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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

NSC meeting

likely on Pakistan-Iran

**Bureau Report** RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Armed Forces, in the early hours on Thursday, carried out effective strikes against hideouts during an intelligence-based operation in- terrorist organisations, side Iran, used by terrorists, responsible for recent attacks in Pakistan.

said

DAVOS: Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, His High-

ness Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah calls on the

Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum.

The precision strikes were carried out using killer drones, rockets, loitering munitions and stand-off weapons whereas maxi-

avoid collateral damage, an Inter Services Public Rela-Dosta alias Chairman, tions (ISPR) news release Bajjar alias Soghat, Sahil alias Shafaq, Asghar alias Basham and Wazir alias The hideouts used by

Wazi, amongst others. namely Balochistan Liberation Army and Balochistan Liberation Front, were successfully struck in an intelligence based operation, against acts of terrorism. code name 'Marg Bar

Sarmachar' The targeted hideouts

mum care was taken to were being used by notori- stan is respected and safeous terrorists including guarded against any misadventure, remains unwavering. We reaffirm our determination to defeat all enemies of Pakistan with the support of the people of Pakistan," the ISPR said. It added that going for-Pakistan Armed Forces

remain in a perpetual state of readiness to ensure ward, dialogue and cooperasafety of Pakistan citizens tion were deemed prudent in resolving bilateral issues "Our resolve to ensure hetween the that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakineighbouring brotherly countries

Meanwhile Pakistan on Thursday morning carried out a series of "highly coordinated" and "specifically targeted precision" military strikes against terrorist hideouts in Siestano-Baluchistan province of Iran, killing a number of ter-

rorists. "This morning Pakistan undertook a series of highly coordinated and specifically targeted precision Continued on page 2

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

two

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

He said that Pakistan fully respected the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states and expected the same from other nations not to violate international law. The president said that

Pakistan and Iran were brotherly countries and they needed to resolve issues through dialogue and mutual consultation

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

HAFIZABAD (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif vowed to make Pakistan stand on its own feet



**RAWALPINDI:** View of missiles fired by Pakistan Armed Forces to target terrorist hideouts inside the Iranian border after Iran violated the country's sovereignty and launched a strike in Balochistan.

Govt. & security institutions fully alert to establish peace: **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 in-Thursday. cluding border areas, and an effective administrative strategy has been prepared

ince

tional Chief Secretary The Chief Minister Home, Zahid Saleem, Adwas presiding over a high ditional Inspector General level meeting held to review of police, Jawad Dogar and the measures for the general elections and for maincials. taining law & order in the province including the border areas, here at the Chief Minister secretariat on

other concerned high offi-The Additional Chief Secretary Home briefed the meeting about the overall situation of law and order in the province including

Those who were border areas besides the present in the meeting were steps taken for general elec-

Pakistan desires to deepen post-attack situation as Pakistan retaliated against bilateral engagement unprovoked violation of its airspace by Iran and tarwith Saudi Arabia: PM geted militant hideouts in the neighbouring country. ments. Prime Minister tended by chiefs of Army,

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 im-portance of close brotherly relations between Pakistan

Kakar noted that close brotherly relations between the two countries were a factor in regional stability. He said Pakistan desires to deepen bilateral en-

gagement including through elections in February. The trade, investment and people-to-people exbriefed about operation

tension SLAMABAD (Online): National Security Council (NSC) meeting is likely to ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on be convened on tense situ-Thursday said that Pakiation between Pakistan and stan would not compromise on its national security and The date for meeting territorial integrity and

will be determined on return would take all necessary of care taker Prime Minismeasures to defend its soil. ter (PM) Anwaarull Haq In a statement issued by Kakar to home

the President House Press Sources said the meet-Wing, he lauded the profesing will mull prevailing sionalism of the Armed Forces of Pakistan that targeted the terrorist hideouts in the Brosten Baluchistan province of Siestan-o-Iran, while avoiding civilian casualties. The meeting will be at-

and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, rooted in common cultural heritage and shared interests. The two sides also re- the people of the Kingdom

viewed regional develop- of Saudi Arabia.

#### **Bilawal pledges to issue** 'Kisan Card' after coming into power

NAUSHAHRO FEROZE said and added that the (INP): Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari announced to give "Kisan Card" to ernment" provide relief to the farm-

needy people will also get free electricity up to 300 units in the "Jivala's gov-The PPP chairman said ers on the pattern of that now only two parties



are vying the General Elec-

tions 2024, reiterating the

tween "Arrow" and "Lion"

once again came to

Naushahro Feroze with a

request to vote for the PPP.

"The people of Naushahro

PPP candidates during the

Bilawal said that his

Bilawal said that he

Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).

Addressing a public real contest would be begathering in connections with the General Elections 2024 in Naushahro Feroze, the PPP chairman said that his party will form the federal as well as the Sindh government with support Feroze also voted for the of the people. He said that after becoming the prime 2018 elections. You people minster, he would increase also welcomed me on way the basic salary to two to long march," he added.

"We will also build party has a special plan for three million new houses for Naushahro Feroze which the poor and give them has suffered the most damownership rights," Bilawal age during the floods.

#### **US condemns Iran's strikes** on Pakistan, Syria, Iraq

October 7"

Iraq and Syria.

