review the Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (Shaheed), at her progress firsthand Accompanied

officials, Chief Minister Naqvi closely inspected the ongoing finishing touches on the main shrine

structure and iconic domes He emphasized the importance of highquality craftsmanship and directed officials to prioritize the completion of the widened pathway

ensure smooth movement for pilgrims. Minister Naqvi stressed the need for a dedicated space for lamp-lighting rituals and instructed the installation aesthetically pleasing lighting.

Furthermore, Chief

welcomed him.

# Naqvi reviews progress Southern Loop-3 project

Independent Report Ring Road Southern Loop project marks a significant stride towards completion, reaching the 60

on Lahore Ring Road

percent milestone Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday conducted a comprehensive review of the ongoing progress at Adda Plot Raiwind, personally inspecting the Lahore Ring Road Southern Loop 3 project.

The chief minister examined the ongoing construction activities spanning 8 km from Adda Plot Raiwind to Maraka Multan Road. He closely observed the works on the

entire route, including the AHORE: The Lahore construction of bridges. In response, the CM issued directives for the expeditious completion of the project.

During a meeting at the FWO (Frontier Works Organisation) camp office chaired by Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Colonel Jamal and Colonel Ahmed provided a detailed briefing on the project's progress. The meeting addressed various issues related to the project. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi emphasized

that the completion of Ring Road Southern Loop 3 would enhance transportation facilities for the public.



LAHORE: Bangladesh High Commissioner in Pakistan Ruhul Alam Siddique meeting with Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman.

#### Election 2024: **Candidates blow horns to** attract voters after submitting nomination papers in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The stalwarts of Pakistan candidates of all mainstream politico-religious parties and independents have expedited election campaigns and corner expedited meetings to inform the masses about their election manifestos after submitting nomination papers for different constituencies for general election 2024.

The scrutiny of nomination papers continued in the respective offices of returning officers in all 37 districts of KP where the process would be completed by December 30, 2023. Eying on national and post-mortem examination. provincial assemblies, the speaker KP assembly.

territory.

chief.

Peoples Party (PPP) Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N), Awami National Party (ANP), Jamiatul Ulema Islam-F (JUI-F), Jumat e Islami Pakistan and Pakistan Tehrik e Insaf (PTI) have mostly fielded political heavyweights to clinch maximum seats from Khyber Pakthunkhwa and form government for next five years. On NA-28 Peshawar-I, a total of 33 candidates filed papers including former member national assembly, Noor Alam Khan of JUI-F former minister KP, Taimur

Salim Jhagra of PTI and ex-

DERA ISMAIL KHAN no party should be coerced Central or marginalized in the Information Secretary of political process, advocating for equal political opportunities for everyone to engage in politics. The masses will not accept any government unless free and fair elections are

called for ensuring free and fair elections scheduled for February 8 2024, adding that it is imperative for While democracy. addressing the press conference in DI Khan, he demanded a level playing field for all political parties in the run-up to the general elections, the nation would not elections to ensure a free, fair. accept it because now there and transparent electoral was a majority of conscious exercise. He asserted that young people.

targeting place, Liaqat Bagh in City.

(APP):

the Pakistan People's

Party and candidate from

NA-44, DI Khan-I, Faisal

Karim Kundi, on Tuesday

Kundi calls for free,

fair general elections

ensured. The credibility of the Parliament will be nothing if transparent elections are not conducted in the country," he added. He said that this time if the selection process was adopted instead of transparent

about the health of the patients and the availability of medicines surrounding the shrine to

by provincial ministers and **Independent Report** PESHÂWAR: Caretaker

Minister for Industries, Technical Education, and NMDs Affairs Aamir Abdullah visited Mardan Medical Complex (MTI) last night and inquired

and doctors. Additional Deputy Commissioner (General), Saeedullah Jan, was

accompanying him. On the arrival of the caretaker minister, Dr Azam Manan, DMS of Mardan of Complex, Medical

Governor Pakhtunkhwa,

competitiveness

Ghulam Ali has emphasized the crucial role

of education in global

enrollment of female

counterparts in both primary and higher

He said that the

provincial them further. The

highlights women's deep ravine

BALAKOT (Online): A educational achievements jeep is reported to have plunged into deep ravine in ABBOTTABAD (APP): but also their excellence in the area of Ghanol getting prominent educational positions. Thanwan in Balakot leaving two persons including a Addressing at the first local councilor dead.

convocation of the Government Women's According to Rescue authorities the accident College of Commerce and was so fatal that two Management Sciences here persons including local Tuesday, the Governor councilor who were on students in the province urged the female students board the jeep died on the now surpassed their male not to let their education spot. Rescue is shifting the go to waste, emphasizing bodies to hospital. the transformative impact

> Transgender killed in firing incident

PESHAWAR (APP): A transgender was killed in a firing incident by unknown assailants riding a motorcycle near Government College Chowk within the jurisdiction of Shaheed Gulfat Hussain police station on Monday.

