

# QUETTA VOICE

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**Education is not an option but a necessity: COAS General Asim Munir**

**News Desk:**  
ISLAMABAD: The annual convocation week of the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) commenced at the University's main campus in Islamabad on Monday. Chairman NUST Board of Governors, General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) graced the occasion as Chief Guest at the inaugural "Master Convocation Ceremony" and conferred medals upon distinction holders, Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD students received degrees during the course of convocation week. Degrees are being awarded to over 3,500 graduates from all NUST Schools at the main campus in the 7 core disciplines. While addressing the graduates, COAS extended his heartfelt



congratulations to graduates, their parents and faculty. He commended NUST for developing a conducive ecosystem for teaching and learning – one that nurtures brilliant minds, who are fully poised to serve the nation. COAS emphasized that education is not an option but a necessity. He highlighted that today is the beginning of a new chapter in students' lives, which heralds a significant change that demands greater responsibility. He emphasized that this new found responsibility should manifest in their personality and choices in the journey ahead. COAS remarked that it is now incumbent upon them to figure out and analyze the challenges facing the country and put their intellectual resourcefulness into finding their solutions. Earlier upon arrival at NUST, COAS was received by Rector NUST.

## Balochistan Battles Growing Cancer Cases – A Modern Hospital is Vital

Syed Ali Shah:



Senior oncologists receiving shields from Professor Dr. Sherzaman Mandokhail at an awareness seminar about cancer disease: Photo Daily Quetta Voice

Balochistan has grappled with a relentless increase in cancer cases over the past several years. Alarming statistics provided by medical experts highlight the growing number of cancer patients in this underdeveloped province.

CENAR Hospital Reports 16,000 Cancer Patients Each year, CENAR hospital in Quetta reports more than 16,000 new cancer patients. Regrettably, this is the sole facility dedicated to treating cancer patients in Balochistan. However, the hospital faces a shortage of medical experts and essential medications to effectively address the rising cancer patient load. Over 3,000 Cancer Diagnosed Patients Succumb to Disease

Shockingly, more than 3,000 cancer-diagnosed patients succumb to the disease in Balochistan annually. Moreover,

unreported cases – individuals who remain undiagnosed and perish in remote regions of the province – add to this grim toll.

Despite official claims and announcements, healthcare facilities across the province remain woefully inadequate. The dire consequences of cancer have compelled thousands of patients and their families to seek treatment at costly private hospitals in Karachi. Lack Of Awareness One Of The Reasons Medical experts pinpoint several underlying factors contributing to this crisis: lack of awareness, pervasive poverty, unemployment, and limited access to quality healthcare. It's a troubling fact that most patients seek medical attention only in the advanced stages of cancer, drastically reducing their chances of recovery. While

much has been said about this deadly disease, the establishment of a modern cancer hospital in Balochistan remains a long-unfulfilled promise. The provincial government allocates substantial funding – more than 40 billion rupees – to the health sector in every annual budget. However, the people are yet to witness any tangible relief in this regard. The Lives Of Countless Individuals Are Staked Given the alarming rise in cancer cases, it is imperative that the provincial government moves beyond rhetoric and takes concrete action to establish a premier Cancer Treatment Center. The lives of countless individuals are at stake, and immediate measures are needed to address this urgent healthcare crisis.

## Supreme Court declares trials of civilians in military court null and void

Dawood Ahmed:

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday declared the trial of civilians in military court null and void. Civilians were arrested under the Army Act, 1952 following incidents of rioting and vandalism following Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's arrest on May 9 this year. A five-member bench, led by Justice Ijazul Ahsan, heard the case.

Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Mazhar Naqvi, and Justice Ayesha Malik were part of the bench. As the hearing commenced earlier today, Jawad S. Khawaja's lawyer, Ahmed Hussain, expressed his intention to read the order from the previous hearing. However, the judge reminded him that during the last session, the attorney general had presented his arguments and suggested allowing him to conclude his case before proceeding with other matters.

Lawyer Salman Akram Raja also argued that the military courts have started the trial of civilians despite giving assurances in the court but Justice Ahsan directed him to listen to the attorney general first.

## Crackdown launched against non customs paid vehicles in Balochistan

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: In an exclusive interview with Daily Quetta Voice, Director General (DG), Excise and Taxation, Aurangzeb Kasi disclosed that a total of 45 illegal vehicles have been subjected to enforcement measures in Quetta thus far. Highlighting a concerning issue, Kasi pointed out that over 1500 non-customs paid vehicles continue to operate within Quetta city.

Collaborative actions by the Excise, Customs, and Police departments are being taken on a daily basis to address this pressing concern, as Aurangzeb Kasi emphasizes the need for citizens to fulfill their tax obligations, thereby averting excise and customs-related penalties.

Kasi has called upon the public to cooperate with authorities in remitting government taxes, which will help them steer clear of government intervention. The Excise Department has provided a grace period of two weeks, after which legal actions will be taken to impound the vehicles of all tax defaulters.



