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# Islamabad demands New Delhi's accountability on int'l level Horrifying Indian plot of terrorism in Pakistan exposed thanks to vigilant security agencies

Foreign Office says credible evidence of links between Indian agents and assassination of 2 Pakistanis; Calls Indian campaign "sophisticated and sinister

### **Independent Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani security institutions have successfully exposed the terrorist group as well as Indian handlers and facilitators involved in the terrorism acts and target kill-

The security institutions exposed the plot on basis of evidences that two Indian citizens namely Ashok Kumar and Yugaish Kumar were directly involved in the killing of Muhammad Riaz and Shahid Latif.

The security institutions of Pakistan apprehended the target killers of and Shahid Latif gunned Muhammad Riaz and



Shahid Latif in the light of in Daska. undeniable evidences.

Both the deceased were The target killers inpeaceful citizens and their volved in the cold blooded only fault was to expose the killings were arrested when ongoing cruelty, barbarism they were attempting to and heinous face of India in flee from Pakistan. Kashmir.

It may be recalled here that Muhammad Riaz had been killed by the target killers on September 8, 2023 citizens present in third country were involved in down on October 11, 2023 the whole targeted killing



campaign, who were not only giving directives along with it's funding, but were also controlling the drive. Matter of fact also re-

mains that India assassinated the innocent people The investigating agen-cies have the authentic ent countries including Paproofs that the Indian kistan, but no concrete evidences were provided about their evidences.

There's also no deny-

ing the fact that India is constantly busy in violation of the international laws and that it (India) is fully violating the relevant ar-ticles of Universal Declaring of Human Rights (UDHR) and International Convent of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The Indian intelligence agency (RAW) is playing

the role of an international terrorism organization. Worthwhile to mention is that India had

killed the Sikh leader Hardeep Singh in Canada last year. Canada had reacted strongly to the Sikh leader's killing at diplomatic level

and highlighted it at the

**President for special focus** on development of GB's natural, human resources

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday citing an immense potential in tourism sector of Gilgit-Baltistan, called for a special focus on the development of human as well as natural resources of the region.

He, in a meeting with elected members of Gilgit-Baltistan Council, reiterated the resolve for GB's durable socioeconomic development.

Discussing the current situation and the problems faced by GB, he said the GB people were educated and highly skilled, and the literacy ratio in the region was also pleasing. President Alvi also stressed the need to uplift the GB's agriculture and farming sectors.

He also assured the delegation to convey the issues faced by the GB people to the relevant fo-

ternative energy sector of Pakistan. The prime minister, in a meeting with a four-member delegation, led by the

Al-Jomaih Group head Abdulaziz Sheikh Hammad, said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had brotherly ties which were getting further stronger.

The Al-Jomaih Group had made a huge investment in the K-Electric.

The prime minister thanked the prime minister said that Pakistan greatly valued the Saudi investment and welcomed its invest-

ISLAMABAD: Head of Al-Jomaih Group alongwith a delegation called on

He also lauded K-Elec-

also expressed the hope that the K-Electric would further improve its infrastructure to ensure uninterrupted power supply to domestic and industrial

and the government team for resolving longstanding issues faced by the company.

Apprising the prime minister of the company's 1500 megawatt projects, the delegation informed the prime minister that the projects would feature the usage of local resources and alternative energy.

Federal Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar, Energy Minister Muhammad Ali and relevant senior officers at-

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of elected members of Gilgit-Baltistan Council called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Nawaz, Zardari's cases **PML-N** to should be heard on daily issues manifesto on Jan 27: basis; Imran demands Irfan Siddique Monitoring Desk 'Nawaz Sharit |Paki-

session of 8th Executive

**Committee meeting** 

rums. **Interior Minister directs ICT administration to** 

ment in the energy sector. tric strategy to invest in the alternative energy sector as it would help reduce the power tariff for the benefit of consumers.

The prime minister consumers.

The Al-Jomaih Group tended the meeting.

**Democratic system meant to serve** people, not vice versa: Solangi ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and

Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Thursday said that the democratic system was meant to serve the people, who should have the power to hold their elected representatives accountable.

"Steps should be taken to reinvigorate the democratic system, which is only to take care of the people and not vice versa," he maintained.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on "Electoral Code of

PM urges Saudi Arabia's Jomaih Group to invest in Pak alternative energy sector ISLAMABAD (APP):

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday urged the Al-Jomaih Group of Saudi Arabia to invest in the al-

ISLAMABAD: Amid back-to-back hearings of his corruption cases, the incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan on Thursday asked an accountability court judge to also continue proceedings of corruption references against his rivals, Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari. The discussion between the former prime minister and the judge, Muhammad Bashir, was held during the hearing of the £190 million National Crime Agency (NCA) scandal case

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Special In-

vestment Facilitation Coun-

cil (SIFC) resumed the 2nd

session of its 8th Executive

Committee Meeting on 25

January 2024. The meeting

was convened to deliberate

on agendas of remaining

Planning, Development and

Special Initiatives and at-

tended by concerned Fed-

eral and Provincial Minis-

comes president of Pakistan once again.

The meeting was chaired by Minister for

ministries.

before party.

dent of Pakistan.

ing public gathering

stan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N)] — and Asif Ali Zardari [Pakistan Peoples ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-kistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Irfan ul Haque Siddiqui on Party (PPP) co-chairman] have been given February Thursday said that his 13 date for hearings of the party will issue the mani-festo on January 27, to Toshakhana cases. Every day, I hear about the filing of back-to-back cases track against me," Khan said at the outset of today's hearnews channel, he said that ing. The disqualified preeconomic, legal and judicial reforms would put the mier, who rose to power in 2018 and was ousted from country on path of speedy the PM's office after losing progress a confidence vote from parliament in 2022, asked the

ters and high-level govern-

tries presented progress on

sectoral projects and policy

initiatives under SIFC's

ambit and gave detailed

plans to steer future

viewed the ongoing efforts

to strengthen the domestic

dispute resolution mecha-

nism, a pivotal policy ini-

tiative to enhance investors

The Committee re-

The concerned minis-

ment officials.

endeavours.

confidence.

TATION DESCRIPTION OF THE OWNER

GUJRAT: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal

Bhutto Zardari addresses to his supporters dur-

He said that in 2013. economic challenges had been a difficult task but judge to conduct daily hear-ings of his rivals' cases. Nawaz Sharif made sincere efforts and implemented SIFC resumes 2nd the reforms to achieve the

highest economic growth

### Capital Territory (ICT) to establish cheap markets for bring the country back on general public in the federal capital Talking to a private

Thursday directed district

administration of Islamabad

He gave the directions during a meeting with Interior Secretary Aftab Akbar Durrani, Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Anwar Haq and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan.

The minster said that Islamabad police and district administration should play a role for better and peaceful quality of life for and justice.

# rate for this country.

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Interior Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz in a meeting with Secretary Interior, Chief Commissioner and IG Islamabad.

in country's

F) chief Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman said on Thursday that feudalism had made inroads in the country's politics and barons were voted out of fear and fright. Addressing a ceremony here, he stated that

his party had always voiced for the commoners as getting them rights was the real politics, besides safeguarding their lives and properties.

JI-F had always stood for the rights of the downtrodden segments of the society and never raised "hollow slogans". Maulana Fazl maintained that his party was trying its best for keeping peace in the country and added that the economy could not be stable without tranquility.