Upon receiving the report, Superintendent Police Faqirabad Division Osama Amin Cheema and ASP Faqirabad Muhammad Aleem promptly responded, securing the crime scene initiating an and investigation. The victim's body, lacking any identification documents, has been taken into custody and transferred for

Baghdad

condemns US

strike on Iraqi

military positions

Monitoring Desk

BAGHDAD: Iraq's govern-

ment condemned on Tues-

day overnight US air strikes

on Iraqi military positions

that it said killed one ser-

viceman and wounded 18

other people, calling them a

has carried out retaliatory

air strikes on Monday in

Iraq after a one-way drone

attack earlier in the day

by Iran-aligned militants

that left one US service

member in critical condi-

tion and wounded two

The government condemned the US strikes

as "an unacceptable vio-

lation of Iraqi sover-

others.

eignty.'

The United States

'clear hostile act"

**Minister visits MMC** inquires health of patients minister visited various Ward,

Neurosurgery Ward, Orthopedic Ward Medical Ward, and CCU

provincial government has launched the Khushal ministers are going to various districts to review the facilities provided to the people to improve

wards of Mardan Medical Complex, including the OPD, Accident and Emergency

(Cardiology Ward). The Caretaker Minister said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa program to improve the provision of various services, under which the

International News

**Governor KPK** 

Khyber

Haji

education. He not only educated women can have

highlighted the greater on societal and national

number of female students development.

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi inspecting the under construction work of Lahore Ring Road Southern Loop-III Project. Two die, jeep plunges into

# **US carries out air strikes** on sites used by Iran-backed forces in Iraq

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: The US military carried out strikes on three sites used by Iranbacked forces in Iraq on Monday after an attack wounded three American personnel earlier in the day, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said.

Washington has repeatedly targeted sites used by Iran and its proxy forces in Iraq and Svria in response to dozens of attacks on American and allied forces in the region since the October 7 outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war.

"US military forces conducted necessary and proportionate strikes on three facilities used by Kataeb Hezbollah and af-

filiated groups in Iraq," strikes in a call with Austin Austin said in a statement. and other national security officials after ordering the These precision Defense Department to strikes are a response to a series of attacks against US prepare a response, the personnel in Iraq and Syria statement said. by Iranian-sponsored militias, including an attack by higher priority than the pro-Iran-affiliated Kataeb tection of American person-

Hezbollah and affiliated nel serving in harm's way. groups on Arbil Air Base The United States will act earlier today," he said. at a time and in a manner of That attack wounded our choosing should these three US military personattacks continue," the state nel, one critically, US Nament added. tional Security Council The drone attack was spokesperson Adrienne claimed by the Islamic Re-Watson said in a statesistance in Iraq, a loose for-

Biden "places no

mation of armed groups af-President Joe Biden filiated with the Hashed alwas briefed on the attack Shaabi coalition of former which was carried out paramilitaries that are now integrated into Iraq's reguwith a one-way attack drone — and directed the lar armed forces.



over the weekend, in an ef-

fort to "maintain a deter-rent presence," it said late

on Monday. The Indian navy

was investigating the na-

'Further forensic

will deploy guided missile destroyer ships in the Ara-

Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a house, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and bian Sea after an Israel-affiliated merchant vessel was Hamas, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip. struck off the Indian coast

ment.

### Israel launches more Gaza strikes as Netanyahu says Hamas must be destroyed

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: Israeli shellfire slammed into central Gaza on Tuesday after Prime Min- militant attack on Israel in ister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged no respite in attacks on Hamas, as residents of the coastal enclave mourned more dead in a war that has cost more than 20,000 Palestinian lives.

