

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XX No. 134, Jamaadi us Sani 01, 1446 AH Wednesday December 04, 2024, Pages 04, Price Rs.15

### Doors of CM House are open for special persons: "Kumak Programme" to be redesigned & expanded for support of persons with disabilities: Chief Minister

Announces 100 percent increase in educational scholarships for persons with disabilities; ramps to be established in all government buildings; pink scooties to be provided to special women

ment

year's budget.

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has announced wholehearted patronage of the persons with disabilities adding that the "Kumak" Programme would be expanded for support of the persons with disabilities. He said that

this programme would be resigned and improved fur-



He said that that doors of Chief Minister House are open for them every time. He also announced to take the representatives of

disabled persons on board cal hotel on Tuesday. Missing persons case:

**Regular or joint session of** parliament be summoned and matter be resolved: SC ISLAMABAD (Online): day.

Justice

Supreme Court (SC) constitutional bench while is-Mandokhail remarked nation and court are looking suing notice to Attorney General (AG), interior min- to parliamentarians. In my istry and other respondents view the case of missing and summoning reports persons is very important. from all respective institu- The cases of missing per-



RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in the family photo of budget would be allocated for them in next financial the One-Water Summit.

#### Govt proposes These and similar other views were expressed and 5-year jail, Rs1m announcements made by fine for spreading fake news

#### **Monitoring Desk** ISLAMABAD: The federal government has proposed a five-year imprisonment or a fine of Rs1 million for individuals found guilty of deliberately spreading fake news, as part of initial amendments to the cybercrime law, a private tv channel reported on Tues-

our beloved motherland against the entire spectrum of threats. The draft introduces significant changes to the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 (PECA),

ies, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release. According to the draft, The COAS visited spreading false informatroops participating in a tion, inciting fear, or disfield training exercise near rupting peace through Narowal and Sialkot. He online platforms could lead was given a comprehensive

### Armed forces fully capable of safeguarding territorial integrity, says COAS

conduct of the exercise, which aimed to refine professional skills and battlefield procedures essential for addressing emerging operational challenges. During the exercise, in-

tegrated fire and maneuver operations were conducted by various elements, including Armour, Infantry, Mechanized Infantry, Artillery, Air Defence, Armv Aviation and Anti-Tank In his interaction with Guided Missile units.

the participants of field training exercise near The exercise also dem-Narowal, Sialkot, he emonstrated the effective emphasized the critical imporployment of electronic tance of maintaining conwarfare capabilities and instant preparedness to formation operations decounter any potential threats posed by adversarsigned to disrupt enemy communications and counter disinformation strategies in a modern battlefield environment. The COAS spent the

day in the field alongside the troops, commending their training standards. operational readiness, and high state of morale.

# **PM underscore need for** strong political will, global leadership to tackle water crisis

Says our duty to ensure that these rivers, lakes and aquifers that have nourished civilisations for centuries must not be reduced to tales of the past; Also underscored the importance of ensuring

the sustainable management of water resources worldwide Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday underscored the need for strong political will, and global leadership to overcome the water crisis posing existential threat to the nations around the globe.

The prime minister, addressing the One Water Summit on the Margins of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP-16) under the theme "Restore, Pre-

pressed his profound gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, France, and Kazakhstan, as well as the World Bank for organizing the timely summit, to deliberate upon, one of humanity's most pressing challenges: water security. He said that water was the lifeblood of the planet; a cornerstone of economic development, food security, and environmental sustainability.

RIYADH (APP): Prime serve, and Adapt" here ex- resource, however, is coming under increasing stress. Nearly half of the world's population is facing, water scarcity, for at least part of the year. Billions remain, without clean drinking water, as water pollution, is rising, at alarming levels, he added. The prime minister underlined that the water resources were fast depleting and degrading which was displacing milironmental sustainability. lions, and causing, unprec-"This life-sustaining edented destruction.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir during the field training exercise near Narowal and Sialkot.

### Chairs 8th Senate meeting of Turbat University: Governor Balochistan calls for still holds trump making serious measures to stop brain drainage RAWALPINDI (INP): After the embattled Pakistan

Independent Report included judge of Baloch QUETTA: The Governor High Court, Mr Justice Shaukat Rakhshani, Vice Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar

Hasan, Principal Secretary

to Governor, Hashim Khan

The Governor ex-

He said that quality

He said that the uni-

ative ideas, modern ap-

ressed satisfaction over

Chief Minister while addressing the ceremony arday. ranged marking the International Day of Persons with disabilities by the Social Welfare Department here at a lo-

Jamal

including the establishment of a Digital Rights Protec-tion Authority (DRPA) with extensive powers to block or remove online content deemed harmful to public safety or state inter-

to severe penalties. brief on the objectives and

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M) affirmed that the Pakistan Armed Forces, with the resolute support of the na-tion, are fully capable of safeguarding the territorial integrity and sovereignty of

tions in missing persons sons are running in high case has observed regular or courts and SC. joint session of parliament be summoned and the problem be resolved.

presided over by Justice ing. Parliament has to find Amin ud Din Khan took up the case for hearing Tues-lem.

Thousands of people are missing. Here Aitzaz Ahsan and Latif Khosa SC constitutional bench like politicians are stand-

### **PTI trying to hoodwink** masses through false narrative of bodies: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Na-tional Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Tuesday that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was trying to hoodwink the people through fake narrative and

Lambasting Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, in a media talk, he said that the party was creating a false narrative of firing on the protest-

He once again challenged the PTI to present a single piece of evidence showing a law enforcement agencies personnel firing hand



viral.

**MASHHAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign** Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar holds meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Aragchi on the sidelines of ECO, Council of Ministers meeting.

GoB spokesman explains news about "under age" candidate of Usta Muhammad

namely Muhammad Jameel

son of Abdul Latif qualified

for the junior drawing mas-

ter on merit. The date of

birth of candidate is actu-

ally 20th September, 1999

but it was written as 2009

by typing mistake in the

documents compiled at the

district level, he added.

**Independent Report** OUETTA: The spokesman, Government of Balochistan, Shahid Rind has explained the news gone viral on the social media about low age of a candidate appeared for job in Education Department Usta Muhammad

In an official statement documents were scrutiissued here on Tuesday, the spokesman said that Edunized by Education Department. However, all the cation Department has condocuments are present for ducted investigation about the story, according to which, the candidate checked.

bullets directly on the protesters. "There is not a single

video in which law enforcement agencies person can be seen directly firing upon protesters. They have all agree to deepen kinds of videos but there is no video evidence ( of direct firing) as this never took place", he maintained.

in all spheres The minister said that a video of a man running away in which he was saying that he hit by a gunshot, went

Attaullah Tarar said the same person in another video was claiming that he had got an injury on his

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ÊCO) being held here.

Pakistan, Iran

bilateral coop.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on areas of mutual interest and the latest regional and global developments.

The deputy prime minister arrived here on Monday to attend the moot where he would reiterate Pakistan's commitment to the ECO Charter and highlight the potential of greater connectivity in the ECO region, through the development of road and rail networks; liberalization of visa

### **Mild earthquake** jolts Quetta

regimes and simplification of border procedures.

QUETTA (APP): A mild earthquake of magnitude 3.2 shook Quetta and nearby areas on Tuesday, prompting residents to rush out of buildings in panic.

According to a private In this regard, all the news channel, the Seismological department said that the earthquake occurred at a depth of 13 kilometers and the epicenter is yet to be identified.



**ISLAMABAD:** Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi chairing National Action Plan's Coordination Committee meeting.

tive coordination.

