### naenentent

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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the Caretaker

He said that so far 174

requests for ECP Accredi-

tation Cards had been re-

foreign media representa-

tives and their associated

Pakistani staff who were

tion by media, he said so

far 25 applications were

JK alone, 08 from Rus-

Japan, 02 from South Af-

egory of International

Observers. Accreditation

Cards had also been pro-

cessed for local Pakistani

media houses, Murtaza

Solangi said and added so

far 6,065 journalists had

been processed including

1200 from Lahore, 1470

from Karachi, 1050 from

Peshawar, 600 from Quetta,

from Faisalabad and 290

media intends to go and

cover other cities, besides

Islamabad, Lahore and

Karachi, would be exam-

ined on case-to-case basis.

in consultation with rel-

evant ministries, he said.

EC freezes dev.

funds of

local bodies,

cantonment

boards

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Election Commission (EC)

has freezed development

funds of local bodies and

cantonment boards all over

the country. Development

Funds of local bodies and

cantonment boards of

Sindh, KP and Balochistan

will remain freezed till elec-

tion issued by EC the devel-

opment funds of local bod-

ies and cantonment boards

have been freezed and the

local bodies will do cleanli-

ness and sanitation work

and daily routine matters.

They will not be authorized

to launch new scheme or

According to notifica-

tions are held.

offer tenders.

The cases where the

from Multan.

Responding to a ques-

Elections 2024:

### Cabinet approves deployment of Pak army, civil armed forces

Forces will perform duties at sensitive constituencies and polling stations, and will also act as a rapid response force

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Cabinet on Tuesday approved the deployment of Pakistan army and the civil armed forces to ensure the peaceful conduct

of general elections across the country. These forces will perform duties at sensitive constituencies and polling stations, and will also act as a rapid response force.

The decision came following the submission of a summary by the federal Interior Ministry in the meet-

The cabinet which met here under the chairman-ship of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, also discussed in detail the recommendation

with respect to the digitization and restructuring of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

After a thorough discussion of the proposals made in light of the opinions of the cabinet members regarding the restructuring and digitization of the FBR, the prime minister directed to establish of an inter-ministerial committee under the supervision of the caretaker finance

Other members of the committee will include federal ministers for privatisation, foreign affairs, commerce, energy, law and justice and information technology.

The committee will present its recommendations regarding these proposals in the next meeting of the federal cabinet.

The cabinet appreciated the efforts of Finance Minister Dr. Shamshad Akhtar in increasing the tax revenue and improving the tax-GDP ratio.

### 49 foreign journalists issued visas so far for coverage of upcoming elections: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General Radio system in India for issu-Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Tuesday that certain elements were just harping on the (for Islamabad Lahore and rumours that "no foreign Karachi) had been issued journalists and observers as of today while 32 re- based in Pakistan. would be arriving Pakistan for coverage of upcoming general elections" which was contrary to facts.

He was addressing a press conference flanked by Secretary Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid, Executive Director General External Publicity Wing Ambreen Jan, Principal Information Officer Delhi and were being pro-

Pakistan Saeed Sheikh.

Many international media persons had applied for visas to cover the elections, Murtaza Solangi ceived and processed for said adding that 49 visas quests were under process with many other requests were still being received from different stations of under process from the the world.

He said that these 32 sian Federation, 13 from visa applications for coverage of elections were un- rica while 05 from Comder process which had monwealth under the catbeen received in Pakistan High Commission New Dr Tariq Mehmood and cessed due to manual visa



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi addressing a press conference at PTV Headquarters.

### **US pledges** over \$320,000 to Mehrgarh Museum

US ambassador says Mehrgarh Museum is not just collection of artifacts but it's living connection to our shared past as human beings

**Independent Report** 

QUETTA: The United States Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome and Chief Minister of Balochistan Ali Mardan Khan Domki launched the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) first-ever project in Balochistan.? This landmark initiative allocates over \$320,000 for the preservation of Neolithic and other archaeological artifacts of the Mehrgarh civilization, as well as the enhancement of curation at the Mehrgarh Museum of Balochistan in Quetta.?

In his remarks, Ambassador Blome said "This endeavor underscores the importance the United States 355 from Hyderabad, 250 | places on the cultural legacy of Balochistan and our com- tory and the Mehrgarh mitment to fostering a Museum of Balochistan.

deeper appreciation of its

The United States has awarded more than \$8 million for 33 cultural heritage projects across Pakistan, including in Sindh province the restoration of Varun Dev Temple, Frere Hall, the Nusserwanjee Building, and the tombs of Sultan Ibrahim and Amir Sultan Muhammad at the UNESCO World Heritage Site Makli Hill necropolis.

The launch, attended by U.S. Consul General Karachi Conrad Tribble, officials from the Government of Balochistan Culture Department, and Sindh Exploration and Adventure Society (SEAS) co-founders Dr. Kaleemullah Lashari and Dr. Asma Ibrahim, included an overview of Mehrgarh his



KARACHI: Chief Minister of Balochistan Ali Mardan Khan Domki and Ambassador of United States to Pakistan Donald Blome launching the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) first-ever project in Balochistan

### BYC calls off Islamabad sit-in

ISLAMABAD (INP) -The Baloch protesters, who had been staging a sitin outside Islamabad's National Press Club (NPC) since December, called off their demonstration on Tuesday.

This decision followed a letter from the NPC to Islamabad police requesting the removal of the Baloch rights camp, a request that was retracted after facing widespread criticism, including from journalists.

The protesters. organised by the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC), had initiated the sitin on December 22, persisting despite adverse weather conditions. Additionally, they accused the police of harassing their supporters, profiling them, and filing First Information

Reports against them. Dr Mahrang Baloch expressed disappointment, emphasizing the media community's responsibility to support those whose voices are marginalised. She reported harassment, threats, and the spread of false information, stating that there was a supposed threat around the press

### club area. Firing near check post, 2 laborers killed, 2 injured in DI Khan

DI KHAN (Online): 2 laborers were gunned down and 2 were injured near police check post in Dera Ismail Khan (DI As soon as the incident

was reported, a large number of rescue officers and police reached the scene. The injured and dead

bodies have been shifted to DHQ hospital Dera. According to media re-

ports, it has been revealed in the initial reports that 4 persons who were killed and injured were laborers who were working in the fields when unidentified persons opened fire. Police said in this regard that incident took

place near police check post in Garah Hayat. Further investigation is underway and search for terrorists has been started. It is pertinent to say that earlier 3 FC officials were injured in an attack on security vehicle of Oil and Gas Com-

According to police, unidentified person attacked the security vehicle of the Oil and Gas Company in Darzanda area. The vehicle was detonated by remote control bomb, injuring 3 FC officials.

### SC reserves verdict in appeal against termination of Shaukat Saddiqui

ISLAMABAD (APP): Advocate Khawaja The Supreme Court of Pa- Haris, the counsel for Lt. served its verdict in an ap- Hameed and Irfan Ramay, peal against the termination denied the allegations levof Justice Shaukat Aziz Saddiqui as a judge of his clients. Islamabad High Court

A five-member larger bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Amin ud Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Irfan Saadat Khan heard the case.

During the proceeding,

kistan on Tuesday re- Gen (retired) Faiz The CJ noted that

former registrar of SC had also submitted his comments in the case.

CJ Qazi Faiz Isa said that Attorney General has already stated that facts were not investigated after the speech of Shaukat Aziz Saddiqui. He asked that lawyers now tell how to run further proceeding.



LAHORE: Muslim League (PML-N) Leader, Maryam Nawaz Sharif waving hand to her supporters during rally as a part of Election Campaign for the upcoming General Election 2024, in Lahore.

