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RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir chairing the 262nd Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) at the General Headquarters.

# Vows to deal with terrorists with full might No one will be allowed to sabotage elections: Military top brass

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity were sacrosanct and inviolable.

"Pakistan believes in peaceful co-existence with all states, however, there would never be any compromise over country's sovereignty, national honour and aspira-tions of Pakistani people," he said while chairing the 262nd Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) at the General Headquarters. According to an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR)

news release, the forum paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Shuhada (martyrs), including officers and men of the Armed Forces, law enforcement agencies and the citizens who have laid their lives for ensuring peace and stability in the country

The forum resolved that terrorists, their facilitators General Syed Asim Munir on Wednesday said that and abettors, working on behest of hostile forces to destabilise Pakistan, would be dealt with full might of the state. The conference was briefed on the callous Indian campaign of extra-territorial and extra-judicial killings, perpetuating state-sponsored terrorism and targeting Pakistani citizens. It agreed that blatant violation of international laws by India and its real face be exposed to the world. The international community has already shown serious concerns over the criminal behaviour of India and its use of state apparatus for killing spree around the world," the forum noted.

It reiterated unequivocal support for Palestine and the people of Gaza while noting the extremely negative fallout of the conflict and the potential to spill over in the wider region

# Toshakhana reference: Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi sentenced to 14 years

Both barred from holding public office for 10 years, fined Rs787m each; verdict comes a day after Imran was sentenced to 10 years in the cipher case; Bushra Bibi 'put under house arrest' as Bani Gala declared sub-jail; Barrister Gohar slams Toshakhana sentence; PTI to move IHC against verdict

Judge Muhammad Bashir of Accountability Court (AC) Islamabad has awarded 14 years Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) each to Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi and fined Rs787 million each in Toshakhana reference.

The accused have been declared disqualified for holding any public office for 10 years. Under NAB ordinance the two accused will not be able to make any financial dealing with any bank or financial institution. ceedings.

On reaching jail Bushra Bibi was arrested under court's decision.

NAB deputy prosecu-General Sardar Sardar tor Muzaffar Abbasi was present in the court along been called by assistant su-

RAWALPINDI (Online): with his team. The court perintendent jail for markordered at the inception of ing my attendance. hearing the two accused be called in the court. Jail au- his barrack after saying this. thorities presented both the accused in court.

Assistant Superinten-The court while addressing Imran Khan in-quired Khan Sahb have you dent Jail told the court Imran Khan is not ready to prepared statement under 342. Imran Khan replied yes he has prepared. But first let my lawyers and Bushra come to court. The court after some time, decided to announce the verdict. Meanwhile Bushra

Begum come. I will file my statement. The court said Bibi wife of PTI founder Imran Khan has presented vou should file your stateherself for arrest in ment in the court as we have Toshakhana case. Followto move ahead IN the proing the announcement of awarding sentence to Bushra Bibi and Imran Upon it former Prime Khan in Tosha Khana case,

candidate for

**NA-8 Bajaur** 

Vednesday.

to injuries.

Minister said why the court is in haste . Islamabad High wife of PTI founder decided to present herself for arrest Court has already rejected our plea for stay order. I have n Âdiala Jail.

arrest. Women police ar-rested her. Earlier in the day, The PTI founder left for Accountability Judge Mohammad Bashir sen-The court sent message for calling Imran Khan again. tenced the former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi to 14 years in jail in the Toshakhana case. The PTI founder has also been disqualified for 10 years while a fine of

Rs1.573 billion has also been imposed on the couple. During the hearing of questions

She reached Adiala jail

and presented herself for The court rejected the petition for restoration of right to cross examine after hearing the arguments.

Imran Khan while addressing Judge Muhammad Bashir of AC had said you had abolished our right to cross examine. I myself wanted to cross question the witnesses. It is my reauest our right to cross question be restored. Is the announcement for awarding sentence to be made today.

Judge Muhammad Bashir said don't worry. Imran Khan told the

court real price of Toshakhana gifts has come to us. We were to cross examine due to it. I was to expose false witnesses. You did all in haste.

strategy

QUETTA: Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali addressing a consultation on gender issue organized by National Commission on the Status of Women.

CSW 68

## NCSW holds pre-NCSW 68 consultation with provincial stakeholders: Zubair Jamali reiterates interim Govt's resolve to empower women economically

Chairperson NCSW Ms Nilofar Bakhtiar says females are deprived of fundamental rights of equal opportunities for education, health, and economic growth

> on the occasion The consultation was

QUETTA: The caretaker held with provincial stake-Provincial Minister for holders in Quetta on the Home, Mir Zubair Jamali preparation of the National has reiterated the interim report on "Need Analysis government's resolve to for financing and strengthempower the womenfolk economically. ler perspective for gene

**Independent Report** 

women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective

Addressing the gathering, Mir Zubair Jamali said ening institutions with a that the women are provided wholehearted opportunity

He thanked the Chair-

the case the court recorded statement of Bushra Bibi under 342 in regard to questionnaire containing 25

The lawyers for Imran Khan had filed petition to court to restore the right to cross question. Independent CM seeks report of different



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to PM on Aviation Air Marshal (R) Farhat Hussain Khan called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

## We don't want to give such order which causes delay in election: SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) during the hearing of the case related to acceptance of nomination papers has remarked we donot want to give such order which causes delay in the election.

Appeal of candidate from PP-224 regarding acceptance of his nomination papers came up for hearing before single bench of SČ led by Justice Jamal Mandokhel here Wednes-

Special secretary Election Commission (EC) appeared in the court.

The court remarked during the hearing of the case petitioner filed appeal to papers is underway.

## Nothing educates & illuminates better than cinema: Solangi

sensitize you better."

He expressed gratitude

to the ambassador of

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday underlined the need for promoting cinemas in the country to foster cultural values of tolerance and harmony in the

Kazakhstan in Pakistan and society Addressing the screen-Caretaker Minister for Culing ceremony of a Kazakh ture and Heritage Jamal movie at the Pakistan Na-Shah for inviting him to speak on the screening of tional Council of Arts, he said, "Nothing impresses,



KHARAN: President Balochistan National Party Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal addressing a public meeting in connection with general elections

late by 12 days. Permission for election could have been given had the appeal been filed in time. We donot want to give such decision which causes delay in the election.

Justice Jamal questioned from special secretary why the EC has kept schedule for small period. EC should have known that appeals have to be filed.

gathered in front of Tehsil Special secretary EC told the court if nomination papers are accepted at this stage then the election can delay in the constituency.

The process of printing of ballot papers has been completed. In several districts the process of sending bal-

> OUETTA (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Wednesday terminated the party membership of two senior leaders from Balochistan.

educates and illuminates better than cinema. Prob-PTI's Balochistan chapter ably hundreds of high-Sardar Hasan Shah said that pitch, hyperbolic and hyper the party membership of ventilating speeches cannot Sardar Khadim Hussain and educate you like this movie, Sadiq Agha have been ter-I am sure, can educate and minated.

He said that step was taken as both the leaders refused to withdraw from the elections against PTI candidates.

ing for her visit to Narowal. She said many conspiracies were hatched

#### security arrangements further ince, the caretaker Chief

subversive acts; directs to improve

shot dead PESHAWAR (APP) **Independent Report** Rehan Zeb, an independent candidate for the National

QUETTA: The caretaker Assembly seat NA-8, Bajaur was shot dead by Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan unknown assailants on Domki has sought report Police said Rehan Zab of different incidents of terrorism at the election ofalong with his friends was fices of political leaders and going for his election campublic places in different paign in Bajaur when armed areas of the province.

men fired at them near The caretaker Chief Siddique Phatak. Rehan Zeb and his Minister directed to the Provincial Home Departthree two friends sustained bullet injuries in the firing ment to improve security arrangements further. and were rushed to Tehsil

While taking notice of Headquarters Hospital in the incidents of terrorism in Khar where he succumbed different areas of the prov-Rehan Zeb was an ac-tive worker of Pakistan

Tehreek e Insaf and was contesting from NA-8 as an independent candidate after having some rifts with party leadership for not alotting him the party ticket. A large number of his upporters and relatives

leadquarters Hospital Khar after hearing the tragic news of Rehan Zeb's death. **PTI terminates** 

## party membership of two senior

leaders

Nawaz Senior Vice President and chief organiser Maryam Nawaz on Wednesday took jibe at the As per details, the Inembattled PTI founder formation Secretary of

who, she said, spread evil in the country. Speaking to constituents in Narowal, she applauded the large crowd that gathered over there. She said she was eagerly wait-

> time in prison emphasising against Nawaz Sharif, ask-

PPP election offices, candidates attacked with hand grenades in Quetta, Kech and Mangochar

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The election offices of Pakistan Peoples' Sariab road. party (PPP) were attacked

with hand grenades by unknown assailants in Quetta, Mangochar area of Kalat and Buleda of Kech on Wednesday

According to the reorts, five persons were injured when some unready declared in the civil known assailants hurled a hospital

stitutions are active to foil every conspiracy of sabotaging national process of general elections in Balochistan. He also said that all re-

Minister directed to the

Chief Secretary Balochistan

and Home Department to

prepare effective security

timely action taken by the

law enforcement agencies in

response to these incidents.