From Our Correspondent:

TURBAT: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Ali Mardan Dostki chaired a high-level meeting in Turbat following the tragic killing of six labourers.

Caretaker Home Minister Balochistan, Captain (R) Zubair Jamali, all senior administration officials, and se-

## CM Chairs High-Level Meeting in Turbat Following Tragic Killing of Six Laborers

CM Dostki Concerned Over The Tragic Killing

Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Dostki expressed his deep concern over the distressing incident, stating the imperative need to bring the culprits to justice. He urged the police and law enforcement agencies to enhance security planning, adopt effective strategies to prevent future incidents, and promptly complete the worker profiling process.

Furthermore, he emphasized the deployment of police and levies personnel in the area, enhancing their professional capabilities to ensure lasting peace.

DC Kech Directed To Pay Compensation

Security officials participated in the meeting. The meeting reviewed the ongoing development projects in district Kech. During a comprehensive briefing on the Turbat incident, Balochistan's Chief Minister was apprised of the measures taken to restore peace. The ongoing profiling of non-local workers in Turbat and its vicinity was highlighted, with private and public construction companies and contractors receiving directives to comply. The meeting also provided an update on the joint investigation into the laborers' tragic murder, emphasizing significant progress.

The Chief Minister directed the improvement of snap-checking procedures and the establishment of a control room for continuous monitoring.

He stressed that ongoing development projects must not be adversely affected, emphasizing the unwavering commitment of the state to uphold its authority and deal sternly with criminal elements.

The caretaker chief minister issued instructions to the Deputy Commissioner of Kech to promptly facilitate compensation to the victims of the incident. It may be mentioned here that six labourers were killed in the Satellite Town area of Turbat a few days back. Two labourers had sustained injuries in the attack.

## Police Commended for Heroic Sacrifices in the Fight Against Terrorism

**REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

07 DAYS REMAINING

07

Strong And Safe Pakistan

He stressed the crucial role of law enforcement agencies in ensuring stability and socio-economic

Dawood Ahmed:

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Interior Minister, Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, highlighted the significant sacrifices made by Pakistani citizens, police, and law enforcement agencies in the relentless fight against terrorism. Addressing the 49th CTP passing out ceremony of ASPs at the National Police Academy, Bugti emphasized the historical importance of these sacrifices, as they have been instrumental in securing Pakistan's future.

Bugti Congratulated Cadets  
During the ceremony, attended by dignitaries including the IG Islamabad Police, Commandant National Police Academy, foreign diplomats, and the families of the passing-out police officers, Bugti congratulated the cadets for their outstanding performance during training.

Strong And Safe Pakistan  
He stressed the crucial role of law enforcement agencies in ensuring stability and socio-economic

development in the country, acknowledging their adoption of modern technology for delivering justice and tackling anti-social elements. Bugti expressed his strong hope that police and law enforcement agencies would continue to enhance their capacity, efficiency, and professionalism to address evolving challenges.

He specifically mentioned the importance of the newly graduated officers, including women, in facing the societal challenges and contributing to a safer and more secure Pakistan.



Unlocking The Greatest Enigma

Urgent plea to PM: Restore suspended passenger trains for Balochistan

Editor: Asim Khan

The continued suspension of six trains for Balochistan has plunged countless passengers into a harrowing ordeal, a disconcerting disruption that underscores the fragile state of our transportation infrastructure.

Six out of a total of seven passenger trains have been suspended for Balochistan by the Pakistan Railways without citing any reasons. The provincial government is yet to ask the federal government and the railway ministry to restore the suspended six trains for Balochistan, which covers half of the country in terms of area.

Only Jaffar Express operates for Balochistan. Instead of improving and increasing passenger trains, the government has suspended most of the trains. Only Jaffarabad Express operates that too in a miserable condition. People prefer to travel by train since they are economical and safe as compared to passengers buses and planes.

Blockade of these highways by protesters is also the order of the day. Road blockades caused the suspension of traffic for hours and women, aged people and children remained the worst sufferers.

Except for a handful of elites, people cannot afford the skyrocketing fares of planes. To be precise, they are out of the reach of the common man.

Caretaker PM should direct railway ministry to restore suspended trains. The caretaker prime minister, Anwar ul Haq Kakar belongs to Balochistan and is well aware of the suffering of its people.

Balochistan has now considerable representation in Islamabad, therefore, it is the best opportunity to restore the suspended passenger trains and address the grievances of the masses. Balochistan also deserves fair treatment since its people have suffered a lot. The Prime Minister should direct the railway ministry to restore the suspended six trains on an emergency basis.

Thriving South Asia a pipe dream?