### **Evidences**, sources prove India supports terrorism in **Balochistan: Global Times** BEIJING (APP): There are a long history of backing

"solid bits of evidence" proving that India supports terrorist forces in some Pakistani areas like Balochistan province, providing them with money, weapons, and training, some sources close to the matter told the Global

While continually sup-

pressing some of its rivals and neighbours in the international community with the excuse of anti-terrorism, India has secretly funded terrorist forces in Pakistan, in various parts of the South Asian country, such as Balochistan, inciting local secessionists to undermine regional stability through terrorist attacks, they revealed.

Through looking into historical materials and related news reports from both Pakistani and Indian media sources, as well as speaking with sources and observers who are familiar with the situation in Balochistan, the Global Times found that India has

terrorism in Pakistan. 'Concrete evidence

In December 2023, a commander of the Baloch National Army (BNA) separatist militant group, who had surrendered himself to the Pakistani government, disclosed that India has been secretly supporting terrorist activities in Balochistan and financing separatist forces in the region.

According to media sources, Sarfraz Ahmed Bungulzai made the announcement at a press conference in Quetta. Bungulzai said that he thought his armed struggle was for Baloch rights, but later he realized that "India is involved in all these conspiracies.

And after taking money from India, they shed the blood of their own Baloch," said Bungulzai,

according to media reports. A Pakistani source told the Global Times that once again, it shone a light on India's behind-the-scenes villainv

### Shehbaz declares Nawaz as guarantee for economic revival, development

(INP): President Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has declared party supremo Nawaz Sharif as guarantee for economic revival and development of country if voted to power on February 8.

While addressing an election campaign related public gathering in Ahmedpur Sharqia on Tuesday, he said that threetime prime minister Nawaz Sharif has served South Punjab while being in power and he would continue the journey of bringing prosperity to Pakistan including South Punjab after coming into power.

Terming the 2018 elec-

AHMEDPUR SHARQIA tions in Pakistan as fraud, tion had to suffer due to what happened after the said bogus polls.

Revealing his development plan for Ahmedpur Sharqia, the former PM said that he will establish Danish Schools in every Tehsil of Punjab if Nawaz Sharif

was voted to power. Shehbaz also announced to give status of district to Ahmedpur Sharqia after coming into power in the 2024 elections.

He said that Nawaz Sharif after coming into power will announce 'big projects' for Ahmedpur Sharqia masses will not be



QUETTA: Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai meeting with Caretaker Home Minister Captain (retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali

CT Minister Home visits BPSC, meets Chairman:

### **Merit-based recruitments to** guarantee development of country: Zubair Jamali

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Captain (Retd) Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has stated that the recruitments of youth on the basis of merit is guarantee of development of the coun-

The caretaker Minister was speaking to the Chairman Balochistan Public Service Commission Khan

(BPSC), Abdul Salik Khan during his visit to the Commission here on Tuesday.

During the course of meeting, matters about mutual interest were discussed. He said that it is very

important for the young sters to use modern technology. Mr. Jamali appreciated performance of the BPSC and congratulated its entire team under leadership of Chairman, Abdul Salik

### As compared to other provinces Governor highly concerned about highest maternal mortality rate in Balochistan

(APP): Pakistan People's

Party (PPP) Chairman

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said

that his party has jumped

into the political arena to

weed out the politics of

hatred and division of the

Addressing a public gathering in Chiniot on

Tuesday, he said, "We are

not interested in aggravat-

ing the political and eco-

nomic situation while pro-

moting political differences

into political enmity. The

PPP has never been in-

**Independent Report** 

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has expressed serious concern over the highest maternal mortality ratio in Balochistan as compared to other provinces of country.

He regretfully pointed out that the maternal mortality rate during delivery procedure is highest in the province as compared to other provinces.

He said that every possible resource would be provided to the historic Lady Dufferin Hospital Quetta so as to improve its performance further and thus control the maternal mortality rate in the prov-

The Governor was speaking to the members Lady Dufferin Hospital's committee who called on him under leader- most priority of the gov-



CHINIOT: Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

addressing a public gathering at Hockey Stadium.

PPP to end politics

of hatred: Bilawal

CHINIOT/FAISALABAD volved in the politics of vic-

timization rather we want

had floated a unique mani-

festo of 10 points for eradi-

cation of poverty and im-

prove lifestyle of the

masses. He said that provi-

sion of free electricity up to

300 units was the top pri-

ority the PPP after coming

to power whereas the

people belonging to the low

strata of life would also be

facilitated with 3 million

houses along with their

ownership rights.

He said that the PPP

to live and let others live."

ship of former Senator Mrs. Roshan Khursheed Bharucha here at the Governor's House on Tuesday.

He noted with contentment that Lady Dufferin Hospital has been serving in the healthcare sector in Quetta for last

130 years. He said that hundreds of thousands people have so far benefitted from the hospital during the long

span of time He said that it is top-

ernment to provide basic health facilities to the masses at their doorstep. In this regard, services

of both public and private hospitals are really commendable, he added. He particularly appreciated the services of Lady Dufferin Hospital and said that it is an asset for the

province. He said that this hospital can be emerged as an exemplary hospital of the province by equipping it with modern medical equip-

### Daily Aoice of Masse. Independent

### Our 'free' media

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar told a CNBC interviewer during his recent trip to Davos that the media in Pakistan was "freer than in the West", while arguing that Western media operates under far more regulations compared to the media

Mr Kakar's words brought to mind a similar statement made by former prime minister Imran Khan during his tenure, when he had made the same appraisal of press freedoms in Pakistan in response to a probing question by a foreign interviewer.

The answer had been as scandalising to practising journalists then as it is now. Taken without context, their words seemed to suggest that the relative lack of formal regulatory oversight gives Pakistani media some sort of qualitative edge. Anyone familiar with the country and its media landscape knows that this is clearly not the case.

The truth is that whenever the Pakistani media and working journalists have attempted to assert their freedoms in recent years, they have invariably been made to pay a very heavy price for it.

Starting from the days when Nawaz Sharif last fell out of favour with the establishment, powerful operators acting behind the scenes have used progressively coercive means to whip the media into lining up with their narratives. This publication is among those that were made to suffer the worst of such practices.

So weary have media practitioners now become of the sword constantly hanging above their necks that various journalists' and media workers' representative bodies resolved this past weekend to begin pushing back against it.

The Coalition for Free Media, as it is being called, is a welcome effort that had been long awaited. It is hoped it will be able to wrest back a modicum of the independence Pakistani media has been gradually deprived of over the last de-

From high-profile abductions that have gone unquestioned to unresolved murders of journalists, the Pakistani media fraternity has suffered much in silence, while being forced to cede more and more control over editorial decision-making to unaccountable individuals.

Press 'advisories', a relic of the Zia era, now seem to be issued every week. Both overt and veiled threats are issued periodically, ensuring that few dare question the state's diktats.

There is a growing realisation that protecting press freedoms is no longer a question of self-preservation or interest: it is clear that the Fourth Estate cannot continue to watch out for the public interest and fulfil its duty to speak truth to power if it allows itself to continue to be divided and exploited by a

In this suffocating environment, more and more journalists and media practitioners are realising that their safety is in presenting a united front. More power to those leading the change.

### Winners and losers

### Dr Niaz Murtaza

Who will the winners and losers be in the 2024 polls? Some jokingly say that even though the polls themselves are not certain, the winner

certain, why would anyespecially as the US may link a critical new IMF a national calamity, polls still months late uncon- there. stitutionally. And yet there is doubt.

There is often uncertainty even in the US despite credible opinion and actual polls. In our context, a recent poll shows the PTI and But are our opinion polls reliable? The 2013 and 2018 ones were reasonably so. Such polls caveats though. Polling take national or provincial samples and not constituency ones. So, they predict the vote ratios of parties overall but not their number of

The average of four polls (Gallup, Pulse, IPOR and SDPI) completed within two months of the 2018 polls had the PTI, PML-N and respectively. 31.8pc, 24.4pc and 13pc. than 4pc, which is common even in the US.