He also appreciated the

He said that all the in-

sources are being mobilized for restoration of peace.



NAROWAL: Senior Vice President PML-N Maryam Nawaz addressing a public gathering in Zafarwal.

## Maryam continues to fire salvos at Imran

NAROWAL (INP): Pakiing what injustice did not happen to him. stan Muslim League-

She claimed, "One by one all the enemies of Nawaz Sharif are getting exposed as today people see all cases against the PML-N supremo as just conspiracies to keep him out of power."

Speaking about Bushra Bibi, she said she was not elated about the arrest of the former premier's wife. She, however, recalled the time when she had spent

she too was someone's wife.

Those injured in the

explosion are stated to be the workers of PPP. Similarly, a hand grenade was also hurled at the PPP election office in Mangochar area of Kalat the same afternoon. The explosive device

went off just close to the election office. However, no loss of life was reported in the explosion

The Provincial Minisempowerment of Women and girls". This report is ter was speaking at the ceremony organized in colaimed to be presented by the laboration with the National commission in CSW68 to be Commission on Status of Women (NCSW) here on held this year from March 11th to 22nd on the theme: Wednesday. The Chairperson NCSW, Ms Nilofar 'Accelerating the achieve-Bakhtiar was also present

Trials of May 9 cases will be held in jail

ISLAMABAD (Online): Trials of May 9 cases will be held in jail

367 accused including Imran Khan have been summoned in Adiala jail. Notification regarding

jail trial of cases pertaining to May 9 siege and arson, riots has been is sued. The accused have been summoned in Adiala iail. According to media reports Sadaqat Abbasi Umar Tanvir Butt and Wasim Qayyum Abbasi have become approvers. They have recorded their statements under 364.

The iudicial remand of Sheikh Rashid has been extended upto February 6. Zardari on Wednesday re-

Order has been issued to all persons accused in May 9 incident to come to Ádiala jail from May 6 in connection with jail trial

to power in Feb 8 elections. The hearing of May 9 cases against PTI founder and Shah Mehmood Qureshi will also take place rally in Malakand, the former foreign minister hit out at Pakistan Tehreek-ein Adiala jail. Notices of jail trial have been issued to Insaf (PTI) founder and PML-N supremo Nawaz SHOs and investigation officers of all police stations. Sharif for their politics of Copies will be distributed revenge and divisiveness. among the accused in connection with indictment of vowed to fight for the sanccases on February 6. tity of vote but the situa-

ment of gender equality and the empowerment of all

person Balochistan Commission on Status of Women and all United Nations partners including UN-Women, UNICEF, UNDP and others for extending cooperation to empower the women.

of freedom of expression.



Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is addressing the election rally of Pakistan People's Party in Malakand district.

## **Bilawal vows to bury old** politics of revenge, divisiveness

MALAKAND (INP): Pa- tion was other way around kistan Peoples Party (PPP) in this election. Bilawal said the former Chairman Bilawal Bhutto

TI chairman used to call the political opponents solved to start a process of thieves, adding that if the people attached to the PTI try by burying 'old politics founder were "angels". He said that former premier was now behind the bars and lamented that his wife had also Addressing an election been jailed. While asserting the democratic values, the PPP chief said he was not celebrating the PTI founder's conviction.

While urging people to vote for the PPP in upcoming elections, he said his party believed that it was the right of public to elect their prime minister.

reconciliation in the coun-

of revenge, divisiveness and

hatred' if his party is voted

He said Mr Sharif had

GWADAR: Deputy Commissioner Aurangzeb Badini presiding over a meeting regarding arrangement of general elections

hand grenade at the election office of PPP located on The assailants fled from the scene after hurling

the hand grenade. The rescue teams and police reached the spot and

shifted the injured to the civil hospital for treatment. An emergency was al-







bal level.

ment

zens' rights"

**OPINION** 

## Daily **Independent**

mind you, help to place tinians. The devotion to

# Daily A oice of Masse, Independent

# **Cipher case result**

The writing had been on the wall. Given how hastily the special court, appointed under the Official Secrets Act, had been proceeding in the cipher case trial, seemingly without regard for due process, a rushed verdict had been expected.

It was delivered yesterday, a week before the country heads to polls, with sentences of 10 years' imprisonment for both former prime minister Imran Khan and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. Special Court Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain, who oversaw the proceedings inside Adiala Jail, read out the verdict even as the accused now convicts — were protesting the denial of their trial rights.

It bears noting that the Islamabad High Court had ordered retrials of this same case on two previous occasions, noting each time glaring procedural irregularities in how it was being conducted. The third attempt doesn't seem to have gone differently, and many observers predict the higher courts may not be charitable towards the special court whenever the verdict goes into appeal. Given the IHC's earlier rebukes, it is worth asking what the special court was seeking to accomplish by concluding the matter so hastily. Considering that the death penalty had been sought against both politicians, the situation called for far more restraint.

Instead, there were some bizarre developments over the weekend: the judge appointed state counsel for the defendants without their consent, and later reportedly denied the defendants their right to cross-examine the prosecution's witnesses. Meanwhile, the legal teams appointed by the two accused complained that they were repeatedly denied access to the proceedings.

To top it off, on Monday, the case was wrapped up at breakneck speed in a marathon session that ran till well into the night. Everything made it seem as if some kind of deadline had been set for the trial to be concluded and a verdict issued.

From Mr Khan waving a paper from the podium as he addressed a large political gathering, claiming that he had unearthed a conspiracy against his government, to his conviction for divulging state secrets, the cipher saga will be remembered as a sorry episode in our diplomatic, legal and political history.

A diplomatic faux pas was needlessly dragged into a political dispute. The immediate fallout saw already soured relations with the US deteriorate further, and for no meaningful purpose.

Politically, the conspiracy narrative proved less useful in bolstering public sympathy for the PTI than its political opponents' failure to manage the precarious economic situation they inherited from its ouster. Lastly, whatever case there may have been against Mr Khan and Mr Qureshi, it was weakened irreparably by conducting the trial in haste. What good did any of it achieve? One can only marvel at the short-sightedness displayed by all actors in this sordid drama.