By Zofeen T. Ebrahim:

SOME two weeks back, the Indian Ocean Rim Association was't' (IORA), a 23-member inter-governmental organisation, held its annual meeting in Colombo. Pakistan has been intentionally kept out of this forum despite having 1.06-billion people living along the Arabian Sea and being a major state of the Indian Ocean Region.

For Pakistan has also not made a serious attempt to get its foot in the door. Like the rest of South Asia that has been the most affected by the climate storm, Pakistan, which in particular has been in the throes of a serious existential threat (the Himalayas have lost 40 per cent of their ice due to the melting of glaciers), would have benefited from the rich discussion which was on the IORA's menu and included regional trade, maritime safety and security, fisheries management, disaster risk management and the blue economy.

Around the same time as IORA's meeting, and in the same hotel in Colombo, World Bank had organised its second Editor's Forum with journalists and editors from South Asian countries.

Lessons from Libya

By Naser Memon:

ONE of the most catastrophic floods in Libya not only killed thousands and left behind tossed-up cars and heaps of rubble but also bequeathed lessons for the world. Climate change, protracted violence, lack of governance, ramshackle infrastructure and corruption coalesced to unleash a nightmare Libya, the resource-rich North African country flanked by the Mediterranean Sea, sits in a sprawling desert that constitutes 90 per cent of its land mass.

The National Meteorological Centre in Tripoli had issued an early warning of the severe storm 72 hours in advance and a state of emergency was declared in eastern Libya. However, there was no governance structure in place to take emergency measures to mitigate the intensity of the disaster.

Water descended from the highland town of Derna, a city of 90,000 on the banks of Wadi Derna, a non-perennial river. Two Wadi Derna dams constructed in the 1960s to control the torrential flows and collapsed. The ensuing catastrophic flood unleashed havoc and destroyed 900 buildings in Derna.

The rain and flood also affected Benghazi, Tobruk, Almarai and Sousse. The Libyan Red Crescent confirmed more than 11,000 deaths, while countless people were injured. In the city of Derna alone, over 5,000 people died. Footage of the death and destruction is harrowing.

Hafiz Abdul Majid :

Humans are biologically named Homo sapiens, or "wise men." Carl Linnaeus, a Swedish biologist, and physician, coined this term in 1758. We are wise because we can think, learn, and communicate. All these faculties are due to the human brain, which weighs only 3 pounds, has made humans the unchallenged ruler of the planet Earth.

With their superior intelligence, they have built machines to fly in the air and explore the depths of oceans. With their astounding cognitive and behavioral capabilities, they have unlocked many secrets of the universe. They have landed on the moon and successfully sent unmanned spacecraft to Mars. Despite the feats performed by humans, there are some unsolved secrets to unravel. The greatest mystery that humanity is grappling with are the universe and the human brain.

The human brain is the most fascinating and complex structure in the universe. Perhaps the human brain is the most fascinating and complex structure in the universe. It has a very small size i.e. 1350 cubic centimeters, yet human brain remains an enigma beyond human ken.

Scientists have embarked on different projects to unlock this mystery. Developed countries are pumping billions of dollars in these projects, aimed at understanding the functioning of the human brain. One in every eight people in the world suffers from some kind of mental disorder. WHO estimates that there are 10,000 people in the world who suffer from some kind of mental disorder.

By Mallecha Lodhi:

ISRAEL'S war on Gaza continues despite rising international concern that the violence can escalate into a wider conflict in the Middle East. Meanwhile, the US role in the crisis has come into sharper focus due to two key developments. One, President Joe Biden's visit to Israel in the midst of the war. And two, the US veto of a UN Security Council resolution seeking a "humanitarian pause" in the war, which followed its rejection of another resolution calling for a ceasefire.

By Zarrar Khuhro:

We can see genocide unfold on our phones; scenes of horror dominate our social media feeds; images of murdered children and entire families wiped out as Israel converts the concentration camp that was Gaza into an extermination camp.

In this decades-old murderous project, Israel has the support of the entire Western establishment. America not only dispatched a carrier fleet to protect its ally, but is also leveraging all diplomatic support it can muster for the residents of the valley and the city. Libya's audit bureau reported in 2021 that 2.3 million euros (670m in Pakistani rupees) were allocated by the water resources ministry to maintain the dam. A company had been contracted for the project, but it was never executed. In the wake of the unimaginable amount of rain, the water level surged behind the dam.

Shrugging off an impending calamity, the Hafit-alcorcorator water ministry asserted that the dam was fine and that fears were unfounded. By the time they called for evacuation, disaster was already at their door — 115m cubic meters of water were poured into 100 terraces of energy.

Neuralink, a neurotechnology company formed by Elon Musk in 2016. Besides accelerated and improved treatment of mental disorders, resulting from human brain studies, scientists are optimistic that a better understanding of the brain will immensely benefit patients with brain injuries. Damaged parts of the brain can be repaired and made functional by neural implants. One such wonderful implant device has been developed by Neuralink, a neurotechnology company formed by Elon Musk in 2016.

