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Operation Marg Bar Sarmachar:

# Pakistan carried out effective strikes against terrorists' hideouts inside Iran: ISPR

Sole objective of act was in pursuit of Pakistan's own security and national interest- FO; PM Kakar cuts short World Economic Forum visit in Davos; China offers to mediate as Pakistan-Iran border tensions flare

**Bureau Report** RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Armed Forces, in the early hours on Thursday, carried out effective strikes against hideouts during an intelligence-based operation inside Iran, used by terrorists, responsible for recent attacks in Pakistan. The precision strikes were carried out using killer drones, rockets, loitering munitions and stand-off weapons whereas maximum care was taken to avoid collateral damage, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The hideouts used by terrorist organisations, namely Balochistan Liberation Army and Balochistan Liberation Front, were successfully struck in an intelligence based operation, code name 'Marg Bar Sarmachar

The targeted hideouts were being used by notorious terrorists including Dosta alias Chairman, Bajjar alias Soghat, Sahil alias Shafaq, Asghar alias Basham and Wazir alias Wazi, amongst others

Pakistan Armed Forces remain in a perpetual state tary strikes against terrorof readiness to ensure safety ist hideouts in Siestan-o-Baluchistan province of of Pakistan citizens against acts of terrorism. Iran.

'Our resolve to ensure A number of terrorists that the sovereignty and terwere killed during the Inritorial integrity of Pakistan telligence-based operation is respected and safeguarded codenamed 'Marg Bar against any misadventure, Sarmachar'," Foreign Ofremains unwavering. We refice spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a affirm our determination to defeat all enemies of Pakistatement. stan with the support of the She said that over the

people of Pakistan," the last several years, in bilat-ÎSPR said. It added that goeral engagements with Iran, ing forward, dialogue and Pakistan had consistently cooperation were deemed shared its serious concerns prudent in resolving bilatabout the safe havens and eral issues between the two sanctuaries enjoyed by Paneighbouring brotherly kistani-origin terrorists themselves calling Meanwhile Pakistan Sarmachars on the ungov-

on Thursday morning carerned spaces inside Iran. Pakistan also shared ried out a series of "highly coordinated" and "specifimultiple dossiers with concally targeted precision" crete evidence of the presmilitary strikes against ence and activities of these terrorist hideouts in terrorists, she added.

'However, because of Siestan-o-Baluchistan province of Iran, killing a lack of action on our seria number of terrorists. ous concerns, these so-"This morning Pakistan called Sarmachars continundertook a series of highly ued to spill the blood of coordinated and specifiinnocent Pakistanis with

cally targeted precision mili- impunity. This morning's sponsible member of the international community, action was taken in light of credible intelligence of im-Pakistan upheld the principles and purposes of the pending large-scale terrorist activities by these so-called Sarmachars," the UN Charter including territorial integrity and sovereignty of member states.

spokesperson remarked. She said the action was manifestation of Pakistan's unflinching resolve to protect and defend its national security against all threats.

Spokesperson Baloch said that the successful execution of the said "highly complex operation" was also a testimony to the professionalism of the Pakistan Armed Forces. Pakistan will continue to take all necessary steps to preserve the safety and security of its people which is sacrosanct, inviolable and cred

She reiterated that Pakistan fully respected the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The sole objective of today's act was in pursuit of Pakistan's own security and national interest which is paramount and cannot be compromised, she added.

She said that as a re-

### President says: Pak will not compromise on its national security, territorial integrity

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday said that Pakistan would not compromise on its national security and territorial integrity and would take all necessary measures to defend its soil.

casualties

He stated that terrorism was a common challenge that required global efforts for its elimination

will be determined on return He said that Pakistan of care taker Prime Minisfully respected the soverter (PM) Anwaarull Haq eignty and territorial integ-

opments, hours after Pa-"Pakistan fully rekistan carried out a strike targeting the terrorists' hideterritorial integrity of the outs in Iran. The spokesper-Islamic Republic of Iran. son, in her weekly briefing, The sole objective of told the media that today's act was in pursuit Pakistan's action was of Pakistan's own security against the terrorist outand national interest which fits, not Iran as it desired is paramount and cannot peaceful relations with the be compromised," she reiterated her remarks alneighborly country and always sought to address the challenges through dia-

nated" and "specifically spects the sovereignty and targeted" precision military strikes in Siestan-o-Baluchistan province of Iran. She said the prime minister who was currently in Davos to attend the World Economic Forum and the foreign minister attending the NAM Summit and Third South Summit in ready issued a short after Uganda, have cut their vis-Pakistan carried out a se- its short "in view of the ries of "highly coordi- ongoing developments."

### Pakistan desires to deepen bilateral engagement with Saudi Arabia: PM

DAVOS (APP): Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah Thursday called on Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on the sidelines of the 54th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF)

The prime minister underlined the strategic importance of close brotherly relations between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Árabia, rooted in common cultural





countries

QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over a high level meeting held to review the measures for the general elections and for maintaining law & order in the province including the border areas at Chief Minister secretariat

Govt. & security institutions fully alert to establish peace:

low its sovereignty and territorial integrity to be challenged, under any pretext or circumstances. "Iran is a brotherly country and the people of Pakistan have great respect and affection for the Iranian people. We have always emphasized dialogue

The spokesperson

said that guided by the said

principles, and in exercise

of the legitimate rights

within international law,

Pakistan would never al-

and cooperation in confronting common challenges including the menace of terrorism and will continue to endeavour to find joint solutions," the spokesperson added.

Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani had cut short their foreign visits in light of the devellogue

### Effective administrative strategy prepared to tackle any untoward law & order situation in Balochistan: CM

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the government and security institutions are fully alert for establishing peace in all districts of the province including border areas, and an effective administrative strategy has been prepared to tackle any situation of law and order in the prov-

The Chief Minister was presiding over a high level meeting held to review the measures for the general elections and for maintaining law & order in the prov-

**Independent Report** 

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for In-

formation, Jan Achakzai

has stated that the people

of Balochistan express their

gratitude to the Pakistan

Military for their unwaver-

media account X on Thurs-

day, Jan Achakzai said that

the entire nation stands with

stan has called for just,

In a tweet on his social

ing protection.

Terrorists to be swiftly & decisively crushed:

**Entire nation stands united** 

with Pak Army, maintains

**CT Minister Information** 

ince including the border ernment areas, here at the Chief Minister secretariat on Thursday

ter said that the arrange-Those who were ments are being finalized to present in the meeting were conduct free, fair and transincluded Chief Secretary parent general elections in Shakeel Oadir Khan, Addipeaceful manner. tional Chief Secretary He expressed satisfac-Home, Zahid Saleem, Adtion over the preparations ditional Inspector General made so far in this regard. of police, Jawad Dogar and

He said that the people other concerned high offiwould have chance to use cials. The Additional Chief their right of franchise in Secretary Home briefed the conducive environment due meeting about the overall to the effective strategy situation of law and order adopted by the. in the province including

He said that the quick border areas besides the response force would also steps taken for general elecbe available to assist police tions by the provincial govand levies in elections.

### JIT decides to take stern action

Addressing the meet-

ing, caretaker Chief Minis-

### against responsible for launching anti

judiciary campaign you (Military) today, yes-ISLAMABAD (Online): terday, today and tomor-First meeting of JIT was held in FIA headquarters row. He said that "best assured, the terrorists belonging to the banned organiza-Islamabad on the matter of tions including Baloch Libprevention of anti judiciary

eration Front (BLF) material. The meeting was pre-sided over by Additional Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) would be swiftly Director General (ADG)

> It has been decided in the meeting to take stern action against those involved in maligning judiciary on social media.

As per sources officers of sensitive institutions presented report on plan of action in the meeting.

#### No airspace ban decided for

Iran, says CAA KARACHI (INP): The Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority has said that no decision yet taken for banning airspace for Iran, a spokesperson of CAA said on Thursday.