# **Changing India**

**Javid Husain** Two critical developdeadly anti-Muslim atments are radically transtacks.

forming India, with far-The official consereaching implications for cration of the Ram temple its minorities, the region, on the site of Babri and the world at large. Masjid in Ayodhya un-The first and foreder Modi's leadership is most is the transformation of a secular India, as envisioned by its foundtion of the Hindutva ing fathers, into a Hindu rashtra driven by Hindutva. The second mosques with temples at

development is the rapid many other sites. economic growth of În-The growing sway dia over the past three of Hindutva in India is decades, which has catanot only bad news for pulted its economy to the fifth position at the glominorities in the country, it is also the harbinger of The growing sway a belligerent approach

of Hindutva in India unby New Delhi towards its der the leadership of the neighbours in pursuit of Modi-led BJP, which is its hegemonic designs in closely allied with RSS, South Asia and the Ingives shrinking political dian Ocean region. Unand social space to nonder Modi, one can expect Hindu religious minori-India to pursue a hardties, which are facing increasing difficulties in relations with Pakistan.

leading their lives ac-The annexation of cording to their own sooccupied Kashmir by Incial and religious cus- dia in August 2019, in oms, besides discriminaviolation of UN Security tion generally. Council resolutions, was This is not surprising if one looks at the

belligerent approach, as philosophy of RSS as dewas the earlier Indian air tential of the two counfined by its founder, V.D. attack on Balakot. Savarkar, and his succes-Indian support to sors. For instance, M.S. terrorist groups in

Golwalkar, the second Balochistan and its ne-RSS supreme leader, farious designs stressed that non-Hindu against Pakistan's seminorities "must cease to curity were established be foreigners, or may by the arrest of Indian stay in the country agent Kulbhushan wholly subordinated to Jadhav in March 2016. the Hindu nation, claim-India has also been foling nothing, deserving lowing a long-term no privileges, far less policy of weakening any preferential treat-Pakistan's friendly re-— not even citilations with Iran by attempting to exploit Pa-The statements and kistan-Iran policy dif-

policy decisions of the ferences on Afghani-Modi-led BJP governstan, cross-border terment and its leaders rorism, and sectarian clearly reflect this policy issues

of Hindutva in action. There have been that both Iran and Pakifrequent reports of mob attacks on Muslims and to come to grips with their persecution; in the machinations of Insome cases, there has dia and some non-rebeen a tragic loss of lives gional powers in exacwith the connivance of erbating their bilateral threat to its security local officials. As chief tensions on account of emanating from India. minister of Gujarat, Prime the issue of cross-bor- - Courtesy Dawn

Minister Narendra Modi der terrorism as rewas implicated in the flected by the recent exchange of air strikes between them.

Hopefully, the recent visit of the Iranian foreign minister to Islamabad would lead to the strengthening of the latest example of the Pakistan-Iran cooperacontinued implementa- tion in combating crossborder terrorism as anagenda. BJP activists are nounced by the foreign agitating to replace ministers of the two countries. India's rapid eco-

nomic growth provides it with the resources for the build-up of its milithe Muslims and other tary might and the realisation of its hegemonic designs in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region. According to IMF

estimates, India's GDP was estimated to be \$3.73 trillion in 2023 as against \$341 billion only for Pakistan. This line policy in handling its enabled India to increase its defence budget to \$81.4bn as against \$10.3bn for Pakistan in 2022, according to the research institute Sipri. The huge a clear example of this and growing difference between the power po-

tries could have serious consequences for Pakistan's security. Pakistan, therefore, cannot afford to lower

its guard in the management of its relations with India. We should avoid the mistakes of the two extremes of appeasement, which will merely embolden India, and a high-risk and adventurist policy which will prove to be counterproductive as our Kargil experience shows

Instead, Pakistan should adopt a long-term approach for the It is unfortunate realisation of its own strategic goals based stan in the past failed on the synthesis of the political, economic, diplomatic, and military dimensions of policy in facing the enduring

#### Once the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague endorsed the substance of South Africa's case against Israel (albeit not in its entirety) last week, the Zionist project's international collaborators were as desperate for a distraction as Israel. The latter promptly provided it with the allegation that a dozen UNRWA employees participated in the Oct 7 atrocities in southern Is-

rael Led by the US, Germany and UK, a number of Western nations and their allies suspended their crucial funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which was set up in 1949, in the wake of the Nakba, to provide means of subsistence to Palestinian refugees. These include basic education, primary healthcare and other vital services. Its operations stretch from Gaza and East Jerusalem to the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. A secondary distrac-

tion was provided by a drone attack that killed three US personnel and injured dozens in Jordan. US media reports suggest the drone wasn't intercepted based on the suspicion that it might be 'friendly' (Israeli), and that the US authorities had no idea where it came from, although they showed no hesitation in blaming 'Iranian-allied' militias and vowing vengeance. That's the latter-day equivalent of the muchmocked command to attitude towards Euro-'round up the usual suspects', but perhaps the bigger question is why chambers there should be a US military base where Jordan's borders meet those of Syria and Iraq — or anywhere else in the coun-

'Guilty until proved lebensraum innocent' also applies to UNRWA, which has previously been accused by lesser beings, the first ap-Israel of preaching hatred plying to European Jews in its schools — which, and the second to Pales-

# Israel über alles

Mahir Ali

the Palestinians among the best-educated Arab populations. The accusation cannot be taken seriously in a milieu where reciting the true history of Israel as a colonial-settler society is deemed antisemitic, and there is no equivalent focus on the pernicious nonsense cent minds of Israeli schoolchildren.

UNRWA has suspended nine of its accused employees pending an internal probe, and two others are among the dozens of staff killed in Israel's latest invasion of Gaza. It is distressing that had turned the tide the accusations involving 0.01pc of its 13,000

deemed sufficient by so many Western states to cut off funding to one of the only organisations Israelis. that may be able to avert a famine. All too many of them, meanwhile, continue to arm and diplomatically abet the perpetrators of what the ICJ

deems a potential genocide That impression was consolidated on Sunday when 11 members of the

Netanyahu cabinet attended a congregation in Jerusalem tagged the Victory of Israel Conference: Settlement Brings Security', which called for the 'voluntary migration' of Palestinians away from the Gaza Strip. That not only defies the ICJ's interim injunction against incitement to genocide, but also reflects the Nazi pean Jews before the the pecuniary and moral Germans opted for gas

Notwithstanding the 'never again' slogan of 80 years ago, the Zionists brought with them to the 'promised land' the alles remains intact concepts Nazi of and untermenschen — territorial expansion and

their would-be exterminators stretched to hiring one of Hitler's leading henchmen, Otto Skorzeny, as a Mossad hitman — after he had, equally deplorably, served as military adviser to Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser. It was the Nazi

drummed into the inno- regime's expansionism, rather than the related Judeocide, that propelled the British and eventually joint Anglo-American response — alth-ou--gh the latter was also instigated by the Soviet advance into Eastern Europe after the Red Army against the Wehr-m-acht. It remains to be seen how employees, whether or not true, have been For-ces will go before any nation other than the dispersed Pales-tinians steps up to challenge the

The resistance so far has been restricted to socalled non-state actors. Saudi Arabia remains keen on establishing formal ties with Israel. Arab and other Muslim states have vaguely backed South Africa's case at the ICJ, but none of them has officially signed up as a party to the dispute, as Germany has disgustingly done on behalf of Israel, even as it staves off its own neo-Nazis.

Whatever the ICJ's verdict, it is likely to come too late to halt the genocide. It may depend on how far Israel goes henceforth, but its establishment is accustomed to defying UN injunctions — as long as assistance from the US and the rest of the West remains intact. It does not have much to worry about on that score. Its self-conception of uber among its acolytes, whose every action is directed towards enabling Israel to achieve its clearly genocidal and arguably Nazi-like aims. -- Courtesy Dawn

# **Gohar urges private sector** to help achieve \$100 billion exports target in 5 years

## Also says government to increase FDI for boosting country's economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Bakhtawari, an ICCI news occasion, ICCI President Caretaker Minister for release said. Commerce and Interior Dr Gohar Ejaz on Wednesday said that the government intended to take the government in accelerating centre and a new industrial exports to US\$ 100 billion the in next 5 years and the development. business community business community cooperate in that regard. should play an active role should also take an active in achieving the target. part in corporate social Pakistan needed to boost exports to improve its address issues of the poor economy, and for that the segments of the society private sector should focus and promote welfare on diversification, he activities in the country, he added

The minister was talking to an delegation of that he would cooperate in Islamabad Chamber of resolving the key issues of Commerce and Industry the businessmen to (ICCI) that called on him facilitate them in business led by its Ahsan Zafar promotion. Speaking on the

**Independent Report** 

Commercial Session of

Pakistan consulate General

ISLAMABAD:

Ahsan Bakhtawari said He said that the that the Chamber was business community making efforts for the should partner with the establishment of an expo economic estate in the region and The urged the government to

He also urged for ICCI giving the representation in the responsibility activities to Export Development Fund, besides setting up a facilitation desk of the Passport Office at its office and a separate immigration counter at

Gohar Ejaz assured airports for the taxpayers. ICCI Senior Vice President Faad Waheed requested the government to announce a special package.