In 2013, the average of two polls (Gallup and IRI) showed the PML-N, have played a key role PPP and the PTI getting in changing the choices 36pc, 15.5pc and 16pc of the votes, even closer to the 33pc, 15pc and 17pc actual ratios. So, the there is no PTI in the polls of such firms can't biased or unscientific, despite the many con- lows the Election Comaccurate surveys in Pa-

vote ratios translate into ECP to handle national Courtesy Dawn

in 2018 and PML-N 46pc in 2013 but the PPP got

only 2pc more in 2008. What can we expect in 2024? Gallup has withheld national results this (favourable) winner is time. But its recent poll shows the PTI at 34pc one try to delay them, and PML-N at 32pc in all-crucial Punjab, ie, close as in 2018 nationloan to polls? So, barring ally. Given the 2013 and 2018 trends, the PTI may on Feb 8 look certain, win 40-45pc of seats

The PTI got 45pc support in KP (the PMLand JUI-F together gest a PTI set-up nationally and in Punjab and PML-N close in Punjab. KP, a PPP one in Sindh, with Balochistan unclear. There are two big

over the months in 2018 had shown the PTI's vote ratio increasing but PML-N's falling. Gallup polls over the months in Punjab now show the reverse. This momentum may mean a PML-N win. But both trends are odd. In 2017-18, the PML-N had given 6pc growth, low inflation, CPEC and a cut in terthe PPP getting 28.3 per rorism and power outcent, 27.5pc and 16.5pc ages. In 2022-23, it gave near-zero growth and They actually got record inflation. So, neither trend reflects party So, they erred from the outcomes. But the comactual ratios by less monality is that in 2018, the PML-N faced the establishment's wrath which now PTI faces even more. This may

of voter blocs watching for such signals. The bigger caveat is polls, unfairly removed be rejected outright as by the party symbol case verdict. No law al-But it did so twice with But how did the the PTI. Laws allow the losers are the masses.

seats? The party with polls disputes via tributhe highest actual vote nals run by judges, as it ratio got 10-15pc more isn't a judicial body. Arseats: the PTI 43pc seats guably, the ECP nixed the PTI's party polls without law and capacity. PTI horses must run independents though it's unclear if any law says so.

Party symbols

don't represent their registration but are given in elections due to illiteracy. The ECP says PTI is still registered with it. So, its winners must be treated as its assembly representatives. subject to party loyalty laws, even if the PTI's symbol doesn't appear got 24pc) and 19pc in on ballots. Forcing them Sindh (PPP got 42pc) in to run as independents this poll. It would sugmay confuse voters, and more critically, make PTI winners open to poaching by others waiting with their nets. It all appears designed. It follows the imprisonment of the PTI's top leaders, forced desertion and rally bans. More novel ploys may emerge to undercut the party until and after polls

All this may make 2024 polls more rigged than the 2018 and 1990s ones and on a par with those held in 1985 and 2002 by unconstitutional regimes. Similar rigging can apparently happen even under constitutional rule.

This may usher in an inept and weak PML-N regime reliant on small parties, more so than the PTI in 2018. Even if the PTI wins by magic, we will still have an inept set-up with uneasy ties with all key internal and external forces.

The only (tiny) hope is if the winner is allowed to appoint a competent cabinet, letting the Sharifs or Imran Khan run the parties, as Congress did after Rajiv Gandhi's death to usher in India's progress under straints in carrying out mission of Pakistan to Manmohan Singh. Othreject party poll results. erwise, even if the winners are not certain, the

### **Blinding rage**

### Shahzad Sharjeel

Blinding pretenders to the throne has been an age-old favourite in our part of the world. In addition to making the aspirant an example for external adventurists and curbing in-house ambition, the injury also added to the challenge of runthat frequently experimonarch usually had to quell, leading the forces at the empire's

the battlefield. Lest anyone assume that the despicable practice was limited to kings and their 16<sup>th</sup> century, Mallu Adil Shah of Bijapur was blinded on his Maratha grandmother's orders to promote another brother in the line of succession.

In an age when physical prowess was at least as much, if not more, important than the intellectual capacity to mount a credible opponent must have appeared as sufficient risk as possible, short court did little by way of outright extermination. Maybe, in their sick minds, they occupied a status one rung higher than those of murderers.

In the Bhagalpur district of Bihar in 1980, police officials, with the knowledge of at least one minister and active indifference of officers as senior as DIG and IG, went about blinding as many as 87 suspects in custody over a nine-month period. They claimed this was the only way to stem the tide of criminal activities in the area. The readers shall be spared the gruesome details of how these protectors of life and More than 60 people

superintendent Bhagalpur Central safety standards. were sus-Prison, pended.

The superintendent, who had for- Bhagalpur warded the victims' pening chaotic kingdoms titions for relief to the officialdom's failure. chief judicial magisenced uprisings the trate, along with his for- stents were put in warding letter, was ac- people's hearts not too cused of failing to record and report the and, in one case, a seundertrials' condition curity guard were disposal personally in upon receiving their found to be performing custody at the jail. The surgeries. According paity bhais (people to media reports, a docwearing the same belt/ tor and a motor mebadge) closed ranks chanic were running a sons or brothers, in the and claimed that enraged mobs man- racket. Inquiries and handled all the victims and that they were ated; however, 'gown brought to the police brothers,' too, have stations

The Indian su-

matter for three years. It used 'grandiloquent' language to express its anguish, as Arun Shourie, former editor puts it in his book The important positions. Those victims who survived the ordeal got Rs30,000 deposited in their bank accounts as off its interest, a grand amount of Rs750 a month at its highest point before it was dis-

tion against 18 Directorate of Drug Control eye injection case. honour went about have lost their vision their gory business. It completely or partially

**Independent Report** 

KARACHI: Mr. Saquib

Fayyaz Magoon, Acting

President FPCCI, has

free trade agreements

nations should be addressed; which, in turn,

has limited our trade

volume with a huge

continent comprising of 54

countries. There are

significant economies in

Africa with whom we can

multiply our trade volumes

within years - both

bilaterally & exports to the

region cumulatively, he

Saquib Fayyaz says:

**FPCCI** to support look

Africa initiative & FTAs

stressed that the absence of free trade agreements approximately 78 percent

(FTAs) with the African of the total GDP of Africa;

billion.

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz areas of mutual interests:

top 7 economies of Africa; i.e. Egypt, Nigeria, South

Africa, Algeria, Ethiopia,

Morocco and Kenya – accounting for

with each having country

GDP in upwards of \$100

that The Federation of

Pakistan Chambers of

Commerce & Industry

(FPCCI) and Pan African

Chambers of Commerce &

Industry (PACCI) have

held a high-profile

interactive session to

identify and explore the

It is pertinent to note

took some brilliant and because of the admincourageous investiga- istration, without contive reporting to expose sent, of apparently the case. Inquiries were contaminated supplies initiated, and 15 police of the drug. The inofficials, including the spectors were responsible for ensuring

Some would consider it unfair equate atrocity Puniab Consider that expired long ago. Technicians kidney transplant 'action' will be initialready each other's back. Even if the culprits are apprehended, tried, preme court heard the and punished, how do you bring back the dead or compensate for a limb or an organ?

The days of absolute monarchs and tychallenge, blinding an of the Indian Express, rants may have been over, and the modern Commissioner For Lost state guarantees rights a minimisation of future Causes. However, the and protections to its citizens. However, in of punishing the police- the absence of conmen whose suspen- stant vigilance, acsions were, one by one, countability, and timely revoked, and some were justice, tiny state offieven promoted to more cials and common criminals can turn diabolical. One is reminded of Iqbal's poem Ghulam Qadir Rohilla, in which he laments the brutality compensation to live of the invader who gouged out Mughal emperor Shah Alam II's eyes upon overthrowing him. The Rohilla at continued altogether least had an old grouse to hide behind, as his Recently, the care- erstwhile retainer had taker chief minister of purportedly gotten him Punjab approved ac- castrated in childhood to serve inside the royal harem. What harm did officials in the Avastin Punjab's hapless citizens bring the health officials to deprive them of their sight? --Courtesy Dawn

### Commerce News

### **BOI** assures support for transferring of 'Nantong HiTide Biotechnology'

Muhammad Sohail Rajput on Tuesday assured full for the establishment and transfer addressing animal health farmers in Pakistan. of Nantong HiTide challenges. Biotechnology's to The Pakistan.