A spokesperson said that the CAA didn't receive any instruction with regard to ban on commercial flights between Iran and Pakistan

The CAA however said tutions before broadcasting that a strict monitoring of or airing. the flights from western direction including Iran has been initiated

In a statement issued by rity of all states and exthe President House Press pected the same from other Wing, he lauded the profesnations not to violate intersionalism of the Armed national law. Forces of Pakistan that tar-

The president said that geted the terrorist hideouts Pakistan and Iran were the Siestan-obrotherly countries and Baluchistan province of they needed to resolve is-Iran, while avoiding civilian sues through dialogue and mutual consultation.

### Nawaz Sharif vows to make Pakistan stand on its feet

HAFIZABAD (INP): Panot been removed from power there would have kistan Muslim Leaguebeen no gas loadsheding, in-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo and former prime minister flation and unemployment Nawaz Sharif vowed to in the country.

The former prime minmake Pakistan stand on its



own feet again.

Addressing his maiden public gathering of election 2024 campaign, Nawaz Shari said that he was ousted from power by the five Supreme Court judges just because he refused to take a salary from his son. Nawaz claimed if he had

Pakistan and Iran".

ister further said that before he came to power, terrorism had brought Pakistan to standstill but he took Pakistan out of the crisis.

Moreover, Nawaz Sharif promised that he would bring back Pakistan on the road of development after coming to power.

### **PEMRA** asks TV channels to cover Pak-Iran tension with 'utmost care'

ISLAMABAD (APP): transmission and support The Pakistan Electronic state narrative at this crucial Media Regulation Authortime as and when released ity (PEMRA) on Thursday from the relevant institudirected all the satellite TV tion," it added.

PEMRA said all the channel licensees to exercise news and programming heads and their respective "utmost care" while reporting over "tension between teams should be sensitized "All the licensees are to verify each and every indirected to avoid telecasting/ formation received on their desks or Whatsapp groups, breaking any unsubstantiated news on recent develand "aired only after necopment surfaced between essary fact checking, as any Pakistan and Iran," PEMRA false reporting may cause said in a letter addressed to unrest and insecurity among all the licensees operating in the public"

"news & current affairs and It warned that if any violation was observed, reregional languages". The Authority urged them to ported or identified through verify the related informaany complaint, "the Authority shall be constrained tion from the relevant instito proceed under Section 26, 29-A and 30 of PEMRA Ordinance 2002 as amended

"Licensees are expected to present factual informaby PEMRA (Amendment) tion / reports through their Act-2023

Kakar to home

Iran

NSC meeting

likely on

**Pakistan-Iran** 

tension

ISLAMABAD (Online)

National Security Council

(NSC) meeting is likely to

be convened on tense situ-

ation between Pakistan and

The date for meeting

Sources said the meeting will mull prevailing post-attack situation as Pakistan retaliated against unprovoked violation of its airspace by Iran and targeted militant hideouts in the neighbouring country.

The meeting will be attended by chiefs of Army, Navy and Air Force. The meeting will also review law and order situation in the country, besides affairs relating to holding of general elections in February. The participants will be also be briefed about operation against Baloch militants in Iran

Important decisions will be taken in the meeting in the perspective of national security related matters and tense situation between Pakistan and Iran.

Info Ministers says: Airspace violation by Iran under investigation

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Minister for Information, Broad-casting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi has said the government has lodged protest with Iranian authori-ties over "unprovoked violation" of its airspace, confirming that the "illegal move" is under investiga

tion. While speaking in a private television talk show, Murtaza Solangi said Pakistan would take appropriate measures while keeping the relevant international laws in the view especially

regarding the sover-eignty of the state. To a query, the minister said no political party is being r e a discriminately but who were involved in the May 9 incidents, had been arrested and their arrests had nothing to do with the elections.

Murtaza Solangi said the apex court's decision over the intra-party polls of the PTI would promote democracy within the parties.

heritage and shared interests.

The two sides also reviewed regional developments. Prime Minister Kakar noted that close brotherly relations between the two countries were a factor in regional stability

He said Pakistan desires to deepen bilateral engagement including through trade, investment and people-topeople exchanges. The prime minister appreciated the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and underlined the highest esteem the people of Pakistan held for the leadership and the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

### Central Secretary Information claims: **BNP to emerge major political** party in elections if free & fair elections conducted He said that BNP has

**Independent Report** always spoken about the QUETTA: The central Secrights of all nationalities inretary Information of Balochistan National Party cluding Baloch, Pashtoons, (BNP), Agha Hasan Baloch Hazara and others has claimed that the BNP would emerge as major po-Commission of Pakistan to take steps for free and fair litical party in upcoming general elections in the provelections in the country including Balochistan. He ince, if the same (elections) said that if the issues are were conducted free, fair really to be resolved then and in transparent manner. the seriousness would have

He said that the electo be demonstrated. tion campaign is being run by the party all over the province, and it is gaining acceptability following the campaign. Agha Hasan Baloch was addressing press conference here at Quetta Press club on Thursday.

Balochs are settled at both Other party leaders sides of the Pak-Iran borwere also present on the oc-

Agha Hasan Baloch said due to the situation. that if the elections were conducted in transparent manner, then BNP would emerge as the major political party in the province.



He urged the Election

He said that the care-

Referring the tension

taker government has

crossed its limits, it would

have to work in the same.

between Iran and Pakistan

the BNP leader said that

der and they would suffer



QUETTA: Balochistan National Party (BNP) Central Leader, Agha Hassan Baloch addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

meeting of the 19th NAM peaceful, and expeditious Summit in Kampala, resolution of the longstanding Kashmir and Uganda. He said Pakistan will Palestine disputes. continue to support the

According to Kashmir Media Service, the demand was made by Pakistan Foreign Minister, Jalil Abbas for all



solution of Kashmir, Palestine issues

KAMPALA (INP): Paki- Jilani, at the Ministerial

**QUETTA: Country Director World Food Program** Ms. Coco Ushiyama meeting with Chief Secretary **Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan** 

movement's efforts towards peace, equality, cooperation, and well-being

and decisively crushed, whether they attempt to infiltrate our borders or operate from within. Pakistan calls for just, peaceful

### Page 02

Pass

**OPINION** 

### Daily **Independent**



### **Iranian strikes**

Relations between Pakistan and Iran stand at a very delicate juncture after the latter struck targets inside Pakistani territory on Tuesday. While Tehran has claimed it hit "strongholds" of the Jaish al-Adl terrorist group in the air strikes, Pakistan says two minors had lost their lives in the Panjgur attack.

On Monday, Iran had carried out similar strikes inside Iraq and Syria, hitting what it said were "spy headquarters" and "terrorist" bases in these states. The Foreign Office has reacted with a sternly worded statement, condemning this unjustifiable violation of Pakistani sovereignty and warning of "serious consequences".

Indeed, the attack, as it said, is "completely unacceptable" — and Tehran should take note. The situation is deteriorating rapidly, as on Wednesday Pakistan recalled its ambassador from Tehran and suspended all high-level bilateral visits. The Iranian envoy in Pakistan, currently in his home country, will also not be allowed to return to Islamabad. The violation of Pakistani territory is totally indefensible; such unilateral actions — especially resulting in the loss of innocent lives — may do irreparable harm to bilateral ties. The activity of militant groups on both sides of the border is one of the biggest irritants in the bilateral relationship, and Pakistan and Iran need to address this issue in a mature fashion to ensure the situation does not worsen further.

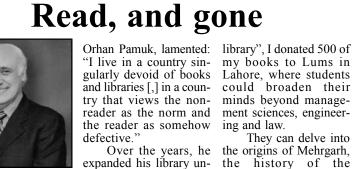
There were several terrorist attacks last year, with the last major incident occurring in December 2023, in which 11 Iranian law enforcers were killed in an ambush on a police station.

Iranian officials had claimed the assailants entered from Pakistan. Meanwhile there were also two attacks last year, apparently originating from Iran, in which several Pakistani troops were martyred.

Border security, particularly the elimination of safe spaces for terrorist groups, is an area both states must work on jointly, instead of pursuing unilateral actions. The immediate need is to prevent a rupture in ties. China, which enjoys cordial relations with both states, and has urged "both sides to exercise restraint", can perhaps use its good offices to help resolve this sensitive matter.