> 04 paisa against dollar ISLAMABAD (APP): The Rupee on Wednesday gained 4 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 279.50 against the previous day's closing of Rs 279.54. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying

**Rupee gains** 

and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 279.8 and Rs

experienced a notable stabilization during the first Euro decreased by 35 half of the current fiscal paisa to close at Rs year (2023-24), owing to 302.33 against the last implementation of effective day's closing of Rs 302.68, according to the State Bank of Pakistan measures and prudent policies by the interim (SBP). The Japanese Yen government that played a pivotal role in achieving remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.89. this milestone. whereas a decrease of 59 FY2024 has ended with paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the economic stabilization. British Pound, which traded at Rs 354.26 The effective measures and prudent policies helped

compared to the last closing of Rs 354.85. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased by 02 paisa each to close at Rs 76.09 and Rs 74.52.



**Commerce** News

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Interior, Commerce, Industries, Overseas Pakistanis and Investment, Dr. Gohar Ejaz addressing to foreign and local investors at Overseas Chamber of Commerce and Industry Karachi.

#### **Ambassador Blome savs:** US, Pakistan working together for adaptation climate-smart agricultural practices commitments in 2023 mean

streams.

practices

stabilize

expanding

"Joint efforts aim to assist farmers in adopting climate-smart agricultural Good market new

ISLAMABAD (Online): addressing an event He said, "We established U.S. Ambassador to organized to celebrate the model plots with select Pakistan, Donald Blome Pakistan Agricultural farmers and private said on Wednesday that Development project, a sector service providers the United States and 20.9 million dollar US to demonstrate the sector service providers initiative with a wide created for 600 women in Khairpur and Sindh through

"Together, we establishment of three provided 63,000 farmers date-pitting centers," he

Agriculture production

added. Pakistan Agricultural Development grants

the

says adding on the fiscal side, the revenue performance 15 encouraging, however, there is significant pressure on expenditures attributed higher markup to payments.

growth in the second "Despite this, the government is taking measures to manage non-It is apparent from better growth prospects in markup spending, which is the real sector visible in evidenced by continuous improvement in primary month-on-month (MoM) increase in Large Scale surplus," adds. it According to the report, Manufacturing (LSM) growth, an improvement in Pakistan has recently high-frequency indicators received a tranche and better crop prospects. equivalent to US\$ 705.6 million, following the Despite the challenges, external stability has been successful completion of

the first review by the estimated area of 9.160 Executive Board of million International Monetary surpassing the sowing Fund (IMF) under Stand by Arrangements (SBA), which is providing market confidence and exchange rate stability.

The report predicted that economic activities would further strengthen during second half of FY2024 – contingent on the continuation of sound and prudent economic policies which will gear toward achieving the set growth target for the current fiscal year.

The report highlights the performance of agriculture sector saying, wheat crop for Rabi 2023-24has been cultivated on an on a MoM basis.

hectares, target of 8.998 million hectares by 1.8 percent to achieve the production target of 32.12 million tonnes.

During Jul-Dec FY2024, the agriculture credit disbursement reached to Rs 1105.8 billion as compared to Rs 842.4 billion last year, an increase of 31.3 percent. According to the report, Large Scale Manufacturing (LSM) during November 2023, increased by 1.6 percent on YoY basis against the decline of 4.9 percent in the same month last year. While

Pakistan are Department of benefits of these collaboratively striving Agriculture-funded practices. Jobs have been to provide farmers, initiative with a wide ranchers, and foresters array of impressive with innovative revenue accomplishments.

with training on using while Practices. We introduce options and ensuring techniques and improved

of

"The first half of

macroeconomic situation,

leading to a gradual

improvement in economic

activities," says Monthly

Economic Update and

government's

the

quarter

**ADB** committed record climate finance of almost \$10 billion in 2023 cumulative adaptation financing from 2019 to

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development 2023 - surpassing its target Bank (ADB) committed a record amount of climate of \$9 billion in 2019 - 2024 finance in 2023 to help its a year early," an ADB press developing member countries (DMCs) in Asia member release said on Wednesday. and the Pacific cut adaptation financing was greenhouse gas emissions critical in Asia and the and adapt to the impacts Pacific which was experiencing more extreme of a warming planet. The ADB committed \$9.8 billion in climate finance rains, from its own resources last year – \$5.5 billion for remained a fraction of what mitigation and \$4.3 billion for adaptation – a more than 46% increase on its 2022 climate financing commitments.

threatens the future of all development. 2023 was the hottest year on record and "The bank's climate saw a swath of extreme. finance deadly climate impacts in our region," said ADB President Masatsugu that the ADB has provided more than \$10.4 billion in Asakawa.

The ADB said that

heat, droughts, and heavy

was required. "Climate change

but

where



enabled farmers to build ISLAMABAD: Awoman is buying flowers at flower market in sector F-6 during rainy weather in the

Saudi Arabia is most potential market for **Pakistan's exports** the session In his remarks, Mr Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI indicated Jeddah organized an that Saudi Arabia is the

trade

The

added

Atif Ikram says:

Pakistani businessmen Pakistan's exports of based in Saudi Arabia and Saudi Importers on the occasion of visit of Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce regular interaction of and Industry (FPCCI) to Saudi Arabia. Mr. Khalid Majid, Consul General of Pakistan alongwith other trade fairs and exhibition senior Officials of the can enhance Pakistan's Consulate and Commercial

Section were also attended

interactive session with most potential market for cereal. pharmaceutical, medical equipment, leather, fruits and vegetable etc.

281.5 respectively. The price of the

textile.

Aggressive market. business community. exchange of trade delegations and holding of share in Saudi Arabia

## Federal Capital. Macroeconomic stabilization leads to improvement: Report

fairer prices for their post-harvest storage and high-efficiency drip produce," he said while processing," he added. irrigation systems. ISLAMABAD (APP): Outlook for January 2024 observed as evident from a The country's economy

2.13% in the first quarter

expectations for continued

FY2024,

released by finance surplus in the current ministry here Wednesday. account in December, it According to the report, this persistent uptick in economic indicators has resulted in improved GDP growth of

with

ndependent

Thursday February 01, 2024

# National News

Page 03

# CM Naqvi inaugurates first govt cancer care hospital

Independent Report LAHORE: The first cancer hospital at the government level has been made operational on the special direction of Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi.

The CM inaugurated the Mayo Cancer Care of the patients. The CM Hospital at Manawan, here reviewed the treatment on Wednesday.

Mohsin Naqvi while announcing to provide free treatment facility to the patients in the cancer hospital revealed that every patient will be provided free treatment and no patient suffering from any stage will be denied treatment in the first government cancer hospital. For the time being, the cancer hospital comprises 100-beds and will be increased up to 1000-beds in the coming few years. The CM visited cancer hospital have been the cancer hospital and reviewed facilities being handed over entirely to the

provided to the patients. King Edward Medical He obtained a token from College University. A state the machine and ordered to of the art hospital has been simplify the automated built for the treatment of system, adding that besides cancer patients at the English writing, Urdu writing should also be displayed on the token government level, he added.

The CM apprised that the cancer treatment is machine for the facilitation of the patients. The CM in the total highly expensive which a common man cannot afford, adding that free treatment mechanism of the cancer will be provided to the patients and monitored the whole Chemotherapy mechanism. He visited the of Punjab to have a highroom for collecting blood samples and also planted a sapling in the lawn of the the

Mohsin Naqvi issued directions to write in the Urdu language on the sign boards for the facilitation of patients. He revealed that Chemotherapy and surgery will be carried out in the cancer hospital. All the administrative and financial affairs of the

patients in this hospital. It is a dire need of the people quality cancer hospital at LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi cutting the ribbon the government level. It is to inaugurate Mayo Cancer Care Hospital Manawa. foremos responsibility of the government to provide a **CM KP directs to** 

state of the art hospital for cancer patients at the government level, he added. CM Naqvi while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Mayo Cancer Care Hospital apprised that the first

#### **Independent Report** A B B O T T A B A D : Caretaker Chief Minister complete cancer care hospital of Punjab has been Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, established. Justice ® Syed Arshad Hussain Shah chaired a meeting in Islamabad to Commissioner deliberate on the Urban

Mobility Plan concerning reviews law, divisional headquarter order situation Abbottabad.