Israel is determined to pursue its goal of destroying Hamas despite global calls for a ceasefire in the 11-week-old war, amid concerns the conflict could spread with U.S. and Iranaligned forces attacking slaughtered.

ture of the attack on the vessel, MV Chem Pluto, each other elsewhere in the which docked in Mumbai region. Since Hamas made on Monday, and initial the deadliest Palestinian reports pointed to a drone attack, the statethe country's 75-year hisment said. tory, Netanyahu has responded with an all-out and technical analysis assault on Hamas-ruled will be required to estab-Gaza. On Tuesday, the Islish the vector of attack raeli military said 160 solincluding type and amount of explosive diers have so far been killed in Gaza since used," the statement ground operations began added.

on Oct 20. A spokesperson for Iran's foreign ministry on Monday called a US 'Seventy-five years of suffering, our rights taken, our country claim that Iran had at seized, and our people tacked the ship near India "baseless



King Charles, Queen Camilla, Prince William, Princess Catherine, Princes George and Louis, and Princess Charlotte, arrive at St Mary Magdalene's church to attend the royal family's Christmas service.

### **Turkey's parliament** set to debate Sweden **NATO bid**

NATO members except **Monitoring Desk** ISTANBUL: The Turkish Turkey and Hungary. The parliament was Tuesday set two ultimately relented and to resume debate on ap-Finland was accepted as proving Sweden's bid to NATO's 31<sup>st</sup> member in join NĂTO, a thorny issue April Turkey and Hungary that was further complicated after President Recep remain the only North Atlantic Treaty Organization Tayyip Erdogan linked it to members left to ratify Ankara's request for F-16

fighter jets from its ally the Sweden's bid 19 months after it applied for member-United States. Sweden and Finland ship. In November, the dropped decades of military Turkish parliament's fornon-alignment and sought to join the US-led defence eign affairs committee failed organisation after Russia into reach agreement on a text

for a full floor vote and will vaded Ukraine last year. Their bids won fastmeet again on Tuesday aftrack approval from all ternoon.

Indonesia nickel smelter furnace fire kills 13 workers, injures 46

**Monitoring Desk** JAKARTA: Thirteen workers were killed and 46 injured on Sunday in a fire at a nickel smelter furnace owned by Indonesia Tsingshan Stainless Steel (ITSS) on Sulawesi island, the owner of the industrial park where the smelter is located said.

The fire occurred when workers repaired the furnace and installed plates at 5:30 am on Sunday (2130 GMT on Saturday), killing nine Indonesian workers and four Chinese workers,

trial Park (IMIP) said in a statement. The fire was extinguished at 9:10 am local time, it added.

It had said earlier that an explosion killed eight Indonesian and five Chinese workers. The furnace was shut off the day before to prepare for maintenance, ÎMÎP said, but during the maintenance process excess iron slag flowed from the furnace. "The furnace walls then collapsed and the remaining iron slag flowed out

out air assault on Crimea's port of Feodosia **Monitoring Desk** 

KYIV: Ukraine carried out an air attack on Feodosia in Crimea, Ukraine's air force commander said on Tuesday, after the Russian-installed governor of

the Crimea said that the assault sparked a fire in the town's port area. The com-mander of Ukraine's air force, Mykola Oleshchuk,

said on the Telegram messaging app, without pro-viding evidence.

#### Philippines is not provoking conflict in South China Sea, its military says **Monitoring Desk**

Medel Aguilar told state broadcaster PTV. MANILA: The Philip-

"We follow internapines is not provoking tional law and we are only conflict in the South China implementing our domestic Sea, its military spokeslaw, meaning the limits of person said on Tuesday, our territorial waters and responding to China's acexclusive economic zone. cusation that Manila was where we have sovereign encroaching on Beijing's rights.

The comments came a It was the latest salvo day after the People's amid rising tension as the Daily, the mouthpiece of the two have traded accusa-Chinese Communist Party, tions in recent months wrote that the Philippines over a series of maritime had relied on US support run-ins, including China alto continually provoke legedly ramming a ship this month carrying the China.

This "extremely dan-Philippines' military gerous" behaviour seriously "The Philippines is harmed regional peace and stability, it added. not provoking conflict,"



A fighter of the Iraqi Kataib Hezbollah militia group and a man inspect the site of a U.S. airstrike, in Hilla, Iraq.