Investment, Dr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput, hosted a distinguished delegation led by Lin Xyue, President of Nantong HiTide Biotechnology, in a productive meeting at his office, said a press release issued here.

Nantong HiTide, and research and Biotechnology is engaged in Veterinary bio-product Nantong HiTide manufacturing and supply.
There is an emphasis

on innovation and R&D other than production, technology consultation, and service of biological solutions for

serving farmers in

development of a foot and mouth disease vaccine in poultry, and other animals. Pakistan.

Biotechnology aims to bring its advanced technology personalized support to Pakistan's agriculture and livestock sector. Chen Shang, a Board

ISLAMABAD (APP): animal disease control. Member of HiTide Secretary Board of Their commitment to Investment, Dr. providing safe and highquality products aligns affordability of their with their dedication to vaccines, aiming to enhance animal health for

The company plans discussions to establish a new facility during the meeting centered in Pakistan, focusing on the Secretary Board of around a potential development and estment, Dr. collaboration for the production of high-quality vaccines for cattle, pets,

> The company will The proposed establish its lab in Pakistan collaboration includes and transfer technology. potential avenues such as establishing a lab in Pakistan, joint ventures, established in 2017 by Dr. Lin Xuye, the company stands as a leading private Nantong HiTide high-tech enterprise. specializing in animal vaccines and adjuvants. Notably, some of the company's products have

# ISLAMABAD: CEO EnerTech Abdullah al-Mutairi called on Caretaker

Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

### Pakistan to facilitate Chinese companies in field of smart city construction

bilateral

cooperation in the field

digital

is actively promoting digitization and embracing smart city construction," new technologies and industries to foster comprehensive economic and social development.
"The Pakistan

Embassy in China will continue to provide comprehensive support and assistance to Chinese companies, including Beijing Construction Intelligent Control (BUCIC), in facilitating

development. During the visit, the

delegation toured BUCIC's state-of-the-art facilities, which encompassed the implementation of big data Digital Experience Center projects in Pakistan and and the Urban Rail Transit promoting cooperation Cloud Intelligent IoT

Beijing.

enhance

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan between China and Laboratory.

They were highly impressed by the digital said Aslam Chaudhary, transportation and smart Economic Minister in city-related products, with a special focus on the Pakistan Embassy in integrated intelligent Aslam Chaudhary led control center. a delegation to BUCIC to integrated The

control center incorporates a range of facilities and functions, such as station control rooms, customer service centers, fire control rooms and ticket booths, contributing to intelligent operation maintenance, China Economic Net (CEN)

### reported on Tuesday. Gold up by Rs.500 ISLAMABAD (APP):

The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.500 and was sold at Rs.215,200 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs.214,700 on last trading

Rs.184,500 prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.169,124 immense opportunities in Rs.168,731, the All Sindh Sarafa Association reported.

### FPCCI, maintained that the chamber-to-chamber apex body will fully support Look Africa JVs; business tourism and Policy Initiative of the economic cooperation. Pakistan; and, will Magoon, Acting President advocate signing of free FPCCI, apprised that

Ministry of Commerce, with the African nations. He specifically demonstrated stagnation emphasized to have bilateral FTAs with the in 2022.

Magoon, Acting President trade promotion activities; linkages; investments &

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz trade agreements (FTAs) Pakistan's exports to Africa, as a whole,

### **POL** import bill declines by 13.78% in 1st half of FY 2023-24

imports of the overall petroleum group contracted by 13.78 per cent during the first six months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) compared corresponding period of the the last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The total imports of the petroleum group during July-December (2023-24) stood at \$ 8,005.784 million against the imports of \$9,285.522 million during the same

ISLAMABAD (APP): The

petroleum commodities, the products declined by 24 per cent, from \$ 4,202.185 million last year to \$3,193,849 million during period review.Likewise, the imports of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) declined by 4.96 per cent from \$1,949.704 million last year to \$ 1,852.996 million this year whereas petroleum crude dipped by 5.94 per cent from \$ 2,776.186 million.

period of last year.Among

### Sargodha Citrus Fest kicks off in Federal capital to captivate visitors

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: The firstever two-day 'Sargodha Citrus Fest' kicked off at COMSTECH on Tuesday displaying around 45 varieties of citrus fruit and its products attracting a large number of visitors.

The fest is being organized by the University of Sargodha COMSTECH jointly where the visitors enjoy the products, especially citrus fruitmade cakes, juices, desserts, candies and green tea besides a variety of citrus fruit. The varieties of citrus

fruit including Rangpur Carrizo citrus exhibition being Dahi, Rangpur, Gilgil, Mitha, Pishawari Mittha, Kinnow, Seedless Lemon, Jati Khati, Bara Masii, Ornad Blood, Mosambi, Murcott and many others were exhibited

through several stalls.

especially fruit enthusiasts of all ages on Wednesday too offering citrus-infused culinary delights and interactive exhibits. The staff of the

University of Sargodha briefed the visitors about the products made from citrus fruit and offered them to taste.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sargodha, Prof. Dr. Qaisar Abbas welcomed participants of the inaugural ceremony and said that this is a first-ever

organized in Islamabad. Prof. Qaisar Abbas shed light on the brief history of the University of Sargodha and said that the uniqueness of this university is that it has faculties of both medical The citrus fest is set and agriculture.

### **PSX** stays bullish, gains 514 points ISLAMABAD (APP):

outperformed industry

giants like Pfizer and

Boehringer Ingelheim.

The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 514.81 points, a positive change of 0.81 percent, closing at 64,454.22 points against 63,939.41 points the previous trading day.

A total or 425,709,896 shares valuing Rs.24.995 billion were traded during the day as compared to 298,699,061 shares valuing Rs.12.515 billion the last day. Some 354 companies transacted their shares in

them recorded gains and 127 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 18 remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were Oil and Gas Development with 52,947,125 shares at

Rs.136.50 per share, Fauji

44,935,382 shares.

Ltd

Foods

the stock market; 209 of

### Vegetable dehydration initiative can help generate handsome income

National Productivity about Organization (NPO) arranged an awareness session on vegetable dehydration to improve farmers' income and improve exports.

General Manager NPO Wajeeha Ahmed Abbasi while addressing the participants at Multan Chamber of Commerce and (MCCI) Industry remarked that NPO was

MULTAN (APP): The imparting information vegetable dehydration across the country

The government is committed to enhancing vegetable exports, she

President Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mian Rashid Igbal stated that there were foreign markets for vegetable export.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs. 429 to Rs.184,071 whereas the from Jewellers

Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that our

religion has laid great

emphasis on education.

The first word revealed to

our last Prophet Hazrat

Muhammad (PBUH) from

Allah Almighty was Iqra,

which means to read, to

seek knowledge. Governor

Punjab urged the students

to develop a penchant for

success is one's character

that guarantees success in

life and hereafter. He said

that the students should

truthfulness, honesty, and

tolerance in their character

Governor Punjab said that

there are many positive

knowledge.