Foreign

day recalled its ambassador

to Iran and blocked an Ira-

nian envoy from returning

WASHINGTON (INP): The United States has condemned Iran's recent attacks in Pakistan, Iraq and Syria, which Tehran said were carried out against "anti-Iranian terrorist

"So we do condemn "So we do condemn airstrike in Balochistan those strikes. We've seen Iran violate the sovereign borders of three of its neighbors in just the past couple of days," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters during a briefing.

Zahra Baloch said the at-He further said, in retack near the two countries sponse to a question, that shared border was "unprothe US always wanted to voked" and a violation of see peace and stability, "es-Pakistan's sovereignty.

Important decisions Two Holy Mosques and will be taken in the meeting underlined the highest esin the perspective of nateem the people of Pakistan tional security related matheld for the leadership and ters and tense situation between Pakistan and Iran.

> Pakistan envoy to Iran **Mudassar** Tipu arrives back

> Navy and Air Force. The

meeting will also review law

and order situation in the

country, besides affairs re-

lating to holding of general

participants will be also be

against Baloch militants in

in Islamabad SLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassar

Tipu arrived back in the country from Tehran after tensions between the neighbourly countries escalated on Thursday. Mudassar Tipu arrived

back in Islamabad today morning after Pakistan had decided to recall its envoy from Iran following an air attack on a Pakistani village which left two children dead.

According to Ministry of Foreign affairs, Pakistani Ambassador Mudassar Tipu has held farewell meetings with Pakistani diplomatic staff in Tehran before heading back to the country.

#### JIT decides to take

stern action against responsible for launching anti judiciary campaign ISLAMABAD (Online): First meeting of JIT was held in FIA headquarters Islamabad on the matter of

prevention of anti judiciary material. The meeting was presided over by Additional Director General (ADG) FIA.

campaign

on Thursday

casion

Agha Hasan Baloch was

Other party leaders

Agha Hasan Baloch said

addressing press conference

here at Quetta Press club

were also present on the oc-

that if the elections were

It has been decided in pecially in this region where it's been the focus of the meeting to take stern action against those inour diplomatic efforts since volved in maligning judi-Pakistan on Wednesciary on social media

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

airstrike in Balochistan The meeting directed killed two children. The raid PTA to collect and present took place late on Tuesday the details of those infollowing similar attacks in volved in fomenting, uploading, sharing and com-Ministry menting hate material. Spokesperson Mumtaz

Sources said the arrest of those responsible for spreading anti judiciary material is likely in next phase

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 not been removed from power there would have been no gas loadsheding, inflation and unemployment in the country.

The former prime minister 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.

#### Central Secretary Information claims: BNP to emerge major political party in elections if free & fair elections conducted

Independent Report manner, then BNP would QUETTA: The central Sec- emerge as the major politiretary Information of cal party in the province. He said that BNP has Balochistan National Party always spoken about the (BNP), Agha Hasan Baloch rights of all nationalities inhas claimed that the BNP cluding Baloch, Pashtoons, would emerge as major po-Hazara and others. litical party in upcoming

He urged the Election general elections in the prov-Commission of Pakistan to ince, if the same (elections) take steps for free and fair were conducted free, fair and in transparent manner. elections in the country including Balochistan. He He said that the elecsaid that if the issues are tion campaign is being run really to be resolved then by the party all over the the seriousness would have province, and it is gaining to be demonstrated acceptability following the

He said that the caretaker government has crossed its limits, it would have to work in the same. Referring the tension between Iran and Pakistan, the BNP leader said that

Balochs are settled at both sides of the Pak-Iran border and they would suffer Pakistan.

> that a strict monitoring of the flights from western direction including Iran has been initiated.

"All air-borne activities on western borders of the country being thoroughly monitored," he

"The CAA has received instructions with regard to extra alert for the incoming Leader, Agha Hassan Baloch addresses to media perflights from western direction," sources said.

to tackle any situation of included Chief Secretary law and order in the prov-Shakeel Oadir Khan, Addi-

Info Ministers says: Airspace violation by Iran under investigation

SLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi has said of Balochistan express their the government has lodged gratitude to the Pakistan protest with Iranian au-Military for their unwaverthorities over "unprovoked ing protection. violation" of its airspace, In a tweet on his social confirming that the "illegal media account X on Thursmove" is under investigaday, Jan Achakzai said that 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 sovereignty of the state.

To a query, the minister said no political party is being treated 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

#### No airspace ban decided for

Iran, says CAA KARAĆHI (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 The CAA however said

directed to avoid telecast-

ing/ breaking any unsubstantiated news on recent development surfaced between Pakistan and Iran," PEMRA said in a letter ad-

**Entire nation stands united** with Pak Army, maintains **CT Minister Information** Independent Report you (Military) today, yes-QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that the people

the entire nation stands with

Jilani, at the Ministerial

Terrorists to be swiftly & decisively crushed:

terday, today and tomor-row. He said that "best assured the terrorists belonging to the banned organizations including Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) / Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) would be swiftly and decisively crushed, whether they attempt to infiltrate our borders or operate from within."