No compromise on quality hajj arrangements: Aneeq

ISLAMABAD (APP): multiple initiatives to ensure easy and quality hajj arrangements and no compromise would be made on

it to provide maximum facilitation to the intending pilgrims. Talking to PTV news

channel, he said accommodation, meals and transportation for pilgrims would be improved with a more comfortable and convenient experience, adding, all arrangements have been finalized under the government Hajj scheme in Saudi Arabia for the forthcoming

He said that the main

setup cheap markets

ISLAMABAD (APP): citizens in the federal capi-Caretaker Minister for intal terior Dr. Gohar Ejaz on

He said that all grocery items available at the utility stores would be ensured in the Sunday Bazaar and the manufacturers would provide items at the original cost. He also directed to set up 5- day of cheap bazaars in the federal capital while the plans were underway to improve health facilities in the hos-

pitals as soon as possible. The minister directed to complete construction and renovation of all police stations soon so that citizens could be provided with a better environment

objective of the Ministry

was to improve arrange-

ments in light of feedback

Conduct: Ethical Practices of Stakeholders including Media", organized by the Press Information Department.



He said that as per the Constitution, Pakistan was a federal parliamentary democratic country and the people's elected representatives must do legislation to strengthen the system

The minister said that the concept of "recalling elections" was first introduced in Greece and the practice was now being followed by other countries, including Canada, the United States of America and Germany.

A certain percentage of constituents should be empowered to recall their elected representatives by complaining to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) if they failed to meet their expectations, he added.

Solangi said that the caretaker government was taking all possible steps to facilitate the ECP to hold free, fair and transparent elections on February 8 so that the people could elect candidates and parties of their choice in a peaceful environment.

He said that the Election Commission had issued a code of conduct, and the media uses management and media persons should be fully mindful of it.

He said that some elements were involved in baseless propaganda and spreading nours regarding the February elections.

It was being claimed that the elections would be postponed due to severe cold or security grounds, but that propaganda had now died down, he added.

tics of allegations.

was not given mandate.

Nawaz Sharif will soon

present manifesto before

the people. Vote will de-

cide about your and your

children future. On Febru-

arv 8 you have to come out

of homes and cast vote, she

said this while addressing

a public meeting here

but I stood with my father.

I accepted to go to jail

Thursday

# **Senior Govt** officer, cop shot dead

PESHAWAR (APP): Unidentified armed men on Thursday shot dead a Senior Planning Officer of the Social Welfare department here in the jurisdiction of Police Station Gul Bahar and a police constable in the iurisdiction of Police Sta-

tion Daudzai. According to police,

armed motorcyclists targeted the senior planning officer when he was going to the office in his official vehicle. The attackers managed to escape from the scene.

### received from the stakeholders, adding that, the Senior politician government had also intro-Illahi Bux Soomro duced a comprehensive and

affordable hajj package to 'passes away' hujjaj this year. To a query, KARACHI (INP): Šenior he said the present governpolitician and former Nament has also announced a tional Assembly speaker significant reduction of Rs Illahi Bux Soomro passed 0.1 million in government away on Thursday.

According to family Hajj expenses and would not compromise the qualsources, politician Illahi ity of facilities to hujjaj. Bux Soomro breathed his "Without any cost, govlast at a private hospital in ernment is providing QR Karachi due to cardiac arrest. The senior politician code, a suitcase of 30 Kg to all was admitted to the hospi hujjaj which will help in locattal due to health issues. ing their luggage", adding, gov-

Soomro was the 16th ernment will also provide Speaker of the National Pakistan Flagged Abaya to Assembly of Pakistan. He all the female hujjaj which belonged to an influential will make them prominent. political family of Sindh.

Maryam Nawaz says: PML-N does not believe in politics of allegations LAHORE (Online): PML- Today I am among you.

N vice president Maryam This constituency is my Nawaz has said PML-N home. Ballot paper is does not believe in the polinot only a ballot paper but it is decision about "PML-N got done deyour and your children velopment work where it future.

Nawaz Sharif had eliminated darkness and terrorism from the country ll 2017, she added.

One man comes in Punjab and says Nawaz Sharif has not given manifesto. Nawaz Sharif will give manifesto within a few days. But I want to tell you Nawaz Sharif manifesto is being seen every where in Punjab



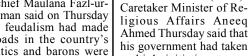
LAHORE: Supporters of Pakistan Muslim League (N) holds party flags during inauguration of election campaign camp office of senior vice president of the PML-N Maryam Nawaz, at Singhpura, ahead of the upcoming general elections.

**Bilawal proposes to make** Feudalism has Zardari president of Pakistan made inroads LAHORE (Online): PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has proposed to make Asif Ali Zardari president of Pakipolitics: Fazal MULTAN (APP): Jamiat-Bilawal Bhutto has placed the proposal in this regard e-Ulama Islam-Fazl (JUI-

Bilalwal Bhutto said we should learn from experience of Asif Ali Zardari. It is my desire Asif Ali Zardari be-Senior leadership of PPP has advised that proposal

from Bilawal Bhutto Zardari be placed before central executive committee of party. It has also been said if result of general election comes in favor of PPP then PPP will nominate formally Asif Ali Zardari for the slot of Presi-

He claimed that the Hajj.



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**OPINION** 

# Daily **Independent**

# Daily A oice of Masse. Independent

# **Army duties**

The state cannot hold elections without the Pakistan Army. On Tuesday, the caretaker government formally approved the deployment of military and civil armed forces personnel at polling stations and sensitive constituencies "in order to maintain peace and security" during the upcoming general elections

It is understood that these personnel will not only be deputed to guard polling stations on election day but also serve as a rapid reaction force in case any law-and-order situation arises.

The government is said to have approved the arrangement after receiving a summary recommending the same from the hitherto minister-less interior ministry, which cited a severe shortfall of available personnel. The ECP had previously demanded the services of 275,000 troops from the interior ministry for election-related duties after learning that it was facing a shortage of more than 277,000 security officials, of which about 169,000 were needed in Punjab alone.

It is understandable why the ECP wants boots on the ground for the elections. Apart from various administrative and other reasons, there has been a surge in militant attacks targeting security forces in recent months, and the commission would not want anything untoward happening close to or on election day.

There has also been a recent spate of attacks targeting political leaders, mostly in KP, while there are multiple alerts regarding some politicians facing active threats. It is imperative for the state, in these conditions, to provide a secure environment for politicians and voters in the lead-up to and on election day.

However, the troops being deployed should be clearly instructed that their role is limited to providing security and ensuring peace. They must not, for whatever reason, enter polling stations or interfere in the voting and post-voting procedures. The controversies that arose after the 2018 polls must be avoided at all costs.

Finally, though Dr Gohar Ejaz was given the additional charge of caretaker interior minister last evening, it is worth asking what took the government so long to nominate him given that Dr Ejaz's predecessor, Sarfaraz Bugti, had resigned in December. The government has been quite aware of the deteriorating security situation and has brought it up on various occasions and in different contexts: why, then, had it left the ministry responsible for law and order without a head for more than a month?

This was a rather reckless approach, given the serious challenges that have emerged, with the elections drawing nearer. Dr Ejaz's new role will require much attention and energy from him as he tries to address various emergent security-related challenges; will he be able to do so, considering he is also holding several other important portfolios? It is a big ask: the responsibility for the safety of millions now lies with him.