### **Ethiopia becomes** Africa's latest sovereign default

**Monitoring Desk** LONDON: Ethiopia became Africa's third default in as many years on Tues-day after it failed to make a sources familiar with the \$33 million "coupon" payment on its only international government bond. Africa's second most

populous country an-nounced earlier this month that it intended to formally go into default, having been under severe financial strain in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and a two-year civil war that ended in November 2022

weekend, but the widely It had been supposed expected default will see it join two other African nato make the payment on Dec. 11, but technically had tions, Zambia and Ghana.

pires

up until Tuesday to pro-

vide the money due to a 14-

day 'grace period' clause

written into the \$1 billion

bond. According to two

situation, bondholders had

not been paid the coupon

as of the end of Friday.

Dec. 22, the last interna-

tional banking working day

before the grace period ex-

ment officials did not re-

spond to requests for com-

ment on Friday or over the

Ethiopian govern-

**Ukraine carries** 





### Daily **Independent**, Hub



KARACHI: President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the Pakistan Navy Engineering College (PNEC) Convocation 2023.

### Govt to extend all-out support for uplift of KP merged districts: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said that despite the availability of limited resources the government would extend all possible support to the provincial government for uplift and welfare of the merged dis-tricts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK).

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to discuss the matters about KPK, said that being cognizant of their problems, the federal government stood with the government and people of the province.

He also instructed the authorities concerned to resolve the issues confronting the KPK province that had rendered immense sac-Murtaza Solangi on Tues-day assured the Senate that rifices against terrorism. The prime minister inthe government would folstructed to form a secrelow House recommendatarial committee to resolve tions regarding the salaries the KPK's financial matand allowances of governters and formulate recomment employees, including mendations regarding the Balochistan. payment of net hydel profits and the royalty of oil and

In response to ques-tions during the question hour regarding the less repgas. To be headed by the federal finance secretary. resentation of officers from the committee would con-Balochistan at the federal sist of federal secretaries of level, the minister asked the planning, water resources, and petroleum. lawmakers to formulate a

policy and make recommendations if there was any perceived injustice. Responding to questions from Senators Fauzia

#### Arshad, Mohsin Aziz, and Danesh Kumar, he welcomed the suggestions from

salaries, allowances: Solangi ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate members regarding issue of F14, F15, and the use of zig-zag technol-ogy in rural areas for mak-Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, and Parliamentary Affairs ing bricks.

**Government to follow Senate** 

recommendations on employees'

He acknowledged that zigzag technology was effective in reducing emissions of pollutants and increasing efficiency, though it was still expensive.

Irfan Senator Siddiqui's question about the non-allotment of plots to retired employees, the minister assured that he would inform the House after obtaining information from the department.

If the chair deemed it appropriate, the matter could be referred to the privilege committee, he In response to Sena-

tor Mushtaq Ahmed's question, the caretaker federal minister said that the

added.

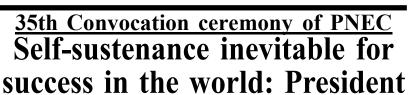
meeting regarding digitalization of revenue record

Bhara Kahu sectors should be sent to the relevant standing committee. Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani referred the matter to the concerned committee for further in-

vestigation. The minister said that currently, no caretaker minister was using bulletproof vehicles. He said that all details regarding the use of bulletproof vehicles by ministers and advisors dur-

ing the previous govern-ment had been shared with the House. Murtaza Solangi said that Senators have the right to criticize the decisions and policies made by the previous government re-

garding the provision of bulletproof vehicles to ministers and advisors.



KARACHI (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi on Tuesday said that self-sustenance is inevitable for the success in the world and expressed the confidence that Pakistan would progress and develop. Addressing as chief guest on the occasion of the 35th stan Convocation ceremony of Pakistan Navy Engineering

College (PNEC) at Baharia Auditorium here, he said that the world needed intellect at the moment and there was no dearth of it in Pakistan.

Rector National University of Science and Technology (NUST) Lt General Mehmood and Commander Karachi Rear Admiral Muhammad Saleem were also present. During the convocation, a total of 368 graduates were awarded Bachelors' and

Postgraduate degrees including the foreign students. The President also awarded 39 medals to the students on their outstand-

ing performance. Addressing the convocation, President Dr. Arif Alvi appreciated the efforts put in by the PNEC for maintaining high standards of education by providing quality engineers to the evolving industry of Paki-

opening of the doors to the knowledge for the students and said, they must learn He emphasized that responsibility of PNEC has more and more. Earlier, Commandant PNEC Comfurther increased in present modore Tauqeer Ahmad realm of emerging technolo-Khawaja apprised that gies like Artificial Intelli-PNEC was making all out gence and Robotics. He also efforts to provide the best acknowledged that foreign engineering education to its students were a testimony students in multiple discito the College's credentials plines.

prosperous Pakistan and

keep themselves abreast and with fast changing ad-

vancements in technology.