### Interior Minister chairs key meeting 206 terrorists killed in 7984 IBOs till October Govt for enhancing coordination

## between NACTA, provinces

will take steps under a comprehensive strategy to stop the usage of illegal SIMs. The top officials of all relevant institutions, including PTA, were directed to present an effective mechanism in the next meeting. The interior minister

condemned the recent incidents of terrorism in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He emphasised that full cooperation would be provided been established for effecto improve the professional capabilities of the Counter-According to the brief-Terrorism Forces in

ing, 206 terrorists have been Balochistan and Khyber killed in 7984 intelligence-Pakhtunkhwa to deal with based operations till October this year. During the terrorism, adding that the police and Frontier Conmeeting, it was decided to stabulary would be strengthened. He undertake comprehensive measures to prevent the activities of banned terrorist orscored that everyone had to work together to improve ganizations on social media. the law and order situation. In this regard, with the cooperation of Pakistan Tele-He said that along with increasing capacity, the pocommunication Authority lice of all provinces should (PTA), the accounts of ter-

call" protest in Islamabad Aleema Khan, sister of incarcerated party founder Imran Khan, said on Tues day that her brother "still holds trump card close to

Imran says he

card close to

his chest'

Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI) faced

an abrupt end to its "final

his chest' "PTI founder told me that he would not reveal his trump card right now, Aleema told reporters after meeting the former premier at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail where he has been incarcer ated for more than one year. She said that she

waited for six hours yes terday but she was not per mitted to meet Imran"

Aleema also dismissed rumours about the PTI founder's deteriorating health conditions, saying that he is "totally fine".

### AJK SC suspends controversial presidential ordinance

MUZAFFARABAD (Online): Azad Kashmir Supreme Court has suspended controversial presidential ordinance of AJK government. A full court presided over by Chief Justice Raja Saeed Åkram Khan of AJK SC heard the petition. The court issued order for suspending presi-dential ordinance after preliminary hearing.

The court on the ap peal of bar council and civil society restrained government from promulgating ordinance.

It is pertinent to mention here that under the ordinance it was necessary to obtain permission from DC a week before any protest and public meeting or procession. Under ordinance no unregistered party or organization was entitled to file application for protest.

All bar associations and political parties had re

Chancellor of Turbat Uni Khan Mandokhail has underlined the need to make versity, Professor Dr Gul serious decisions for stopping brain drainage. He said that our very

Ghilzai, Engineer Ahmed qualified and experienced Farooq Bazai from Higher Education Commission, Ph.D scholars would not go to abroad leaving the besides the representatives public sector universities of Education and Finance by ensuring timely paydepartments. ment of salaries and providing necessary facilities the performance of Unito them.

Otherwise, brain drain versity of Turbat. However, adding he stressed to would cast negative imbring more improvement in pacts on educational standard and research output. This can also affect the

process of inspiring new education is the best source of changing lives of students to get admissions the people and their bright in the higher educational institutions future

The Governor was chairing meeting of the 8th versities are not mere Senate meeting of Univer-sity of Turbat here on places of learning but are also major centers of cre-Tuesday.

Those who were proach and solution to the present in the meeting were collective issues.



ISLAMABAD: H.E. Irfan Neziroglu, Ambassador of Turkive called on Minister for Defence & Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

### FIA identifies 924 social media accounts in 'anti-state propaganda' crackdown

QUETTA (APP): Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Cyber Crime Wing in Balochistan has launched a significant crackdown against individuals involved in anti-state propaganda on social media. Under the

leadership of Director Imran Maĥmood, the operation has gained momentum, identifying 924 suspicious social media accounts over the past three months. The accounts flagged by the agency include 487 on Facebook, 190 on

TikTok, 147 on Twitter, 88 on Instagram, and 12 on other platforms. Details of these accounts have been forwarded to the Pakistan Felecommunication Authority (PTA), which has already blocked 312 accounts.

The Cyber Crime Wing established a dedicated

team to monitor and analyze social media activities, using advanced technology to track suspicious behaviors across various platforms, including Facebook, and TikTok Investigations are un-

derway into 14 cases registered against individuals linked to these activities. The FIA also revealed that 28 social media applications could be exploited by anti-state elements for propaganda and anonymous ommunication.

Director Imrar Mahmood emphasized the agency's commitment to combating such activities, stating that no leniency would be shown to those undermining the state's interests. "All available resources are being deployed to apprehend the culprits,

he said.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan, Secretaries and senior officers of all departments attending dinner hosted by Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti.

/ASHHAD (APP) Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator ISLAMABAD (APP): Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Federal Interior Minister Fuesday held a bilateral Mohsin Naqvi chaired an meeting with Iranian counimportant meeting of the terpart Abbas Aragchi National Action Plan (NAP)

wherein both countries Coordination Committee in agreed to deepen bilateral Islamabad on Tuesday. cooperation in all spheres. During the meeting, it was decided to enhance coordination between the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) and the provinces. The minister said that a National Fusion Center has



Wednesday December 04, 2024

ter Caracas

cially

lars.

since

Taliban.

OPINION



## **Competing narratives**

While the state may have succeeded in beating back PTI supporters from the capital's red zone last week, the battle of narratives between both sides with regard to the deaths that reportedly occurred during the confrontation continues.

The PML-N-led government insists no PT supporters were killed by law enforcers, while the latter remains adamant that its activists were targeted by the state. The federal information minister told a press conference that no PTI worker was killed during the clashes, while accusing the Imran Khan-led party of spreading fake images and videos on social media to support its narrative. Moreover, the government says four security personnel died in the violence and around 190 were injured while confronting protesters.

While figures quoted by PTI leaders and supporters initially varied greatly, the party now says that 12 supporters died in the melee, and that the state is hiding the truth. It is also a fact that the administration is worried about the PTI narrative on social media, which is why it has formed a joint task force to trace those behind the "massive malicious campaign". In the midst of these claims and counter-claims, instead of focusing all its energies on hunting down the PTI's keyboard warriors, the state would be better off supporting a transparent investigation into the reported deaths. While countering fake news is essential, it is more important to ascertain if there were actual deaths during the confrontation. The reported deaths of law enforcers must also be probed.

Therefore, a judicial commission acceptable to both sides can be formed to conduct an impartial inquiry into the matter. This would put to rest rumours and ensure that justice is served.

It is also important for the government as well as the opposition to agree to some rules of engagement regarding future protests. The right to protest is part and parcel of the democratic process, but some SOPs need to be hammered out and agreed to by all parties so that future demonstrations do not end in bloodshed.

Also, the prime minister has suggested the creation of a special anti-riot squad. If this plan goes ahead, the state needs to give clear guidelines regarding where and how this squad is to be deployed, while its core mandate should be handling volatile situations through non-lethal means. The government's efforts to project the PTI's protest campaign as 'anti-state' also needs a rethink. As stated above, all parties and groups have a constitutional right to peacefully assemble.

Criticism of the government, therefore, cannot automatically be treated as criticism of the state, as this gives licence to the administration to brand all opposition parties and critical groups as 'anti-national'. A clear demarcation is required between anti-government protests, and antistate activities.