### Governor emphasizes importance of alternative medicine in Punjab

Independent Report LAHORE: Federal Health Minister Nadeem Jan called on Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur should also pay special Rehman at Governor attention to the cleanliness House Lahore. During the of infrastructure, kitchens, meeting, a detailed discussion was held about the measures taken in the health sector. Punjab Governor appreciated the services rendered by Federal Health Minister and gave suggestions for reforming the system in view of misuse of health card in the past. Governor Punjab also emphasized the importance

alternative medicine. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur that Rehman said providing basic health facilities to the people is very important. He emphasized the situation is continuously improving

**Ombudsman Punjab** 

takes 26 notices,

resolves public issues

LAHORE (APP): In related to cover open

taken by Ombudsman A significant amount Punjab Maj (retd) Azam of Rs 60,000 was invested

Suleman Khan in December in resolving three

to provide relief to the complaints regarding waste

general public by resolving disposal and Rs collective public problems 247,769,000 was spent in

at the grassroots, the resolving ten complaints

respective districts spent a cleanliness of streets and

total of Rs 257.3 milion to roads across different

However, 100 other public issues did not incur 3,465,180 was utilized to

districts.

government attend six complaints,

street

The spokesman for filtration plants, ensuring

office of the access to clean drinking oudsman Punjab water for the public, the

taken. Rs 339,500 were concerned administration

sewerage lines repair, Rs successfully addressed 26

5,722,500 were spent to notices for the restoration

response to 126 notices manholes.

administration

resolve 26 problems.

relevant departments.

Ombudsman

expenditures for the

actions taken by the

shared the financial

breakdown of the actions

spent to address three and

complaints related to departments

address four complaints of sewerage lines.

due to the measures taken occasion, Punjab Governor in the health sector. He said that Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) and washrooms of medical colleges, hospitals and student hostels.

On this occasion, Federal Health Minister Nadeem Jan informed Governor Punjab about the measures taken in the health sector. He said that revolutionary measures are revolutionary measures are provides opportunities to being taken along with the get a job, but the real policy of producing the basic ingredients of medicines at the local level in Pakistan.

Later. Governor develop qualities like Punjab Muhammad Rehman/ Balighur Chancellor presided over the 19th Convocation of Lahore College for Women University

Speaking on this of society

A significant amount

regarding, repair and

linked to the repair of

maintenance of water

spokesman stated.

Notably,

lights and

### things in our, we should look at the positive aspects Efforts to be made to regularize

BAHAWALPUR Renowned (APP): intellectual, parliamentarian and candidate for NA-168, Syed Tabish Alwari has said that he would make serious efforts for the

slums: Alwari

regularization of slums in Bahawalpur. He said this during his meeting with the Christian community in Islami Colony Bahawalpur here. He said that tens of thousands of poor people used to live in slums. He emphasized the need for practical measures should

be taken to regularize

slums.

He said that if he won the general elections from NA-168, he would make serious efforts for the regularization of slums. He further said that people should vote for honest candidates who were sincere to resolve their



Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

### **KP** Governor writes to caretaker CM for provision of medicines to hospitals

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Ghulam Ali has written a letter to the interim Chief Minister Arshad Hussain Shah here urging immediate provision of essential and emergency medicines to government

Drawing the attention of the KP CM to the issue, the Governor said that the shortage of emergency medicines including lifesaving drugs, anti-rabies vaccines and

of grave concern and posing a threat to the poor and vulnerable population of the province. He said the issue was

also highlighted by the

leading newspapers and needed decisive action and intervention of the interim CM as the issue was tarnishing the public image of the

caretaker set up. The Governor urged the caretaker CM to take provision the

prompt action and ensure immunoglobulins in the emergency and essential government hospitals. government hospitals was medicines in

### Work is in progress on Orange train to solar power: Hasan Murad

**Independent Report** LAHORE: Provincial Transport Minister

Ibrahim Hasan Murad said in a statement that on the instructions of the Chief Minister of Punjab, the work on the project to shift the Orange train to solar in Lahore in the first phase is going on rapidly.

The provincial minister said that on the recommendation of the Energy Department, the talks with NESPAK have entered the final stages, but after signing the agreement with NESPAK, the study transferred to solar energy.

will be completed within 3 months and after the study, the solarization project will be started.

The provincial minister further said that solar panels will be installed at Depots, stabling yards and stations of Orange train while solar grid stations will be constructed at stabling yards and orange train

Ibrahim Hasan Murad said that along with the Orange train, the

### **ANF** seizes 190 kg drugs in six operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in its crackdown against drug traffickers managed to recover over 190 kg drugs and arrested seven accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on

Tuesday. He informed that 3 kg Ice drug was recovered from three Doha-bound passengers in two different operations at Islamabad Airport.500 grams heroin was recovered from a passenger going to Bahrain at Bacha Khan Airport. 52 heroin-filled

capsules recovered from the stomach of a passenger going to Doha at Allama Iqbal Airport.

### **Interim bail** of PTI leaders extended

PESHAWAR (APP): The interim bail of PTI's former Mehmood Jan, cabinet members and MPAs in corruption and illegal appointments cases was extended till February 13.

PTI's former Deputy Speaker Mehmood Jan, Taimur Saleem Jhagra, Fazal Elahi, Kamran Bangash and Muhammad Asif, MPAs Ajmal Khan, Guldad Khan and Aftab Alam were having allegations of corruption and illegal appointments in

### Launches Bannu Economic Zone **Caretaker CM vows** zero tolerance for corruption

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Justice (Retd) Arshad notice of complaints regarding undue problems in the Integal of land (land transfer deeds).

He has directed the Board of Revenue Land to obtain records of land Integal deeds from the last four months.
The Chief Minister

has instructed the records to be scrutinized in the CM Complaint Cell, and individuals should be contacted by telephone to ensure that no additional amounts were wrongfully taken from them during the Integal of land process.

He announced a zero-

PESHAWAR (APP): tolerance policy of the Caretaker Chief Minister government against government corruption and warned of strict action against Hussain Shah, has taken officials involved in

corrupt practices.

Meanwhile, Caretaker
Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Justice (Retd) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah formally launched the Bannu Economic Zone here on Tuesday.

launching The ceremony was held here in the Chief Minister's Secretariat wherein the Caretaker Chief Minister also distributed plot allotment letters among intending investors. Bannu Economic Zone is 14<sup>th</sup> zone of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi along with Inspector General Police Punjab inspecting latest Security Cameras after inaugurating Special Protection Unit (Special Operation Room) at city traffic Police Lines Manawa.

### Naqvi inspects public welfare projects

**Independent Report** Caretaker Chief Minister Lahore Ring Road's southern loop-III, Babu Sabu toll plaza, Liberty's Capri cinema and inaugurated the SPU's operations room at city traffic police lines at Manawan

The CM conducted a detailed visit of 8-KM long LRR's SL-III from Maraka to Adda Plot to check the progress, said a handout minimizing issued here on Tuesday.

He checked the quality of asphalt work at various Mohsin Naqvi inspected Expressing optimism, he anticipated the project's swift completion, ensuring seamless traffic flow, given the accomplishment of both major and minor structures. In a

development, the Babu Sabu toll plaza is set to undergo enhancements aimed at improving accessibility vehicle queues.

### International News

### At least 50 injured in major earthquake on China-Kyrgyzstan border

mountainous China- Almaty, th Kyrgyzstan border on largest city. Tuesday, authorities said.

The major quake was registered just after 2:00 am (1800 GMT Monday) at a depth of 13 kilometres in China's Xinjiang region, about 140 kilometres (85 miles) west of the city of

quake's epicentre, Beijing's Xinhua state news agency said, while in the county collapsed, around 800 people were on standby for any large disaster relief mission.