President Dr. Arif Alvi

termed the completion of

degrees by students as an

in the engineering sector. He highlighted that NUST Further, he highlighted the achievements of stu-PNEC will continue with dents in various events held its legacy of being the preat national and international mier engineering and techlevels. He highlighted the nology institution, fulfilling opportunities provided to present day engineering the students at different forums in order to groom and nurture the young en-

The President felicigineers. The ceremony was tated the graduating students and their parents and attended by a large number advised the graduates to be of military and civil digniactive members of society taries and parents of graduin building a stronger and ating students



needs of the country.

QUETTA: Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai photographed with participants of a workshop organized by Women Media Center

#### **Project of fruit & vegetable** market Chaman enters in final stages of completion **Independent Report**

to the concerned authorities QUETTA: The crucial to complete it at the earliest.

According to the offi-

project of fruit and vegetable market Chaman has cial sources of planning and entered the final stages of development department, completion. The sources of Plan-

the state of the art project ning and Development Debeing constructed with mutual financial cooperation partment, Government of Balochistan informed that and partnership of the federal and provincial governthe vital project is likely to be formally inaugurated in ments. mid February next year.

The project would It may be mentioned play important role in sociology-economic develophere that the caretaker ment of the province. Chief Minister Mir Ali

The project that would cost Rs 1656.936 Mardan Domki had taken special interest in the million would include truck & bus terminals, taxi stand, Dual road and mosque.

### **PEMRA** prohibits broadcast, distribution of surrogate company ads

The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Author-ity (PEMRA) on Tuesday prohibited "broadcast/dis-tribution" of advertisement of surrogate companies in any manner whatsoever with immediate effect.

The Authority, in its prohibition order, warned all the licensees, including satellite television (TV) channels, radio stations, all landing rights permission holders and distribution network operators of legal proceedings under relevant provisions of PEMRA laws in case of non-compliance and/or on repeated violation.

It said that the order was issued in continuity of its earlier letters "wherein office memorandum/advisory issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Islamabad compan with regard to "Zero Toler-houses"

ISLAMABAD (APP): ance for Surrogate Companies" were circulated among licensees for compliance". 'The Authority, while

exercising powers vested under Section 27(a) of the PEMRA Ordinance 2002 as amended by PEMRA (Amendment) Act 2023, hereby prohibits broadcast/ distribution of advertisement of surrogate companies (in any manner what so ever) with immediate effect which are promoting gambling/ betting in different sports events being telecast/broadcast/rebroadcast in the country and refers the matter to Council of Complaints (Islamabad) for appropriate recommendations to the Authority, " it added.

sity of Gwadar has visited The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting the Pakistan-China Institute (CPI) under the has already vowed zero tol-Balochistan Youth Engageerance against the surrogate ment Programme. companies of the "betting



relations between Pakistan

and China, unveiled a com-

prehensive agenda, aimed at

enriching the understanding

and collaboration between

Pakistan and China," a news release said on Tues-

mary focus is to empower

the vibrant youth of the

Balochistan region, recog-

nizing their pivotal role in

shaping the future land-

lightening experience was the 8th CPEC Media Fo-

of DC, IG

Islamabad

till today

At the core of this en-

scape of both nations.

The initiative's pri-

ISLAMABAD (APP): An Pakistan Economic Corri- intricate legislative prodor (CPEC) on Balochistan. eleven-member delegation of students of the Univer-Beyond a conven-

gic initiative.

tional information-sharing session, this forum facilitated dynamic and thoughtprovoking discussions, fostering a nuanced and 'This multifaceted deeper comprehension of phasizing the paramount

cesses shaping the nation's policies.

Renowned communication strategist at Institute of Regional Studies Reema Shokat brought her expertise to the forefront, emrole of effective communi-

cation in both academic to take its fraternal relations with China to new heights. He urged the newly appointed ambassador to play In another session, role for strengthening Pak-

China relations.