# **New normals**

Tasneem Noorani Namaz is the time to take a break from worldly matters to stand before Alinvolved in tively lah and seek His mercy destabilising Pakistan.

and guidance. But despite one's best efforts, thoughts wander to Kashmiri fighters infilmundane matters — as trating occupied Kashthey do to the uninmir, resulting in brutal tended consequences of counterinsurgency acthe events taking place tion by the Indian state, in our country.

ur country. which led to the In the 1980s, the brutalisation of ordinary MQM was created to Kashmiris, and diluted take care of the mothe sacrifices of the nopoly of a party in genuine freedom fight-Karachi. For the next 30 ers. years, we saw the

In the 2020s, in or-MQM's new culture of der to neutralise a politiviolence in Karachi imcal party, we have again peding the city's eco- hit upon the idea of usnomic, physical and soing the faceless force of cial growth. From the the state to bring every-'city of lights', Karachi one in line, whether it be became the world's seca defiant politician, an inond most unsafe city afdependent judge or a cheeky policeman. While In the 1970s, we had the temptation to use

to fight fears of the Soforce in all its forms, viets invading our counwithout actually killing try after Afghanistan. anyone, is tempting for Simplistically, we took to the state, there will be the idea of training and unintended consefunding civilians, reliquences like before. giously inclined or finan-The first new nor-

driven, as mal is the militarisation of mujahideen, and having the police. Earlier, police them cross the western officials, while entertainborder. It was a win-win. ing the wishes of the rul-Rulers could prolong ers, always had at the their rule; the country back of their mind the and rulers could get dol- thought that any ex-Everyone was cesses committed by happy. The unintended them could land them in impact was the introduc- trouble with their departtion of drugs and the ment or that the courts Kalashnikov culture, could hold them acwhich have flourished countable. Now that amne-sty, medical cover We also saw that afand compensation to

ter the USSR's withtheir families have been drawal, while we exassured at the highest pected the mujahideen to level, the level of brutalreturn to their mundane ity is unprecedented. village life, they, having This new norm

become used to power where the police force is and pelf, morphed into fixed on obliterating the government's political op-ponents will come to While we encouraged the Afghan Taliban haunt future oppositions. to destabilise and then The second new normal take Afghanistan from is a unique way of arrestthe US, we expected the ing a person to ensure Pakistani Taliban to melt punishment before trial, by away and forget about raiding the home of the the power they enjoyed. victim and traumatising Now the Taliban, our his family, without regard own handiwork, whether to the unwritten norms of it was through educating the sanctity of home and tesy Dawn

them in our madressahs family, which had hitherto or giving them arms and been assured in our cultraining, are not in our ture. The destruction of control. They are ac- furniture, electronics, windows, crockery, vehicles et al, is the norm now, In the 1980s, we while there is no mention were seen to support of this method of punishment in any law book.

> The third new normal is multiple FIRs and arrest of undesirable persons. Pre-viously, a person was charged, arrested and given bail if the court felt that keeping him/her in jail was not legally justified. That disc-retion has been taken away. That is why the state does not find any need to incarcerate anyone under the MPO, which apart from proce-

dural requirements and no provision for arbitrary arrests by the government, has a maximum limit for the detention period. The fourth new normal is the most serious feature, and a forebearer.

of a lawless society. The Supreme Court is, by definition, the highest and most powerful forum and final arbitrator in the state. Its rulings have the effect of law. In this case, in order to tide over short-term exigencies, we disobeyed the court's unambiguous orders of holding elections in provinces, followed by disregarding the order of the full court (the highest conceivable forum) in the case of special seats. While life goes on as normal, this expediency will

come home to roost. Imagine a hotly contested football match with 80,000 fans equally divided between the two sides, watching a match where one team refuses to obey the red card shown by the referee, and continues to play with the expelled, or insists that a goal scored on an offside cannot be refused. You will certainly see a free for all amongst the fans in the stadium to 'settle' the problem. We need to prevent that from happening here. -- Cour-

that the economy is stabilising. The PSX share index has, for the first time, crossed 100,000 points. The rupee-dollar exchange rate has rema-ined stable over the entire year despite speculation to the rate has come tumbling down to around six per cent when even the most optimistic projecthis number. The recurring dreaded current ac-

count deficit has turned positive with a spurt in exports and a windfall rise in remittances, albeit with controlled imports. These are all posi-

tive developments. But will this trend continue? Most importantly, if it does will it ignite sustained high growth, or as is the case with many developing countries, will it end up in the lowgrowth equilibrium trap of macro stability without growth?

While the government has taken full credit for stabilising the economy, these develnot just the result of its slowing down in the rate of inflation is global after the end of Covid-19 which sent consumers on a worldwide spending spree. This decline has also been helped by stable oil prices.

As to the stock market, it is firmly in the hands of a few speculators. And past booms have fizzled out at the same speed as stocks have climbed! In any case, hardly any new companies have been listed on the stock market over the last year.

The increase in remittances is indeed welcome but the government should beware that amongst its most likely causes is the return of poverty to Pakistan af- ing Pakistan. We must from our past mistakes? ter nearly two decades also remember that de- -- Courtesy Dawn

# **Economic growth**

### **Rashid Amjad**

There are indeed signs current government ance we are still vulnercommitment to buy up rural poverty as promised price. As growth slows down and contrary. The inflation items are removed, un- payments). Despite high employment and povtion was of near double resources to increase direct income support to the poor. There is then always the fear that as

stabilisation measures kick in and aggregate demand is compressed, the economy could slip into a deep recession. The lull in the housing and real estate market if it collapses could create a vacuum which could push the economy in this direction as the collapse of the housing market had done earlier in Japan and more recently in China. This will push the govern-

ment into a conundrum, leaving it little room for manoeuvre given the opments are of course tight fiscal constraints the IMF programme has efforts. To start with, the imposed on it. The government should be prepared for such an eventuality

Ón the external front, there are already serious concerns building up of global economic uncertainty as Donald Trump takes office next month. While the dollar will, in all probability, strengthen given his announced trade curbs on imports from China, Canada and Mexico in the first instance, a major trade war can erupt with each economy adopting policies designed to protect Mushahid Hussain has its own interests. As in the past, this could trig- period, in the current ger a global recession which would hurt developing countries includ-

of its declining, a situa- spite improvements in tion worsened by the our current account balpolicy of not fulfilling its able to external shocks. We possess under three wheat at a minimum sup- months of foreign export price and pushing change reserves to finance imports and a sigprices fell to half this nificant gap this financial year in the foreign exchange external balsubsidies on essential ance (including debt reexpectations, foreign inerty will rise further and vestment (Saudi Arabia) the government will be and promised debt hard-pressed to find the rollovers (China) have still not materialised.

The real question is that even if the economy stabili-ses as it has many times before will it ignite higher gro-wth with poverty reduction?

The targeted 3pc growth for this year is less than half of what the country needs, in view of its population and labour force, to make a dent in rising poverty and malnutrition. Though growth is expected to pick up in subsequent years, it will still be much less than required and much lower than what India has posted (over 7pc) in the last three years.

There are some emerging green shoots (for example, IT and AI) which could serve as drivers of economic growth. But it is already difficult to get our ruling elite to pay their due taxes and well-nigh impossible to get them, or for that matter any foreign investor, to risk investments in the current political milieu. Few can blame them after the recent events.

The only way to get out of the interdependent political and economic dead ends is a political détente, or what former senator termed a 'cooling off confrontation between the major stakeholders. But have we ever learnt

# **Commerce** News

# Ahsan congratulates PSX for stellar $60\overline{\%}$ growth in 2024

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, on behalf of the Prime Minister, congratulated the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Allama Iqbal as the nation 2013, the country faced seachieving over 60% growth in 2024.

Speaking at the PSX gong striking ceremony on Tuesday, Ahsan Iqbal lauded the exchange's performance, stating it showcased Pakistan's resilience and economic potential.