These projects are considered game changers for humanity. Advocates of these projects believe that akin to advancement in nuclear physics, and decoding of the human genome, the human brain will trigger an other dramatic historical epoch in human history. Apart from the promising benefits in the treatment of mental ailments, these projects can offer tremendous opportunities for the enhancement of human brain capabilities.

US launches BRAIN project in 2016. Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN), is one of such projects launched by the US government in 2016. It mainly focuses on the analysis of neuronal circuits by mapping the neural pathways in the brain. It is a significant task to map 100 billion neurons in the brain. According to neuroscientists, each of these neurons is connected with 10,000 other neurons. To pass signals among these neurons, it requires an other dense web of at least 1,000 trillion synaptic connections. This project was funded with a whopping amount of \$3 billion.

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Biden's visit took place in the immediate aftermath of the deadly Israeli strike on Al Ahli hospital in Gaza. The strike claimed the lives of almost 500 people. The massacre was condemned across the world and deemed a war crime by international legal experts. A group of independent experts on the strikes amounted to collective punishment prohibited by international humanitarian law. Arriving in Tel Aviv when Israel was continuing to bomb Gaza and the UN warned of a looming catastrophe, Biden had to come to show solidarity and the US would forever stand with Israel.

While anger mounted at the US in the Arab street, Biden's Middle East diplomacy floundered. Jordan's King Abdullah and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas cancelled their meetings with the American president.

Amman was to host a four-way summit with Biden, Egyptian and Palestinian leaders. The meeting was called off in the wake of the hospital bombing, which King Abdullah described as a heinous war crime. Jordan's foreign minister said the meeting would be held only when the parties agreed to end the war and the massacres against Palestinians.

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The diplomatic setback for the US was compounded by the blow to its credibility in the region. The Biden visit came at a wily juncture in the Middle East and beyond as widely Israel carte blanche to carry out more bombings and encourage escalation rather than defusing the crisis.

Israel has since intensified its bombing campaign in Gaza and carried out multiple raids into the West Bank, which erupted in protests against Israel. It also carried out air strikes on residential buildings, churches and a refugee camp in Gaza.

White House and the residence of Vice President Kamala Harris demand an immediate ceasefire. Marching into the Capitol, young activists and wized rabbin — many of whom had lost loved ones at the hands of the Nazis — were arrested in their hundreds, but not before delivering a powerful message that they would not allow the state of Israel, abetted by their own Congressmen and Jewish and American politicians, to weaponise the Holocaust and carry out genocide in the name of the Jewish people.

That should send a collective shiver down the spines of traditional Jewish-American organisations like the Anti-Defamation League and ADPC, who can surely see these challenges to their self-proclaimed right to Jewish-American Jewry and are agast that their propaganda is no longer working. This social media campaign is a sea change as far as Israel is concerned.

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will be re-engineered and neural networks are replaced by intelligent software, liberating human beings from the limitations of their organic bodies. Some scientists and writers like Ray Kurzweil, Martin Rees, and Michio Kaku claim that further development in neurotechnology will enable us to transfer human minds into robots and experience life outside our organic mortal bodies. They also believe humans can outlive their organic selves by downloading their memories and consciousness onto computers.

To know thyself is the beginning of wisdom". Socrates said two thousand years back. The pace of scientific developments and advancement in the past few decades have been remarkable. Socrates, the greatest of philosophers, more than two thousand years back, said "To know thyself is the beginning of wisdom". It appears that we have started the journey to understand ourselves. After decoding the human genome, humanity is now all set to unwrap the most sophisticated and intelligent of machines in the universe. Transhumanists believe that with this exponential speed of development, it will not be long before humans will enter the next stage of their evolution. Technologies like genetics, robotics, artificial intelligence and nanotechnology, will be widely used to redesign humans, by radically improving their minds, memories, behavior, and physiology.

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Faculty members file average 105 court cases against administration: PIDE Study

ISLAMABAD (INP): A research study titled "Judiciary and Human Resource Management in Universities" was conducted by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) to investigate the average number of court cases and their nature, registered by faculty members and other staff against university administrations, as well as the average cost of litigation to resolve these cases.

The PIDE research study revealed that, on average, 105 court cases were filed by faculty members against the administration. Of these cases, 50 were from relatively younger universities, while 160 cases belonged to the older universities. The universities were classified into two broad categories in

the research: older universities (established before 2005) and younger universities (established after 2005). In examining the cases filed by faculty, the study found that 58 percent were initiated by academic faculty members, while 42 percent were filed by non-academic staff. Additionally, the majority of these cases related to promotion (65%) and permanent positions (22%), respectively. The cost of litigation involves both direct and indirect expenses. The direct cost is determined by lawyer fees, which vary based on the nature of the case and the scales and groups of applicants. For lower scales (BPS 1 to 16), the average cost of litigation ranges from PKR 50,000 to 200,000 per person,