Pakistan calls for just, peaceful solution of Kashmir, Palestine issues

KAMPALA (INP): Paki-Summit in Kampala, Uganda. He said Pakistan stan has called for just, peaceful, and expeditious will continue to support the resolution of the movement's efforts tolongstanding Kashmir and wards peace, equality, co-Palestine disputes. operation, and well-being According to Kashmir Media Service, the demand was made by Pakistan For-

for all. The Foreign Minister also highlighted Pakistan's commitment to eign Minister, Jalil Abbas the Non-Aligned Movement and its founding principles



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulation Authority (PEMRA) on Thursday directed all the satellite TV channel licensees to exercise "utmost care" while reporting over "tension between Pakistan and Iran". "All the licensees are

operating in "news & current affairs and regional lan-guages". The Authority urged them to verify the related information from the relevant institutions before broadcasting or airing.

"Licensees are expected to present factual information / reports through their transmission and support state narrative at this crucial time as and when released from the relevant institution," it added



sons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent Quetta

Friday January 19, 2024

**Miscellaneous** 

## Page 02

### Pakistan assumes Regional Leadership of INSARAG for Asia Pacific in 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan took the helm of **INSARAG** (International Search and Rescue Advisory Group) as the Regional Chair of Asia Pacific for 2024, marking a significant stride in global disaster response coordination.

The official handover ceremony occurred during a pivotal global meeting via video link, where New Zealand gracefully transferred the regional chairmanship to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Pakistan, according to a news release issued here. As the newly appointed Regional Chair, Chairman NDMA was represented by Raza Iqbal, Executive Director Plans, NDMA, who, on behalf of the Chair,

pledged to foster internastrategize and collaborate tional collaboration and on disaster response initiaenhance disaster response tives. capabilities across the Ambassador Dominik Asia-Pacific region.

Stillhart from the Swiss Under Pakistan's lead-Agency for Development ership, NDMA outlined and Cooperation (SDC), key activities to fortify di- the incoming Global Chair, saster response capabili- assumed a pivotal role in ties, i.e., the 1st Internasteering INSARAG's glotional Rescue Challenge bal initiatives. Joining the (Lahore), the Asia-Pacific league of regional chairs Earthquake Response Exwere Marius Dogeanu, ercise (Lahore), where from the Ministry of In-NDMA, with the support ternal Affairs, Romania of Punjab Emergency Ser-(AEME Regional Chair); vices, Rescue 1122, will Jorge Carrillo, Risk Manhost an earthquake reagement Secretary, Ecuasponse exercise, simulating dor (Americas Regional a seismic event to enhance Chair); and NDMA Pakipreparedness and coordistan, representing the Asianation in earthquake-prone Pacific region. Sebastian regions, and the Asia-Pa-Rhodes Stampa, Chief cific Regional Meeting Emergency Response Sec-(Islamabad), bringing to- tion (ERS), and INSARAG gether member states to Secretary from the

INSARAG Secretariat participated. As the regional chair. Pakistan envisioned a proactive and collaborative approach to address the dynamic challenges of disaster response.

NDMA, Pakistan, looked forward to a fruitful year marked by resilience, cooperation, and shared expertise within the INSARAG community. INSARAG, a global network under the United Nations, is dedicated to enhancing international coordination in urban search and rescue operations during disasters, especially structural collapse primarily due to earthquakes.It endeavors to establish standardized procedures, promote best practices, and facilitate effective collaboration among member countries.



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister of Religious Affairs & Inter faith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed addressing as seminar on Religious Minorities and Interfaith Social Tolerance in Pakistan at IORA University

#### **KP's all-rounder Khubaib** dedicated to help Pakistan win ICC U19 World Cup

ISLAMABAD (INP): jobs to make ends meet, even working as a labourer. Bowling all-rounder Khubaib Khalil hailing from My father was struggling district Karak of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa dedicated to help Pakistan win the ICC Men's U19 World Cup 2024 in South Africa.

Against Afghanistan U19, Khubaib made his One-Day debut for Pakistan U19 in the ACC Men's Asia Cup 2023-24 and bagged two wickets in a promising spell. It should be mentioned

with financial issues. I got some money from PCB afment.

pace bowling after being inspired by South Africa great Dale Steyn. Possessing a smooth action with a steady approach to the crease, he has showcased his ability to hit probing lengths regularly and frustrate batters with his line and length.

his batting ability. "I'm glad to have rep-

resented Pakistan at the recent U19 Asia Cup which was a great exposure for me," Khubaib said. "I've done well in the domestic U19 competitions with both bat and ball which gives me confidence to do well in the World Cup.

### Senate body informs transit agreement reached with **Uzbekistan, Tajikistan**

Committee during the last

Faisal Saleem Rehman, and

Senator Muhammad Abdul

ISLAMABAD (APP): mentation of the recom-The Senate Standing Commendations of the Standing mittee on Commerce was three years, Senator Zeeshan Khanzada, Senator informed that the transit agreement has been reached with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan on Thursday.

The committee up-Qadir introduced in the dated that Afghanistan has Senate meeting held on Nonot signed an agreement. vember 6, 2023, the amend-The meeting of the Senate ment bill of imports and Standing Committee on exports. 2023, In the com-Commerce was held in Parmittee meeting held on Ocliament House under the tober 9, 2023, the UAE ban chairmanship of Senator Zeeshan Khanzada. Pakistan's position is that tail Afghanistan should not charge a fee for transit trade.