During his address, Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the importance of four key factors for national development: peace, political stability, consistent policies, and commitment to reforms. He noted that without creating a conducive ecosystem, even the best intentions would be futile. "Pakistan needs these four pillars more than ever." he stressed.

ucts.

on global supply chains for Reflecting Pakistan's long-term goals, economic survival. Ahsan Iqbal underlined the need to honor the vision of achievements, Ahsan Iqbal Q u a i d - e - A z a m Muhammad Ali Jinnah and approaches its centenary in 2047. "We cannot afford to lag behind economically," he said, calling for strategic progress.

shift from the political ide-ologies of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the economic competi- project.

tion of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The minister also an-National Economic Transformation Plan, emphasizing the need for export-led "Made in Pakistan" prod-

He noted that no Pa- the focus shifted to prekistani company currently venting Pakistan's ecoexceeds a \$2 billion valua- nomic collapse, with diffition, stressing the importance of connecting with bilize the country.

recalled that when the PML-N assumed office in vere crises, including terrorism, energy shortages, and target killings in Karachi. He added that the PML-N restored peace, controlled He highlighted the load-shedding, and advanced the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

Recounting

However, he criticized the political instability that nounced the forthcoming followed in 2018, which he said disrupted national progress, particularly CPEC's special economic growth and the branding of zones (SEZs). When the government resumed power in 2022, Ahsan Iqbal said

cult decisions made to sta-

### **RUSSIA: Pakistani Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan** Leghari meets Russian Minister for Transport Mr. Roman Starovoyt on the occasion of 9th session of Pak-Russia IGC. **ICCI, OBF-UK agree** to coordinate business events to boost exports

PTCL partners with Mumtaz city to empower 2,000 homes with flagship high-speed internet Tuesday.

### **Independent Report**

ISLAMABAD: Country's leading ICT services provider, Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) has signed a strategic agreement with Mumtaz City to revolutionize connectivity for its residents and businesses through its premium and flagship internet service, Flash Fiber.

This collaboration highlights the shared vision of PTCL and Mumtaz City to



deliver a modern connectivity infrastructure that fosters seamless digital experiences and accelerates technological progress in one of Pakistan's rapidly growing urban

Under the terms of the agreement, PTCL will take on the comprehensive design, development, and deployment of a state-of-the-art optical fiber network across Mumtaz City.

This advanced infrastructure will provide high-speed internet access to 2,500 plus homes and high-rise structures, delivering unmatched connectivity and highcapacity networks that cater to the demands of modern living. This deployment is a key step towards empowering the Mumtaz City community with high-speed internet solutions

The signing ceremony was attended by Nauman Durrani, VP Business Operations North, Salman Ali Bajwa, VP Sales PTCL, and Aqil Jamal Butt, Chief Executive, Mumtaz City, along with senior officials from both sides.

#### ISLAMABAD (APP): A release. The meeting delegation from the focused on strategies to Overseas Business Forum- enhance Pakistan's UK (OBF), led by its Chairman Farooq Khan, improving the country's visited the Islamabad foreign exchange earnings. Chamber of Commerce and Both parties agreed to

jointly organize business Industry (ICCI) on events that would showcase Pakistan's The delegation was warmly welcomed by ICCI export-oriented products President Nasir Mansoor and facilitate business-to-

business (B2B) meetings. Qureshi, Senior Vice To ensure smooth coordination, the ICCI and President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Vice President OBF-UK decided to Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, and other ICCI appoint focal persons for members, said a press the respective tasks.

Railways earn Rs. 33b in five months

ISLAMABAD (APP): official sources in the Ministry told APP.

Pakistan Railways has achieved an unprecedented Pakistan Railways earning of over Rs. 33 billion during the initial five months of the current has achieved a historic financial milestone through generating Rs. 33 billion financial year 2024-25 revenue over the past five months, reflecting a 14 with the untiring efforts of the department, despite percent year-on-year growth compared to Rs. 29 facing several financial billion during the same period last year.

"The department has earned this revenue "This marks an from passengers and incremental gain of over Rs freight trains, while surpassing the target four billion, attributed to enhanced operational through the consistent efficiency and strategic efforts and hard work of revenue optimization," the the Railway workers." sources revealed

challenges.

Rs 274,500, All Sindh Sarafa Association reported. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also went

up by Rs 600 to Rs 235,940 from Rs 235,340 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold increased to Rs 216,278 from Rs 215,728.

> Shipping activity at **Port Qasim**

**Gold prices** 

increase

by **Rs** 700

per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The price of 24 karat per

tola gold increased by Rs

700 and was sold at Rs

275,200 on Tuesday

Jewellers

against its sale at

KARACHI (APP): Four ships, MSC Silavana-VIII, DM Bea, Iolaos and Pacific ERA carrying Container, Palm oil, Coal and MO Gas, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Liquid Cargo Pakistan Terminal, International Bulk Terminal and FOTCO Terminal respectively on Monday. Meanwhile another containers ship 'Maersk Newark' also arrived at outer anchorage on today Morning.Nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, MSC Silavana-VIII and AL

the Leadership of Persons

Future" JASRA left the port.

# Pakistan, Russia discuss expansion of bilateral connectivity

(APP): release.

Minister for Energy Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Legahri and Russian Minister for Transport Mr. Roman Starovoyt, in a meeting held here Tuesday, positively assessed the prospects of expanding bilateral connectivity which would not only benefit Pakistan and Russia but also the entire

MOSCOW

region. Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari is on a visit to Moscow to co-chair the 9th session of Pakistan-

Sardar Awais Legahri appreciated the growing level of cooperation between Pakistan and Russia.

The two sides took stock of all bilateral cooperation projects in the transport sector including road, rail and air, it further said. Both sides agreed to continue contacts and enhance cooperation.

Awais Legahri also invited Russian minister Starovoyt to visit Russia IGC, said a press Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State/Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Digital Media Fahd Haroon meeting with Kyle Gardner, Head of Public Policy and Government Affairs, Google South Asian Markets.

## **OICCI** organizes conference for empowerment of PWDs

ISLAMABAD (APP): for businesses to adopt The Overseas Investors accessible and inclusive Chamber of Commerce and workplace practices. In his Industry (OICCI) here on Tuesday hosted its second Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Conference on the occasion of the International Day for Persons With Disabilities (PWDs).

The event convened a diverse group of CEOs, HR heads, business leaders, and policymakers for impactful discussions advocating for the inclusion of the PWDs in the workforce.

Inclusive, Sustainable the event belong and can contribute meaningfully." highlighted the imperative

Themed "Amplifying with Disabilities for an

opening remarks, OICCI Managing Committee member Ahmed Khan Bozai, emphasized the importance of addressing systemic barriers that hinder PWD inclusion. He stated, "True inclusion goes beyond breaking barriers-it's about building a workplace culture that values the strengths of every individual. When businesses embrace diversity, they not only unlock innovation but also create environments where everyone feels they truly

# Independent

Wednesday December 04, 2024

## **Chairs cabinet meeting** CM Maryma approves special package for security personnel martyred, injured by PTI mob

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired 20<sup>th</sup> brutal violence of PTI The CM said that beaten so mercilessly with meeting of the provincial items.

The provincial cabinet cabinet strongly condemned brutal violence and attacks on police and rangers during PTI's violent protest on November 24, and offered Fateha for the security personnel martyred in the protest

The cabinet approved evident special packages for those martyred and injured in the protest. These packages include a total of Rs 29 million for the martyred constable of Punjab Police, a Rs 01 million each for police and rangers personnel injured in the fractured due to the arrangements.

172 police personnel were nailed sticks that his skull cabinet to discuss and injured during the brutal and brain were damaged decide on major agenda protest of PTI workers, and his eye was swollen, most of them are in critical she said. condition. She said it is

shameful to see the condition of the injured never seen such a display of brutality, cruelty and violence in my life. A policeman was shot at close range, which went through his body." She lamented that the constable children. A special force of

beaten by groups with nailed sticks and rifle butts, combat riots. Attacks on Dera Ghazi Khan and Mianwali check posts have increased. She directed to improve the security

Governor

**KP** visits

**Data Darbar** 

Governor of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Faisal Karim Kundi on

Tuesday visited Data Darbar, the shrine of

famous Sufi saint Hazrat

Ali Bin Usman Hajveri, commonly known as Data

laid a 'chaddar' of flowers

on the grave and along with

devotees also prayed for

the progress and stability

of Pakistan and durable

offered for the welfare and

wellbeing of Muslim

Prayers were also

Later on, Faisal

peace in the country.

Faisal Karim Kundi

(APP):

occasion.