while for higher ranks (BPS 17 and above), it varies from PKR 150,000 to 500,000 per person. The indirect cost pertains to time, with each case taking, on average, six months in service tribunals. This duration can be extended if the losing party escalates the matter to higher courts, including high courts or supreme courts. This conflict detrimentally impacts the working environment, particularly among faculty members, ultimately affecting the institution's overall performance. The study recommends the implementation of a proper penalty system against the losing party to discourage the unnecessary escalation of matters to court. Additionally, it suggests the establishment of an effective

mentary protection, targeted poverty alleviation, and educational assistance on a global scale. The two-year partnership worth \$6 million between Chery and UNICEF will support its global education programme and country-led education programmes in China, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey. This commitment aims to offer inclusive, healthy, and safe learning environments for children and adolescents in these countries, ensuring equal opportunities to learn and engage in their employability. At the signing conference, Yin Tongyue, Chairman of Chery Holding Group, said Chery's identity extends not only to a company that is dedicated to automotive R&D and manufacturing but also to a supporter of social responsibilities and historical significance. Chery will mobilize global resources, collaborate with partners from all sectors, and continue to contribute efforts to promote social progress and create a better way of life for all. The aim is to further play Chery's main role and exert power as a corporate citizen, promote green and eco-friendly concepts, and lead the trend of low-carbon travel. Chery's international users, in Chery's hometown of Wuhu, had



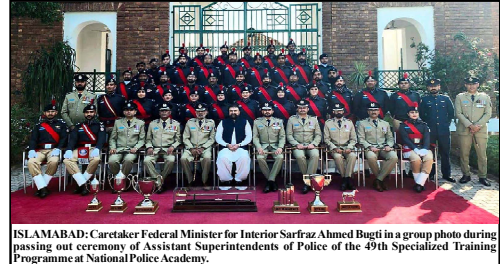
ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing a Breast Cancer Awareness program, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Chery to build green ecology as per Pakistan's sustainable future vision

BEIJING (INP): Pakistan Chery Pakistan is planning to collaborate with local organizations to build a green ecology that is aligned with Pakistan's vision for a sustainable future. Pakistan is an important market for Chery in the South Asia region, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. Meanwhile, at the 2023 Chery International User Summit, Chery signed agreements with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) respectively to support global public welfare. On the one hand, this demonstrates Chery's commitment to addressing global children's education issues, while on the other, it signifies a dedication to the preservation of natural environments and the sustainable development of ecosystems. Since its founding, Chery Group has not only been committed to innovative development but also consistently seen social responsibility as a corporate duty. It actively engages in philanthropic endeavors, conducting a wide range of charitable activities such as environ-

mental protection, targeted poverty alleviation, and educational assistance on a global scale. The two-year partnership worth \$6 million between Chery and UNICEF will support its global education programme and country-led education programmes in China, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey. This commitment aims to offer inclusive, healthy, and safe learning environments for children and adolescents in these countries, ensuring equal opportunities to learn and engage in their employability. At the signing conference, Yin Tongyue, Chairman of Chery Holding Group, said Chery's identity extends not only to a company that is dedicated to automotive R&D and manufacturing but also to a supporter of social responsibilities and historical significance. Chery will mobilize global resources, collaborate with partners from all sectors, and continue to contribute efforts to promote social progress and create a better way of life for all. The aim is to further play Chery's main role and exert power as a corporate citizen, promote green and eco-friendly concepts, and lead the trend of low-carbon travel. Chery's international users, in Chery's hometown of Wuhu, had

the opportunity to experience the joy of green travel while embracing the city's inclusive and open spirit, the green and eco-friendly travel environment. Chery has always made "green and low-carbon" a key strategic direction. They continuously explore sustainable development technology routes and have developed comprehensive carbon reduction solutions throughout the entire production chain and product life cycle. For example, Chery pioneered China's first aluminum-based lightweight platform, achieving lower production energy consumption and higher recycling rates. With 18 years of hybrid technology accumulation, Chery's PHEV features a hybrid-dedicated 1.5T engine and dual-motor 3-engine power combination, achieving a remarkable thermal efficiency of 44.5%. It offers a comprehensive range of 1300 km on a single charge and is equipped with a high-performance hybrid-dedicated battery. Fast charging from 30% to 80% at room temperature takes only 19 minutes, providing users with a better choice for green travel.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti in a group photo during passing out ceremony of Assistant Superintendents of Police of the 49th Specialized Training Programme at National Police Academy.