Highways (NHA), Commission, as well as pertinent federal and also present.

progress there.

Technical.

PC-1 for the proposed In the meeting, senior officials from the National project has also been approved by the C&W Authority Department. In addition to the Planning interchange, the project encompasses provincial officials were construction of a flyover and tunnel

compliance with

**Urban Mobility Plan** 

The meeting focused

on the approved strategies

for constructing an

interchange along the Hazara Motorway to

facilitate Abbottabad City.

NHA has outlined plans to

establish an interchange linking Abbottabad and

Sherwan Road, while the

the

# **KP CIP official pays** surprise visit to inspect ongoing dev. projects

PESHAWAR (APP): (CIU) Mardan, Engineer Muhammad Khalil Akbar. Project Director of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa PMCSC Resident Cities Improvement Project (KP CIP), Syed Zafar Ali Shah, on Wednesday paid a surprise visit to a sewerage Engineer, Arshid Qayum Babar; General Manager of Matracon, Imran Haider, and Deputy Manager of the Project, Mumtaz Awan. Qasim treatment plant executed in Mardan and inspected

buildez Awan. During the meeting, the General Manager of WSSCM and Chief Engineer of CIU Mardan, ongoing developmental He chaired a meeting attended by Director Engineer Muhammad Khalil Akbar, briefed the Mian Muhammad Shakeel, Chief Project Director about the Engineer of Cities ongoing development Implementation Unit works.

International News

SHIKARPUR: Shikarpur Police succeeded in arresting of two snatchers/ outlaws in injured condition after an police encounter took place near Shar Laaro in the jurisdiction of Lakhi Ghulam Shah Police Station on Wednesday.

**Two outlaws** 

arrested by

Shikarpur

Police

**Our Correspondent** 

According to initial reports, The Lakhi Police with the help of villagers caught the two robbers after an encounter took place between the outlaws and the police and arrested the two robbers identified as Abdul Qadeer Shar and Syed Musharaf Ali Shah in injured condition and also recovered two pistols from their possession.

#### Suspect killed in police

#### encounter

PESHAWAR (APP): The Wednesday suspect, identified as Mujahid, son of Sabz Ali inaugurated who had escaped after shooting and killing Constable Amir Ghulam by taking out a gun from reconstruction upgradation of Liaqat Memorial Hospital Kohat to be completed with an the clerk's room under the estimated cost of Rs. 2 pretext of using the billion M e d i c a l Superintendent LMH, l Dr. washroom, was killed in a police encounter at Safan check post, Badaber. Hashim Jamshed Syed,

SSP Syed Ashfaq Anwar and Superintendent of Police Operations.

Principal Kohat Medical

# **Punjab Governor says:** Prophet Muhammad (SAWW) life and teachings are source of guidance for all mankind

Independent Report LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman today attended the "Serat-ul-Nabi (SAW)" prize distribution ceremony at Al Hamra Hall Mall Road Lahore as a special guest.

Speaking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that love and reverence for Prophet Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him) is a part of every Muslim's faith. Governor Punjab said that Prophet Muhammad's life and teachings are the source of guidance for all

mankind. He emphasized that we should take guidance from Seerat Tayyaba (Peace be Upon Him) in order to build a society based love, tolerance, and brotherhood. Governor Punjab appreciated the author of the book, Rai Manzoor Nasir, and said that he did a commendable work by writing a very simple and easy to understand book on the Prophet's (PBUH) life and teachings . Governor Punjab also appreciated the efforts of Rai Manzoor Nasir for organizing the first unique competition.



LAHORE: Governor of Punjab Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman, giving check to winner Muhammad Ismail during International Competition Secratun-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him) at Al-Hamra Hall, in Provincial Capital.

# **Bangash inaugurates Reconstruction and** upgradation of LMH

and

**Independent Report** Fauzia Gul also addressed PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker the inauguration ceremony and thanked the finance Minister for Finance, Ahmad Rasool Bangash on minister for taking a keen interest in the affairs of the hospital. formally the

The minister also inaugurated the Town Municipal Administration (TMA) Shabistan Plaza with a cost of Rs. 432 million. On the occasion, Tehsil Mayor Kohat, Qari Sher Zaman and Town Municipal Muhammad Officer. Shoaib briefed the provincial University Professor Dr. minister regarding

Musarat Jabeen and Dr. municipal services.

mands made by Hamas

in indirect cease-fire

talks, saying that Israel

will not withdraw from

the Gaza Strip or release

thousands of jailed mili-

bring the Palestinian

death toll from Israel's of-

The latest deaths

Hamas' Oct. 7 attack

**Punjab Police will never** forget eternal sacrifice of constable Arshad: IGP Independent Report Liaqat Ali Malik, DIG Admin Lahore Muntazar Mehdi, DIG Investigation

hospital.

LAHORE: IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar visited Qila Gujjar Singh Police Lines, attended the funeral prayers of Shaheed Constable Muhammad Arshad of Lahore Police.

Regional Directorate Commander Anti-Narcotics Force Brigadier Sikandar Hayat, ČCPO Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana and other senior officers also offered the prayer.

Lahore 31th January 2024:

Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar attended the funeral prayer of martyred Constable Muhammad Arshad of Lahore Police at Police Lines Qila Gujar Singh Regional Directorate Commander Anti-Narcotics Force Brigadier Sikandar Hayat, CCPO Lahore Bilal Siddique Yamvana DIG Organized

Imran Kishwar, SSP Discipline Lahore Sohaib Ashraf, Lahore Police SSPs, SPs and ANF officers were also present in the funeral prayer. Muhammad Arshad, a constable posted at Achhra Police Station, was martyred by the firing of a drug dealer. IG Punjab saluted the body of Constable Muhammad Arshad, laid floral wreath.

Prayers were prayed for the high ranks of constable Muhammad Arshad's soul, Active squad of police also saluted the martyr. IG Punjab Ďr. Usman Anwar while paying tribute to Constable Muhammad Arshad's

FAISALABAD (APP) Commissioner Silwat Saeed has said that law and order should be the first priority of the administration.

She was presiding over a videolink meeting in connection with connection general election, here on Wednesday.

The meeting was attended by Regional Police officer (RPO) Dr Muhammad Abid, D e p u t y C o m m i s s i o n e r Faisalabad Abdullah Nayyar Sheikh, and Capital Police Officer (CPO) Capt (retd) Muhammad Ali Zia. The deputy

commissioners of Jhang, Chiniot and Toba Tek Singh participated in the meeting video-link. through The election

commissioner and officers of lawenforcement agencies were also present.

# Biden says he's decided response to Jordan strike

broader conflagration.

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden said on Tuesday he had decided on a response to a drone strike that killed three American troops in Jordan but said he did not want a wider war in the Middle East.

Facing growing pressure in an election year. Biden said he held Iran responsible for supplying the weapons to the people who carried out the deadly attack on a military base.

The White House warned that "multiple actions" were likely in retaliation for the first fatal attack on US forces in the region since the Gaza crisis broke out in October, but gave no further details. Biden, 81, who was hitting the campaign trail in Florida, has previously

US government has held

back delivery of 31 MQ-

9A Sea Guardian and Sky

Guardian drones to India

until New Delhi carries

out a "meaningful inves-

tigation" into the con-

spiracy to assassinate

Sikh leader, Gurpatwant

Pannun, who hold dual

US and Canadian citizen-

ship, is a New York-based

activist of Khalistan

movement - the struggle

for independent home-

land for Sikhs by separat-

that the proposed \$3 bil-

lion purchase includes 15

Sea Guardian drones for

the Indian Navy, while

the Indian Air Force and

Army are supposed to

get eight Sky Guardian

drones each. The report

said that Washington has

also held back smaller

Indian acquisitions, in-

cluding a proposal to

buy six Boeing P-81

long-range maritime pa-

trol aircraft. These are to having said.

The Wire reported

ing Punjab from India.