The CM said that beaten so mercilessly with and his eye was swollen, The CM said, "I have

### trafficking in educational institutions is first priority Independent Report said that the young AHORE: Governor generation is the asset of Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the education, He said that elimination of drug trafficking in educational institutions is the first priority. He stated this today while addressing the

the country. Along with moral education and character building is also important for them. He said that it is the responsibility of teachers to involve students in farewell ceremony of

**Punjab Governor says:** 

**Elimination of drug** 

Principal Brigadier (Rtd) positive activities. Governor Punjab said that Mujahid Alam at Lawrence a political leadership College Ghora Gali Murree. A large number of involving the young faculty members, teachers generation in subversive and students of the college activities is tantamount to anti-nationalism. He said were present on the that the young generation

Punjab Governor rejected the politics of Sardar Saleem Haider Khan violence.

other department officials.

Awaz II, NGOs, and special

### **Minister highlights Punjab govt measures** for special persons LAHORE (APP): The

International News

Addressing the Punjab Social Welfare and attendees, Provincial Minister Sohail Shaukat Bait-ul-Mal Department organised a prestigious Butt highlighted that for the ceremony on International first time in Punjab's history, Day of Persons with a unique programme, the Disabilities. The event, held Humqat Card, was launched under the leadership of the at a local hotel, was attended chief minister to benefit by Provincial Minister for special persons. He mentioned that so far, Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Mal Punjab, Sohail Shaukat Butt, as the chief guest. The 40,000 special persons have ceremony was attended by been issued Humgat Cards, Secretary Social Welfare with an additional 25,000 Javed Akhtar Mahmood, individuals to be supported DG Sikandar Zishan, and

in the second phase. Sohail Shaukat Butt elaborated that after Representatives from thorough verification at international organizations, including the British Council, FCDO, UNFPA, their doorsteps, special persons have been provided with financial persons, also participated enthusiastically. assistance of 10,500 each. Rs.

**ATC** acquits accused in 8-year-old murder case

AHORE (APP): An antiterrorism court (ATC) or Tuesday acquitted a man accused of murdering two Khan Gandapur on children in Liaquatabad Tuesday asked the public eight years ago.ATC Judge and private universities in Manzer Ali Gill announced the province to focus on the verdict on conclusion students' grooming apart of arguments from both from traditional education sides. The court held that to firmly counter the national and international the prosecution failed to substantiate the charges challenges against the accused Haroon Masih, who was brought to court from jail for the hearing. to embrace challenges,

The case dates back to 2016, when Liaquatabad police registered an FIR against Masih, alleging his involvement in the killing of two children.

**AIOU** provides

free education to persons with disabilities: VC ISLAMABAD (APP) Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is making every possible effort to every bring prosperity and convenience to the lives of persons with

disabilities. To help them lead dignified and successful lives, the university offers free education from matriculation to PhD level," said the Vice-Chancellor of AIOU Prof. Dr. Nasin Mahmood, in his statement on the occasion of International Day of Persons with

Disabilities.

## **KP CM Gandapur asks** universities to focus on students' grooming

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief keep moving forward with Minister (CM) Khyber faith and determination," he added. Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin

He emphasized the importance of celebrating others' successes, calling it a hallmark of great individuals.

The CM lauded Igra National University for its rapid progress and expressed pride in Addressing the fourth participating in its convocation of Iqra convocation. National University on Highlighting the role

Tuesday, he urged students of the private sector, he said, "No government can remain resilient, and learn progress without public from setbacks. "One failure and private sector cannot stop your progress; support.

## **Contempt of court petition** filed in LHC against CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz

LAHORE Contempt of court petition has been filed against Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Maryam Nawaz in Lahore High Court (LHC).

PTI leader Akmal Khan filed contempt of court petition against CM Punjab through advocate Khurram Latif for harassing him despite court's orders. CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz, IG Punjab police, CCPO Lahore and others

have been made respondents in the petition. The petitioner has taken plea in the petition that LHC had issued order on November 22 for discharged him from this stopping to harass him case. Counsel illegally and on the same petitioner said local police day Islampura police is harassing petitioner

(Online): outside Sessions court. The petitioner was shown to have been arrested in case No 863/24 registered in police station Rang Mahal

Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) discharged him from the case on November 23 but the Islam Pura police again arrested him in evening on November 23 in case No 3691/24 illegally. ATC discharged him from this case on November 25, On November 26

Police station Shafiq Abad arrested him in case No 4250/24 illegally.

Sessions for abducted him illegally continuously.

**Senate Chairman visits Uch Sharif, condoles** death of ex-MNA

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for

Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Syed

Qasim Ali Shah along with others take keen

interest at stall during celebration ceremony in

connection of the International Day of Persons with

Disabilities, held at Nishtar Hall in Peshawar.

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Senate Chairman Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani visited the shrine of Hazrat Mahboob Subhani in Uch Sharif on Tuesday. He offered prayers and laid a floral wreath at the shrine. He also visited the shrines of other Governor Makhdoom elders from his family. The Ahmad Mahmood, Syed Gilani families from Multan, Iftikhar-ul-Hassan Gilani.

Karim also distributed "Langar" (free meal) among Uch Sharif, and Jamal Din the devotees. Speaking on the occasion, the governor Wali offered condolences on highlighted the significance the death of former MNA of spiritual figures and Syed Ali Hassan Gilani and sacred sites as an integral performed the ceremonial part of the country's turban tying for his nephew cultural and social heritage. Syed Ghaus Moeenuddin He emphasized their role Gilani. Former Punjab in providing spiritual solace to people and fostering social harmony.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presides over the 20th meeting of Punjab Cabinet.

National News

Page 03

personnel undergoing treatment at CMH Rawalpindi, and to note that their killers are our people. She highlighted seeing the violence, the brutality of PTI workers is of PTI workers has little The CM said the 10,000 trained security security personnel were personnel will be beaten by groups with

adding that the skulls, legs and arms of the personnel undergoing treatment at CMH Rawalpindi were

AHORE

Ganj Bakĥsh.

Ummah

# France's Macron, Saudi crown prince sign strategic partnership, call for Lebanon elections

Monitoring Desk RIYADH: French President Emmanuel Macron and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman signed a strategic partnership on Monday aimed at deepening bilateral ties and de-escalating conflict in the Middle East, including Lebanon, where the two leaders called for presidential elections. The French leader arrived in Saudi Arabia on Monday for a three-day state visit just as a political crisis threatens to topple the French government.

After a meeting with Prince Mohammed, the de facto ruler of the oil-rich Gulf kingdom, Macron's office announced the signing of a new partnership aimed at improving cooperation in "defence, energy transition, culture, mobility between the two countries" The two leaders also "agreed to make every effort to contribute to de-escalation in the region", including helping to consoli-date the fragile ceasefire be-through a social security

Monitoring Desk

GENEVA: The UN Com-

mission of Inquiry on Syria

on Tuesday urged warring

parties in the country to

strictly adhere to interna-

tional law and protect ci-

vilians, warning that the

dramatic increase in hostili-

ties since Nov. 27 threat-

ens to spread to new parts

years must not be repeated,

or Syria will be driven onto

a new trajectory of atroci-

ties," the chair of the com-

mission, Paulo Sergio

Pinheiro, said in a state-

to break from their past

patterns and ensure they

protect and respect civil-

"We call on all parties

'The brutality of past

of the country.

ment.

UN commission says

'brutality of past years' must

not be repeated in Syria

tween Israel and Lebanon. "Together, they called for the holding of presidential elections in Lebanon with the aim of bringing the Lebanese people together and carrying out the reforms necessary for the stability and security of the country," the statement from Macron's office said.