Meanwhile, it is also true that various foreign actors would like to see a permanent break in Pakistan-Iran ties; the capitals of both countries must, therefore, prevent an escalation and work to restore calm.

After matters have cooled down, the mechanism that exists for border security management should be actively used to target militants threat ening either state's security through joint operations. Under no circumstances should either state's sovereignty be violated through unilateral actions. The Iranian authorities must particularly work to prevent a repeat of such attacks. At a time when the fires of conflict threaten to consume the region, both sides must act with restraint and statesmanship to prevent this crisis from growing.



F.S. Aijazuddin

12,000 volumes. In a mo-Recently, I needed matement of candour, he admitted that he had truly rial on the 1971 East Pakiloved only "perhaps 10 or stan crisis from a section in my library. There, I un-15" of them. The rest he needed for his work. "If I earthed a squirm of terwere to compare my limites feasting on my brary to that of a wellbooks. As I consigned read friend in a rich Westtheir residual fragments ern country, his would to a pyre, it occurred to me that, whereas once I have fewer books than mine does.' owned my books, now they owned me. My re-That is not surpris-

ing. The tradition of pubmaining days would be lic libraries predates the consumed in ensuring ancient Great Library at

their preservation. My collection had Alexandria, said to conbeen built up over years, tain 400,000 scrolls before since the mid-1960s. Spoit was burnt down. Over the centuries, most develradic purchases gave oped countries have reway to more selective accessions which were gergarded libraries as necessary adjuncts to educamane to whichever of my books I happened to be tion. School libraries became a barometer of their working on. Their subjects covered Pahari attitude to education. painting, Sikh art, British One author admitted that and European artists his parents bore him but he was reared by librarworking in the north of the subcontinent, anies. Private libraries have always been a luxury. Bibtique maps, on Dr Henry liophiles know that each Kissinger's secret visit to book has an identity of its Beijing in July 1971, US foreign policy towards own; each set of covers contains the output of a Pakistan between 1969-74, and the journeys of creative mind; each volume is a friend who never the British vicereine Charfails. Together, they are lotte, Lady Canning, from Kolkata to the Khyber the sum of many lifetimes and the accumulated wis-

I justified spending dom of the ages. Pamuk mentions that it took an money on these books because they were essen- earthquake for him to detial for reference pur- cide that he needed to weed out his library. "Like poses, as books were not a sultan pacing among a as accessible as they are crowd of slaves, singling today on the internet or the ones to be lashed, like through search engines. a capitalist pointing out As one author put it, my the lackeys to be sacked, library is "a cave of words I made my selection sumthat I'd made myself".

Intellectual hermits marily The decision to may burrow themselves balkanise my library was in such caverns of learning, trying to decide made for me by ravenous tombs were incised with whether to read a book or historian Shelby Foote's to write one, but they have perforce also to live maxim, that "a university in an outer world. The is just a group of build-Turkish Nobel laureate, ings gathered around a Courtesy Dawn

"I live in a country sin- my books to Lums in gularly devoid of books Lahore, where students and libraries [,] in a coun- could broaden their try that views the non- minds beyond management sciences, engineering and law. They can delve into

Over the years, he the origins of Mehrgarh, the history of the til he had more than Mughals, the Sikhs and British rule. They can see Pakistan through the eyes of more recent

chroniclers like Herbert Feldman and S.M. Burke. Through the memoirs of former politicians, retired bureaucrats, and extinct state functionaries, they can relive their careers. And they will be able to uncurl secrets not taken by authors to the grave.

Books on interfaith subjects have proved more difficult to place. There are too few Hindus, Sikhs, and Zoroastrians left to form a bulk readership. Will one ever stop buying books? Pamuk

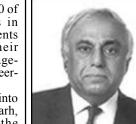
tried, but found to his dismay that he continued acquiring them faster than he could throw them away: "For me, the imperative is not to own good books but to write them.

But then, if authors stopped buying books, where would they find a readership for theirs? The nightmare of

every author/ bibliophile is if his precious library ends up on the footpath. I found a Persian/ Urdu/ Eng-lish dictionary signed by Ghulam Mustafa Tabassum for sale on a hand-cart in Anarkali bazaar. And I bought in Peshawar a romanised version of the Injil-i-Muqqadas (the New Testament), dated 1860, weighed on a scale against some stones. Perhaps the Ancient

Egyptians were wiser than we thought. Their termites. Following the hieroglyphics, ensuring they took enough reading matter with them to last beyond eternity.

**Commerce** News



#### **Rashid Amjad**

In a recent article in Dawn, the World Bank South Asia vice president, together with the country director, put forward a five-point development strategy to move Pakistan onto a path of sustained and equitable growth. Encompassing improving human capital, generating additional revenues, opening up the economy, transforming agriculture and removing energy inefficiencies, few would disagree with their listed priorities in the medium to

Yet they seem to overlook that the real problem Pakistan faces is in the immediate future; its economy comes to a grinding halt whenever any attempt is made to move it off the ground and move forward. Why?

To illustrate: after achieving near six per cent growth in the preceding two years, 2022-23, the economy abruptly reversed direction as economic growth became negative, inflation rose to an unprecedented 35pc, the country came perilously close to default as reserves fell to less than a month of imports, and poverty levels increased. Even given specific factors such as external shocks (war in Europe, resulting in a sharp rise in oil and food prices) and internal shocks (floods) coupled with poor economic management, it was not the first time this had happened. Over the last three decades, we have gone through frequently recurring stop-go cycles in which episodes of growth have become

# **Time to reflect**

growth longer and more frequent.

It is time we seriously questioned some critical aspects of the macroeconomic model we have followed, which has created that, by running huge unsustainable fiscal deficits, our own policymakers must share a large part of the blame, we must also seriously examine some conditionalities, IMF which, rather than improving, accentuate the problem by opting for pure--ly market-driven solutions to resolve basic structural deficiencies in the economy.

To elaborate, the IMF's solution to our recurring stop-go cycles was to opt for a marketdriven exchange rate and reduce tariffs on imported raw material to encourage more competitive exports

— which, in theory, was not unwise. But in doing so, it failed to take into account the working of Pakistan's complex, multilavered, imperfect foreign exchange market. With a large diaspora and migrant workers abroad who send back as remittances an

amount equal to or slightly more than our total export earnings, foreign exchange transfers by resident Pakistanis (including for investment in real estate abroad), hoarders, smugglers and profiteers in the domestic market had disastrous consequences. The rupee-dollar exchange rate came crashing down from Rs110 in 2018 to Rs340 in 2023 once the marketdriven exchange rate was introduced, triggering uncertainty and fanning inflation. Foreign reserves again fell to disastrously low levels, fuelled also by large inflows of imports resulting from lower tariffs, thereby bringing the economy to the very edge of default.

shorter and shorter, and down possibly to

episodes of very low Rs400 by June 2024-but for the timely strong-arm action taken by the government's new and powerful economic decision-making body, the Special Investment Facili-

tation Council. The SIFC this recurring situation. came down hard on hoard-While no one can deny ers, profiteers and illegal currency networks manipulating the exchange rate market (including some commercial banks, one is sorry to suggest). Since then, the exchange rate has steadied at between Rs280 and Rs300 to the dollar. To move out of these recurring crises and reignite growth with macroeconomic stability, it is important for the next elected government to propose important changes in a future continuation of the IMF programme, which, given our current situation, is highly desirable. These are as follows:

Move away from the market-driven exchange rate in favour of a managed exchange rate, while ensuring that it is in line with the real effective exchange rate to maintain export competitiveness and adjusts for relative rises in inflation.

Build up our reserves in as short a time as possible through innovative solutions, including diverting at least 10pc of any new foreign investment into a sovereign reserve fund and 10 to 15pc of foreign exchange from the remittances sent annually by our workers and diaspora abroad. Draw a red line at a level below which our reserves will not be allowed to fall (say, initially three months' imports or \$15 billion) and if they do, take suitable measures to reduce imports.