## **By Qaiser Nawab**

In the face of unprecedented global challenges such as economic downturns, financial crises. pandemics, and climate change, the need for innovation and adaptability in the public sector collection, analysis, has become increasingly evident. However, abling governments to within these challenges lies an opportunity for nations to harness the gation and adaptation.

power of digitalization, turning adversity into innovation. The COVID-19 pandemic acted as a catalyst for the acceleration of digitization, forcing industries worldwide to adapt to the new normal. This article explores the role of e-governance in building resilient soci- nologies, governments eties, with a focus on can innovation and its po-

hetween

not

tential impact on effi- ience ciency, transparency, and accessibility.

The industrial sector, particularly in developed economies like the The integration of cli-ÚK, demonstrated re- mate-focused E-Govermarkable adaptability nance strategies aligns by shifting to remote with the broader vision work and embracing of creating a world that digital transformation. Similarly, nations such as Brazil and Canada witnessed a surge in businesses future.

transitioning to eCommerce. However, technologies, includdeveloping nations face the challenge of ing cryptocurrencies. creating awareness brings both benefits among policymakers and challenges. Adabout the importance dressing vulnerabilities, bridging the digiof digitalization. Contal divide, and ensurducive policies, support for innovation, skill ing inclusive developdevelopment, and im- ment require global colare crucial components gic policy initiatives. stewards of societal challenges that neces- strata. Moreover, ad-

for these nations to Developing a compre- progress, bear the re- sitate strategic fore- dressing social chalharness the opportuni- hensive approach to ties presented by digiknowledge tackle tal transformation. Climate change, a disparities, and poten-pressing global chal-tial job displacement is tal transformation. Climate change, a disparities, and poten-pressing global chal-tial job displacement is tal transformation and the the realm of erbation of existing in-transformation. Climate change, a disparities, and poten-pressing global chal-tial job displacement is tal transformation of emerging cybersecurity threats, equalities, becomes lenge, further under- crucial for the sustain- technologies.

of E-Governance in tal technologies. building resilient socigrapple with the farreaching impacts of a mation of the public sector and research inchanging climate, innosector. Its potential imvative digital solutions pact on efficiency, can play a pivotal role transparency, and acin developing and implementing effective cessibility cannot be overstated. The United Nations, World Bank, environmental policies. E-Governance can fa-European Commission, cilitate real-time data McKinsey, Deloitte all attest to the ety. transformative power and dissemination, enof e-governance, citing make informed decireductions in corrupsions for climate mitition, increased citizen satisfaction, reduced Collaborative efforts processing times, and nations. cost savings.

COMSATS, with its network of 25 Cenguided by E-Governance principles, can enhance the coordinaters of Excellence tion of climate-related across three contiinitiatives, ensuring a nents, stands as a beacon of support for more efficient and unified response to envimember states in their ronmental threats. By digitalization endeavleveraging digital techors. These centers of- ties. fer scientific solutions, policy inputs, training only programs, and re-search to aid industries strengthen their resilto climate change but also foster and governments in a sustainable and econavigating the comfriendly trajectory for plexities of the digital future development. era. Particularly in middle and lowermiddle-income economies. COMSATS members have shown remarkable progress in not only adapts to undigitalization, surpasscertainties but actively ing expectations for works towards a more their respective stages sustainable and enviof development. With ronmentally conscious internet penetration rates exceeding 80%, The rise of digital these nations are setting an example for others to follow

Innovation stands as the cornerstone for the success of e-governance initiatives, constituting a dynamic force that propels governance into the digital

**Commerce** News

То achieve this, a collabo-E-governance be cultivated, where stitutions.

**E-Governance:** 

Such partnerships are essential to identify, develop, and implement innovative solutions that address the evolving needs of a digitally-driven sociand

As the digital landscape undergoes continuous transformacomes not just a stracessity. Policymakers rapidly changing technological terrain, enmodels are not only adaptive but anticipatory of emerging challenges and opportuni-

Embracing a culture of perpetual innovation allows governments to proactively tackle issues such as cybersecurity threats, data privacy concerns, and the ethical implications of emerging technologies. Moreover, it positions nations at the forefront of technological advancements, fostering a competitive edge in the global arena. In essence, the commitment to continuous innovation in e-governance is a commitment to building responsive, forward-thinking, and resilient societies that can effectively navigate the uncertainties of the digital era.

Navigating the path toward a digitally the transformed future is

sponsibility of foster- sight and collaborative lenges, including digiing an environment efforts. One of the fore- tal literacy disparities rative ecosystem must gies exposes govern- ety. Policymakers must eties. As nations emerges as a linchpin policymakers actively tions to increasingly cate challenges with in the digital transfor- engage with the private sophisticated cyber agility and inclusivity, risks. these threats demands proactive measures, including cybersecurity frame- collaborative works and continuous monitoring to safeguard critical informa-

tion infrastructure. Data privacy concerns emerge as another pivotal challenge, as the collection tion, innovation be- and utilization of vast amounts of personal tegic choice but a ne- information raise ethi- with unprecedented cal questions and de- challenges, including mand stringent regula- economic downturns, need to navigate the mand stringent regulations. Striking a delicate balance between suring that governance leveraging data for societal benefits and safeguarding indi- the adoption of digital vidual privacy becomes imperative. Moreover, the ethical implications of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and biotechnology, necessitate careful consideration and ethical guidelines to prevent unintended conse-

> auences nological hurdles, there tities for its transformais a pressing need for tive impacts on effiinternational coopera- ciency, transparency, tion to establish global standards for digital governance.

harmonized regulations nance, emphasizing inmay hinder the seam- ternational cooperaless flow of information and create disparities *Qaiser Nawab*, serving in digital development. Policymakers face the Belt and Road Initiaintricate task of foster- tive for Sustainable ing innovation while Development upholding responsible (BRISD), is an expert governance, ensuring in International Relathat the benefits of digi- tions and Impact talization extend across Technologies. You can proved connectivity laboration and strate- age. Governments, as laden with multifaceted diverse socioeconomic contact

where the rapid evolu- crucial to fostering an tion of digital technolo- inclusive digital sociments and organiza- navigate these intri-Addressing recognizing that the journey toward a digitally transformed future robust demands a holistic and approach.

In conclusion, the imperative for building resilient societies in an uncertain world is underscored by the transformative potential of e-governancedriven digitalization. As nations grapple pandemics, and climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic has acted as a catalyst, accelerating technologies. While developed

economies showcase adaptability, developing nations face the dual challenge of raising awareness among policymakers and implementing supportive policies.

E-Governance emerges as a linchpin, In addition to tech- endorsed by global enand accessibility. Policymakers must balance innovation with The absence of responsible govertion and inclusivity. as the President of the him at qaisernawab098@gmail.com

# **Revolutionary initiatives in IT** sector start bearing fruits: Saif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Software Caretaker Federal Minister Associati Information and Technology Telecommunications, Dr. Umar Saif has said that the promotion of the IT & presence of the Special Investment Facilitation country's development.

Addressing a Town of building and developing Hall meeting during his the country, and the visit to the Pakistan elected government will

promotion of the IT & Additional Secretary Telecom sector in a short MOITT, Muhammad period of 5 months in the Zohaib Khan Chairman Council (SIFC) is leading caretaker set-up. The p@SHA, Nadeem malik, to increase in foreign direct forum of SIFC will prove General Secretary P@SHA investment (FDI) and to be a great support for and representative from IT setting the pace of the the upcoming elected Industry attended the government in the process event.