Almaty, the country's

Images posted on social media and by local news outlets showed citifollowing the quake. In China's Akqi homes

County, six people suffered injuries—two of which were "serious"— Local authorities dis- according to a Weibo post patched a team to the by a Xinjiang government media account A total of 47 buildings

while a further 78 were damaged, the post said. er relief mission. Two residential The health ministry houses and livestock sheds

ALMATY (AFP/APP): At in Kazakhstan said that 44 collapsed in the area near least fifty people were injured after a 7.0-magnitude ous" injuries had sought wushi County, Xinhua reearthquake struck along the medical help in the city of ported, while electricity was temporarily knocked

Video circulating on Chinese social media showed household applizens streaming outside ances crashing to the floor as wild shaking rocked

> More footage shared state broadcaster CCTV showed firemen entering a damaged building with cracked walls and police helping an injured

Local TV channels in the Indian capital New Delhi reported strong tremors in the city, about 1,400 kilometres away.

## Russian President Vladimir Putin takes part in the official ceremony for

pouring the first concrete into the foundation of power unit 4 at Egypt's El-Dabaa Nuclear Power Plant with the participation of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, via video link at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia.

### US, Britain hit targets in Yemen as Huthis vow to strike back

United States and Britain launched a second round of joint military strikes on Yemen's Huthis on Tuesday over their attacks on Red Sea shipping, as the rebels vowed to hit back.

The latest raids, heard by residents of the rebelheld capital Sanaa around midnight (2100 GMT), hit eight Huthi targets, a joint US-UK statement said, while the Huthis listed 18 strikes across their terri-

US and British forces carried out a first wave of strikes against the rebel group earlier this month, and the United States launched further air raids against missiles that Washington said posed imminent threats to both civilian and military vessels. The latest US-UK strikes were against "eight Huthi targets in Yemen in response to the Huthis' continued attacks against international and commercial shipping as well as naval vessels transiting the Red Sea".

### 12 injured as Myanmar military plane overshoots India runway

Lengpui told AFP that the flight was collecting 92 soldiers who had crossed into

> they were not authorised to speak to the media. Footage of the crash's

### Russian strikes kill four, wound dozens across Ukraine KYIV (AFP/APP):Dozens

of people were injured and least four killed after a wave of Russian missiles targeted Kyiv and other cities across Ukraine, setting residential buildings ablaze and reducing others to rubble. Rescue workers in Kharkiv. Ukraine's second-largest city near Russia's border, hauled injured residents from the scene of an attack where smoke rose from smouldering piles of rubble, AFP journalists reported.

The regional governor said three residents were killed in the overnight bar-

### New ambassadors present credentials to Turkish **President Erdogan**

WASHINGTON (AA/ APP): Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan received letters of credentials on Tuesday from the new ambassadors of four coun-

At the presidential complex in the capital Ankara, Erdogan separately welcomed Gabriele Juen of Austria, Ahmed Ben Sghaier of Tunisia, Kok Li Peng of Singapore, and Maria Virginia Mendes Da Silva Pina of Portugal.

### 'extremist' Republicans in abortion vote battle (AFP/ ment legalizing abortion that

Biden, Harris blast

APP):US President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris put abortion reelection campaign Monday, attacking Republicans over an issue that Democrats see as a powerful vote winner against Donald

Trump.
"How dare he?" Harris said of former president Trump—who has boasted of his role in overturning the constitutional, federal right to abortion—as she traveled to Wisconsin at the start of a nationwide tour on the issue

Biden meanwhile railed at "extremist" and "cruel" Republicans in a speech at the White House marking Wade, the landmark judg- year's election.

the conservative-leaning US Supreme Court then stunningly overturned in in 2022. rights at the center of their Harris and Biden warned that Republicans will impose a nationwide abortion ban if the party wins the November presidential election.

Already, 21 states have brought in full or partial bans since the Supreme Court—where Trump-appointed justices tilted the balance sharply to the right—issued its ruling.
"These extremists are

trying to take us backwards. We are not having it," Harris, 51, said to a cheering crowd in Big Bend in Wisconsin, which is expected to be one of the most the 51st anniversary of Roe v closely fought states in this

### **Blinken sees Ivory Coast** model on extremism on Africa tour

ABIDJAN (AFP/APP): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday praised Ivory Coast for choosing a less militarised approach to security, on a Ouattara. "I think that can tour to rally African democracies as crises engulf the region and world. Blinken was meeting

separately with two key leaders on the same day— Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara, a veteran leader who has won US praise for consolidating democracy, before heading to Abuja to see Nigerian President Bola Ahmed forces. Tinubu, elected last year on a platform of economic reforms.

In Abidjan, Blinken hailed Ivory Coast's stand against last year's coup in building security together" by investing economically to combat extremism in northern areas bordering Mali and Burkina Faso.

"I have to applaud coups in West Africa.
the approach that's been "Like the United taken by Cote d'Ivoire working with communities, listening to commu-tice.

nities, making sure that their security forces understand the needs, the concerns of communities, Blinken said alongside serve as a very powerful model for other countries," he said.

Ivory Coast has not

experienced a major terrorist attack for some two years, despite its troubled neighbourhood. Blinken nonetheless promised to boost cooperation on the ground with Ivory Coast, largely training of security

He said that the United States would provide an additional \$45 million to West African nations as part of a plan to battle instability, bringing Niger and its approach of total funding under the year-old programme to nearly \$300 million.

Óuattara expressed appreciation for the US assistance and voiced alarm over a spate of

States, we are very committed to democracy and jus-

### WHO chief warns pandemic accord hangs in the balance

**Monitoring Desk** GENEVA: The World Health Organisation chief fears plans for a global pandemic preparedness agreement will fall apart amid wrangling and disinformation, warning on Monday that future genera-

tions "may not forgive us". Shaken by the Covid-19 pandemic, the WHO's 194 member states decided more than two years ago to start negotiating an international accord aimed at ensuring countries are better equipped to deal with the next health catastrophe, or to prevent it altogether.

The plan was to seal the agreement at the 2024 World Health Assembly, the WHO's decisionmaking body, which convenes on May 27. But WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the momentum had been slowed down by entrenched positions and "a torrent of fake news, lies, and conspiracy theories". And he warned that

if nobody is prepared to seize the initiative or give

ground, the whole project risks going nowhere. "Time is very short. And there are several outstanding issues that remain to be resolved, Tedros told the WHO's executive board in

Failure to strike an agreement would be "a missed opportunity for which future generations may not forgive us," he said. Tedros said all countries needed the capacity to detect and share pathogens presenting a risk, and timely access to tests, treatments and vaccines.

He called for a 'strong agreement that will help to protect our children and grandchildren from pandemics"

Tedros said claims that the accord would cede sovereignty to the WHO or give it the power to impose lockdowns and vaccine mandates were "completely false". "We can-not allow this historic agreement, this milestone in global health, to be sabotaged.

### Yemen's Huthis say hit US ship, Washington denies attack

SANAA (AFP/APP):Britain and the United States have carried out strikes on the Yemeni capital Sanaa, the news agency of the Huthi rebels said Tuesday, after the group claimed to have hit a US military cargo ship. The official Saba news agency said that "American-British forces are launching raids on the capital of Sanaa" and several other parts of Yemen, while Huthi TV outlet al-Masirah said four strikes targeted the Al-Dailami military base north of the capital, which is under rebel control.

Earlier on Monday, Huthi rebels claimed they had hit a US military cargo ship off the coast of Yemen—although the United States denied an attack had taken place.

The Yemeni rebels began striking Red Sea shipping in November, saying they were hitting Israeli-linked vessels in support of Palestinians in Gaza, which has been ravaged by fighting amid the Hamas-Israel war.

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Twelve people were injured on Tuesday when a Myanmar military plane overshot a runway while landing in India to collect soldiers who had fled armed insurgents fighting their

country's junta. The Chinese-made Shaanxi Y-8 turboprop skidded off the tarmac shortly before midday at Lengpui, the main airport of India's Mizoram state. An Airport Authority of India (AAI) official at

India from neighbouring Myanmar last week. Of the 12 injured, "four are stated to be serious," added the official, who requested anonymity as

aftermath aired by local broadcasters showed the bent fuselage of the transport plane, which had cut a swath through tall grass after sliding down an em-

### Modern agri technology, effective decision making vital to cope with climate change challenge: President

President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday citing the abundance of natural resources, said that adopting modern agricultural technology and effective decision-making were inevitable for Pakistan to cope with the challenge of climate change.