In the meeting of the Standing Committee, serious concern was expressed over the increasing price of onion in the country. When years was reviewed in dethe members of the comtail. Secretary Commerce mittee recommended a ban told the committee that on on onion export, the Fedthe recommendation of the eral Secretary for Comstanding committee, minermerce Muhammad Sualeh als, marble and fisheries sec-Ahmad Faruqi said that tor have been included in they cannot impose a ban immediately in the context of price fluctuations. "We have increased the minimum export price of onion to \$1200

He said that the price of onion has not increased due to exports. In the meeting of the Standing Committee, review of the imple-

Ning said during her regu-

istry Spokesperson hoped

that both parties would re-

solve their disputes

through consultations and

In response to some

Chinese Foreign Min-

lar briefing.

informed the standing committee about the assistance provided in various ways for these sectors including the co-sector, sub-sector, and road map.

The commerce secretary said that going towards value addition, which will lead to significant improvement, a plan will be drawn up along with the stalled industry in the next two to three weeks. A study is also being done to increase exports.

Standing Committee, the ban on the export of fresh chilled meat from Pakistan by the United Arab Emirates, which was imposed due to fungus-infected meat in a container, was examined in detail.

said that the United Arab Emirates has banned the import of meat from Pakistan. This has given the the priority sectors. He also country a lot of disrepute.

#### Political hustle bustle everywhere: Social media shaping various political party campaigns

on meat imports from Pakistan was reviewed in de-In the meeting of the In the meeting of the standing committee, the implementation of the recommendations given by the standing committee during the last three

Senator Dinesh Kumar

# ISLAMABAD (APP): As pressed happiness over

cian.

February 8 upcoming poll the increasing demand and season approaches fast in sales of party posters,



QUETTA: Principal Science College Quetta Prof. Azmat Kakar meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

NA-129 and Dr. Yasmeen

here that several PML-N

top leaders including Mian

Nawaz Sharif also contest-

ing on National Assembly

seats from Lahore. Former

PM Nawaz Sharif has filed

nomination papers for NA-

Farooq Lecturer Govern-

ment Degree College Kalat

Dilmurad Principal Girls

Degree College Saqiba

Imam District Accounts

Officer Ali Asghar Lehri

meeting discussed the facili-

ties available in the schools

of Kalat district and the

ing full cooperation to the

Election Commission of

Pakistan for the elections.

available resources are be-

ing mobilized for conduct-

ing the free and fair elec-

able resources are being

mobilized for protection of

life and property of the

formed the meeting about

the visits he paid to differ-

ent districts of the province

for reviewing arrangements

Mardan Domki said he

would also visit the areas

to personally review the

On this, Mir Ali

about elections there.

people in Balochistan.

tions in the province.

He also said that all

He said that all avail-

The Chief Secretary in-

problems faced by them.

The participants of the

Whatever decisions

Ehsanullah and others.

It is to be mentioned

Rashid from NA-130.

#### **PTI issues final list of MNA** candidates from Lahore

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Ìnsaf has issued its final list of the party's candidates from MNA candidates from Lahore.

The PTI has announced to support Ali Ijaz Buttar from Lahore's NA-117 constituency, Alia Hamza from NA-118 and Shahzad Farooq from NA-119. The party will back Usman Hamza in NA-120 and Waseem Qadir in NA-

121 Barrister Latif Khosa will be PTI-backed candidate in NA-122 and Afzal Karim in NA-123 constitu-

130, while People's Party The party will back chairman Bilawal Bhutto

## Elections 2024: **ECP** takes notice

sembly constituency NA-Election Commission of 125. The PTI's other NA Pakistan (ECP) has taken notice against Pakistan Lahore will be Malik Tauqeer Khokhar from NA-126, Zaheer Khokhar from

NA-127, Salman Akram code of conduct. Raja from NA-128, Mian Muhammad Azhar from

PML-N's candidate from NA-46 (Islamabad) to appear in person or through his counsel on 21st January. As per sources, the ECP took notice of the PML-N candidate for holding a car rally in Islamabad's sectors G-11, G-13 and H-13 without getting permission from

the administration.

was not in favour of enrollagainst PML-N ing him in a proper cricket facility due to financial concandidate straints. His first coach. ISLAMABAD (INP): The Matiullah, earmarked him as a future star and helped him get admission to the Islamia Cricket Academy in Kohat, some 70 kilometers from Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) candidate from Islamabad for 'violating' his hometown. At the academy, young Khubaib was allowed to use

District Monitoring Officer (DMO) directed Anjum Aqeel Khan, the the equipment and train every other day, resulting in his selection for FATA Region U13 in the PCB U13 Inter-Regional T20 Tournament 2017 and the subsequent edition in 2018.

He shed light on his struggles in the early days in a chat with Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Digital, "I have played cricket in very tough circum-stances. I had to work odd

ter playing in the National U19 competitions which helped me sort out a lot of issues. That was the first time I bought my kit bag whereas before that I was using Matiullah's equip-Khubaib picked up

here that father of Khubaib

Khubaib has shown promise with the bat too, demonstrating good defence and power-hitting skills. His reliability as a lowerorder batter was evident in the net sessions where coaches put their trust in

Lameer Jhedo Advocate in Zardari competing from NA-124 and Rana Javed Lahore's NA-127 constitu-Umar in the National As- ency.