A prudently managed exchange rate supported by adequate reserves would reduce market uncertainty and lift economic activity and investment, ensuring steady grow--th. The country urgently needs to The exchange rate revive growth with macwould have gone further roeconomic stability. --Courtesv Dawn

ong term.

# Pakistan, Dubai ink over \$3 bln pact in diverse fields

Karachi

The

Pakistan achieves record

breaking exports target in

2<sup>nd</sup>, quarter of FY, 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Dubai have inked more than \$3 billion investment pact in diverse fields including cooperation in railways, economic zones infrastructure development.

The agreement was signed at the World Economic Forum in Davos Minister of Communication, Railways and Maritime Affairs Shahid Ashraf Tarar and Chairman of Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation (PCFC) Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem.

According to the Ministry of Railways, the cooperation covers the development of a dedicated freight corridor, multimodal logistics park, and projects. freight terminals.

The Dubai Port (DP) World will work on infrastructure development

at Qasim International Arabian Sea, passing Container Terminal which through Pakistan's most populous is Pakistan's leading trade gateway and plans to city, to the develop an economic zone Marshalling near the terminal. approximately 50 km

Both governments away. This would decongest have signed two Inter-Governmental Framework Karachi besides improving Agreements to strengthen road safety. It will their relations in the marine significantly improve and logistics sectors, efficiency, and transport including the potential times and reduce the establishment of a overall cost of logistics.

Pakistan Railways is Dedicated Freight Corridor Pakistan's national, stateand Economic Zone near owned railway company, The DP World will act owning and operating on behalf of the Dubai nearly 8,000 route-km of Government, while railway across the country, Pakistan Railways and Port from Peshawar in the Qasim Authority will act northwest to Karachi in on behalf of the Pakistan the south. The Qasim Government, for the International Container Terminal, a second development of the framework agreement was rail-based signed with Pakistan's

Dedicated Freight Corridor is planned to run from Karachi Port on the navigation channel.

Ministry of Maritime Affairs to dredge the



SLAMABAD (APP) The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bearish trend on Thursday, losing 364.93 points, a negative change of 0.57 percent, closing at 63,202.40 LAHORE: CEO Trade Development Authority of points against 63,567.34 Pakistan Muhammad Zubair Motiwala inaugurates points the previous the 3rd Engineering and Health Care Show at Expo

trading day. A total of 445,797,697 shares valuing Rs.14.236 billion were traded during the day as compared to 421,331,988 shares valuing Rs.18.579 billion the last day.

remained

work.

Talking to PTV news

channel, he explained that

Pakistan has recently

undertaken historic steps

ISLAMABAD (APP): resilience and commitment The Ministry of Commerce on Thursday of said that Pakistan has achieved record-breaking exports target and surpassing expectations at the end of second quarter of Financial Year 2024.

Center.

In a remarkable turn of the second quarter of events, Pakistan has Financial Year 2024. transitioned from facing potential default to achieving a record-breaking surplus in the effective economic its current account, showcasing the nation's government.

Some 345 companies transacted their shares in to economic stability, said a the stock market; 96 of press release issued here. In them recorded gains and December 2023. Pakistan 227 sustained losses, achieved an impressive whereas the share prices current account surplus of 22 of unchanged. \$397 million. This surplus contributed to the overall

The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 59,720,141 shares at Rs.5.47 per share, PIAC(A) with 40,427,500 surplus of \$198 million in This substantial increase in surplus is a testament to shares at Rs.11.56 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 35,387,750 strategies implemented by the shares at Rs.1.30 per share.



DAVOS: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar witnessing Federal Minister for Communications, Railways, & Maritime Affairs Shahid Ashraf Tarar and Government of Dubai inked more than \$3 billion investment pact on cooperation in Railways, Economic Zones and Infrastructure at the World Economic Forum.

# Minister says: Govt initiative in exploration sector to attract investment

ISLAMABAD (APP): OGDCL, PPL, GHPL, Caretaker Federal Minister of Energy, Muhammad Ali, expressed hope on Thursday that the government's initiative in the exploration sector would attract investment in

During

percent to state-owned gas companies. This initiative aims to encourage the oil and gas sectors. companies to invest more his in oil and gas exploration. presentation at the

Muhammad Ali National Seminar on "Pakistan's Economy emphasized the importance of geographical and seismic Crisis: Challenges and the studies to enhance onshore Way Forward," organized and offshore exploration. by NUST, the minister He called for investment in outlined that the refineries, explorations, government is set to permit terminal and leading oil and gas E&P infrastructure, stressing

development in Mari Gas, and foreign hydrocarbons, renewables, entities, to directly sell 50 and minerals sectors to percent of gas to the private meet domestic energy sector and the remaining 50 requirements. The minister

highlighted the significance of optimizing allocations for natural gas, revisiting priority orders, and revising Petroleum and LPG policies for the conversion of domestic consumers from natural gas to LPG. He also advocated for devolution of power to ease business processes and investment in Genco's for efficiency improvement.

Pak total liquid foreign reserves reach \$13.145 billion KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan stood at US\$ 13,145.1 million while reserves held by State Bank reached \$ 8,027.4 million in the week ended on January 12, 2023. The State Bank of

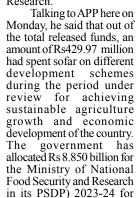
Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that SBP's reserves decreased by \$127 million to \$8,027.4 million due to debt repayments during the week under review.

### Govt releases Rs3,097.50 mln for agriculture sector uplift projects ISLAMABAD (APP): Food Security and

The government has Research. released an of amount of Rs3.097.50 million for Monday, he said that out of

various agriculture and the total released funds, an livestock uplift projects under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) 2023-24 as against during the period under the total allocation of Rs8.850 billion. The amount was

released during the first 06 months of the current financial year (July-December) for the completion of different Food Security and Research ongoing development schemes, besides initiating the new projects of vital different projects relating to agriculture and livestock importance, said an official sectors' development in the in the Ministry of National





**ISLAMABAD:** Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar is delivering her keynote address to Digital **Transformation-Envisioning the Pakistan Digital** Stack workshop.

## **Shamshad stresses** to lower revenue expenditure gap

ISLAMABAD (Online): Dr Federal Minister for Finance, Shamshad Akhtar, Caretaker Revenue and Economic Federal Minister for Finance, Affairs, during the keynote Revenue and Economic address on Pakistan's Affairs on Thursday said that economic challenges and the a comprehensive overhaul of way forward, said a press the government's fiscal release issued here. apparatus is vital to lower the revenue-expenditure gap. key areas that have Bold reforms would lead to a increased the vulnerability new era of development and of Pakistan's economy to prosperity in the country, the minister said.

domestic and global shocks: first, unsustainable Effective fiscal policy due to revenue implementation of ambitious gaps and unproductive reforms will depend on expenditure, second, fiscal addressing critical underlying unsustainability has institutional, governance, and enhanced government structural constraints, said Dr recourse to public debt Shamshad Akhtar, Caretaker which has increased.

She highlighted five

# companies, including the need for research and **IT exports witnesses** remarkable surge in

ISLAMABAD (APP): to facilitate the country's Interim IT Minister Dr burgeoning workforce of Umar Saif Thursday said freelancers and to promote the IT industry.

across Pakistan for online freelancers, he added. Dr Saif said that across the country will get opportunities to sit and

information and communications technology is the main key to opening the door to stabilising and strengthening Pakistan's

that Pakistan's Information Technology exports experienced a remarkable surge of 22% in December 2023, reaching a total of \$303 million where annually millions of youths

economy

December 2023, Saif

The government had launched an initiative to build 10,000 co-working spaces ndependent

Friday January 19, 2024

# National News

Page **0**3

Caretaker KP Minister

chairs meeting of

reforms committees

# Ties between Pakistan, KSA deep rooted due to common religion and culture: Baligh

Independent Report LAHORE: Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) Nawaf Bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman and discussed matters of mutual interest, promotion of bilateral relations, and mutual cooperation during a meeting at the Governor's House here on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor Punjab said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have long brotherly historical relations.