Pakistan determined to take fraternal ties with China to new

# heights: PM

QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat presiding over a ISLAMABAD (Online): Newly appointed Ambas-**Gwadar University delegation** sador of Pakistan to China Khalil Hashmi called on Caretaker Prime Minister visits Pakistan-China Institute Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in

Islamabad Tuesday. The Prime Minister expressed his best wishes for Ambassador Khalil Hashmi on assuming office.

Ambassador Khalil Hashmi took guidance from the Prime Minister regarding China-Pakistan relations.

project of fruit and veg-etable market in the border The Prime minister said Pakistan is determined town Chaman and directed



QUETTA: Nawabzada Haji Mir Lashkari Raisani talking with mediamen

### **PIA's privatization being** carried out under govt's policy: Senate informed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Private Partnership Au-Adviser to Prime Minister on Aviation Air Marshal (Retd) Farhat Hussain Khan on Tuesday informed the Senate that the privatization of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was being carried out under the government's policy to privatize loss-making entities.

Responding to a question during the Question Hour, he said the process of privatization of PIA is being completed transparently through open tender. The Adviser said initially, PIA will be privatized as a flight entity and the decision on its other properties will be made later by the Privatization Commission.

Regarding outsourcing of airports in the country, the Advisor mentioned that a Transaction Advisory Services Agreement (TASA) had been signed between the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a subsidiary of the World Bank Group. This agreement, approved by the then Federal Cabinet in line with the Public

rum, providing an immersive platform for the delegation to gain profound thority (P3A) Act and its insights into the far-reachrelevant regulations, aims to ing impact of the Chinaoutsource the operations of three international airports EC directs to in Islamabad, Karachi and provide name Lahore, he told.

The Advisor highlighted that the IFC would act as a transactional advisor for the outsourcing of airports. Islamabad International Airport has been ISLAMABAD (Online) selected as the first airport

Election Commission (EC) to be outsourced. The has directed to provide outsourcing period for Islamabad International name of Deputy Commis-sioner (DC) and IG Islamabad till today Airport is set at 15 years, while the time frames for Wednesday). the remaining two airports On the other hand inwill be determined by the terior secretary has re-Federal Government

quested the EC not to transbased on a detailed study fer both the officers in view prepared by IFC, he added. of the security threats fac-The Advisor said, the ing the federal capital. successful bidder for

The case regarding transfer of DC and IG Islamabad International Airport will be disclosed Islamabad came up for hearafter the bidding process is ing before 4-member bench completed and the award of of EC Tuesday. concession for outsourcing Interior secretary ap

is expected to be completed peared before the commis before June 2024. sion. He told the commis-The Advisor clarified sion that EC orders with that only the operation and reference to advisor to management of specific air-Prime Minister have been port components would be implemented. outsourced.

The students had an and diplomatic spheres exclusive session with between Pakistan and Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Ex-China ecutive Director of the Pa-

kistan-China Institute, Moin ul Haque, former which provided a unique Ambassador of Pakistan to space for a rich exchange of ideas and perspectives, amplifying the depth of understanding for both the delegation and the hosting tions

institute The delegation further enriched their experience delegation actively cewith a guided visit to the mented diplomatic ties with Parliament House and Sena visit to the Chinese Emate of Pakistan. bassy in Islamabad.

with The delegation had a Engaging Muhammad Mushtaq, Spechance to meet with Bao cial Secretary/Advisor (Leg-Zhong, Counsellor of the islation), National Assem-Political and Media Section bly Secretariat, provided at the Embassy of China in valuable insights into the Pakistan

QUETTA: Quetta Metropolitan Corporation (QMC) Administrator, Jabbar Baloch in a meeting with Municipal Officers held at QMC.

#### Non provision of level playing field: **PTI files contempt of** court plea in SC on non implementation its orders

mentation of court's orders spondents. related to level playing field.

The PTI has requested SC to ensure implementation of its December 22 orders. PTI in its petition has

made federal government, from filing nomination pa-provincial governments and pers despite court's orders. Ali Taj.

#### Senate unanimously approves first **Parl. Caucus on Water Resources**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani. The Upper House of the Parliament on Tuesday unanimously approved the first ever Parliamentary Caucus on Water Resources by adopting a mo-tion moved by Senator Saadia Abbasi of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in this regard.