Gurpatwant Singh

Singh Pannun.

blamed Iran-backed militias border, with some urging for the attack which has further raised fears of a regional conflict. "Yes," Biden told reporters at the White House

the region to erupt, with when asked if he had destrikes on Iranian-backed cided on his response, but militias and possibly on Iranian Revolutionary Guard he did not give details on what actions he would take. facilities in other countries "I don't think we need more likely, US media re-

wider war in the Middle ported. "It's very possible that East. That's not what I'm what you'll see is a tiered looking for," he added when asked about fears that takapproach here, not just a ing on Iran could inflame a single action but potentially multiple actions," National Iran has denied any Security Council spokeslinks to the drone strike, and man John Kirby told resaid it was not seeking an porters aboard Air Force

expansion of conflict, ei-Ône. Secretary of State Republicans have Antony Blinken said that urged the Democrat to punthe response "could be multi-leveled, come in ish Iran for the drone strike on a US military facility stages, and be sustained near the Jordanian-Syrian over time.

#### US blocks \$3-b drone sale to India Japan earthquake survivors battle until 'meaningful investigation' of unsanitary conditions with

no running water Monitoring Desk

SUZU: A month on from a huge earthquake that struck Japan's west coast, survivors are battling freezing and unsanitary conditions while tens of thousands of homes remain without running water.

Some areas in the isolated Noto peninsula may not have water restored for another two months, the government of Ishikawa prefecture said, adding to risks for those living in cramped evacuation centres where authorities say respiratory infections and gastroenteritis have been detected.

"There's no water, so we can't wash our clothes or bathe," said Yoshio Binsaki, a 68-year-old resident of the battered coastal town of Suzu, as he prepared to haul a 20 litre (5.3 J.S. gallon) water tank to his car to take home. More than 230 people died in the magnitude 7.6 quake, Japan's deadliest in eight years, which also left 44,000 homes fully or partially destroyed while 40,000 have no running water.

Monitoring Desk pushed through Gaza. Is-DOHA: Several unidentified Palestinians were laid to rest at a mass burial in Gaza on Tuesday after Isbeen dug up. raeli authorities handed over

bodies they had been hold-Many onlookers covered their noses with masks as about 100 bodies were placed in graves in the southern city of Rafah before bulldozers piled sand on them. Palestinian officials said the bodies included victims of the war and corpses that had been dug up as Israeli forces but at the time being

# World Court to rule on Russian violation of international treaties in Ukraine

**Monitoring Desk** International Court of Justice to find Russia guilty of breach-THE HAGUE: The United ing obligations under the two Nations' top court will rule on Wednesday on whether UN treaties, which both coun-Russia violated an anti-tertries have signed, and to order rorism treaty by funding proit to pay reparations. Russian separatists in

In a hearing at the court in The Hague last June, Ukraine, including those who shot down Malaysia Airlines

Russia dismissed Ukraine' allegations as fiction and Kyiv says Russia also "blatant lies" Lawyers for Moscow violated a human rights treaty by discriminating

denied systematic human rights abuses in Ukrainian territory that it occupies and rejected the accusation that it violated the UN treaty against the financing of terrorism

talks with China 'meaningful' Monitoring Desk BEIJING: Talks between

the US and Chinese officials on stemming the flow of chemicals used for the production of deadly fentanyl have been "substantive" but "much more" needs to be done, the head of the White House delegation to Beijing said on Wednesday.

deeper law enforcement cooperation, including on tackling illicit finance, and wants Beijing to put further controls on the chemicals that can be used to make fentanyl, said Deputy Assistant to the President.

> Neuralink has installed brain implant in first human patient: **Elon Musk**

## **Monitoring Desk**

SAN FRANCIŠCO: Elon Musk said on Tuesday his Neuralink startup had installed a brain implant in its first human patient with "promising" initial results. The neurotechnology

company co-founded b Musk in 2016 aims to build direct communication channels between the brain and computers. The ambition is to supercharge human capabilities, treat neuter- (100 mile)-wide waterrological disorders like ALS way separating Taiwan or Parkinson's from China.

# 150 people are killed in Gaza in 24 hours, Health Ministry says has rejected two key de-

tants

**Monitoring Desk** NEW YORK: Gaza's Health Ministry says 150 people have been killed in the territory in the last 24 hours and another 313 were wounded as Israeli forces continue to battle militants, even in the northern part of the ter-

ritory. The north, where entire neighborhoods fensive to 26,900, according to the Hamas-conhave been flattened, was trolled Health Ministry. It the initial target of does not distinguish between civilian and com-Israel's ground offenbatant deaths but says sive in late October.

most of those killed were Israel's military said Wednesday that its women and children. forces killed more than 15 Hamas militants in in southern Israel that northern Gaza over the sparked the war killed 1,200 people, mostly cipast day and targeted vilians, and about 250 militant infrastructure in people were taken hosschool

Israeli Prime Minis- tage, according to Israeli ter Benjamin Netanyahu authorities.

Taiwan holds military drills to defend against the threat of a Chinese invasion

> "Any unilateral irrational action could very easily escalate tensions and sabotage stability in the Taiwan Strait region," Sun said. "So the Chinese Communists should immediately cease these sorts of undermining actions.

China claims the selfgoverning island of 23 million people as its own territory and says it must come under Beijing's control. The long-running divide is a flashpoint in U.S.-China relations. As relations between the rivals have deteriorated in recent years, fears have grown that America could get pulled into a war if hostilities break out. Later in the day, journalists witnessed a simulated attack by China at a military base in the eastern county of Taitung.

Troops in red helmets representing the People's Liberation Army parachuted in, while Taiwanese army drones buzzed overhead

plot to kill Sikh leader NEW DELHI (INP): The supplement 12 P-8I Poseidon aircraft that the Indian Navy already operates Ironically, the Indian Ministry of

Defence's internal approval for the nowstalled drone procure ment came in June 2023 week before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to

Washington. This was also the time when the conspiracy to kill Pannun - set in motion by an Indian security official named CC1, according to a federal indictment made public

last November - shifted to high gear. Today, "the purchase is stuck in the US Congress because of anger over the brazen attempt to assassinate Pannun. US representatives have frozen the legislative movement needed for proceeding with the sale," the Wire quoted a highly-placed source in Washington as



**Israel returns 100 bodies** 

ing in Israel.

flight MH17 in 2014.

against ethnic Tatars and

Ukrainians in Crimea, the

peninsula that Russia de-

clared annexed from

Ukraine had asked the

Ukraine in 2014.

speaks during a hearing in a case whereby Ukraine accused Russia of violating an anti-terrorism treaty by funding pro-Russian forces, including militias who shot down the Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, and discrimination, in The Hague, Netherlands

# to Gaza authorities

rael did not comment on the handover or on the assertion that some corpses had

Islamic Sharia. We don't know where they were injured or even their names,' said Abu Taha, a doctor, at the scene. The bodies were photographed before burial and the victims' injuries documented, he said. "God willing, after the war ends, DNA and

other tests will happen

# US says fentany

INTE

Washington hopes for

**Monitoring Desk** KAOHSIUNG: Almost every day, Chinese warships sail in waters around Taiwan and warplanes fly toward the island before turning back. What if they

suddenly attacked? Taiwan's military conducted a two-day exercise

at sea, on land and in the air this week to practice defending against such a surprise attack. As journalists looked on from fast escort boats, a mine layer released at least a half dozen dummy mines from a chute in its stern.

Maj. Gen. Sun Lifang, the chief defense ministry spokesperson, told reporters at Zuoying Naval Base in southern Taiwan that China's recent actions threaten to spark a conflict that could have devastating effects on the entire region, where billions of dollars in trade pass the 160 kilome-

'They were buried anonymously following

## Daily **Independent**, Gwadar

# **Chinese envoy lauds PAF's** steadfast determination for balance of power in region

Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Jiang Zaidong, called on Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu here on Wednesday

The Chinese ambassador lauded the steadfast determination of PAF leadership to ensure balance of power in the region.

During the meeting, matters pertaining to evolving geo-strategic environment and regional developments were discussed, a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) news release said

ISLAMABAD (APP): broad contours of the PAF's modernization drive in order to transform Pakistan Air Force into a Next Generation Air Force through induction of niche technologies with a special focus on indigenization and revamping of training.