He said that the ties between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are deep rooted due to common religion and delegations between

Saudi government is taking very good steps regarding tourism. He said that the simplification of the visa policy by the Saudi government for foreign tourists is a good initiative. The Governor Punjab said that the Saudi government's new investment initiatives Pakistan are in encouraging. He said that it is good to see that more Saudi business delegations are visiting Pakistan. He said that there are favourable opportunities in

investors. Governor The further said that there should be maximum exchange of student

for Saudi

Pakistan

culture. He said that the Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. He said that Saudi companies are also investing semiconductors, which are the basis of all technologies. He said that Pakistani universities are providing quality education in medical and

> He said that Pakistani doctors are known for professional competence all over the world. He said that Saudi students should come to study Pakistani universities. On this occasion, unjab Governor Muhammad Balighur

Rehman and the Saudi Ambassador also discussed the situation in Palestine.

Commissioner (PEC)

Election Commissioner AHORE: Special Assistant to Prime Minister Allama Tahir Ashrafi talking to the media at Jamia

### **Effective reforms essential** for promotion of business, investment: Dr Amer

**Independent Report** PESHAWAR: KP Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce & Technical Education and Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Dr Amer Abdullah has said that bringing effective reforms in the governance system with time is essential for the promotion of business activities and investment.

Islamia Manzoor Cantt.

Speaking as a chief guest at a consultation workshop in a local hotel regarding possible reforms in the rules and regulations for the business and investment Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Oil.

sector here on Thursday, the Caretaker Minister said that he wants to improve the rules and regulations while keeping the public interest and rights in mind. The workshop was jointly organized by the

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KP-BoIT) and the Federal Board of Investment (BoI) (Prime

Minister's Office). Besides, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Secretary Industries Syed Zulfigar Ali Shah, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

various other disciplines.

### Caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa **New PEC** Punjab takes charge LAHORE (APP): Newly-posted Provincial Election

Punjab Aijaz Anwar Chohan took charge of his office here on Thursday. border. According to a spokesperson of PEC Punjab, Joint Provincial

Sain Bakhsh Channai welcomed the provincial election chief on his arrival at the PEC office. Aijaz Anwar Chohan also chaired an introductory meeting of the officers wherein the director elections gave a detailed briefing regarding RAWALPINDI (APP): the preparations for the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 general elections, to be held on February 8, 2024. operations across the Addressing the meeting, the PEC Punjab the country managed to recover 389 kg drugs and urged the officers to perform arrested 10 accused, said an their duties with hard work,

honesty and integrity and establish a strong chain of Thursday. communication with their field officers to ensure timely completion of all stages of the general elections.

said He that punctuality and dedication should be ensured in the office so that all the affairs were completed in a good manner

LAHORE: Saudi Ambassador Nawaf Bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malki called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman at Governor House.

# **KP CM meets PAJCCI** delegation; discusses closure of Pak-Afghan border

PESHAWAR (APP): Industries and other relevant officials were present on the occasion. The members

apprised Caretaker Chief Minister Justice ® Syed Arshad Hussain that hundreds of goods-laden trucks were stuck on both sides of Pakistan and Afghanistan due to the closure of the border.

They said a large number of trucks were carrying perishable items like fresh fruit, vegetables, poultry and other items which may get rotten due border crossing to restrictions, inflicting significant financial losses on the business community of both countries.

#### **US political** officer meets **PPP** leader

LAHORE (APP): The Political Officer of the High American Commission, Robert Kane, met with the Additional Secretary General of Pakistan People's Party Zulfikar Ali Bader at his residence, in which he discussed the current political and economic situation of the country and bilateral relations

between Pakistan and the United States. Apart from this, the environment of general seventh elections in Pakistan and the impact of elections on the country's development from two passengers going operations conducted to Muscat from Multan Theera Orakzai area. operations conducted near and prosperity were also discussed

#### ESHAWAR: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Local Government and rural development Amir Nadeem Durrani said that the caretaker government's mandate is limited but our effort is to give a better roadmap to the next elected government. He said I desire to work for the betterment of the people adding that

**Independent Report** 

reforms in local government are the need of the hour. Appreciating the efforts of the Reforms Committee, he said the local government department should develop long and short-term plans. He expressed these

views while presiding over the joint meeting of the Reforms Committees formed to review the problems and challenges faced by Urban Development Area Authorities, TMAs, WSSCs and Peshawar Development Authority here on Thursday. The meeting was held in the conference room of the local government which was attended by the members of the reforms committees.

At the meeting, Nadeem Durrani was brief about the establishment of the reforms committees and was told that Urban Area Development Authorities, TMAs, WSSCs.



LAHORE: H.E. Leslie Scanlon; Canadian High Commissioner meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi.

## **Youth Alliance protest** against black marketing artificial scarcity of urea

Tanveer Ahmed Soomro ers staged a protest outside MIRPUR MATHELO: In Mirpur Mathelo, on the call of youth alliance against black marketing and artificial scarcity of urea fertilizer, farmers and political social leaders staged a protest outside the office of Deputy Commissioner Ghotki in Mirpur Mathelo. And shouting slogans against the dealers of urea fertilizer. According to the de-

tails, due to the nexus of the dealers of urea fertilizer in Mirpur Mathelo, the series of black marketing of artificial shortage of urea fertilizer has not ended. The lead-

the office of Deputy Commissioner Ghotki in Mirpur Mathelo and locked the main gate of Deputy Commissioner Ghotki's office, Ayaz Khahawar, Waqar Bozdar and others while talking to the media. said that they have been protesting against the black marketing of urea fertilizer for the past two months, but no action has been taken against the dealers who sold urea fertilizer worth Rs. 35 hundred for Rs. 6,000. Fertilizer has exceeded six thousand rupees which is cruelty and abuse to the farmers.

# International News

Justice ® Syed Arshad delegation Hussain Shah on Thursday included held a meeting with a Coordinator PAJCCI, Ziadelegation comprising ul-Haq Sarhadi, President members of the Pak-Sarhad Chamber of Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), Faud Ishaq, Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) and discussed Director PAJCCI, Imtiaz problems being faced by Ahmad Ali, Vice Chairman businessmen due to the All Pakistan Customs closure of Pak-Afghan Agents Association,

Farooq Ahmad and Ex. Caretaker Minister Presidents SCCI, Zahid for Industries, Commerce Shinwari and Faiz & Technical Education, Dr Muhammad Faizi. delegation The

Amer Abdullah, Secretary ANF recovers 389 kg drugs in 11 operations; arrests 10 accused

Airport. 210 grams Ice drug

was recovered from a passenger going to Doha at Jinnah Airport Karachi. 88 grams heroin was

recovered from a passenger ANF Headquarters spokesman here on going to Malaysia at Allama Iqbal Airport. 354,400 intoxicated

He informed that five tablets were recovered hashish-filled capsules were recovered from the from a container being sent to Thailand from South stomach of a passenger going to Abu Dhabi at Asia Pakistan Terminal Karachi.In Bacha Khan Airport. operation, 210 kg hashish and 7 kg opium were 250 grams intoxicated tablets were recovered recovered in two separate

# **Houthis strike** another US vessel

SANA'A Yemen's Houthi rebels have taken responsibility for an attack on the US-owned cargo vessel Genco Picardy, a spokesman for the militant group announced on Wednesday

The United Kingdom Trade Organization (UKMTO) had received a report of an attack on a merchant ship around 60 nautical miles southeast of the Yemeni port of Aden.

"Master reports vessel has been hit on the port side by an Uncrewed Aerial System," the UKMTO said in their incident report fend dear Yemen and to late on Wednesday, referring oppressed Palestinian to a likely drone attack. The report said the resulting fire was extinguished and that the vessel and crew were safe and proceeding to their

next port of call. indeed US-owned and op-

people.

Israeli forces search a Red Crescent ambulance during a raid in Tulkarm, occupied West Bank.