Dr. Umar Saif further said that, to facilitate IT exporters and boost

**PSX** witnesses

bearish trend,

loses 524 points

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The 100-index of the

Pakistan Stock Exchange

(PSX) witnessed bearish

trend on Thursday, losing

524.43 points, a negative

# Software Houses Association (P@SHA) office, Dr. Saif said, "We have achieved 13 out of 15 important targets for the promotion of the LT & Additional Secretary important targets for the Ms. Aysha Morani

50% of their export proceeds in the Exporters' Specialized Foreign Currency Accounts (ESFCAs). "We worked Accounts with the SIFC and the State Bank to make a significant policy intervention, allowing IT companies to keep 50% of their export revenue in dollars.



photo after Town Hall meeting.

# **Trade and** Investment officers visit **PSGMEA**

SIALKOT (APP): Trade and investment officers appointed by the Ministry of Commerce to abroad visited the Pakistan Sports Goods Manufactuers and Exporters Association (PSGMEA) here on

Thursday. PSGMEA Chairman Arshad Latif Butt, Senior Vice Chairman Zarar Ahmed Dohdy, Vice Chairman Umer-Uz-Zaman and Secretary General Mohsin Akhtar.

He said that a Masood welcomed the Norwegian enterprise had guests.According to Secretary General PSGMEA Mohsin Masood, Arshad Latif Butt and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) jointly organized an outstanding interaction with the newlyinducted counsellors at

# Pakistan's public-sector insurance companies' engine of economic growth: Gohar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Insurance Company and Caretaker Minister for Pakistan Reinsurance Commerce, Industry, Company have managed Investment and Interior Dr around Rs. 2 trillion of Gohar Ejaz on Thursday funds. said that Pakistan's publicsector insurance companies are engine of economic growth.

Company,

These companies have established themselves as pillars of financial stability and He expressed these innovation, he said.

**Food group imports** 

These are the best views in a meeting chaired by Caretaker Finance state-owned enterprises in Minister Dr. Shamshad Pakistan, he said. Over the years, he said that the During the meeting, companies have discussion was made on consistently demonstrated reforms in the insurance their ability to navigate industry, a news release economic cycles, maintain said issued here. He said financial stability, and that State Life Insurance adapt to evolving market National conditions.



**ISLAMABAD: Kazakhstan Ambassador to** Pakistan H.E. Yerzhan Kistafin called on the Federal Minister for Commerce, Industries, Investments and Interior, Dr. Gohar Ejaz to discuss regional connectivity and bilateral trade at the **Commerce Ministry.** billion the last day

# **PTCL Group renews partnership** with SNGPL for cellular services

Independent Report LAHORE: Pakistan's largest telecommunications Solutions. and integrated ICT services provider, PTCL Group

services to SNGPL under officials from both PTCL Group Business organizations. Under this agreement, PTCL Group will Group Chief Business provide wireless Officer connectivity and a host of Solutions



largest integrated gas company of Pakistan, SNGPL have renewed their Amer Tufail signed the

(PTCL & Ufone 4G), and (GCBSO), PTCL & Ufone bundled services to SNGPL 4G, Zarrar Hasham Khan, and MD/ CEO, SNGPL, partnership for the agreement at SNGPL Chief Business Solutions continued provision of the headquarters in Lahore, in Officer PTCL & Ufone 4G, state-of-the-art cellular the presence of senior stated.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Zarrar Hasham Khan, Group

relations with Pakistan ISLAMABAD (INP): Ilsaas and discussed Ambassador of Norway to Pakistan Per Albert Ilsaas cooperation between the on Thursday said that his two countries in business country country wanted to and investment fields, said further enhance business a press release. relations with Pakistan. Ambassador

Norway wants to further

enhance business

change of 0.81 percent, closing at 64,298.01 points against 64,822.43 points Talking to a Norway said that that delegation delegation of supporting the business the previous trading day. A total of 460,691,033 shares valuing the Islamabad Chamber of communities of both Commerce and Industry countries to engage in trade Rs 25.248 billion were (ICCI), he said that both and economic relations was traded during the day as the countries had the a key priority of his compared to 479,982,148 potential to increase embassy bilateral trade and do He shares valuing Rs. 22.501

more business together. A delegation of ICCI already signed an agreement led by President Ahsan to invest in solar and Zafar Bakhtawari visited the residence of Per Albert

# hydropower generation in Pakistan. **Roadshow in Bangkok** for Pak 300MW floating solar plants on Jan 29

ISLAMABAD (APP): can submit international Pakistan will hold a competitive bidding with roadshow in Bangkok on two envelopes for technical January 29 to attract and financial proposals. investment for the 300- The embassy said the set of megawatt floating solar

project sites were within plants project to be the Complex, owned by the executed at the Tarbela-Barotha Complex sites.

Under the project, Pakistan aims to develop two 150-MW AC floating secure controlled access. solar plants, the Pakistan Embassy in Thailand said

on its X account, inviting potential bidders to participate in the roadshow.

The interested parties manageable

The embassy said the

Tarbela-Barotha Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), a highly area with

The environmental and social impacts of the floating solar plants have already been studied and declared by experts as

2024" in March Industry (SCCI) President year decreased by 19.48 said that "We Exhibit 2024" will be held on the  $2^{nd}$  and 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, 2024, at Living Dreams Maruqee, Sialkot Cantt. In a statement on

months of FY 2023-24 ISLAMABAD (APP): the data of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

During the period under review, the imports of the commodities that went down included milk cream, milk for infants at 25.93 per cent was recorded at \$60.298 During the period million as compared the from July to December imports of \$81.404 2023, different food million, wheat unmilled commodities costing by 34.84 per cent and \$3.957 billion were reached \$39.126 million imported as compared to as compared the the imports of \$4.914 imports of \$609.434 billion in the same period million of the same of last year, according to period of last year.

WCCIS to hold **"We-Exhibit** SIALKOT (APP): Sialkot Chmaber of Commerce and Abdul Ghafoor Malik has

per cent as compared to the imports of the corresponding period of last year. Thursday, Ghafoor Malik

said the first We-Exhibit 2023 was organized by the Women Chamber of

Commerce and Industry Sialkot (WCCIS) while the second We-Exhibit 2024.

decrease 19.48% in 06 different stations abroad. Food group imports into the country during the first half of the current financial

ndependent

Friday January 26, 2024

# **Baligh commends role of Pak** Navy in making defence of water boundaries impregnable

Independent Report LAHORE: Commander Central Punjab, Commandant Naval War College, Rear Admiral Azhar Mahmood, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur soldiers of Pakistan Navy Rehman at Governor House Lahore. During the maritime boundaries are meeting, Commander Central Punjab briefed Governor Punjab on the professional affairs of Governor Punjab said that Pakistan Navy and informed about the performance and activities of the War College.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the role of Pakistan Navy in making the defence of the country's

boundaries impregnable is possible to ensure the commendable. He said that provision of quality the professionalism of Pakistan Navy is a source of pride for the entire nation. Governor Punjab said that the martyrs and who protect Pakistan's College. the pride of the country and the nation. The two Punjab sides also discussed Cadet College Khanpur in detail.

due to the change of government in 2018, despite the completion of this project, Cadet College Khanpur could not be started. He expressed hope that the future Punjab government would start classes in Cadet College water Khanpur as soon as

provision of quality education to the children. On this occasion Commander Central Punjab, Rear Admiral Azhar Mehmood invited Governor Punjab to visit Pakistan Navy War

Ľater, Governor Muhammad Balighur Rahman attended the closing ceremony of Pakistan Learning Festival 2024 at Children's Library Complex as Chief Guest. Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur

Rehman, while addressing the ceremony, said that it is very important to teach students high moral values and build their character. He said that after 2018.