PKM leads to revitalization of major cities in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (PKM project) Multan-Sukkur section in Pakistan, initiated by China State Construction Engg. Corp (CSCEC) has been finished in three years, witnessing the unremitting efforts of the CSCEC team for more than a decade. It is a key project of the "Belt and Road Initiative" (BRI) and the largest transportation infrastructure project under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The friendship between China and Pakistan brought closer by PKM will stand the test of time and grow with new vitality. Dreams and hopes are intertwined, allowing more people to embrace happiness and the future together, says a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Monday. The total length of the PKM (Multan-Sukkur) is 392 kilometers, with 6 lanes in two directions, the design speed is 120km/h, including 100 bridges, 1,522 structures, 11 mutual interchanges, 6 pairs of service areas, 5 pairs of rest areas, and 22 toll stations. Greening and smart transport systems have been set up along the entire route to achieve full coverage of video surveillance.

Wang Yaodong, General Manager of CSCEC Pakistan and Executive GM of PKM Project, noted that the intelligent toll collection system could reduce the transit time to two or three seconds. The electronic signs can help people reach their destination faster. Intelligent traffic management system can help monitor the entire road and comprehensively master the traffic flow, event detection, and other road conditions," he added. Smart streetlights light up all night long, illuminating every passenger's way home. The combination of highway construction and technology keeps the road ahead bright, giving them safety and warmth. As the first of its kind in Pakistan, intelligent transportation capabilities, the road has reduced the commuting time between Multan and Sukkur from 11 hours to 4 hours. Usman, a truck driver who travels between Multan and Sukkur all year round, knows this well. The reduced transport time has brought numerous benefits to Usman's life. "I get more time to rest, spend with my family, and even take on additional trips. My efficiency and punctuality also improved, as I can now deliver goods to my customers in a much shorter time frame," said Usman excitedly. The faster delivery of goods allows businesses to operate more efficiently, leading to increased productivity and growth. The reduced travel time also means

perishable goods can be shipped fresher and faster, benefiting both producers and consumers. Usman's success story soon became an inspiration to other truckers traveling the same route. They witnessed the transformation in Usman's work and were motivated to embrace the new motorway, experiencing similar benefits. The construction of the PKM motorway has also brought new hospitals, schools, and restaurants... and brought vitality to the areas along the road. Qaisar had always dreamed of making a significant contribution to the infrastructure development of his country. After graduating from Harbin University of Science and Technology in China, he was selected to lead the construction department of the PKM Motorway project due to his exceptional organizational skills and extensive experience in the construction industry. From the very beginning, Qaisar faced numerous challenges. The project required meticulous planning, coordination and effective communication with various stakeholders, including government officials, engineers, contractors and local communities. With unwavering determination, the Chinese and Pakistani staff assembled a team of highly skilled profes-



HYDERABAD: Exam Passed candidates of Sindh Public Service Commission hold a protest against non-issue of the service orders as per merit list.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchange views with Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan, Adam Mulawarman Tugjo at naval Headquarters.

Imran Khan, Shah Mahmood indicted in cipher case

RAWALPINDI (INP): PTI Chairman Imran Khan and Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi have been indicted in the cipher case. However, both the suspects have pleaded not guilty. The special court of the Official Secrets Act today issued a notice to summon the government lawyers for October 27. On the previous hearing, copies of the investigation report were handed over to the suspects. Judge Ahsan ul Zaman resumed hearing the cipher case in Adiala Jail under the Official Secrets Act today. A hearing in Adiala Jail, Special Prosecutor Shah Khawar told the media that the prosecution team was postponed till October 27. PTI lawyer Sher Afzal Marwat told the media the hearing was postponed because of which the indicted would be in the defence side, he expected to file an application un-

der Section 265D of the CrPC. If the suspects plead not guilty, 28 witnesses will be summoned in sets. Shah Khawar added on Oct 17, PTI Chairman Imran Khan and Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi could not be indicted in the cipher case. The copies of the investigation report were shared with the suspects, however, the special court of the Official Secrets Act re-distributed the copies of the investigation report among the suspects over the objection of their lawyers. After a hearing in Adiala Jail, Special Prosecutor Shah Khawar told the media that the prosecution team was postponed till October 27. PTI lawyer Sher Afzal Marwat told the media the hearing was postponed because of which the indicted would be in the defence side, he expected to file an application un-

Advertisement for a news channel or website, featuring Urdu text and a logo.

## SC declares military trials of civilians as 'unconstitutional'

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday declared the military trial of civilians as 'unconstitutional'. The Apex Court had announced its verdict by 4-1. Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan and others moved the top court challenging the military trial of civilians named in the May 9 riots triggered by the arrest of PTI chief in the Al-Qadir Trust case. Headed by Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan, a five-member bench of the Supreme Court comprising Justice Mian Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afidi, Justice Sayeed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Ayesha Malik heard the pleas. Attorney General of Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan in his arguments said that he would explain to the court why a constitutional amendment was necessary to form military courts in 2015 to try the terrorists. Responding to Justice Ahsan's query, AGP Awan said the accused who were in military courts were locals well

as foreign nationals.