#### **ADC Kalat for** working together to improve education quality

OUETTA (APP): Addi- DMARTSM Ghulam tional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kalat Siraj Karim Baloch on Thursday said that special attention must be paid to the education sector and in this regard, we all have to work together to improve the quality of education.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting of the District Education Group to address issues of educational institutions in the area.

The meeting was attended by DOE Nisar Ahmad Noorzai, DDEO Abdul Rasheed Longo DDOE Manguchar Ghulam Farooq, tion Department.

Effective administrative strategy...

#### Continued from page 1 tions by the provincial gov-

ernment Addressing the meet-

ing, caretaker Čhief Minister said that the arrangements are being finalized to conduct free, fair and transparent general elections in peaceful manner

He expressed satisfaction over the preparations made so far in this regard.

He said that the people would have chance to use their right of franchise in conducive environment due to the effective strategy adopted by the.

He said that the quick response force would also be available to assist police and levies in elections.

The Chief Minister preparations of general elecmentioned that the provintions and law and order situation there. cial government is extend-



**RAWALPINDI: President of the Pakistan Ex-Ser**vicemen Society (PESS) Retired Lt Gen Abdul Qayyum addressing a press conference in Pindi Press Club



KARACHI: Vice Chief of Naval Staff Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami the concluding ceremony of the inaugural Maritime Security Exercise SEA GUARD-24

#### Pakistan carried out effective strikes against....

Continued from page 1 military strikes against territy of its people which is rorist hideouts in Siestansacrosanct, inviolable and sacred.

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 She said that over the interest which is para-

mount and cannot be compromised, she added. She said that as a responsible member of the

international community. Pakistan upheld the principles and purposes of the UN Charter including territorial integrity and sovereignty of member states.

multiple dossiers with consaid that guided by the said crete evidence of the presence and activities of these terrorists, she added.

> and cooperation in confronting common challenges including the men-

manifestation of solve to protect and defend its national security against all threats.

Spokesperson Baloch ecution of the said "highly complex operation" was also a testimony to the Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani

had cut short their foreign kistan Armed Forces. Pa- visits in light of the developments, hours after Pa-

calmness and avoid escalaserve the safety and secu- targeting the terrorists' hideouts in Iran. tion. If they need, we are ready to play a construc-The spokesperson, in tive role in easing the situher weekly briefing, told ation", spokesperson Mao

the media that Pakistan's action was against the terrorist outfits, not Iran as it desired neaceful relations with the neighborly country and always sought to address the challenges through dialogue.

Pakistan fully redialogue. spects the sovereignty and reports that China was meterritorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran. diating between Iran and Pakistan, she said, "We The sole objective of hope both parties can extoday's act was in pursuit ercise restraint and calmof Pakistan's own security ness and avoid escalation. and national interest which If they need, we are ready is paramount and cannot to play a constructive role be compromised," she rein easing the situation." iterated her remarks already issued a short after

Mao Ning said that the Chinese side always be-Pakistan carried out a selieved that relations beries of "highly coorditween countries should be nated" and "specifically handled based on the purtargeted" precision miliposes and principles of the tary strikes in Siestan-o-United Nations (UN) Char-Baluchistan province of ter and international law. Iran. She said the prime minister who was cur-"And, we think all par-

ties should respect the inrently in Dayos to attend dependence, sovereignty the World Economic Foand territorial integrity of rum and the foreign minisother countries," she ter attending the NAM Summit and Third South added. Responding to a question about the current Summit in Uganda, have situation between Pakistan cut their visits short "in and Iran, she said, "We are view of the ongoing develpaying great attention to opments. this. China always believes Asked about any third-party mediation to that relations between countries should be de-escalate the situation, handled based on the purshe said that she was not

poses and principles of the aware of any such devel-UN Charter and interna-tional law." "Sovereignty, opment. Meanwhile China is independence and territoready to play a construcrial integrity of all countries tive role in easing the curshould be respected and rent situation between Pakistan and Iran, the Chiprotected," she added. Mao Ning remarked nese Foreign Ministry said that Iran and Pakistan were

Thursday close neighbours and coun-We hope both parties tries with influence can exercise restraint and

the country, political hustle and bustle is seen in every nook and cranny of the country, including twin cities, where almost every constituency is being festooned with colorful party flags and posters displaying according to code of conduct. Social media during

the current election atmosphere in the country was playing an important role in enabling the country's politicians to reach out to the voters and provide them with a platform to connect easily, according to a report aired by a pri-

vate news channel. "The printing and selling of election-related items has also picked momentum, and wholesalers and vendors have ex-





RAWALPINDI: Ambassador of Egypt H.E. Dr. Ihab Abdel Hamid Hasan called on Minister for Defence, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Anwar Ali Hyder at Ministry of Defence

#### DP World ILT20: Teams exude confidence on producing top performances

would have smacked me all

over. Sunil Narine would

have always got me out.

Good luck to you all. I am

trophy to be won." Akhtar

then lauded UAE for creat-

ing such a platform through

this tournament saying.