Highlighting the significance of the longstanding strategic partnership between the two countries, he emphasized that the PAF leadership wished to further deepen

the existing aviation cooperation and exchanges with China in the fields of human resource and technol-



Shehbaz says:

PML-N high on

popularity graph

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan stakeholders to learn from

The dignitaries underscored the necessity of revitalizing the framework for operational training across all domains, emphasizing the paramount importance of preparedness and seamless coordination in the face of evolving security challenges. The Air Chief shared

Muslim League-Nawaz

Shehbaz Sharif has claimed

that his party's popularity

graph among people is still

high, despite its active par-

ticipation in the Pakistan Democratic Movement

(PDM) government in the

dia representatives here on

Wednesday, he emphasised

the importance of Febru-

ary-8 elections and high-

lighted its vitality for the

country's economic and

social fabric. Amid numer-

ous challenges confronting

Pakistan, Shehbaz believed

. Talking to digital me-

President

(PML-N)

past.

# ogy so as to jointly address

country's political history

and set aside their personal

interests and make collec-

tive efforts for achieving the

unmet developmental goals

of Pakistan by exploring its

great potential in various fields. Shehbaz Sharif cited

that hardworking nations

find a niche at international

level, asserting that keep-

ing in view Pakistan's cu

rent internal and external

challenges, "we all have to

get united to face these chal-

ing the PML-N government

in 1990s, Pakistan had been

outperforming India in vari-

He claimed that dur

"We have to learn

nges firmly'

He

shared security challenges. further said,"Pakistan values its strong diplomatic, economic,

defence relationship and timetested friendship with China which are based on convergence on all important issues relating to regional peace.

establishment of the Seerat Chair at the Urdu University was a commendable initiative for guiding the new generation.

Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) would continue to be articulated until the Day of Judg-



National Party (ANP)

Zmarak Achakzai demands **PTA** intensifies crackdown on ECP to take notice of

illegal issuance of SIMs Independent Report QUETTA (APP)-Awami dent in Mezai Stop.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) in close col-

lease

matter

ISLAMABAD (APP): his life was essential for Federal Minister for Relileadership, he added.

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the convocation of Allama

**Aneeq Ahmed says:** 

Holy Prophet (SAWW) Seerah

must for Quran's comprehension

Iqbal Open University (AIOU) at Jinnah Convention Centre.

Convocation -

Celebrating The Past, Embracing The Future

Allama Iqbal Open University

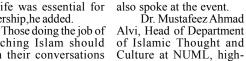
2024

gious Affairs and Interfaith preaching Islam should align their conversations Harmony Aneeq Ahmed on Wednesday stressed for following the Seerah of and discussion with the Holy Prophet Muhammad Holy Quran and Seerat (SAWW) in true sense in Tayyiba, as both had been order to have a full compreleading the human mindset hension of the Holy Ouran. and would continue to do Addressing the inaugutill the end of time, he added

"Today, we must re-flect on whether we are disral ceremony of the Seerat Chair at Federal Urdu Uniloval to our Prophet (Peace versity, he said that truth was the basic trait of Seerat. Follow the truth, speak the truth and its implementation in every sphere of life were the lessons derived

from the Holy Prophet's Seerah, he added. The minister said the

master's level.



lighted that the descent of the Holy Ouran and the prophethood of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) transformed the course of the world. He mentioned that the

purpose of establishing the Seerat Chair was to help students to follow the Seerat Tayyiba in their prac-tical lives. "Accepting religion and adopting Seerat are one and the same," he added.

Urdu University, remarked that the Western culture was having negative impacts on young generation. She said teaching the Holy Quran and Sunnah

the conclusion of the event.

# Thursday February 01, 2024 President Dr. Alvi says

#### Youth may play active role for overall progress & development ISLAMABAD (APP): gional countries had 98% the exploitation of wealth

President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday said youth dren. could play a pivotal role in transforming the destiny of the country through optimum utilization of intellect, morality and education.

He said the country ability," he added. required strong leadership and appropriate use of intellect and expressed the optimism that youth was fully capable of playing an the country could be utilized to educate the out-ofactive role in the overall school children. progress and development.

Addressing the convo-cation of Allama Iqbal ted there had been no sense of sympathy with human-Open University (AIOU), the president said educaity though the developed world posed itself as chamtion and health had a vital pion of democracy. role in the robust development of China and added now just going after the vested interests, as zero Pakistan ought to follow the Chinese model to materialsympathy was being shown by the West amid the ize the goals of rapid develatrocities with innocent opment. people of Gaza.

Calling the passed-out AIOU graduates as elite of tended to get the Kashmir the country, he said they had the distinction to secure a graduate degree in a Nations platform but decountry where 44% or more spite the lapse of over 70 than 26 million children vears, the issue still rewere still out of school. He mained unresolved. pointed out that all the re-

ratio of school-going chilin the world to ensure a person his due right, even-'In order to accomtually leading to peace and

modate all out-of-school unity. children, the government will have to build 50,000 He advised passed-out graduates to continue the struggle for the pursuit of additional schools which is knowledge in practical life. not an easy task, keeping in view the resource avail-He also asked the

women graduates to opt for He pointed out that around 300,000 mosques in the practical life even after getting married.

He said in today's era of technology, women could simultaneously man-President Alvi regretage their jobs and family

The president said Pakistan was declared as world's 5th best-performing country during COVID-19 due to timely and prudent strategies of the government.

Recalling the leadership's decision to establish the AIOU in 1970s, the president said the university had been playing a key and leading role in imparting education to the issue resolved at United people, especially in remote areas.

Earlier, the president conferred degrees and med-als to the fresh students.



He said the world was

He said Pakistan in-

He called for an end to

WASHINGTON: Raja Nasir Ali Khan Maqpoon, Minister for Planning & Development Gilgit-Baltistan called on Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan in Washington DC.

# Pak pavilion at New York's tourism show captivated visitors: Masood

WASHINGTON (APP): tural and tourism potential, Pakistan's Ambassador to according to an embassy the U.S., Masood Khan, press release. Tuesday congratulated the "It augers well not only for the tourism indus-

visiting Gilgit-Baltistan's Planning Minister, Raja try but also for the image Nasir Ali Khan, over the building of the country," he success of Pakistan pavilsaid ion at the weekend's 'Travel & Adventure Show'

"Tourism industry of Pakistan can play a signifiin New York, saying it cant role in cultivating betwould take the county's ter people-to-people ties rich tourism potential to the next level. During a meet-stan and the United States,"

potential of the country. The GB planning

minister said that US tourists were the second highest in numbers visiting Gilgit-Baltistan annually for eco- and adventuretourism, among others. He also said that various steps were being taken to improve infrastructure and facilitate foreign visitors.

In this context, the ster said that GB

ernment was focusing on

establishing IT parks, incu

bation centers, vocational

institutes and winter sports

for the youth. Equal atten-

tion was being paid to girls'

education, providing them

with sports facilities.

Dr. Hafiz Abdul Rashid ment, and familiarity with

#### Be Upon Him). Our religion is complete, containing solutions to all issues. Knowledge and action are both necessary," he said, adding

that students must be made

The greatness of

aware of challenges such as secularism, artificial intelligence, and contemporary issues. Minister Aneeq said it was imperative to include a Secrat book in the curricu-

lum from primary's to Vice-Chancellor Dr.

Rubina Mushtaq, Dr. Mustafafeez Ahmad Alvi, Dr. Ahtesham-ul-Haq, and

was essential for all depart-

ments of Urdu University. Shields were presented to the dignitaries at

Dr. Rubina Mushtaq, Vice-Chancellor of Federal

determined by its people through their constitutional from the past; nothing will be done by crying over the right to vote. He called upon all split milk



that general election was fi- ous fields, and called for

nally going to be held on the assessing all those factors

scheduled date, wherein the which landed the country

fate of Pakistan would be in the current situation.

**OUETTA: Additional Chief Secretary Home Zahid** Saleem meeting with caretaker Home Minister Captain (retd) Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali.

# Zubair Jamali says War against terrorism to remain continue till restoration of peace

**TNFJ** for supporting

**PPP** in election

sion.

Jafaria Balochistan Infor-

mation Secretary Sardar

Tariq Ahmad Jafari said

that the chairman of the

PPP Bilawal Bhutto

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has condemned the hand grenade attack at Sariab road Quetta.

In an official condemnation statement issued allowed to spoil the law and here on Wednesday, the order situation in the prov caretaker Minister Home ince. Mir Zubair Jamali said that the miscreants prayed for early recovery can't weaken the morale of of those injured in the general public by carrying Sariab road blast.