# Japan counts down to precision 'moon sniper' landing mission

ity. Japan is increasingly

ton to respond to China

Artemis

TOKYO (Internews): Ja- JAXA says is unprecpan aims to become the fifth country to put a spacecraft on the moon when it attempts a precision landing on Friday, in what would be a boost for a space programme that has suffered a wave of setbacks and been eclipsed by rival China.

space. Japan boasts a Dubbed the "moon sniper", the Japan Aero- number of private-sector space Exploration Agency (JAXA) probe is space startups and aims to send an astronaut to attempting to land within the moon as part of 100 metres (328 feet) of NASA's its target, a technology programme.

Houthi spokesman erated, while flying the flag adier General Yahya of the Marshall Islands. Brigadier General Yahya Saree claimed responsibility for the attack in a telesome damage reported," vised address, naming the CENTCOM said, adding vessel as the US-owned that the ship was "seawor-Genco Picardy. thy and continuing under-

the legitimate right to de-

The naval forces of way. the Yemeni Armed Forces The Houthis have carcarried out a targeting opried out dozens of drone and eration against the Amerimissile attacks in the Red can ship... in the Gulf of Sea since the beginning of Aden... leaving direct hits," Saree said. He reiterated the Israel-Hamas war in October.

There were no injuries and

The militant group has that Yemeni armed forces "will not hesitate to target vowed to continue until the all sources of threat in the war ends and the blockade Arab and Red Seas within of Gaza is lifted.

The increased risk of attack has forced major shipcontinue supporting the ping firms to respond by avoiding the Suez Canal, the fastest cargo route from Asia to Europe. The traffic route normally accounts for

The US Central Com-mand said on X (formerly Twitter) that the ship was 15% of the world's commercial shipping.

### Singapore transport minister resigns over corruption

charges SINGAPORE (AFP/ APP):Singapore's transport minister has resigned his post after being charged with 27 offences in a corruption probe that has also ensnared a billionaire hotel tycoon. S. Iswaran was arrested in July of 2023 and released on bail in connec-

tion with a rare top-level graft investigation in the city-state. Iswaran, 61, said he would plead not guilty to

the charges filed by the powerful Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau when edented and essential in he appeared in court on the search for moon water and human habitabil-

Thursday. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong revealed shortly after Thursday's hearing that looking to play a bigger role in space, partnering with close ally Washing-Iswaran had submitted his resignation from the government, parliament and ruling military and technologi-People's Action Party (PAP) cal might, including in on January 16 after being given formal notice of the charges against him.

Iswaran has also pledged to return the money received as part of his salary and allowances since his arrest. Lee said

medicine-aid deal **Monitoring Desk** Violence has also GAZA CITY: Tel Aviv surged in the Israeli-occustepped up air strikes on pied West Bank since Oct 7 to a level not seen since the second Palestinian uprising between 2000 and 2005

S. Iswaran, Singapore's former transport minister, arrives at the State Court

Israeli army raids and attacks by settlers have killed around 350 people in the territory, according to a tally based on sources from both sides. Air strikes and artillery fire targeted Khan night, according to eyewit-Strip's biggest city.

Yunis throughout Tuesday nesses in the southern Gaza

### **Plight of Palestinians** echoes in US Senate

publican, Rand Paul, supporting Sanders. The Hill, a Washington newspaper focusing on Congressional activities, observed that "the number of Democrats who

supported the measure reflects rising dissatisfaction among progressives over the civilian casualties in Gaza, which are now said to exceed

The newspaper pointed out that those backing the proposal were sending a pointed message to President Joe Biden that the war in Gaza is becoming a major problem for his party.

### 23 killed in Thai fireworks factory blast **Monitoring Desk**

BANGKOK: Twentythree people died after an explosion at a fireworks factory in central Thailand on Wednesday, the provincial governor said.

Images shared by the local rescue service showed metal debris littered on the ground, and a huge plume of black smoke. The blast occurred at around 3pm (0800 GMT) near Sala Khao township, in central Suphan Buri province.

We received reports from EOD team that there were 23 confirmed dead," Nattapat Suwanprateep, Suphan Buri province governor.

### Winter weather upends travel in Germany for a second day

BERLIN (Internews): Heavy snowfall and icy conditions upended air, car and train travel across Germany for a second day on Thursday. At Frankfurt airport,

to the Canary Islands. Germany's largest hub, more than 300 out of almost Singapore and Rotterdam, 1,000 planned arrivals and the two busiest bunkering departures were cancelled in ports and where fuel is the morning, according to competitively priced, as spokesperson. they try to hedge against

Trains to and from Paris were again cancelled German rail operator Deutsche Bahn said, and for other train journeys.

# **Biden aims for North** Carolina as 2024 election comes into focus

WASHINGTON (Internews): U.S. President Joe Biden will fix his gaze on one of the prizes of the 2024 election three days after Donald Trump's Iowa Republican primary triumph, taking his economic pitch to closely contested North

Carolina on Thursday. After Trump's 51% win in the Iowa caucus cemented his front-runner status for Republicans, Biden heads to North Carolina, the state his Democrats are most optimistic about converting in 2024. Trump narrowly won the state in 2020 by 74.483 votes and 1.3 percentage points. The trip, tied Clinton's in 2016.

to the rollout of new funds for broadband internet, is Biden's fourth this month to an anticipated battleground state in the 2024 presidential election.

It comes as Biden's reelection campaign, launched nearly nine months ago, revs up into general-election mode with hires across a series of the states where voting preferences can swing to either party. Since 1980, North Carolina has only backed one Democrat in a presidential election: Barack Obama in 2008. But Biden's loss there in 2020 was narrower than Obama's in 2012 and Hillary



Smoke rising after an explosion at a fireworks factory near Sala Khao township in Thailand's Suphan Buri province.

# **Red Sea ship diversions** boost bunker demand, prices in Africa, Mediterranean

eling patterns and boosting

demand for bunker fuel at

far-flung ports, from the

Mauritius to South Africa

lysts said.

Ships are also ex-

retaliatory U.S. strikes have (Internews): The re-routing ratcheted-up tensions in the of a growing number of Middle East as the Gaza ships around Africa to war rages on. avoid potential attacks in

The attacks by the the Red Sea is altering refu- Iran-allied Houthis, which they say are in support of Palestinians, target a route that accounts for about 15% of the world's shipping traffic and acts as a vital conduit between Europe and pected to top up more at Asia.

Hundreds of large vessels have rerouted around the southern tip of Africa, adding 10-14 days of travel. to avoid drone and missile uncertainty over route attacks by the Houthis.

changes, traders and ana-"Ships are diverting away from the Red Sea and Attacks by Yemen's re-routing around the coast Houthi militia on merchant of South and West Africa.

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: The plight of the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank echoed in the US Senate on Tuesday evening as senators debated a resolution questioning US aid to Israel. The lawmakers overwhelmingly rejected the

move by Senator Bernie Sanders, a former presiden-24,000.' tial candidate, to tie US aid to Israel's treatment of Palestinians but he did suc-

ceed in generating a passionate debate on the issue. The Senate voted 72 to 11 against the resolution, with

nine Democrats, and one Re-

brokered deal. But nearly 24 hours after the deal was announced on Tuesday night, a Hamas official set new conditions for providing the drugs, insisting Israel must not inspect the trucks carrying them.

in Singapore.

Wednesday over the Gaza Strip's south, where medicines were expected to be delivered for Israeli prisoners in exchange for humanitarian aid under a newly

**Tel Aviv steps up** 

Gaza strikes after

### Daily **Independent**, Hub

### Friday January 19, 2024



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Kashmir Education Foundation called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## **Chinese military expert** Pakistan's plan to buy Chinese FC-31 stealth fighter jets 'win-win' cooperation

(APP): BEIJING Pakistan's plan to procure FC-31 stealth fighter jets from China will not only significantly enhance the Pakistan Air Force (PAF)'s capabilities, but also open up the international market for the Chinese aircraft, marking a win-win cooperation, Chinese military expert said. The FC-31 has strong comprehensive air combat capabilities, including its stealth advantages that allow it to spot opponents first and launch surprise attacks, Wei Dongxu, a Beijing-based military expert, told the Global Times.