**ANF** recovers 138 kg drugs in eight operations RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting eight operations across the country managed to recover 138 kg drugs and

with

The

Pakhtunkhwa

local hotel

arrested nine accused including two women, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

He informed that 2 g of Ice drug was recovered from a parcel at a Cargo Office in

Lahore. In another operation, 1 kg of Ice was recovered from a parcel being sent to Bahrain from DHL Sadar, Peshawar.

third In the operation, 50 kg hashish and 40 kg opium were recovered from the possession of two accused arrested near M-1 Motorway Islamabad. 15 kg hashish and 12 kg

opium were recovered from an accused netted near Motorway Bridge Peshawar In the fifth operation, 6 kg of weed was recovered from the possession of 2 suspects nabbed near M-9, Jamshoro Toll Plaza.

Secretariat Provincial Ombudsman. He Independent Report also apprised him in PESHÂWAR: Federal connection with the Ombudsman Ijaz Ahmad Qureshi paid a visit to complaints and redressal Provincial Ombudsman method of the complaints at the secretariat level. He Secretariat and held meeting said that in the year 2023, Provincial Ombudsman Syed Jamal ud the provincial Ombudsman Din Shah here at his staff Office has received record the other day, said a press number of complaints which were more than the release issued here on Thursday.

Federal Ombudsman

visits KP Ombudsman

previous years and majority provincial of complainants received Ombudsman welcomed the relief by resolving their grievances with in specific Federal Ombudsman and briefed him regarding the role and activities of the period as prescribed in the Ombudsman act

# **KP** Labour Deptt launches first ever Child Labour Survey of KP

Independent Report PESHÁWAR: The Khyber (KP) and academia. Labour Department on

Thursday has launched its first ever Child Labour Survey 2022-23 conducted across all districts of the province including the newly merged districts in a ceremony held here at a

KP Child Labour Survey 2022-23 is the second provincial survey in Pakistan, after Punjab, it was said during the event attended by the officials of various government departments, the province.

International News

representatives of UN agencies, civil society organizations, donor agencies

MUZAFFARGARH This survey collected data from 49,734 households including 5,976 (APP): A child was shot at and injured in a heated urban and 43,758 rural, verbal clash that erupted achieving a response rate over a land dispute of 92.5 percent despite between the two families, harsh weather and security according to the rescuer. challenges, especially in

the Newly Merged Districts.According to the identified as Muhammad survey report, the child population of age between 5 and 17 years is approximately 8.28m in

Rashid, 17, s/o Muhammad Latif, a resident of Moza Kotla, who was reported to have

received gunshot wounds on the forehead.

**Darbar Hospital entrusted** to Anti-Narcotics Force Independent Report were exchanged. LAHORE: Memorandum Understanding (MoU) was

management of Data Anti-Narcotics Force.

Minister's Office with the presence of Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, Corps Commander Lahore Lt Gen Syed Aamer Raza and DG Anti-Narcotics Force Maj Gen Aneeq Ahmad Malik. Secretary Health Punjab Ali Jan and Regional Director ANF Brig Sikandar Hayat Ch signed the MoU. Following the agreement, documents and others.

According to the A According to the of terms of the agreement, the Anti-Narcotics Force will signed to transfer the oversee the rehabilitation and upgrading of Data Darbar Hospital to the Darbar Hospital. The hospital's focus will be on The signing ceremony the treatment and took place at the Chief rehabilitation of individuals struggling with drug addiction.

Page 03

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi announced the dedicated allocation of Data Darbar Hospital for the rehabilitation of drug addicts. The event was attended by Ministers Dr Jamal Nasir, Azfar Ali Nasir, chief secretary, IG Punjab, secretary Auqaf



KARACHI: Independent Candidate for NA-241 and PS-110, Dr. Shahab Imam addresses during corner meeting as a part of Election Campaign in connection of the General Election 2024 coming ahead, at Gizri area in Karachi.

# **PEN calls on minister** for IC&TE, discusses issues of private schools

Independent Report the Private Schools Regulatory Authority Fazlullah Daudzai and Syed PESHAWAR: A delegation of private educational institutions Anas Takreem Kakakhel, organisation 'Private Education Network' on office bearers of the organisation from Nowshera Thursday called on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Newly Merged district Qazi Fazal Hakeem, Districts Affairs, Industries, Commerce and Technical Education. Dr Aamer Abdullah here at his office and discussed issues related to private educational institutions. The delegation was comprised

Presidents

Rashid Maqbool and Noorshad. Special Secretary Elementary and Secondary Education Department, Samar Gul, Managing Director Private Schools Regulatory Authority Tanzila Sabahat and other of Vice officials of the education of the department were also organisation and members of present on the occasion.

welfare state is vision of Jamaat-e-Islami: Mushtaq **Independent Report** Mardan: Jamaat-e-Islami Senator convention at Rustam Mushtaq Ahmed Khan says that making the country an Islamic welfare state is the vision of Jamaat-espoke

**PESHAWAR: Director General Audit Shehzad** 

Naeem presenting Audit Report 2022-23 to

Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

Making country an Islamic

Islami, where there is worship of Allah and slavery of the Prophet, and where every child, oppressed, youth, orphan, and widow gets free education, justice, treatment, employment, and justice, and the system of oppression and drugs is people.

abolished.

RUSTĀM,

He expressed these views while addressing a Eidgah, where Jamaat-e-Islami candidates for NA 21 and PK-55 and district and tehsil leaders also

He said that the PDM government passed a law to abolish the tax on drugs, and he raised his voice against it on the Senate floor for six years. He has fought and will fight for the rights of the



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi and Corps

Commander Lahore Syed Amir Raza witnessing the signing ceremony of

**Police conduct** 

raid on Javed

residence, arrest

his son in law,

servants

Police have conducted raid

on the residence of Javed

Hashmi and arrested his

son in law and domestic

said in this regard police

conducted raids at his

residence during PTI

workers convention in

Makhdoom Rashid and

arrested PTI candidate and

doors and rushed into his

home besides subjecting

Qureshi and Zain Qureshi

were to participate in PTI

**Teenager shot**,

injured over

land dispute

The victim was

workers convention.

the women to violence.

Police broke the

PTI leader Mehrbano

his domestic servants.

Javed Hashmi has

(Online):

MULTAN

servants.

handing Administration of Data Darbar Hospital to Anti-Narcotics Force.

# National News

**Administration of Data** 

# **NATO's largest** military exercise since **Cold War kicks off**

vehicles.

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: The US Navy dock landing ship Gunston Hall left port on Wednesday to mark the first movement for the largest NATO exercise since the Cold War, officials said.