Macron touched down in Riyadh in the afternoon, where he was greeted by an honour guard of sword-holding servicemen and celebratory cannon fire as he disembarked from his plane. He did not comment on the political situation in France as he arrived. Macron's visit began as France's less than three-month-old minority government faced the prospect of being forced out by a vote of no confidence in

the coming days. The far-right National Rally party said it would vote to oust Michel Barnier's government after the prime minister used an executive tool to push

budget bill without parliamentary approval.

The left-wing is also expected to back the motion, which could be held as early as Wednesday. If successful, it would oust the government that was appointed in September after snap polls. Macron's three-day stay also coincides with a flareup of violence in Syria, where anti-government rebels have seized Aleppo, the country's second-largest city.

The fighting in Syria follows France's brokering of a ceasefire in neighbouring ebanon, where Israel has been fighting Hezbollah.

Macron's state visit is the first by a French president to Saudi Arabia since Jacques Chirac in 2006, cementing what the presi-dency calls a "very close relationship". In 2021, Macron became one of the first

ing hearings at the top United Nations court, a Western leaders to meet representative for Vanuatu said on Monday, opening a Prince Mohammed in Saudi historic case that aims to set Arabia after the 2018 murder of Saudi journalist Jamal a legal framework on how Khashoggi at Riyadh's con-sulate in Istanbul. countries should tackle climate change.

Thailand, Malaysia brace for fresh wave of floods as

### water levels ease

Megally, for his part, said **Monitoring Desk** the commission is investi-KUALA LUMPUR: Magating reported attacks impacting civilian infrastrucaysia and Thailand are ture in the city of Aleppo, facing a second wave of heavy rain and potential including at least one hosflooding this week, aupital and a university dorm, thorities said on Monday, as well as reported airstrikes

even as some displaced on Idlib and other densely residents were able to repopulated civilian areas. turn home and the worst "Both the airstrikes floods in decades began and the rapid changes in ter-

ritorial control are causing receding in some areas. Since last week, 27 massive displacement of civilians," Megally warned. eople have died and more The commission is han half a million houseclosely monitoring the holds in the neighbouring Southeast Asian countries treatment of civilians, inhave been hit by torrential cluding minorities and prisoners of war as opposition rain and flooding that authorities say have been the forces advance into governmost severe in years. ment-controlled areas, ac-

cording to the statement. tion has improved in some The situation is also volatile" in northern areas and water levels have eased, according to govern-

ians, their human rights and Aleppo, the commission the Geneva Conventions." said Commissioner Hanny

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: The White House said on Monday that President Joe Biden pardoned his son

Hunter in part to protect him from future persecution from political opponents, but his move drew fierce criticism, with some Democrats saying it undermined public trust in the rule of law.

The immediate situa-Biden, a Democrat whose term ends on January 20 when Republican President-elect Donald ment data on Monday.

termining the fate of nations like mine and the fu-THE HAGUE: The future ture of our planet," said of the planet is at stake dur-Vanuatu's representative for climate change, Ralph Regenvanu. 'This may well be the

French President Emmanuel Macron meets with Saudi's Crown Prince

Mohammed Bin Salman during an official visit in Riyadh.

**ICJ** opens hearing on

climate change

**Monitoring Desk** 

most consequential case in the history of humanity,

tries and organisations are The Hague. set to present before the International Court of Justice over the next two weeks, the highest number

"The outcome of these proceedings will reverberate across generations, de- islation

## White House defends **Biden pardoning son** as criticism mounts

an unconditional pardon for Hunter Biden on Sunday and said he believed his son had been selectively prosecuted and targeted unfairly by the

president's political oppo-Biden said in the past that he would not pardon his son, including to ABC News in June when he was asked if he would rule it out

and replied "yes." His surprise move was panned by his Republican political Trump takes office, signed opposition.

peace,' says **NATO chief Monitoring Desk** 

'not interested in peace.' Referring to the Ukraine war that Russia

launched in February 2022, Secretary General Mark Rutte Rutte said: "He is pressing on, trying to take more territory. Because he thinks he can break Ukraine's resolve."

"Ukraine is entering another crucial winter. And Russia's aggression shows no sign of abating.

**Russia claims** it took control of 2 more settlements in eastern Ukraine

a Ukrainian Foreign Ministry statement said. Tuesday claimed that it It said that Kyiv is took control of two more convinced that the only real settlements amid its ongosecurity guarantee for ing offensive in eastern Ukraine is its membership Ukraine. Russian forces to NATO, adding that incaptured the village of viting the country to join the alliance will deprive Romanivka, about 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) south of the city of Kurakhove, a Moscow of its "illusions about the possibility of hindering Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration.' region that houses a ther-The statement argued that not providing Ukraine

**South Korea President** Yoon declares martial law, slams domestic opponents

**Monitoring Desk** SEOUL: South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol declared martial law in a surprise late-night TV address on Tuesday, slamming domestic political opponents and sending shockwaves through the country.

Yoon said opposition parties had taken the parliamentary process hostage. He vowed to eradicate "shameless pro-North Korean antistate forces" and said he had no choice but to take the measure to safeguard constitutional order. Yonhap news agency cited the military as saying activities by parliament and political parties would be banned, and that media and publishers would be under the control of the martial law command. Yoon did not cite any

**Monitoring Desk** 

ISTANBUL: Ukraine on

Tuesday said that it will not

accept any alternatives to

Kyiv's full membership in

NATO, pointing to the "failure" of the 1994

Budapest Memorandum

which will mark the 30<sup>th</sup>

anniversary since its sign-

rience of the Budapest

Memorandum behind us,

we will not accept any al-

ternatives, surrogates or

substitutes for Ukraine's

full membership in NATO,'

"With the bitter expe-

ing later this week.

stead focusing on his domestic political opponents. It is the first time since 1980 that martial law has been declared in South Korea. South Korea has had a series of authoritarian leaders early in its history but has been considered democratic since the 1980s.

The Korean won was down sharply against the US dollar. A central bank official said it was preparing measures to stabilise the market if needed. South Korea's parliament, with 190 of its 300 members present, passed a motion requiring the martial law declared by President Yoon to be lifted, live TV showed. Finance Minister Choi Sang-mok has convened an emergency meeting among top economic specific threat from the officials, his spokesman

nuclear-armed North, in- said in a text message.

Ukraine says it will not

accept any alternatives to

full membership in NATO with effective security guarantees in the 1990s was a "strategic mistake" that Russia "exploited" and that the Budapest Memorandum failed to prevent the ongoing Russia-Ukraine

> "Failure of the Budapest Memorandum to fulfill its functions has led to a catastrophic increase in security threats not only for Ukraine, but also for other countries and regions, including Europe, the Euro-Atlantic area, Central and Southeast Asia, the Middle East and international peace and security in general," it further said. The ministry also defined the Budapest Memorandum as a "monument to short-sightedness in strategic security decision-making.

'It should serve as a reminder to the current leaders of the Euro-Atlantic community that building a European security architecture at the expense of Ukraine's interests.

**Monitoring Desk** ISTANBUL: Russia on

key stronghold of Ukrainian forces in the Donetsk

mal power plant.

Regenvanu told the 15judge bench in the panelled hall of the Peace Palace in More than 100 coun-Activists hope the ICJ opinion will have farreaching legal consequences in the fight against climate

change, impacting ongoing court cases as well as domestic and international leg-

ATHENS: NATO's new chief on Tuesday drew a grim picture of Russia's leadership, saying that President Vladimir Putin is

Putin is 'not

interested in

### Daily **Independent**, Gwadar

pieces of evidence had been

collected from the crime

scene those would be sent

for forensic analysis. The

identification process of the

rioters is also being carried

out swiftly, who would

later be produced before

courts. Interior Minister

Mohsin Naqvi, Economic

Affairs Minister Ahad

Cheema, Law Minister

Azam Nazeer Tarra.