"We saw UAE Under-19

der-19 and this tournament

has played a big role in

DUBAI (INP): The DP was not born in this era. World ILT20 season 2, with Players like Chris Lynn a galaxy of star-studded teams, takes off from January 19 (Friday). This onemonth long contest consisting of six teams, is an Emirsure you will be all rooting ates Cricket Board's event, for your teams. This is the and has a List A status granted by the International Cricket Council (ICC). On Thursday, team captains and vice captains who assembled at the Dubai Inter- team beating Pakistan Unnational Stadium for a photo shoot with the trophy, and a press conference that followed, were upbeat about their respective team's performances. Legendary

showcasing young talent here." Chris Lynn of Gulf Giants, who etched his name in the history of the pacer tournament by winning the Shoaib Akhtar, Brand Aminaugural edition of the tourbassador for the DP World nament, said: "We obvi-ILT20 season 2, set the ously did great work last tempo for the action to folyear. T20 is all about reinlow by stating: "They are venting and adapting to the all superstars. I am glad I conditions

said a citizen.

"As time passes and the general elections are drawing near, the political parties will continue their political wars on social media grounds," said a youngster while favoring a party and posting a picture of his favorite politi-

"In Islamabad and

other cities, various cor-

ner meetings, political camps, and rallies have

become routine matters,

said a politician while

commenting on the elec-

will be taken in the meeting o-Baluchistan province of of the District Education Iran. A number of terror-Group will be implemented ists were killed during the in all cases, he said adding Intelligence-based operathat all resources would be tion – codenamed 'Marg utilized to solve the prob-Bar Sarmachar'," Foreign lems faced by the Educa-Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a statement.

calling

last several years, in bilateral engagements with Iran, Pakistan had consistently shared its serious concerns about the safe havens and sanctuaries enjoyed by Pakistani-origin terrorists

themselves Sarmachars on the ungoverned spaces inside Iran. Pakistan also shared The spokesperson

principles, and in exercise of the legitimate rights within international law. Pakistan would never allow its sovereignty and territorial integrity to be challenged, under any pre-

text or circumstances. "Iran is a brotherly country and the people of Pakistan have great respect nian people. We have always emphasized dialogue

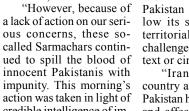
Foreign Office spokes-

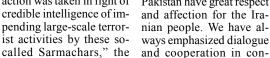
spokesperson remarked. She said the action was ace of terrorism and will

Pakistan's unflinching re- continue to endeavour to find joint solutions," the spokesperson added.

person Mumtaz Zahra said that the successful ex- Baloch said that Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Foreign

professionalism of the Pakistan will continue to take all necessary steps to prekistan carried out a strike





# Independent

Friday January 19, 2024

### Senate body discusses certificate verification of overseas employees

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: The subcommittee of the Senate Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Develop-Education Commission ment on Thursday briefly (HEC). The meeting comdiscussed the training and menced with the Convenor certificates verification of Engr Rukhsana Zuberi, reoverseas employees reflecting on GCC countries vealed as challenges faced and the facilitation of overby them. The committee seas Pakistani workers. The was chaired by Senator committee members dis-Engr Rukhsana Zuberi for cussed in detail the training the third consecutive day at and certifications of overthe Parliament House. The seas employees, emphasizmeeting was attended by ing international recognition Senator Shaheen Khalid and compliance with global Butt and senior officials standards. In addressing the from the Ministry of Industries and Production 650,000 employees who (MOIP), Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MOFEPT), National University of Technology (NUTECH), National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC), Pakistan Industrial Technical Assis-

tance Center (PITAC), PITAC officials explained Ministry of Information that, through case studies, Technology and Telecom- they found that 34 percent munication (MOITT), Paof overseas employees kistan Institute of Managewere jobless. They also noted the ment ( PIM), and Higher

challenges in approaching overseas students outside of GCC countries. Education Ministry officials collectively agreed to regularize conducting thorough research to determine the accurate turnover of overseas employees. The Convenor of the committee suggested merging different databases to make employee data easilv retrievable. Officials from HEC apprised the committee

returned from abroad, offimembers about their initiacials from the ministries said tives to introduce a portal that they have prioritized for worldwide certificate their needs and committed verification. Furthermore. to enhancing their skill sets. officials from the Pakistan Moreover, Senator Shaheen Institute of Management Khalid Butt inquired from requested that HEC prothe institutes about data for vide certification to laborpolicy-making regarding ers working abroad to mitigate potential issues. short and long courses.



system flaws ISLAMABAD (APP): Participants of the Thurs-Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) exday seminar highlighted flaws in the electoral process, calling for genuine change emphasizing intraparty elections and increasing women's participation in the electoral process.

Speaking at a seminar titled "Changing Landscape of Pakistani Electorate and Role of Political Parties in Fair Representation," organized by the Press Information Department (PID), they said the Constitution entrusts the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) with free and fair elections.

#### **Different sections of** motorway temporarily closed due to dense fog

porarily closed due to dense fog.