The president, in his inaugural address at the Regional Dialogue 2024 on 'Climate Crisis: Shaping South Asia's Resilience arranged by the Institute of Regional Studies, said that Pakistan was rich in water, renewable energy potential and other resources but it direly needed a driving force to implement the decisions and make it compete with the world.

He told the gathering of former diplomats, academicians and researchers that Pakistan had around 150 million acre-feet of water which was sufficient to meet its needs if modern

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Caretaker Federal Minister

of Communications Shahid

Ashraf Tarar on Tuesday

visited the control room

established in the Ministry

of Interior for monitoring of

security arrangements and

law and order situation dur-

ing the general election 2024. The caretaker Prime

Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar appointed Shahid

spray and drip irrigation were adopted and flood irrigation was done away

implementation of national water policy and other relevant legislation, he said a pricing mechanism could also lead to water conser-

He said around 400 million gallons per day of water in Karachi was drained into the sea through sewerage which was a criminality.

He also highlighted the use of prohibited nets by the fishermen which also swept small fish resulting in a huge loss of marine life. He said due to the very reasons, Europe was not allowing fish import from Pakistan.

The president exemplified the Netherlands which was the second largest food supplier on earth nual production.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Shahid Ashraf Tarar

visiting the Control Room established by Ministry of Interior to monitor the

Ministry establishes control

room for General Elections 2024

the Security and Adminis-

trative Affairs of General

tional Action Plan briefed

the minister in detail about

the functioning of the con-

trol room on behalf of the

Secretary of Interior Aftab

Akbar Durrani, who was

also present in the meeting.

Ashraf Tarar as the Chair- cials of the interior minis- and the caretaker government

man of the Committee for try while expressing satis- will provide full support.

regarding Chaman sit-in with the protestors who block road

portal is an important ini-

tiative for the convenience

of the public and the pro-

tection of public property

which will resolve the prob-

lems related to land revenue

and land ownership. Later,

under the chairmanship of

Commissioner Quetta Divi-

sion Hamza Shafqaat, a meet-

ing was also held regarding

the connection of ambulance

services to the Safe City

Command and Control Cen-

ter and to carry out all the

tion in the hospital.

Mr, Bashir Ahmad

Bangulzai visited various

under-construction devel-

opment projects in the dis-

trict and also took notice of

Xen's absence and issued

order to him to return his

services. He gave orders to

blacklist the contractors of

all slow-moving schemes

**Quetta Administration** 

launches land

verification portal

QUETTA (APP): The that the launch of digital

vision Hamza Shafqaat said work in an orderly manner.

**Commissioner Sibi Division** 

takes notice of shortage &

absence of doctors in Kohlu

Quetta Administration has

launched land verification

portal in the city to main-

tain transparency in land

affairs. In the meeting, held

here under the chairmanship

Commissioner Quetta Di-

vision Muhammad Hamza

Shafqaat was decided the

launch of the digital portal

and the procedure for the

verification of all the pub-

On the occasion, Commissioner Quetta Di-

QUETTA (APP)- Commissioner Sibi Division

Bashir Ahmed Bqangulzai

on Tuesday took strict no-

tice of the shortage and ab-

sence of doctors and issued

a letter to the Secretary

Health to dismiss the ab-

sent doctors after taking

was taken this action when

quarters Hospital Kohlu

during visiting of Kohlu for

Headquarters Hospital

Kohlu and reviewed medi-

cal facilities provided to

patients and supply of

the slowness of the Covid-

19 projects under construc-

He visited District

he visited the District head-

The Commissioner

action against them.

lic properties in Quetta.

The minister appreci-

ated the efforts of the offi- ent elections in the country

The coordinator Na-

Elections 2024

overall security situation during General Elections.

agriculture techniques like despite being 19 times smaller in size than Pakistan and not having such an abundance of water similar to Pakistan. Similarly, Viet-Emphasising the nam has taken its fishery exports to around \$10 billion per annum by adopting international standards and techniques, he added.

He said by pushing the farmers to adopt modern agriculture technology, Pakistan could also feed the

He recalled Pakistan's successes in fighting COVID-19 through a databased approach and national unity and said that the world would follow its footprints if the country set such an example as it had also achieved recognition through massive tree plan-

He said the energy the sun provided to the earth every day was many times higher than the world's an-

faction with the function

ing of the control room and

said that the security and

law and order situation will

be monitored during the

elections in the country

prime responsibility of the

Election Commission of Pa-

kistan, according to the con-

stitution, to conduct transpar-

He said that it is the

through the control room.



Shaping South Asia's Resilience" organized by the Institute of Regional Studies.

### **Seerat Conference for promotion** of values of forgiveness, tolerance

Federal Minister for Reli-

ference that was organized by Seerat Chair Faculty of Tuesday.

inaugurated by the Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed, while presided over by the Vice Chancellor of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur Prof. Dr. Naveed Akhtar. Prof. Dr. Saleem Tariq Khan, former Vice Chancelthe guest of honour. Prof. Dr. Ahmed Mohammad Al-Sharkavi Salem, Chair-Muhammad Saad Siddiqui, Jamia Punjab also addressed it.

Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed said that values are a very important subject in Islam. "The last Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) said that the religion was complete and final guidance for the whole of humanity," he said adding that on the occasion of

"Allah loves those who do good deeds". He said that modesty is also a part of values because modest people are the beauty of society. He said that we have learned scholars with us in the conference hall from whom we can gain a a lot of knowledge about val-

Vice-Chancellor of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Prof. Dr. Naveed Akhtar said that the Islamia University of Bahawalpur has a centurylong history and honour of dissemination of religious education in the Indo-Pak sub-continent. "In 1875. Madrasa Sadr Uloom Diyanet was founded. Later, it was called Jamia Abbasia, setting the standards of excellence in the academic field," he said adding that eminent scholars from the Indian sub-continent performed teaching in Jamia Islamia.

### **ECP** prohibits erecting hoarding, banners on govt buildings, electric poles

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has directed the political parties and candidates to avoid erecting hoarding hoardings and banners on government buildings, on electricity poles and abide by code of

In a statement posted on social media platform X on Tuesday, the ECP spokesperson said that have fines will be imposed for any violations

He said the Election Commission was determined to ensure adherence to the code of conduct with uniform enforcement across the board.

DMO Karachi and his teams have removed unauthorized hoardings and flags placed on electricity poles across different regions of Sindh, spanning from the areas of two sworn to Clifton. Monitoring teams during their visit to Ouetta-Kharan Road Balochistan, removed banners and flags of various political parties, penalizing

### those who violated the code of conduct. Pak calls for enhanced Int'l cooperation to achieve **SDGs**

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan has called for enhanced international cooperation to achieve sustainable development goals and

the climate goals. Delivering a statement at the Third South Summit of the Group of 77 & China, in Kampala, Uganda, Additional Foreign Secretary Syed Haider Shah called upon developed countries to deliver on their historical commitments and support the Global South in achieving the SDGs. Syed Haider Shah expressed support for the UN Secretary-General's call for provision of adequate financial resources for the recently operationalized Loss and Damage fund. He underlined the need for G-77 & China to collectively work for a more just and equitable international order and reform of the international financial architecture.

### competent teachers play crucial role in overall national progress: Sadiq (APP): knowledged the fact that ISLAMABAD Senate

**Strong institutions,** 

Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Tuesday underscored the crucial role of strong institutions and competent teachers in expediting national progress and prosperity. Speaking at the convention "Youth — Pivot of National Integration" organized by the Higher Education Commission (HEC), he urged the nation to work diligently and said hard

He lauded the HEC for bringing together a diverse group of individuals from across the country and acraive and mindset.

work would eventually be

rewarded.