QUETTA- (APP)-Paki-

stan People's Party (PPP)'s

Balochistan Information

Secretary Sardar Sarbuland

Jogezai said that the doors

of PPP were open to all po-

litical parties. No single political

party can form a govern-

ment in Balochistan. After

the elections, the People's Party will form a joint

government with other po-

litical parties, the PPP will

win in the elections to be

held on February 8, he

He also thanked Tehreek Nafaz Fiqa Jafaria (TNFJ) for supporting the candidates of the PPP.

views on Wednesday while

addressing a press confer-

ence at the office of the PPP

Hazara Town along with

He expressed these

Information Secretary People's Party.

said.

out such terrorism inci-

He pledged that our war against terrorism would remain continued till complete restoration of peace in the province. The Minister Home

said that no one would be

added.

stituency PB-44 Haji Mir Noorullah Lehri, candidate Sardar Jogezai thanks

the PML-N was the development of Pakistan and

February 8 election and implement the election Sardar Tariq Ahmad Jafri. manifesto, Muslim League-Provincial Leader of N has the solution to all the PPP, Engineer Hadi Askari

problems of Pakistan, Information Secretary of They expressed these Tehreek Nafaz Jafaria Balochistan. Ghulam Mustafa, President of Tehreek Nafaz Fiqa Jafaria of Balochistan National Balochistan and other were also present on this occa-Murad Bangulzai resigning from BNP. Tehreek Nifaz Fiqa

Earlier, Babu Murad Bangulzai along with hun-dreds of his colleagues announced to join Pakistan Muslim League-N after resigning BNP. Babu Murad Bangalzai

Zardari met with the central leaders of the movesaid that BNP had gotten votes and made false promment and appealed to support the candidates of the ises to the people in the 2018 elections, despite re-

Dn which Tehreek ceiving funds of billions of Nafaz Fiqa Jafaria anrupees, they did not serve nounced its support for the the people due to which candidates of Pakistan people were disappointed.

laboration with the Federal from PB-50 Constituency Investigation Agency (FIA) Engineer Zmarak Khan cyber crime circle, con-Achakzai on Wednesday ducted raid against the said that a worker of ANP BISP outlet at Sharqpur inwas martyred and another volved in activation of was injured due to firing by

SIMs illegally. opponents in Mezai stop. During the raid, 28 acive SIMs were discovered. tion Commission of Paki-The FIA team confiscated stan (ECP) to take notice active SIMs along with 01 of the firing on our workers HBL Konnect device as and the accused involved in evidence, said a news rethe incident should be immediately arrested and In the joint operation. brought to justice saying

person was apprehended that ANP adhered to the by the FIA team. FIA is philosophy of non-violence currently investigating the but could not allow anyone to attack workers. PTA had filed a com-

He expressed these plaint regarding illegal issuviews along with ANP ance of SIMs by the sale leader Dawood Khan channel. The raids are part Achakzai while talking to of PTA's ongoing efforts to journalists on the occasion prevent the circumvention of visiting the worker who of the Multi-Finger Biowas injured in civil hospimetric Verification System tal after the shooting inci-(MBVS). This unwavering

commitment underscores the authority's dedication to eradicate illegal issuance of SIMs, the news release PML-N manifesto

development of **Pak: Noorullah** QUETTA (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N)'s candidate from con-

from constituency NA 264 Arz Muhammad Bareach said that the manifesto of

prosperity of people. They said that the PML-N would win the

PESHAWAR - Notification of postponement of elections in 3 constituencies of views while addressing a Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been issued due to the death ceremony organized here on Wednesday for joining Party (BNP)'s leader Babu tification was issued.

tails, due to the murder of independent candidate Rehan Zaib Khan in NA-8 and PK-22 Bajaur and the death of ANP's Asmatullah Khattak in PK-91 Kohat, the notification was issued

to postponed the elections.

that the Returning Officer has issued a formal announcement of the cancellation of the election because under Clause 73 of the Election Act, the election is

of candidates.

Due to the postpone-

According to the de-

It has been reported

ment of the elections, a no-

cial Minister and candidate political opponents fired on our party workers in Mezai Stop, as a result of which one worker of ANP Zahoor Ahmed martyred and another Moin Khan were seriously injured.

Engineer Zmarak

firing on ANP's workers

leader and former Provin- Khan Achakzai said that

He said that since the election campaign has He demanded the Elecstarted, there have been four attacks on our workers and camps. He also demanded the Election Commission, federal and provincial government to take notice of attack on ANP workers in order to control such incident in future for interest of peace. In response to a question, Engineer Zmarak Khan Achakzai said that the

recent firing incident was an attempt to suppress the ANP saying that however, we wanted to inform the opponents that we would not be intimidated by such high tactics

ing with the minister at Pakistan Embassy, Ambassador Masood Khan said the pavilion, which he inaugurated on Saturday, captivated the global community and evinced keen in-terest in Pakistan's rich cul-

Mach attack martyrs funeral prayers held, says ISPR

RAWALPINDI (APP): The funeral prayers of the Mach attack martyrs were held at

Headquarters Balochistan (North). Quetta who embraced martyrdom while fighting the terrorists in Mach, Bolan on the night of January 29 and 30

The funeral prayers of martyred soldiers identified as Lance Naik Rehmat Ullah, age 30 years, resident of dis-trict Dera Ghazi Khan and Sepoy Muhammad Zaman, age 28 years, resident of district Tank were offered in Headquarters FC Balochistan North), an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said on Wednesday.

**Collier dies** after landslide hits **Duki coalmine** 

DUKI (INP): A collier was killed by a landslide in a coalmine in Duki, a district of Baluchistan, on Wednesday.

According to rescue sources, the body of the deceased miner was shifted to the Civil Hospital in Duki for necessary proce-

as

participating from PK-91 The deceased miner Kohat and former senator was identified Naseebullah son of Abdul Abbas Afridi is also a can-Kareem, resident of district didate from PK-91, died due Qila Saifullah, hospital to falls, he was an ANP aspirant from PK-91 Kohat. sources said.

On the other hand, Rehan Zaib Khan, an activist of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf and contesting as an independent candidate from NA-8 and PK-22 Bajaur killed, police sources say that Rehan Zaib Khan was shot by unknown persons near Siddiqabad, as

a result of the firing, Rehan Zaib Khan was seriously injured, Rehan Zaib Khan was shifted to the hospital

in critical condition

the Pakistani envoy added. Raja Nasir Khan thanked the Ambassador for the support provided by the Consulate General in New York and Pakistan Embassy, Washington, in successfully showcasing the tourism

**QUETTA:** Conservator of Forest Monitoring Upscaling of Green Pakistan Program Umar Farooq Kakar presenting a shield to Director **General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad** Noor Khetran.

# NAB Balochistan lucky to have hard working staff, says Director General

#### Commendation certificates distributed among employees

The Director NAB

comed the audience and

shared the run of events of

the ceremony. Thereafter,

Director General NAB, in

his address, appreciated the

efforts of NAB officials. He

said that development of

any department is directly

NAB

General Accountability **Independent Report** QUETTA: The Director General National Account-Jaffar Raza Khan, Director NAB Dr. Muhammad ability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan, Zafar Iqbal Rashad, Officers of NAB and other employees par-Khan has stated that the ticipated in the ceremony. NAB is very lucky to have very hardworking and dedi-Dr. Muhammad Rashad, in his inaugural speech, wel-

cated staff. The DG NAB was addressing the ceremony arranged for distribution of meritorious certificates in recognition of outstanding performance of the Bureau's employees here on Wednesday. The commendation

linked to the performance and hardworking of its emcertificates were distributed among the employees for ployees. outstanding performance (Balochistan) is very lucky that it has very hard work ing staff. He said that merit is the scale to measure ca-

during the year 2023. The DG NAB (Balochistan) Zafar Iqbal Khan, Deputy Prosecutor pability of any individual



QUETTA: Director General NAB Zafar Iqbal Khan and Director NAB Dr. Muhammad Arshad addressing a appreciation certificate distribution ceremony among employees on their best performance in 2023.

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postponed due to the death of the candidate after the issue of election marks.

It is learned that 13 candidates including Asmatullah Khattak were dures