According to National Highways and Motorway Police, the closed sections

include: M-1 from Burhan to Swabi, from Swabi to Rashakai and Rashakai to

Peshawar toll plaza. M-2 from Thokar Niaz Baig to Farooq Abad. M-3 from Faizpur in-

Jamat-e-Islami is dedicated pressed the view that the to fostering genuine change Constitution entrusts the in the country. He empha-Election Commission of sized discouraging partici-Pakistan (ECP) with the pation as independent canresponsibility to conduct didates and highlighted that free and fair elections in the Jamat-e-Islami has a record country. The Election Act number of women involved 2017 enhanced the authorin various tiers with over ity of the Election Commisfive per cent of women resion of Pakistan. The Conceiving tickets. He sugstitution empowers politigested that a person who cal parties to participate in does not give a share to elections and establish a women in property should be disqualified. Furthermore, he stated that with out intra-party elections, democracy cannot flourish and the influence of money should be eliminated from the country's politics.

ity. He highlighted that

CJP to do chamber work for two days

(CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa on Thursday said he will do the chamber work today (January 18) and tomorrow Sources said that the

tant assignments at the chamber.

One of the benches on which Justice Isa was supposed to sit had also been delisted, and a separate bench, comprising Justice Musarrat Hilali and Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, had been formed, they disclosed.

MTN

Sanjrani says: 'Marg Bar Sarmachar' operation shows Pak **Forces' exemplary** operational capability ISLAMABAD (APP): Sarmachar", he said, sent a

Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Thursday congratulated the Pakistan Armed Forces for the precise execution of 'Marg Bar Sarmachar' operation against terrorist hideouts within Iran.

**APITAL**NEWS

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

MNAR ON PAKISTAN'S

**AL ELECTIONS 2024** 

"This operation stands as a testament to the exemplary operational capability and professionalism of the Pakistan Armed Forces," he said in a statement. Sanjrani said," Pakistan is a nation that values peace, but this commitment should not be misconstrued as a sign of weakness.' The success of the

resounding message to hostile entities both within the region and beyond that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan were of paramount importance. The Senate chairman

Page

03

commended the dedication and bravery exhibited by the Pakistan Armed Forces during the operation, highlighting their commitment to securing the nation against any threats.

"As Pakistan reaffirms its stance on peace, it also asserts its unwavering determination to safeguard its borders and protect the well-being of its citizens, operation "Marg Bar he added.

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minis ter for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick addressing during a conference on the promotion of Interfaith Harmony. in the Federal Capital.

#### Secretary information commends PID's efforts in election awareness seminars

to provide a platform for ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary of the Ministry individuals to speak with of Information and Broadconfidence. She emphasized the

inclusion of media in discussing economic matters and urged them to contribute ideas for steering the country out of challenges.

She highlighted the commencement of a debate to discover ways to improve the country's situation by overcoming challenges. Despite facing challenges, she said the PID was conducting seminars

Chairman National Regis-This network consists tration and Database Authority (NADRA) Lt. Gen. Muhammad Munir Afsar here on Monday said that his organization and FBR are in collaboration to expand the tax base and regis-

NADRA Chairman asks

business community to

coop. in tax broadening

citizens

of over 17,000 active franchisees connected with telcos and banks and employing thousands of vouths besides adding revenue to retailers' income. Speaking on the occa-

deathanniversary ISLAMABAD (APP): Famous Urdu poet Wasif Ali Wasif was remembered on the occasion of his death anniversary on Thursday. Born on January 15,

**Wasif Ali** 

remembered on

1929, in Khushab he was a terchange to Darkhana. teacher, writer, poet and sufi intellectual. He is fa-



Khan to Rohri and from Zahir Peer to Uch Sharif. M-11 from Kala Shah Kaku Toll Plaza to Sambrial

reforms to address electoral

toll plaza Commuters have been

كستان يرحمل اوراند بالابران ادراس اينك

NY A

advised to make their travel plans after getting latest updates from National Highway and Motorway helpline 130 and its social media platforms.

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan

CJP would do some impor-

casting Shahera Shahid on Thursday commended the Press Information Department (PID) for providing stakeholders an opportunity to organize a series of seminars on general elec-

Addressing a seminar titled the "Changing Landscape of Pakistani Electorate and Role of Political Parties in Fair Representation," she said the primary

objective of these seminars with the goal of overcomis not just to inform but also ing difficulties. **PIO highlights Pakistan's** 



ter new taxpayers to imsion. prove the tax revenue of the country

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Islamgarh Road".

Talking to a delegation of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), he called upon the business community to cooperate in such efforts.

Munir Afsar briefed the business community about the key initiatives of NADRA to facilitate the citizens.

He said that NADRA e-Sahulat is a low-cost eservices platform, which provides a secure payment and collection facility to the



ISLAMABAD: Police personals stands alert in red zone due to security high alert in Federal Capital after the Iran attack on Pakistan.

#### **Study finds huge** gaps in enfranchising flood-hit population

vote right was an important

public responsibility that

should be ensured by the

masses to bring a change in

their lives. She noted that it

was an uphill task to make

the people realise their right

to vote during electoral cam-paigns. "The issues per-

taining to voters highlighted

in the study are serious

gaps that will hamper effi-

cient electoral process. The

flood impacted populace bearing expired CNICs

Computerised National

tended by the NADRA," she added. Senator Ezdi un-

derscored that the 2022

flood devastation washed

bridges in Balochistan and

Sindh where population was

still awaiting relief and as-

sistance. "In this situation".

population of those areas

have lost its motivation to

said.

the federal capital.

gency.

ISLAMABAD (APP): A ing the dialogue, said use of recent research published by the Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) has revealed huge gaps in enabling the population of the flood-hit areas of Sindh and Balochistan to use their fundamental right to vote. The CPDI on Thursday held a stakeholders' dialogue on the study made by Naseer Memon, a development professional expert on climate change, disaster management and livelihoods.