Pakistan was a great country with robust institutions and armed forces.

Drawing on his global perspective due to travels worldwide, the Chairman Senate emphasized the value of Pakistan's skilled and hardworking population, as compared to the nations with profound re-sources, but lacking similar human capital. Recognizing the significant contributions of HEC in establishuniversities in

Balochistan, he noted the positive transformation in the province's overall nar-

### Police cops imparted training to ensure law & order in upcoming elections

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The training session was conducted for the police personnel assigned security duties during the upcoming general elections here in the me-

tropolis the other day. The session was participated by the master trainers to enable them to impart training to other security personnel at the dis-

The Director Headquarter, Provincial Election Commissioner office, Waseem Ahmed imparted training to the police per-

While delivering lechorted the police personnel to ensure peaceful, safe and conducive environment for the voters during the elec-

He also urged them to behave very well with the voters and polling staff while ensuring the implementation on law. The police personnel

have to ensure that no one can influence the voters outside the polling stations, adding Director Headquarter PEC stressed.

He also asked them to nform the presiding officers or other high ups about any irregularity or against the code of conduct immediately so as to ture, Waseem Ahmed ex- address the same well in



Muhammad Zubair Jamali in a meeting with Chairman Balochistan Public Service Commission Abdul Salik during his visit to office of BPSC

### **Independent candidate** withdraws from PB-46 in favor of JUI's candidate

QUETTA (APP) Central leaders of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), independent candidates from constituency PB-46, Malik Abdul Salam Shahwani and Abdul Wahab Kakar along with hundreds of their colleagues announced to join Jamiat-e-Ulama-e-Islam (JUI) after resigning from PTI.

Malik Abdul Salam Shahwani and Abdul Wahab Kakar announced unconditional withdrawal in favor of candidate Sardar Ahmed Khan Shahwani from constituency PB 46.

They made announcement in supervision of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) candidate for constituency PB-46 Sardar Ahmed Khan Shahwani in a press conference at Shahwani House in Saryab on Tuesday.

JUI's senior leaders present on the occasion.

Malik Abdul Salam Shahwani said that we belonged to Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf but PTI did not issue us tickets after which we decided to participate in the general elections as an

He said that the JUI's candidate of constituency PB-46 Sardar Ahmed Khan Shahwani met us last few days and requested to join the JUI and to withdraw in favor him saying that after which we resigned from PTI along with our colleagues in view of consulting our friends. I formally announced today my unconditional withdrawal from joining the JUI and in favor of candidate Sardar Ahmed Khan Shahwani from constituency PB 46 of JUI party, he said. He also appealed to his friends and the public to vote for the JUI's candidates on February 8.

On this occasion, Abdul Wahab Kakar along with his colleagues Saullah Danna, Rais Junaid, Hanif Aqil, Dr. Malik Nichari, Imdadullah Shahwani and and other workers were Dr. Habibullah announced to join the JUI.

The JUI's candidate from constituency PB 46, Sardar Ahmad Khan Shahwani congratulated Abdul Salam Shahwani, Abdul Wahab Kakar and their colleagues for joining the party.



QUETTA: Secretary Finance Babar Khan presiding over a meeting regarding funds of employees working on internship in Directorate of Public Relations Balochistan

gious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed lor of the Islamia Univerhas stressed the need to sity of Bahawalpur was promote Islamic teachings of forgiveness and tolerance to make society beautiful and peaceful. man the Department of He said this while ad-Quranic Studies, Jamia dressing the 10th Interna-Azhar Egypt and Prof. Dr. tional Seerat-ul-Nabi Con-

Islamic and Arabic Studies at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur at Baghdad-ul-Jadeed Campus here on cused on human values and their impact on societies in the light of Seerat ul Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him) was

The conference fo-

the conquest of Makkah in 8th Hijri, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) displayed the excellent human values of forgiveness and tolerance.

**QUETTA: Former Federal Minister Agha Hassan** Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

### **Dr Ishaq says** Medical preparations finalized in CHQ to tackle any emergency situation

QUETTA (APP)-Medical Superintendent (MS) Civil Hospital Quetta (CHQ), Dr. Ishaq Panizai chaired a case of any emergency, Acmeeting in view of the security threat during the upcoming general elections in

Balochistan In the meeting said that medical preparations have been completed in Civil Hospital Quetta and Trauma Center to deal with any emergency situation.

The meeting was attended by Head of Department of Surgery Professor Dr. Shoaib Qureshi, Head of Department of Gynecology Professor Dr. Baliqs Aslam, Head of ENT Department Professor Dr. Siddique and other concerned doctors.

Quetta Dr. Ishaq Panizai

cident and Emergency Department has been allocated for trench, 24/7 attendance of all doctors and medical staff in Surgery, Neurosurgery, Orthopedic, Plastic Surgery, Medicine, Burn Unit Consultants is ensured, he said. He said that all the medicines and medical equipment were available and according to the duty roster measures have been taken to ensure the presence of medical staff at their place. MS Civil Hospital Quetta Dr. Ishaq Panizai said that Civil Hospital Quetta was the biggest government hospital in Balochistan where continu-

was no less than a challenge.

QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat holding dialogue Tajik outgoing envoy in Pak calls on PM

Addressing the meeting, MS Civil Hospital

ity of provision of facilities

LORALAI: Commissioner Loralai Division Balaach Aziz presenting a memorial to Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan

### People would lit torch of real freedom through vote on Feb 8, says Asif Tareen

QUETTA: The senior leader of Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) Balochistan, Muhammad Asif Tareen has stated that the public enthusiasm is creating history in the PTI's election campaign and people would not only cast their votes on February 8 but would also

The PTI provincial

the Pakistani masses would lit the torch of real freedom through their vote on the Election Day. He said that every and even the opponents are saying that the public enthusiasm is worth see-

the history, adding Tareen He also said that PTI

He believed that the people would create history by voting to the PTI candidates and winning them with big margin on

### medicines where he took strict notice of the shortage meeting of the officers of and absence of doctors, isall law enforcement agensued a letter to the Secrecies in connection with Elecgural of 'Ram temple' event tary Health to dismiss the tion 2024 and to maintain as a political gimmick beabsent doctors. law and order situation. cause his popularity graph The Commissioner Deputy Commisdid witness alarming dealso expressed his anger at cline due to his anti-minor-

and various firms After completion of visiting, Commissioner Bashir Bengulzai also presided over the meeting of heads of all departments in the office of Deputy Commissioner Kohlu on the occasion of Kohlu's visit. Later, Commissioner

Sibi Division chaired the

sioner Kohlu Naqibullah Kakar gave a detailed briefing about Kohlu district.

Mushaal says: **Muslims must boycott India** diplomatically over Ram

**Temple issue** 

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Outgoing Ambassador of

Tajikistan in Pakistan

Ismatullo Naserdin Tues-

day called on Caretaker

Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-

appreciating the role of

Ismatullo Naserdin in pro-

moting bilateral relations

between the two countries,

expressed his best wishes

coming ambassador would

also play a key role in

strengthening the bilateral

He hoped that the up-

for him in future.

The prime minister,

Haq Kakar.

SLAMABAD (INP) Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick lashing out at the supremacist and RSS-inspired Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for inaugurating Ram temple at the site of demolished, five centuries-old Babri Masjid at Ayodhya has called upon the Muslim world to announce diplomatic boycott of India for wiping out Islamic civilization from its soil. In her strong reaction over the Indian government's action, she said that Narendra Modi was using the inau-

ity policies

### **Independent Report** conscious person, media

claimed. make the party successful in the elections.

leader was speaking to the media about election campaign of the party here on Tuesday.

Asif Tareen said that

ing in election campaign of The public response to the party's election campaign is unprecedented in

workers rather all segments of the society are considering the public interest in the general elections as source to rid of the slavery and gain real freedom.