Some 90,000 troops from the United States and fellow NATO allied nations are due to join the Steadfast Defender 2024 drills that will run through

May. More than 50 ships from aircraft carriers to destroyers will take part, as well as more than 80 fighter

**Monitoring Desk** 

MAIDUGURI: At least 30

people have been killed and

Nigeria's central Plateau state

in a series of attacks around

Mangu town, despite a cur-

few imposed by the state

government, a community

and communal conflicts are

rife in central Nigeria, an

ethnically and religiously

diverse hinterland known as

the 'Middle Belt' where a

circle of violence has

claimed hundreds of lives in

Wednesday came after a

Christmas Day attack in

The latest violence on

Farmer-herder attacks

spokesperson said.

recent years.

several others injured in

an eatery near Minara mosque in Mumbai.

jets, helicopters and drones an important moment after and at least 1,100 combat vehicles including 133 tanks and 533 infantry fighting

The drills will rehearse regional plans, the first defence plans the alliance has drawn up in decades, detailing how it would respond to a Russian attack. ope, NATO did not men-

tion Russia by name in its announcement. But its top strategic document identifies Russia as the most significant and direct threat to NATO members' security. The exercise comes at

Russia's invasion of Ukraine started the deadliest war on European soil in more than 70 years. "#NATÓ today

NATO's execution of its launched its biggest military exercise since 1988 with 90,000 personnel taking part in drills across the North Atlantic and Eu-Matthias Eichenlaub, a NATO spokesperson, said on

Twitter 'The departure of the @USNavy's Gunston Hall from Norfolk marked the (official) start of #SteadfastDefender24."

# Nearly all US Senate Democrats back two-state solution for Israel

and Palestinians

ment reiterating US support of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Attacks in Nigeria's conflict.

members of the Senate Democratic caucus backed an amendment supporting a negotiated solution to the conflict that results in Israeli and Palestinian states living side by side, ensuring Israel's survival as a secure, democratic, Jewish

state and fulfilling the Palestinians' "legitimate aspirations" for a state of their own.

Senator Brian Schatz introduced the measure as an amendment to an upcoming bill that would provide national security aid to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan

"What will determine the future of Israel and Palestine is whether or not there's hope. And the twostate solution has to be that hope.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un attends the 19th expanded political bureau meeting of the 8th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea in Pyongyang, North Korea. Aid groups call for stopping arms supply to Israel **Monitoring Desk** of civilian life.

LONDON: Sixteen inter-'Israel's bombardment and siege are deprivnational humanitarian and ing the civilian popularights organisations on Wednesday called for a tion of the basics to surhalt to weapons transfers

vive and rendering Gaza uninhabitable," the stateto Israel and Palestinian ment added. armed groups in a bid to 'The civilian popuend the Gaza conflict. lation in Gaza faces a hu-

In a joint statement manitarian crisis of unthey urged United Nations precedented severity and member states to stop scale." The Israeli aggressending weapons, parts sion has led to dire shortand ammunition to "stop ages of food, water, fuel the crisis in Gaza and and medicines in the beavert further humanitarian catastrophe and loss sieged territory.

# **Britons should be** prepared to fight a land war, says army chief

**Monitoring Desk** ONDON: British citizens should be prepared to fight in a potential land war, the highest ranking army officer General Patrick Sanders said on Wednesday. The chief of the gen-

eral staff said any conflict would need to be a "wholeof-nation undertaking" and that citizens should be don trained and equipped to be in a state of readiness. The general's remarks come after the UK defence minis-

in the UK's professional army from 82,000 to 73,000 by 2025. "Taking preparatory steps to enable placing our societies on a war footing when needed are now not merely desirable but essential,<sup>5</sup> Sanders said in a speech at

an armoured vehicles conference in southwest Lon-"Within the next three years, it must be credible to talk of a British

Army of 120,000, folding in our reserve and strategic try said last year that it reserve. would cut overall numbers

Gaza officials say Israeli fire strikes a crowd waiting for aid, killing at least 20 Monitoring Desk

NEW YORK: Gaza's Health Ministry said Israeli fire struck a crowd of people waiting for humanitarian aid at a roundabout in Gaza City on Thursday, killing at least 20 and wounding 150. The Israeli military says it was looking into the reports.

Meanwhile, the death toll from a strike the day before on a crowded shelter in Gaza rose to 12, with over 75 wounded, accord-ing to Thomas White.

Japan man gets death sentence for killing 36 in anime studio arson - NHK **Monitoring Desk** 

by its US subsidiary and TOKYO: A Japanese man carrying US military supwas convicted and senplies to turn around when tenced to death on Thurs they were transiting the day for the arson and kill-Bab al-Mandab Strait off ing of 36 people at famed Yemen, accompanied by anime studio Kyoto Animathe US Navy. "While en route, tion in 2019, public broad-caster NHK said. The both ships reported seedeadly attack on the ing explosions close by Kyoto-based studio, better and the US Navy accomknown as KyoAni, had paniment also intercepted multiple projectiles,'

sent shockwaves not only through Japan where violent crime is rare

# Erdogan, eyeing more trade with Iran

**Monitoring Desk** from around \$10 billion a year earlier. "The issue of ANKARA: Turkey is conopening new border gates sidering opening new borwith Iran is also on our der crossings with eastern agenda. Efforts to establish neighbour Iran, President trade centres in border (ar-Tayyip Erdogan said late on eas) to increase the eco-Wednesday after talks with nomic development of our his Iranian counterpart, as border provinces continue,<sup>3</sup> they seek to revive sagging he said. economic relations.

Turkey, a NATO ally, and Iran currently have four Erdogan, speaking at a Turkish-Iranian business council meeting alongside Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi, blamed international sanctions on Tehran and the COVID pandemic for a decline in trade volumes. Trade between Turkey and Iran peaked in 2012 at nearly \$22 billion but has since fallen. It stood at \$7.4 billion in 2023. ac-

border crossings between them. One of those gates, between the Gurbulak-Bazergan regions, has been under construction since 2021. "While we have left behind the pandemic, the restrictive effect of sanctions lingers," Erdogan said, adding that Turkey would not cut its economic ties with cording to Turkish Trade Minister Omer Bolat, down Iran because of the international measures



RAFAH: Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a mosque, amid the ongoing agression in the southern Gaza Strip.

# **US Navy intercepts** missiles in Red Sea while escorting Maersk ships

**Monitoring Desk** 

Maersk said in a state-

ment, adding it was sus-

pending Red Sea transits by vessels of the US sub-COPENHAGEN: Maersk sidiary. said explosions nearby forced two ships operated

A spokesperson for Yemen's Houthi military forces said they fired ballistic missiles at several US warships that were protecting two US commercial vessels.

Both commercial vessels are operated by Maersk Line, Limited (MLL), its US subsidiary that carries cargo for the Department of Defense, Department of State, USAID, and other US government agencies.

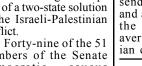
Plateau state leave at least 30 dead the area which left at least 140 people dead. A duskto-dawn curfew was imposed on Jan. 23. A Plateau police

spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the attacks which took place

over two days. The attackers targeted several villages including Kwahaslalek, Kinat and Mairana, located on the borders of Mangu and Barkin Ladi local government areas, said Joseph Gwankat, head of the community group Mwaghavul Devel-

opment Association (MDA)





# Friday January 26, 2024

# Daily **Independent**, Islamabad



ISLAMABAD: President, Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo along with a delegation of educationists from Antalya Schools Franchise System, at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad.