### Wednesday December 04, 2024

**DPM Dar stresses effective** 

implementation of ECO trade

agreement for regional prosperity

trast to other regional

groupings such as the EU where the intra-regional

trade stands above 70%,

and the ASEAN, where it

is around 23%," the deputy prime minister said ad-

dressing the 28th Meeting of ECO Council of Minis-

ters (COM) being hosted here. He said the ECOTA

was a landmark intra-re-

gional preferential trade

agreement, which was conceptualized exactly in line with the founding and fun-damental goals of the orga-

nization to create amenable

MASHHAD

Deputy Prime Minister and

Foreign Minister Senator

Muhammad Ishaq Dar on

Tuesday urged the member

states to ensure effective

implementation of the Eco-

nomic Cooperation Organi-

zation Trade Agreement

strengthen regional security

and economic prosperity through mutually beneficial

ter of great concern that the

ECO region, comprising an

area of 8 million square ki-lometers and half a billion

population - roughly 15% of the World population,

has intra-regional trade of,

unfortunately, less than 8%

of region's aggregate, and only about 2 % in global

trade, which is in stark con-

However, It is a mat-

(ECOTA) to

intra-regional trade.

(APP):

help

## PM for punishing rioters who martyred LEAs personnel, damaged public properties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to take all-out measures to strictly punish the protestors who martyred and injured the personnel of law enforcement agencies and damaged public properties during the sit-ins in Islamabad.

The prime minister, chairing the meeting of the task force formed to investigate the riots in the November 24 sit-in in the federal capital, said that the progress on legal action against the rioters would be reviewed weekly.

He said the attack on Islamabad by the insurgents during the official visit of the Belarusian president caused great em-barrassment for the country.



ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary leader of PML-N and **Provincial Minister for Communication and Works** Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa and social worker Attaullah Khosa in a group photo with Federal Minister for Commerce and Industry Jam Kamal Khan

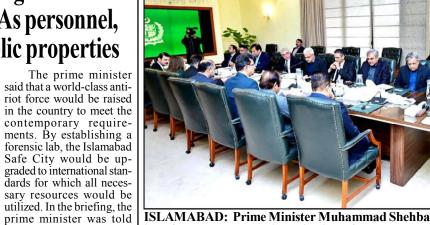
## Cochlear implant surgery starts in ENT Unit, Head & Neck **Surgery Dept of SPHHQ**

Independent Report QUETTA: The Cochlear implant surgery has been started in the ENT Unit-III, Head and Neck Surgery department of the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital Quetta (SPHHQ)

The Provincial Minis-ter for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar formally inaugurated the rare facility of the cochlear implant surgery in the SPHHQ.

desperately needed in Quetta for the children, oth-erwise deprived of the hear-Two surgeries of the cochlear implant were coning by birth. ducted for the first time in history of Balochistan.

The senior ENT spealist, Professor Dr.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meetthat the weapons, caring of Task Force established in view of recent law and order situation. tridges, shells and other

### **CM** expresses discontentment over implementation on projects of Health & Education sectors

Bugti directs high ups to ensure speedy work on development projects make sure transparency and public requirements in public sector development programme; directs to prepare comprehensive strategy for 5year development projects

The meeting was

The meeting was

agreed on five-year devel-

oment projects for

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The Chief Min-Principal Secretary, Babar ster Balochistan, Mir Khan, Additional Chief Sarfraz Bugti has expressed Secretary Development, discontentment over imple-Hafiz Abdul Basit, Secrementation on the projects tary Finance, Imran Zarkoon and other conof Health and Education departments and directed to cerned high ups. ensure speedy work on the projects making sure transabout the development parency and public requireprojects and allocated rements in the public sector sources for them by the development programme high ups of Planning and (PSDP)

Development Depart-The Chief Minister was chairing review meeting on progress of the development projects here on Tuesday.

Those who were in ttendance were included the Provincial Minister for Planning and Development, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, rovincial Minister Finance, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani, spokesman of Provincial Government,

In addition to this, transparency and public the province.

ment.



**OUETTA: Provincial Minister for Health Bakht Muhammad Kakar talking** with mediamen after inaugurating cochlear implant surgery in the ENT Unit-III, Head and Neck Surgery department of the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital Quetta (SPHHQ).

### **D-Chowk protest: ATC** issues written order

Shahid Rind, Chief Secre-tary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, the PSDP anyway, the Chief Minister directed maintaining the resources allocated for projects should be made compatible ending wrong traditions of the past. He also directed to in-

> make any scheme based on personal gains or commis-sion part of the PSDP.

He warned that stern action would be taken Washuk district. It was directed prepare comprehensive strategy in this regard. against any "babu" (official) Addressing the meetwho was found any irreguing, Chief Minister directed to improve the PSDP of last larity

He stressed that the year by removing variances.

troduce the modern technology for review of the transparency in PSDP besides keeping strict vigil on its all stages. He conveyed to the P&D Department not to

benefits of development must reach common men of



**Levies force** 

foils WAPDA

cable theft in

the theft attempt. Deputy Commissioner emphasized that maintaining law and order, and protecting citizens from thieves, is a top priority. He warned that no compromises will be made in dealing with criminals, and those found guilty will face severe punishment.

and conducive conditions for the promotion of sustainable economic development of the region, aiming at joint welfare and wellbeing of member states. 'ECOTA primarily aims to lower tariffs in our guided.

region over an agreed timeframe and provides an excellent platform for the promotion of our region's economic interests by trade promotion and facilitation. Despite a considerable period since its inception, it is yet to see day the light of implementation. So far, only five member states have signed the agreement, he added. Dar said that as the coordinating country on ECOTA, Pakistan attached great importance to its early implementation, and urged all member states to take a broader and more holistic view of the matter. The deputy prime minister told the gath ering that ECO Vision 2025' adopted during the 13th ECO Summit in Islamabad in 2017 was a key document that



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof Ahsan Iqbal addressing at the opening ceremony of the World Islamic Finance Forum hosted by IBA.

## Sindh Coastal Highway to help developing coastal belt, impeding sea erosion: Ahsan

ning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, during a visit of Sindh Coastal Highway on Tuesday, said that the project would help addressing the issue of sea intrusion and opening growth avenues in coastal areas of the prov-

ince. The federal minister inspected the construction process of Sindh Coastal Highway at Gharo and also received a briefing from the officers concerned.

talking to media at the oc- stated. Jamiluddin Mando Khel | casion, said that federal government was working for government. ernment and federal govern-

KARACHI (APP): The plete a 37 kilometer section Federal Minister for Plan- of the highway, he said and of the highway, he said and added that sea has eroded thousands acres of land in coastal areas of Sindh and the project will play a sig-nificant role in preserving the land from sea intrusion. The Pakistan Muslim

League N and the Pakistan Peoples Party once considered arch rivals in the political arena of the country, are now working in unison on agenda of development, economic stability, solidarity and integrity of Pakistan under the Charter of De-The minister while mocracy, Ahsan Iqbal

> "We may have political differences and we con-

He said that the pa-tients would have the facility of cochlear implant tofor arrest tally free of cost in Quetta,

Muhammad Umar Farooq performed the successful surgeries of cochlear implant along with his team in the ENT Unit-III of the major teaching hospital of Quetta.

The Provincial Minis- SPHHQ.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti giving away shield to DG NADRA Balochistan Kashif Iqbal during a ceremony held in connection with World Disable Day.

### NA body directs to ensure implementation of minimum salary in media houses

ISLAMABAD<sup>•</sup> (APP): Sub-Committee of the Na-

tional Assembly Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting on Tuesday directed the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and PEMRA to ensure that all media houses pay 37,500 minimum salary fixed by the government

The 1st meeting of the committee was held here under the convenorship of Syed Aminul Haque to discuss the current state of payment of salaries and outstanding dues and to suggest measures for ensuring rights of media work- dues.

for otherwise, they are warrants of compelled to go to major cities of the country. Earlier, Professor Sher

plants in the Hospital.