The aircraft has outstanding situational awareness and can carry a wide selection of munitions, including not only air-to-air tional gap over its rivals missiles but also precision bombs as well as air-to-

ground and air-to-surface not likely get stealth fighter missiles, Wei said.

The PAF has long been using weapons and equipment procured from China, including J-10C medium fighter jets, JF-17 light fighter jets, HQ-9BE longrange surface-to-air missile systems, HQ-16FE midto-long-range surface-to-air missile systems and the

YLC-8E anti-stealth 3D surveillance radar systems. Pakistan will have no difficulties integrating the FC-31 into its combat systems, and the stealth aircraft will in return significantly enhance its military

capabilities by a generation, The FC-31 will allow FC-31 is a single-seat, twin the PAF to enjoy a generawith fast delivery, while is comparable with, if not Pakistan's main rival will superior to, the US' F-35.

jets anytime soon, Wei said. The purchase plan will also benefit China, Wei said, noting that if Pakistan

finalizes the deal, other countries, particularly those from the Middle East, could also follow. In potential joint ex-

ercises with other countries, the Pakistan Air Force could display the capabilities of the FC-31, and more potential customers will get to know how competitive the Chinese aircraft is, Wei

Independently developed by the state-owned Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC), the engine, medium stealth fighter jet that analysts said

experts said.

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Mohamed Eboo, Resident Representative of Canada during meeting held at Parliament House in Islamabad.

# Federal minister announces to organize awareness sessions on interfaith harmony in rural areas

day announced that the Prophet Muhammad SAW

KARACHI (APP): Federal said that all human beings anyone receives informa-Minister for Religious Af- were family of Almighty tion about any act of blasfairs and Interfaith Har- Allah and he taught man- phemy one must verify and mony Aneeq Ahmed Thurs- kind through his last report it to higher authorities instead of taking the law

# **President says:** Use of technology vital to increase literacy rate

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday stressed the need to increase use of the technology in the education tained that around 28 milsector of Azad Jammu and Kashmir to increase the lion children in Pakistan do overall literacy rate in the

He was talking to a delegation of the Kashmir Education Foundation which called on him at at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The president said the purpose education could be brought to the remote and difficult areas with the help of techmoting quality education

He said the use of information technology in the education sector will reduce costs while it would

also help increasing the Kashmir Textbook Board Chairman Syed Tufail number of students while maintaining the quality of Hussain Bukhari and Founeducation. President Alvi main-

those children.

Punjab.

dation Chairman Muzaffar Muhammad Qureshi also participated in the meeting. It was informed in the

not go to school while meeting that the foundation thousands of new schools runs three schools and would be needed to educate teacher training college in Punjab and Azad Jammu He said mosques and Kashmir.

The delegation incould also be used as educational centers for this formed the president that the aim of the foundation The delegation briefed was to promote education the president about the and character-building o Foundation's role in prothe youth.

The president appre ciated the foundation's role in promoting education in Azad Jammu and Kashmii and rural Punjab

Azad Jammu and



and literacy in Azad Jammu

and Kashmir and rural

DAVOS: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar held a meeting with Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO of UAE-based DP World, a multinational logistics company on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum.

## **UNICEF** assures full cooperation to work on better healthcare of mother & infants in Balochistan

Muhammad Khan Jogezai **Independent Report** QUETTA: The country Director UNICEF, here on Thursday. Also present in the

Abdullah A. Fadil has asmeeting were included the provincial representative of ured that the UNICEF would extend full coopera-UNICEF, the Ms. Mariym, Dr. Aamir Alizai, tion to work on the better field security officer, Naseeb Kakar and Dr. Amin healthcare of the mothers and infants in the province. Khan Mandokhail.

He also assured to work on the roadmap and work plan of the provincial government in this regard. The country Director

ated the roadmap as disof UNICEF was in meeting cussed with them by the interim Health Minister with the caretaker Minis-ter Health, Dr. Amir during the course of meet-

**Commissioner Quetta** inspects solid waste management plant

The UNICEF repre-

sentatives also briefed the overall functioning and con-tribution of the Fund in sector health Balochistan.

Earlier, the Minister Health Dr. Jogezai appreciated the services being The Country Director rendered by UNICEF in the and Provincial representa-tive of UNICEF apprecihealth sector of the prov

He told that the government is ensuring effective steps for saving the people from diseases.

> **Pakistan envoy** meets Czech senate president ISLAMABAD (APP)



**DAVOS: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and** Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif addressing Pakistani professionals in Switzerland.

### Pak Navy vows concrete action to enhance maritime security

KARACHI (APP): Vice Chief of Naval Staff Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami has em-phasized the Pakistan Navy's commitment to addressing current simmering issues in a tangible way, aiming to ensure security in the country's maritime zones.

He made these remarks during the concluding ceremony of the inaugural Maritime Security Centre. Exercise SEA GUARD-24

in Karachi today. During his address, he stated that the exercise aimed to review response procedures against maritime security incidents, identify mechanism.

Highlighting the scope of the exercise, the Vice Na-val Chief mentioned that it provided an opportunity to strengthen and rejuvenate the bonds among diverse maritime stakeholders in the country, including ship-ping, fishing, law enforcement, and private entities, through a common platform-the Joint Maritime Information Coordination

Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami expressed appreciation for the efforts of all stakeholders in making the exercise a success, as it served as a platform for engaging in tactical exercises, exchanggaps, and propose ways to ing best practices, and fos-improve the response tering mutual understanding.

Pak isn't Iraq or Syria, it will respond if treated this way: ex-envoy

dor Abdul Basit has issued a strong response to Iran's tions will only lead to its recent airstrikes in Balochistan, claiming that Pakistan "is not Iraq or Syria" and warning of further consequences. Basit, speaking to a

private Tv news channel, highlighted that if Pakistan is treated in this way, it will respond also. He also highlighted the history of concern and cooperation with Iran, but asserted that Tehran's "unprovoked" attack, which killed two children, has pushed the relationship to a critical point. He stressed that Islamabad has "responded appro-priately" by recalling its ambassador and blocking Basit's strong words re-Tehran's envoy.

The former ambassa-

ning that its

ISLAMABAD (INP): across Asia" is a "danger-ous game." He further warned that Tehran's acown isolation, urging them to resolve the dispute diplomatically and avoid creating further conflict

Basit also drew a historical parallel, recalling Iran's 2010 arrest and execution of the Jundullah chief, the predecessor to the targeted Jaish-ul-Adl group. This, he argued, demonstrates Iran's capacity for cooperation, a path he hopes they will choose once again.

The current situation has thrown Pakistan-Iran relations into a deep flect the anger and frustration felt by many in dor pointed to Iran's Pakistan, while his call growing regional ambi- for diplomacy offers a nossih route

government under its endeavour to promote interfaith harmony will organize awareness sessions on the subject in rural areas especially in schools and colleges across the country.

He was addressing a seminar titled "Religious Minorities and Interfaith Social Tolerance in Pakistan" organized by Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony in collaboration with Igra University Karachi.

to be kind and polite in their Prophet dealings. Muhammad's (SÂW) teachings on tolerance, embedded in the conquest of Mecca and Treaty of Hudebia, should always be kept in mind while dealing with the people of different faiths, Aneeq Ahmed stated adding that the hearts of non-Muslim brothers could be won through kind-

While expressing con-The Federal Minister, demnation on incidents like

ness and politeness rather than misplaced arguments.

speaking at the occasion, Jaranwala, he said that if

#### into hands and resorting to violence. The Minister commended the role of Ulema for raising voices against the intolerable acts in society and uttered that the message of interfaith harmony should be disseminated through knowledge and evidence. Aneeq Ahmed said

that the ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony was organizing a series of awareness events on interfaith harmony in cities, particularly in higher

solid waste management plant within a week education institutions.

Thursday.