He said the accused would be tried under Section 2 (1) (D) of the Official Secrets Act and a trial under the Army Act would fulfill all the requirements of a criminal case. "The trial of the May 9 accused will be held in line with the procedure of a criminal court," the AGP said. The decision was reversed after Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan completed his arguments centred around the domain and scope of the military courts to try the civilians under the Army Act. Earlier, the federal government informed the Supreme Court that military courts have initiated trials of civilians.

The government in a miscellaneous petition to the apex court informed it about the beginning of trials of civilians in response to the court's August 03 order.

A total 102 individuals were arrested after May 09 and 10 incidents of the accused who in its plea to the court.

## Businessmen pin high hopes with Nawaz Sharif for mending system: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that the business community has pinned high hopes with recently returned former prime minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, for mending the system. In a statement issued on Monday, he was of the view that the return of PML-N Supreme will balance the country's politics, which will result in political stability that will help the people and the economy. Mian Zahid Hussain said that in spite of jail, exile, and other difficulties, the former prime minister did not try to incite the public in his speech, nor did he talk about any kind of revenge, which is a proof of his political insight. He said that the former prime minister did not make any tall claims or vows to jail the opponents, which shows that he does not want the politics of chaos in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addresses a Press Conference.

## A journey into the centuries through Bodhi Tree

ISLAMABAD (INP): Time seems to have stopped dead in its tracks hurtling back to the centuries as one feasts its eyes on the sacred Bodhi Tree located in the backyard of the historic Taxila Museum, according to the Archaeology Department of Pakistan.

Walking down the history, he said Sangamitra's gift was planted in Mahamevna Gardens of Anuradha Pura in Sri Lanka and it was named 'Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi'.

"It still exists at the 'Bodhi Tree Temple' and is considered one of the oldest known planted trees in world history. Buddhists across the world visit this tree."

"In 1964, during President Ayub's official visit to Sri Lanka, a sapling of 'Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi' was gifted to Pakistan. The then foreign minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto planted it in the backyard of the Taxila Museum. It is a mature tree now named as 'Maha Bodhi'. Buddhists and diplomats come and pray under this tree."

Manj continued. "When Buddhist tourists visit the Taxila Museum, they pray and visit the Bodhi Tree. So, after deep thinking, Emperor Ashoka sent his daughter Sangamitra and son Mahinda there to preach Buddhism. Sangamitra took a sapling from the sacred Bodhi tree as a gift to present it to King Tissa."

"The plantlet was taken from the Ficus Religiosa tree (a variety of the fig tree considered sacred in both Buddhism and Hinduism). The Lord Buddha used to sit under it for meditation. It was also called the 'Tree of Awakening' or 'Maha Bodhi Tree', located in Bodhi Gaya of Bihar - an Indian state. The original tree exists no more but its descendant is still there in Bodhi Gaya."

Manj said he visited Sri Lanka in September this year for a presentation on the importance of religious tourism around the world. Pakistan and Sri Lanka's particular role at both joint and individual levels in showing their soft image was also discussed. Scholars, researchers, and Buddhist monks across the globe participated in the event.

Besides the other topics of debate, Muhammad Iqbal highlighted the importance of constructing a small temple with stairs near the tree canopy attached to the Bodhi Tree.

He suggested the idea of blending the Gandhara and Sri Lankan architecture to design it with expert coordination from both sides.

"There's no problem with funds for this project and Pakistani experts can do it nicely. However, come and pray under this tree."

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ISLAMABAD: Provincial Secretary power Gilgit-Baltistan and Chairman of NorthHydro are signing the memorandum of understanding for the solar energy project started with the cooperation of Norway. Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan and ambassador of Norway is also present.

## PMD issues alert for coastal areas of Pakistan against Cyclone TEJ

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has issued a sixth alert against cyclone TEJ.

It said the cyclonic storm TEJ over Southwest Arabian Sea had moved further west-northwestward, and had intensified into a Severe Cyclonic Storm (SCS).

It said a low-pressure system had been evolved in the Arabian Sea. The evolving weather phenomenon, located at a significant distance from Pakistan's coastal areas, is expected to transform into a cyclonic storm within the next 24 hours, according to PMD reports.

The low-pressure system

is currently situated approximately 1,550 kilometres from Gwadar, indicating the potential for cyclonic activity in the region. Currently the cyclone was 380 km away from Oman and 290 km away from Yemen.

It said the speed of the winds at the centre of cyclone was 170-190 km per hour, creating waves in the sea over 45 metres high. Another weather disturbance is identified around 1,750 kilometres south of Gwadar, further underlining the need for vigilance in the affected areas.

The PMD said a low-pressure system might escalate into a depression, a precursor to a full-fledged cyclone.

The trajectory of the developing depression suggested it would move towards Oman, becoming a cyclone in the process. The PMD reassured that no coastal areas of Pakistan were expected to be directly affected by this weather system providing some relief to residents along the country's coastline. The PDMA asked citizens to remain cautious as weather patterns could change rapidly. Residents and authorities were urged to stay informed about the evolving weather conditions, take necessary precautions, and follow guidance from relevant authorities to ensure the safety of lives and property.