The 334th session of Senate was presided over by

sources as an ex-officio member. She said since the Presenting the motion, Senator Abbasi maintained Parliament only comprised that under Rule 204 of the of the Senate as the Na-Rules of Procedure and tional Assembly did not Conduct of Business in the exist so nominations for the Caucus should be made Senate, 2012, the House from the Senate. "The might authorize the Senate honourable Chairman Senchairman to appoint a Parliamentary Caucus on Waate may also be authorized ter Resources in the counto make nominations from the Senate to the Caucus and try, comprising the mem-

bers of the Senate and the make changes in its compo-sition as and when required. Minister for Water Re-

#### **Court grants** bail to Pashteen in two cases

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Anti-terrorism Court of Islamabad on Tuesday granted bail to Manzoor Pashteen in two separate cases filed against him at the CTD Police Station.

ATC Judge Abual Hasnat Muhammad Zulqarnain heard the bail application of Manzoor Pashteen. During the hear-

Constitution

ing, the prosecutor pleaded that Pashteen's application should be rejected as he had spearheaded a gathering, where he spoke against the state institutions. The defence counsel contended that Manzoor Pashteen had not spoken.

Soyem of GM Taj to be held today Independent Report

Secretary Health Abdullah QUETTA: The sovem of Khan on Tuesday said that the Ex Vice Chancellor Unipractical measures were versity of Balochistan and being taken to provide qualformer officer of the civil ity health facilities to paservices of Pakistan, Mr. tients in official hospitals Ghulam Muhammad Taj is in respective areas of scheduled to be held be-Balochistan. tween Zuhr and Asr prayers

today (Wednesday) at Arman Manzil, opposite Headquarters Hospital Saryab Police station, (DHQ) Surab area of Kalat Saryab Road, Quetta. Dua district. The Secretary said would be held at 3:30 pm. that the DHQ Surab would The late Mr. Ghulam be strengthened by provid-ing consultants, doctors

Muhammad Taj was the father of Secretary Government of Balochistan, Sheryar Taj and brother of the people. Engineer Umar Farooq, Fateh Hussain and Fateh

Zardari pays to tribute to Shaheed BB, vows to continue her mission

KARACHI (INP): Former from the country was the President of Pakistan and mission of Shaheed President of Pakistan and President of Pakistan Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Peoples Party Parliamen-tarians (PPPP), Asif Ali and the completion of this mission was top priority of Zardari paying tribute to Shaheed Mohtarma the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). Asif Zardari said Benazir Bhutto on martyrthat the martyred party dom anniversary and reitchairperson was neither afraid of dictators nor did erated to continue her mission regarding struggle for a she fear the extremists. Her free and independent Pakibravery was the legacy of the leadership and workers of Pakistan Peoples Party, stan, empowered Parliament and the rule of the In his message on the eve of the martyrdom anni-versary of Shaheed Benazir

he added. He said that the time was not far away when Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan will be the Bhutto, he said that elimirealization of a Pakistan free nating poverty, unemploy- of political, social and ecoment and economic misery nomic exploitation.

### Step afoot to provide health facilities to people in hospitals of Balochistan Independent Report QUETTA: Balochistan

this occasion. Medical Superintendent (MS) Dr Sanaullah Riki gave a presentation about the hospital to the Health Secretary.

The Secretary said that the surgery would begin with the launch of MNCH services including Comprehensive

He shared these views Emergency Obstetric and New Born Care (CEMONC) at the hoswhile visiting the District pital, a state-of-the-art ICU and blood bank to be established.

He said that the hospital would be provided and technical staff to prowith standard medical vide quality healthcare to equipment and beds for fa-

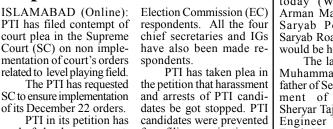


cilitating patients in the Health Kalat Dr Tahira area. Secretary Health also Kamal, Director Health Dr appreciated MS, DHQ and DHO for making efforts for Shaukat Ali Baloch, DHO the provision of health fa-Surab and Staff Officer Secretary Health Shaukat cilities to patients in the Baloch were also present on hospital.

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HUB: Members of Civil Society are holding protest demonstration for the establishment of local committee, outside Civic Center building.



#### China, shared experiences and perspectives, offering a historical lens on the evolution of diplomatic rela-Beyond the confines of formal engagements, the