#### He said that the long-**Independent Report**

standing issue of solid UETTA: The Commiswaste would be resolved sioner Quetta Division, after making the plant op-Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat visited the solid erational. waste management plant at So, every possible eastern bypass, Quetta on

steps would be taken to keep functioning the plant, The Commissioner adding he assured. He said that solid was briefed about different

waste management plant parts of the solid waste would resolve the issues of management plant plant, issues and it's operation. solid waste in Quetta city. The Commissioner The Commissioner stressed the need to prop-

directed to rehabilitate the erly dispose the solid waste by the people.

**Finance Minister** 

appreciates digital

countability Bureau.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Caretaker Federal Minister

for Finance, Revenue and

Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, here on

Thursday commended the

initiatives undertaken by

the Bill and Melinda Gates

Foundation and Karandaaz

digitization She said digital

transactions play a vital role

in empowering both urban

residents and business in-

dividuals, offering them the

flexibility to complete fi-

promptly and with ease.

nancial

Ambassador of Pakistan in Czech Republic Ayesha Ali on Thursday met with President of the Senate of Czech Republic Miloš Vystrcil.

In the meeting, they discussed the ways to strengthen the Pak-Czech relations

"Honored to meet with the President of the Senate of the Czech Republic Miloš Vystrcil at his annual reception for the diplomatic corps," the ambassador wrote on her account.

that Pakistan and Egypt **SHC allows** have cordial historical and traditional relations. Fahmida, that both countries can **Zulfiqar Mirza** to contest projects and cooperation in defense. election

KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court (SHC) has al-QUETTA: Country Director UNICEFAbdullah A Fadel and Ms. Maryam meetlowed Fahmida Mirza and ing with caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Jogezai Zulfigar Mirza to contest election.

The court has accepted constitutional petitions of Fahmida Mirza and Zulfigar Mirza.

Fahmida Mirza and transformation efforts Zulfiqar Mirza had filed nomination papers from forts extend beyond the NA-223 while Zulfigar Mirza had filed nominaprivate sector, with active tion papers from PS-70, 71 and 72. The complainant participation from key government institutions such has said he will resort to as the State Bank of Paki-Supreme Court (SC) stan, the Securities and Exagainst the decision of SHC. change Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and the Ac-

Returning officer and election tribunal had re-These entities are conjected their nomination patributing significantly to pers. Fahmida Mirza and the implementation of the Zulfiqar Mirza were 'Pakistan Digital Stake,' recharged that they were bank inforcing the government's defaulters. commitment to the digiti-

Later Fahmida zation agenda, she added. Mirza and Zulfigar Dr. Shamshad Akhtar Mirza filed constituunderscored the importance tional petitions in SHC of the project for Pakistan's against the decision of progress, asserting, this iniappellate tribunal. tiative was of utmost im-The complainant

portance for the develophas said he will resort to ment of the country adding Supreme Court (SC) the government would use against the decision of all available resources to SHC.

"expansion of capabilities escalation.

ons

day

Operators

(PKNOG).

Egypt envoy of calls on Minister for Defense, security issues discuss RAWALPINDI (Önline):

Defense industry by gath-Ambassador of Egypt Dr Ihab Abdel Hamid Hasan ering their military strength.

Egypt and Pakistan has called on Minister for have immense potential to Defense Lieutenant General develop in all sectors be-(retired) Anwar Ali Haider cause both countries are facing common challenges and in his office Defense Ministry Rawalpindi on Thurshave common strategic interests. We hold the same Defense Minister said desires for peace and development. The guest thanked the Defense Minister and expressed his government's Defense Minister said commitment to work with Pakistan in all matters of work for collaborative mutual interest, including

**PTA hosts workshop** on IPv6 Transition & **Routing Security** 

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- news release issued here on kistan Telecommunication Thursday. Speaking on the Authority (PTA) orgaoccasion, Chairman PTA, nized a two-day workshop Major General ® Hafeez Ur on 'IPv6 Transition' and Rehman said that PTA is 'Routing Security' in col-laboration with the Asiawell aware of the importance of capacity building therefore Pacific Network Informait is working closely with intion Centre (APNIC), the ternational stakeholders. Internet Society (ISOC), and the Pakistan Network for the capacity building of the telecom industry. Group

The successful execution of this capacity-building workshop signifies a significant step towards tured esteemed foreign achieving PTA's broader speakers and witnessed acgoals of fostering innovative participation from professionals in the telecom tion. ensuring cybersecurity, and posiindustry, underscoring the collective commitment to tioning Pakistan's telecom staying abreast of technoindustry as a leader on the logical advancements, said a global stage

### Seminar on role of women in peace, nation building organized in Turbat

TURBAT (APP): A semi-nar was organized here on Thursday on the role of women in peace and nation building

The workshop fea-

About 400 girl students and faculty participated in the seminar held at Sheikha Fatima bin Mubarak Cadet College Turbat through Voice of Balochistan (VoB). The students came

from University of Turbat,

Turbat, University Makran, Panjgur and University of Gwadar. Prominent politician

Zubaida Jalal was the chief guest while the panelists were journalist and anchor SAMAA news Kiran Naz. Minister for Women Development Shania Khan, Principal Mand Girls High School Rahima Jalal, social activist and politician Meena Majeed Baloch, Prof Dr Gul Hassan of University

Government Girls College Salesforce expertise. Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah printed at Independent Printers Querry Road Quetta and Published from Bolan market main RCD Road Hub. Ph. 2842938 Fax: 2842941 Cell No. 0331-8383955 E-mail:newsdailyind@gmail.com,dailyindisb@gmail.com

# Jan Achakzai visits SSP **Traffic office; praises** control mechanism

**Independent Report** Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai visited the Office of Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) here on Thursday.

The caretaker Minister Information met the SSP Traffic Behram Khan Mandokhail who briefed him about the functioning of the Traffic Police and the traffic management system

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Caretaker Federal Minister

for IT and Telecommunica-

tion, Dr. Umar Saif, empha-

sized the need for a system-

atic framework to benefit

from the wealth of experi-

ence of the Pakistani

Pakistani professionals in

Switzerland, Dr. Umar Saif

acknowledged the diaspora

as a valuable asset to the

country, highlighting their

commendable contribution

to the stability and growth

of Pakistan's economy, said

a news release received here

ing with the Pakistani diaspora, Dr. Umar Saif

visited the Salesforce pavil-

ion at Davos to explore

opportunities for Pakistan

to become a hub of

In addition to engag-

on Thursday

During a meeting with

diaspora worldwide.

in Quetta city.

Jan Achakzai appreci-QUETTA: The caretaker ated the traffic control and management mechanism of traffic police in Quetta. He said that the traf-

fic of Quetta city is being managed well by the traffic police despite the resources constraints.

fic laws.

**IHC** accepts He stressed the need petitions to create awareness among against jail trial the citizens about the traf-He urged the citizens to follow the traffic laws. of Toshakhana,

£190 million **Dr. Saif advocates for** reference ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court systematic framework (IHC) on Thursday accepted the petitions of PTI founder against the trial of

diaspora experience He also met with the Chairman of VEON, Terzioglu, with CEO Jazz Aamir Ibrahim in attendance. Furthermore, the Caretaker IT Minister addressed the CEPI-Global Fund-IQVIA Session on

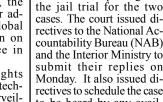
The session was attended by several global leaders in public health, including Dr. Jean Kaseya, DG Africa CDC, Richard Hatchett, CEO, CEPI, Pe-ter Sands, CEO, The Global Fund, and others

Dr. Umar Saif also visited the Crypto Pavilion during his engagements in Davos

Disease Surveillance in Davos He shared insights into Pakistan's use of technology for disease surveillance, citing examples of monitoring dengue, Covid, and TB.

to benefit Pakistan Toshakhana case and the £190 million reference in jail, for hearing. IHC bench comprising Justice Gul Hassan Aurangzeb and Jus-

for the digital transformation of Pakistan. Speaking at the 'Pakistan Digital Stake' Workshop here, the Minister said the creation tice Arbab Tahir heard the of Digital Stake by these or-PTI founder's plea against ganizations was in line with the jail trial for the two the government's policy of



to be heard by any available bench on Monday.



transactions

OUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai visiting office of SSP Traffic