## Peaceful, stable Asia Pacific is priority for Pakistan: FM

ISLAMABAD (INP): Foreign Minister Jaiil Abbas Jilani has expressed Pakistan's firm commitment to remain a strong partner in all endeavors for peace, stability and development of the region and beyond.

He was speaking on the occasion of inauguration of the ASEAN Corner at Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad on Monday. The Foreign Minister said a peaceful and stable Asia Pacific is a priority for Pakistan and it stands ready to work with the ASEAN member states for confidence building and conflict prevention.

Jaiil Abbas Jilani said that being the proponent of multilateralism, Pakistan believes that a commitment to the fundamental principles of the UN charter

is the need of the hour. It is important that we reaffirm our support for an international order based on peaceful coexistence, amicable settlements of disputes, win-win cooperation and shared prosperity. He said there is a need to avoid bloc politics and geo-political constructs.

The Foreign Minister said Pakistan wants to work with all countries on the basis of mutual benefit and mutual respect and trust. He said it is the most prudent way to leverage our strengths to the advantage of our peoples.

The Foreign Minister said Pakistan is a proponent and beneficiary of regional cooperation and connectivity. The CPEC is a physical manifestation of our belief in the idea of regional connectivity. He said it is a pity that

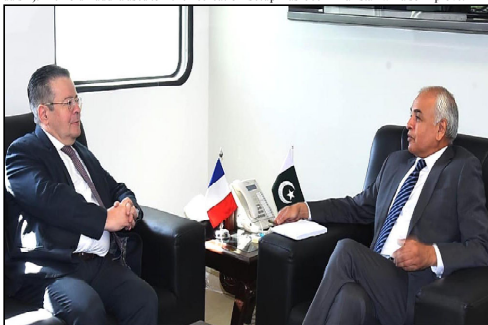
SAARC, which was established exactly on the same line as ASEAN, despite its immense potential has fallen victim to Indian intransigence. He however said Pakistan remains focused on deepening its relationship with various regions and organizations including ASEAN.

He said Pakistan has very special relationship with all ASEAN member states which are deeply rooted in culture, religion and history.

He said both Pakistan and the South East Asia face common challenges including climate change, pandemic, terrorism, Islamophobia, migration from conflict zones and cyber security. He stressed for evolving common solutions to tackle mutual concerns.



QUETTA: A vendor displaying selling stuff to attract customers alongside zergoon road.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Communication, Railways & Maritime Affairs Shahid Ashraf Tarar met with French Ambassador Nicolas Galey.

## Citizen Foundation-USA needs to contribute for education in Pakistan: Masood

WASHINGTON, DC (INP): Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, Masood Khan has said that Pakistan has made impressive strides in education and our overall education score has improved over time in access, quality, achievement and gender parity.

"But we still have a long way to go; to educate every child and ensure quality education," he said. "These are our national goals as well as UN designated Sustainable Development Goals," he continued.

To achieve these goals and prepare our children for the future, we need more schools, more funding, infrastructure, qualified teachers, improved gender equity, refurbished curricula and modern educational technologies. We are moving down to that path," he stressed.

Ambassador Masood Khan made these remarks while addressing the Annual Gala event of DC chapter of The Citizen Foundation (TCF)-USA. The high-profile annual

fund-raising event was attended by nearly 700 leading businessmen, professionals, entrepreneurs and community leaders of Pakistani descent. An amount of \$3,510,400 was collected during the event as a pledge of seven new schools to be established and supported by Pakistani-American community members of TCF-USA. The ceremony was conducted by renowned Pakistani-American entrepreneur Hasnain Aslam.

Paying a glowing tribute to the valuable contributions of TCF-USA, Masood Khan noted that TCF, since its inception, has built 1900 schools, nearly 300,000 children. The DC chapter, in particular has established 43 schools all over the underprivileged and impoverished areas of Pakistan, granting over 5,000 children the chance to shape a successful and promising future.

"You have unlocked those opportunities which were not available to these underprivileged children before," the Ambassador observed.

The people of Pakistan are grateful to you for this precious gift that you have given to them, he said. "You have become a respected brand in Pakistan and abroad," he said.

The Ambassador also recalled TCF contributions during the devastating floods in Pakistan last year and the COVID pandemic.

Masood Khan also lauded the services of Ms. Shimm Kidwat, the President of TCF, who has also been honored with prestigious Tamgha-e-Khidmat for her decades long meritorious social and humanitarian services.

"Have faith in Pakistan. Keep unity in your ranks. Continue your work to strengthen Pak-US relations. Be confident that together we would succeed," Masood Khan reiterated his call to the Pakistani community present on the occasion. He concluded his speech with quotes from Maya Angelou and Epictetus that "Giving liberates the soul of the giver," and "Only the educated are free."