# **Election seminars help** enhance PID's election awareness efforts: PIO

NS 2024

country's economy. He said

public awareness.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Principal Information Of-ficer (PIO), Dr. Tariq Mehmood said on Thursday that arranging a series of seminars on elections aimed to ignite a media discussion regarding the implementation of election rules and increasing public awareness about the significance of the election process

In his welcome address, at the seminar titled Electoral Code of Conduct: "Ethical Practices of Stakeholders including Media," he said PID's success relied on its dedication to kickstarting a discussion on implementing the rules of the game and exploring ways to improve the ous topics

# **Alfred Grannas added distinction** to a special meeting with German alumni at CUI



By M.Ilyas

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Mr. Alfred Grannas, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Islamabad added distinction to a special meeting with German alumni here at COMSATS ad (CUI). Th

# **Caretaker Info** Minster meets with Caretaker **Interior Minister** SLAMABAD (APP)

Caretaker Federal Minis ter or information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affaris, Murtaza Solangi met with the Caretaker Federal Interior Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz on Thursday. The Federal Minister of Information congratulated Dr. Gohar Ejaz on taking charge of the Min-PID's success was achieved istry of Interior.

when election seminars In the meeting, the prompt a debate on election two leaders reviewed rule implementation and raise preparations for the February 8 general elections The PIO mentioned and discussed measures to that the Press Informastrengthen security artion Department (PID) rangements. had arranged a series of

The government is taking all possible steps

seminars covering varito conduct the elections in a peaceful and transparent manner, the information minister said. Gohar Ejaz said that there is full cooperation between the federal and provincial governments to

strengthen the security

arrangements. Highways Motorways CDA to install (NHMP) pedestrian **bridges at 3** different places SLAMABAD (APP) The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is taking several steps to provide best possible facilities to the citizens including the installation of pedestrian bridges at three different places.

urges UN to protect Islamic sites in India UNITED NATIONS UNAOC High Representa-(APP): Reiterating its condemnation of the recent consecration of 'Ram

Temple' on the demolished Babri Mosque's site, Pakistan has urged the top official for the U.N. Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) to play his part for the protection of Islamic sites in India, Ambassador Munir Akram told an OIC Ambassadorial meeting Wednesday. At the meeting held at UN headquarters in New York, the Pakistani envoy shared with OIC colleagues a letter he addressed to the

Pakistan raises Ram temple issue at OIC meeting;

tive, Miguel Angel Moratinos, in which he said that the event in Ayodhya marked a "dis-Mission press release.

his letter to the UNAOC head

# **E-Khuli Kachehris best** way to be in touch with public: IG NHMP

ISLAMABAD (APP): In-spector General National grounds, he said while participating in the "E-Khuli Kachehri" here Thursday. and Police He also talked on FM-95 Radio and NHMP official Salman Chaudhry said that the 'E-Facebook and answered to Khuli Kachehris' were the frequently asked questions best way to remain in difrom across the country and from abroad as well rect contact with the general public and resolving The IG said that the Etheir problems. He said as Khuli Kachehris were the per the directive of the best way to remain in di-Government of Pakistan rect contact with the genand the Ministry of Comeral public and with the munications, the NHMP is employees as well for holding "E-Khuli the solution of their Kachehri", on regular problems.

turbing rise in Hindu majoritarianism in India", according to a Pakistan "The developments over the past 31 years, culminating in the recent consecration ceremony are indicative of a disturbing rise in Hindu majoritarianism in India," Ambassador Akram said in

He said,"We commit-

ted to strengthen all initia-

tives to address health haz-

cable Diseases (NCDs) was other ministries to follow deeply embedded in our National Health Vision, which led to the develop-He was addressing a ment of the NCDs Action

ards associated with sweet-

our commitment to ad-

dressing Non-Communi-

The minister said that

ened beverages.'

Framework. Aligned with global targets, this framework outlines our strategic actions to tackle current challenges. He said recognizing

sugary drinks. the impact of sweetened He added this fiscal beverages on public health, measure was a vital step to the ministry was working discourage the consumption diligently to regulate trans of unhealthy products and fatty acids to no more than promote better dietary two percent of the total fats choices

Dr Nadeem bans sugary

products in health ministry

in all foods. Dr. Nadeem Jan added that through collabo-ration with the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority, we aim to enforce front-of-pack nutrition labeling and warning signs on foods high in sugar, salt, and unhealthy fats. He said that the ministry's partnership with the Federal Board of Rev-

enue involves increasing

excise taxes on ultra-pro-

cessed foods, particularly

The minister said, "We are committed to ensuring a healthy diet in public procurements and official meetings, setting an ex-ample for the entire nation

Pakistan National Association Heart (PANAH), President, Major General (Retd) Masud ur Rehman Kiani said that focus should be on preventive health which was the most effective way to combat NCDs.

He said that unhealthy diet was among the major risk factors to many NCDs like heart diseases, diabetes, stroke, liver and kidney diseases



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary Information & Broadcasting Ms. Shahera Shahid addresses participants of seminar titled 'Electoral Code of Conduct: Ethical Practices of Stakeholders including Media,' organized by the Press Information Department.

# 4 including **Ex-MPA** injured in car accident

ISLAMABAD (APP) Former Member of the Provincial Assembly (MPA) Shafiq Sher Afridi and four others were injured when their car met with an accident in Landi Kotal on Thursday.

According to a private news channel, the accident took place on the Pak-Afghan highway when they were returning from an election campaign in their car.

As soon as the incident was reported, Rescue 1122 teams reached the site and shifted the injured to the hospital

According to hospital sources, the injured have been discharged from the hospital after receiving medical aid

# Seminars to stimulate vibrant discussions on election guidelines: Secretary Info ISLAMABAD (APP): partment (PID), she said

that the election seminar

series aims to convey the

code of conduct, rules, and

restrictions, sparking lively

discussions about their un-

ready conducted two semi-

She said PID has al-

derlying reasons.

Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Shahera Shahid on Thursday said that the election seminar series intends to stimulate a lively debate on election rules and the restrictions imposed to enhance transparency in the

nars on various election-reelectoral process. lated topics, sparking sig-Speaking at the seminificant discussions in menar on Pakistan's general elections, themed "Electoral dia. She highlighted the upcoming seminars in Karachi and Lahore, designed to en-Code of Conduct : Ethical Practices of Stakeholders gage local journalists in conincluding Media," organised versations and gather their by Press Information De- input.

# **PPP's** Tufail Khan joins ANP

By Atiq Ur Rahman and issued tickets to the Khaksar capitalists and landlords, RUSTAM, Mardan: disappointing his own party Awami National Party workers. The city mayor leader and city mayor also criticized PTI and said that Mardan Hemayatullah ANP had left a huge amount in Mayar, along with ANP NA-21 candidate Ahmed the provincial treasury, but PTI's incompetent rulers emp-Ali Khan and PK-55 candi-date Sohail Bacha, held a tied the treasury and made the country and province incrowded press conference debted by billions of rupees. at Rustam Press Club and Those who have been in welcomed People's Party power for nine years have tehsil Rustam's general sec-retary Tufail Khan, along no relation to PTI now; they are all free and will go to with his family and friends, other parties after success. to ANP membership and put During the press conference, a cap on him. he further said that Senator He said that Maulana Dilawar Khan presented a Fazlur Rehman is trying to resolution on the Senate floor postpone the elections by to postpone the election, making excuses of cold and while he himself went to the security threats. Maulana Senate on the ticket of Mus-Sahib, I want to remind you lim League-N and is now preferring JUI and has that the ANP and Pakistan NDMA's Gender security forces have faced fielded his son and brother the terrorists bravely but did from Rustam in the election. not demand to postpone the who himself is selling his elections in 2008. Maulana conscience by sending votes Sahib left the pious scholars to the Senate every time.

rsity Islamab s aiso with the presence of Ms. Yasmin Paracha, Interim Director of the DAAD Information Centre, Islamabad.

Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar, Rector CUI, extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests and highlighted the significant contributions of German alumni of the university, illustrating the lasting bonds between the two nations. The university forged academic, cultural, research and scientific connections with Germany in 2005 under the leadership of the founding Rector, Dr. S. M. Junaid Zaidi, H.I., S.I., who was also present during the event. "The university features one of the longest and most extensive partnerships with Germany", Dr. Qamar revealed.

The Head of the International Office of CUI, Dr. Hammad Omer, T.I., presented a detailed briefing to the envoy on CUI's achievements and 25-year milestones, showcasing its extensive engagement with Germany. Currently, operating in seven campuses in Pakistan having over 1,100 PhD faculty members, the university offers more than 100 degree programs, with a student population exceeding 34,500, including 360 international stu-dents. Over 93,000 students, including 846 PhDs, have graduated from the university. CUI is ranked by THE World University Rankings 2024 holding a position in the band of 601-800 globally, securing the 6th position in Pakistan



**ISLAMABAD:** Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Dr Gohar Ejaz in a meeting with Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and **Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi.** 

# **SC nullifies LHC** decision, allows Sana to contest election

CJP Qazi Faez Isa in-

The counsel for peti-

nomination papers but high

court rejected them. High

court neither issued notice

nor it heard the stance. One

sided decision took place.

Ali Mazhar inquired Sana

Ullah Mastikhel is pro-

claimed offender. Why

Justice Muhammad

ISLAMABAD (Online): against rejection of his Supreme Court (SC) denomination papers. claring null and void Lahore High Court (LHC) quired during the hearing of decision against indepenthe case why the nominadent candidate Sana Úllah tion papers have been re-Masti Khel from NA 91 jected Bhakkat has restored Electioner said ET accepted

tion Tribunal (ET) decision and has allowed him to contest election.

The court has maintained that how LHC has restored the application which was dismissed under legal process and how it has given the decision on the same day.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa took up for hearing appeal plea filed by independent candidate Sana Mastikhel from Bhakkar section 144.

ing to install the bridges to facilitate pedestrians cross the Srinagar Highway, which are in the final stages so that road accidents can be reduced

The civic body is g

According to a press release, due to the installation of one of these three pedestrian bridges, on 28 January 2024 at 10pm Sector G-7/4 Opposite Chairman Office CDA, Metro Bus Station, Srinagar Highway will be completely closed for all types of traf-

fic Moreover, the authority has also appealed to the Islamabad Traffic Police to arrange timely alternative routes to facilitate the public so that the citizens do not face any kind of difficulties.

Likewise, the CDA administration has also appealed to the public to fully cooperate with the Islamabad Traffic Police to avoid any kind of untoward ncident

of Senate Functional **NHMP close** Committee on Governroutes due to ment Assurances was held here at Parliament House heavy fog on Thursday with Senator SLAMABAD (APP)

The Motorway M-1, Swat Expressway, Hazara Ex-pressway and Motorway M14 have been closed for all traffic due to heavy fog. The Motorway M-1 (from Peshawar to

Motorway

Ìslamabad), Swat Expresslarization of services for way (from Col Sher Khan teachers working in the to Ismaila), Hazara Ex-pressway (from Burhan to education department of Jhari Kis) and Motorway Islamabad Capital Terri-M14 (from Hakla to Tarap) tory on daily wages. have been closed for all traf-

Senator Kamil Ali fic due to heavy fog, said Agha stated that the mat-National Highways and ter has been pending since Police 2016 and termed the de-(NHMP) Spokesperson. lay as a bureaucratic The spokesperson hurdle. said citizens were requested

The Committee exto avoid unnecessary travpressed utter disappointeling during foggy hours.

surances presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.



ISLAMABAD: Book writer Mahnaz Benjamin presenting her book to famous Urdu poet Iftikhar Hussain Arif during her book lunching ceremony title "Khamshi Hum Kalam Hoti Hey" at Academy of latter in the Federal Capital.

# Kamil Agha chairs meeting of senate functional body on government assurances **Independent Report**

called it a failure of the ISLAMABAD: A meeting government. However, the ministry contended that the report was placed before the cabinet with the prior approval of the Prime Minister but to no Kamil Ali Agha in Chair. avail. The Committee de-The Senate Commitferred the matter for fur-

tee deliberated on the asther report and deliberasurance provided by the tion, anticipating the new then Minister Incharge of Government. the Capital Administra-Additionally, the tion and Development dicommittee discussed the vision regarding the reguassurance given by the then Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training and Minister Incharge for

Capital Administration and Development Division concerning the construction of new educational institutions in Islamabad. Deputy Chairman Senate, Mirza Muhammad Afridi, remarked that educa-

IAWG ment on the delay and ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)'s Gender and Child Cell has joined Steering Committee of Inter-Agency Working (IAWG). The NDMA in a post

& Child Cell

ioins Steering

**Committee of** 

on its official handle on X shared the update on Thurs day that the Authority's Cell had joined the interna tional platform on January 24. The IAWG is a global coalition of organizations that work together to promote Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Humanitarian Settings. 'This is a great oppor

tunity for NDMA's Ĝender & Child Cell to collaborate with other members of IAWG share best practices & contribute to global efforts to improve health issues. We look forward to working with our partners & stakeholders to achieve tion is a fundamental right. our common goals.

# **ICCPO** holds online khuli katcheri

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: Islamabad (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan on Thursday hold an online khuli katcheri to give the residents direct access to the police high ups to solve their issues on priority basis. A police spokesman said that the ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan responded to the public queries via phone calls from 03:30 pm to 05:30 pm. ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan listened to the problems of the callers and directed the concerned offic-

lution garding Election 2024.

ers for their immediate so-

Legal actions against illegal foreigners will con-Capital City Police Officer tinue during the election. Moreover, action will be taken against those who vote on fake ID cards. 10,000 officers and officials of the Islamabad Capital Police and other law enforcement agencies will perform security duties during the poll.

ICCPO said that no laxity will be tolerated on the display of arms, protest, aerial firing, or disturbance of public order before, during and after the elections. He further said that to maintain peace and tranquility during the election in the federal capital was the top priority of the Islamabad Capital Police. report any unusual activity on "Pucar-15" or at "ICT-15" app, he added.

does he not appear. The ICCPO said that The counsel for petithe security plan regarding tioner said Sana Ullah the upcoming election was Mastikhel has surrenfinalized. Administrative Citizens are requested to dered and he is on bail. and security measures are Sana Ullah Mastikhel is also being implemented re-ISLAMABAD: Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Senate Functional Committee on Government As-Ullah charged with violating

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