Kakar said that the service

of cochlear implant was

**PTI founder** Zaman Mandokhail briefed & others the Minister about the fa-ISLAMABAD (Online) cility of cochlear implant in

Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad has issued written order in connection with arrest warrants of PTI founder, Ali Amin Gandapur, Bushra zen Portal (PCP). Bibi and others in the case related to D-Chowk pro-

test Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra has issued one page order in respect of 96 accused persons.

Name of chairman PTI barrister Gohar is not included in the written order of arrest warrants while name of Ali Amin Gandapur is mentioned in the order.

Police has mentioned Ali Amin Gandapur as MPA instead of chief minister in their plea.

### **PHC grants** interim bail to **Bushra Bibi** The committee furuntil Dec 23

ther directed the concerned PESHAWAR (APP): The Peshawar High Court on Tuesday granted interim bail to Bushra Bibi, the wife authorities to stop advertisements of media houses in case of defiance, and take immediate steps to elimi of PTI Chairman, until Denate the system of thirdcember 23. party contracts in media

The court also di-rected that she should not be arrested during this period.

Justice Waqar Ahmad conducted a hearing on a plea filed by Bushra Bibi's

Kurram after

ISLAMABAD (INP): Kurram district is witnessing a gradual return to peace and stability on Tuesday

following a ceasefire brokered by a political jirga. Deputy Commis-sioner Javedullah Mehsud said that all schools and colleges in the area have reopened, reported a private news channel. DC further said that mobile phone services, which were cut off during the conflict, are also occasion was Deputy

# special attention on removing grievances of people

**Registered on PCP** 

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel

responsibility of the offic-ers to work for the public welfare. The Chief Secretary was presiding over meeting of the secretaries Qadir Khan has directed to all administrative secretarcommittee here on Tuesies to pay special on the file day. The meeting discussed trekking system and removabout the file trekking sysing public grievances registem, IPMS, development tered on the Pakistan Citiprojects and other important matters. The meeting The Chief Secretary was attended by the Addialso directed to address the tional Chief Secretary Depending and overdue cases

velopment, Hafiz Abdul immediately.besides ensur-Basit, Additional Chief Secing completion of the deretary Home, Shahab Ali velopment projects in Shah, Ghulam Nabi Baloch, province within the stipu-Senior Member Board of lated time. He said that the Revenue, Qambar Dashti province would progress and all secretaries of the with completion of the deprovincial government development projects.

partments. He said that it is top

development of coastal ar- test elections against each eas of Sindh in collaboraother but on the matters of tion with the provincial national solidarity, integrity and development and The project has been initiated by the Sindh govgrowth of the country, we

put all the differences away, sit on a table and ment has pledged to com- work jointly," he noted.



HONG KONG: Federal Ombudsman Ijaz Ahmed Qureshi addressing International Ombudsmen Conference 2024 on eve of 35th anniversary of establishment of Ombudsman office

**PM** lauds Senate's role for national solidarity, provincial harmony

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday highlighting the legislation by the Senate for public welfare, said that the upper house was playing a vibrant role in promoting national solidarity and provincial harmony

The prime minister said this in a meeting with Deputy Chairman of Senate Senator Syedaal Khan who called on him here.

In the meeting, they discussed the country's overall political situation, according to a PM Office press release.

Imran twitter

account is being used for organized

like Qasim Soori have hatched conspiracy from declaring Khan to killing him.

Wafaqi Mohtasib addresses **International Ombudsman** Summit-2024 at Hong Kong Ombudsmanship has taken firm roots in

Pakistan; Calls for greater sharing of experiences and best practices amongst **Ombuds** Institutions

tion of Ombudsman in

strengthening democracy,

good governance and the

and efficient service deliv-

ery constitute the most es-

Good administration

rule of law.

**Independent Report** SLAMABAD: The Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman), Mr. Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi has said that addressing maladministration and protection of human rights is inextricably linked to good governance, accountability

sential features of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), he added. and inclusivity. He further said that these He was addressing the goals have a direct bearing International Ombudsman on the role and functions of Summit - 2024 in Hong Ombudsman institutions

working to build peaceful Kong organized on the eve of the 35th anniversary of and inclusive societies, acthe establishment of the countable institutions at all levels and providing easy Office of the Ombudsman access to justice. He added in Hong Kong, China. Mr. that the scope of work of Qureshi, who is the current President of the 47-mem-Ombudsman institutions is ber strong Asian Ombudswitnessing speedy expanman Association (AOA), sion and now includes issaid that the United Nasues like the climate change, tions, too, recognizes the business rights, public acimportance of the institucessibility and inclusivity.



**BANGKOK: Senator BilalAhmed Khan Mandokhail** and Senator Afnanullah Khan representing Pakistan in Global Health Security Conference.

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah printed at Independent Printers Querry Road Quetta and Published from Akbar News Agency, Airport Road, Gwadar Ph. 2842938 Fax: 2842941 Cell No. 0331-8383955 E.mail: dailyindisb@gmail.com. Quetta Office: Al Syed Building Jinnah road, Quetta, Phone 2842938 Fax: 2842941

district offices.

Ûsta

Arshad

Also present on the

Census 2024 kicks off in Nasirabad District reau of Statistics (PBS) **Independent Report** NASIRABAD: The Digital aims to provide accurate and reliable data on the district's Agricultural Census 2024 agricultural landscape. This has commenced in Nasirabad district, under data will be crucial in in-

**Digital Agricultural** 

the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Nasirabad, Munir Ahmed Khan Kakar. This initiative the region. marks a significant milestone for the district's ag-

ricultural sector, which is the backbone of Pakistan's economy.

The census, being con-ducted by the Pakistan Busector.2

forming policy decisions and allocating resources for agricultural development in

houses and take measures

to increase the number of

Implementation Tribunal

for Newspaper Employ-

ees (ITNE) to 5 as soon as

possible. Syed Aminul

Haque directed to take

steps in accordance with

the policy for complaints

regarding dummy newspa-

pers and payment of PBA

The digital agricultural census is a first-of-its-kind initiative in Pakistan, and it is expected to bring about a significant improvement in the country's agricultural

ceasefire

the government to provide basic healthcare facilities and clean drinking water to the people besides establishing road network. speaking to the district officers during meeting in Usta Muhammad on Tuesday.

people.

being restored. Security forces have now taken control of trenches used during Commissioner Muhammad, the fighting to prevent fur-Hussain ther violence.

lawyer. During the proceedings, her lawyer informed the court that 27 cases had been registered against her. Peace returns to



**Govt mobilizing all available** resources to resolve public

issues, says Faisal Jamali **Independent Report** 

The district officers informed the Minister about the issues being faced QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Livestock Department, Sardarzada by them.

Sardarzada Faisal Faisal Khan Jamali had stated that the government Jamali exhorted the officers to perform their duties with is mobilizing all available resources to resolve the isdedication to resolve the sues being faced by the issues being faced by gen-

eral public. In this regard, it is He said that it is necessary for the officers to wholehearted endeavour of ensure their attendance at their respective duty places so that the people may not face any inconvenience to get their issues The Minister was resolved.

He said that Usta Muhammad is facing issues because of the newly established district, but all out efforts would be made to resolve them. He said that the buildings and manpower are needed for the

claimed twitter account of Imran Khan is being used

propaganda: Vawda ISLAMABAD (Online): Senator Faisal Vawda has

for organized propaganda while he himself is not running twitter handle. BB, her associates and people like Qasim Soori have hatched conspiracy to declare Imran Khan mad and kill him. On X he said in a statement this is the same propaganda which I am mentioning that Bibi, her associates and people