Identity Cards) can be ex-The author told the participants that he compiled the study after having detailed group discussions with the people of away over 13,000 kilome-ters roads and some 1,444 flood affected areas of Sindh and Balochistan, including women and youth, besides stakeholders engagements and inclusive surveys to gauge the prevailing ground pulse in the she said,"the indigenous wake of general elections 2024, scheduled for February 8. Chairperson of vote, but it is now the re-Senate's Standing Commitdidates contesting polls to tee on Climate Change Seeme Ezdi, speaking dur- encourage them to vote."

mous for his unique liter President ary style. Probably no con-ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, temporary Urdu writer is President, lauded the efmore cited in quotation than forts of NADRA to prohe is. Master of aphorism, he has almost a miraculous mote digitalization in Pakistan.

ability to capture a rainbow He said that NADRA of meaning in a few dewhas already set up its Fa-cilitation Desks in Lahore drops of well-chosen words. Many of his apho-Chamber of Commerce and risms have become proverbs Industry to provide its serin recent years. His book vices to the business com-'Kiran Kiran Suraj'' containmunity and NADRA ing these aphorisms reshould also set up its Fa-cilitation Desk in ICCI so mained best seller for many many years. He used to that ICCI members can avail write short essays on top-NADRA's services under ics like love, life, fortune, fear, hope, expectation,

promise, prayer, happiness, sorrow and so on with clear objective.

#### **Over 2,000** cases reported on ICT-15App in three months ISLAMABAD (APP): In the past three months, over 2,000 cases have been reported on the ICT-15 app. created to provide citizens

platform to inform the police about any unlawful activities, illegal resident foreigners in urban areas, on Thursday. and criminal elements. Additionally, the citizens can obtain immediate

assistance from the police by sending images, videos, or audio messages related to any incident or occurrence, a public relations officer network "Collaboration with

this university will be a fo-According to the details, following the special directives of the Islamabad cal point for special attention because addressing issues of children outside Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO), Dr. Akbar Nasin school is crucial for Khan, Islamabad Capital Pakistan's prosperity", she Police's "ICT-15" applicasaid.

She mentioned that tion promptly assists urban digitizing educational residents in emergencies in courses for the professional He said that this app development of commuroves to be extremely teachers was a UNESCO project accomhelpful in providing immeplished through collaboradiate assistance to urban tion with AIOU residents during any emer-She stated that efforts

in Federal Capital.

by AlOU to bring out-ofschool children into the educational network are commendable While presiding over

apprehended 17 outlaws from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered drugs and the concluding ceremony, Professor Dr. Fazal weapons from their possession. Rahman, Dean of the Fac-

drugs, weapons

recovered

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Islamabad Capital Police

According to a public ulty of Education, stated relations officer, he said folthat University's Vicelowing the special directions Chancellor, Professor Dr. of Islamabad Capital City Nasir Mahmood Khan, is Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. giving special attention to Akbar Nasir Khan, the maintaining standards, Islamabad Capital Police and under his leadership, has intensified crackdown will link the against the criminal ele university's educational ments in order to eliminate courses with the Sustaincrime from the city. able Development Goals (SDGs) for sustainable

He said the Kohsar police team arrested an accused namely Muhammad Jameel and recovered eight bottles of wine from his possession. The Karachi Company police team arrested two accused namely Afzal Masih and Nadeem Abbasi and recovered 125 gram hashish and 15 liters of alcohol from their pos session.



progress

He emphasized that

He mentioned that

digitizing educational

courses will contribute to

the professional develop-ment of community teach-

digitizing educational courses will result in the

professional development

of community teachers.

sponsibility of the area can-ISLAMABAD: Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi, Convener Sub-Committee of the Senate Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

#### role in the evolving landscape of digitization

Principal Information Of-ficer (PIO) Dr. Tariq Mehmood Thursday high-lighted that the Y lighted that the Internet revolution has completely transformed the world, leading to a shift from globalization to digitization, which has also significantly

influenced Pakistan Addressing a seminar

titled "Changing Landscape of Pakistani Electorate and the Role of Political Parties in Ensuring Fair Representation," he noted that the dominance of the world is currently in the hands of large IT-based companies.

ISLAMABAD (APP): their behavior does not consistently align with this awareness. Emphasizing the need for alignment, he suggested that political parties should adapt themselves to the changing world.

Commending the participants of the seminar, he acknowledged Asghar, the representative of Jamat-e-Islami, for emphasizing the need for proportional repsentation in the country. PIO said another par-

ticipant Dr. Mujeeb expressed the view that there has been a lack of significant movements by farmers and



He expressed that laborers in the past few dewhile political parties poscades, emphasizing that withsess an understanding of the out their vocal involvement, evolving global landscape, their destiny cannot be altered.

#### **Construction work** on National Police hospital in full swing

The construction work of Pakistan's first National Police Hospital is in full swing that will cater the health needs of 12,000 officers and officials of Islamabad Capital City Police as well as benefit the residents of Islamabad city. According a public relations office of the Islamabad Police, the construction work is rapidly going on directives of Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar. He said that, the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan and his emergency, surgical, orthodedicated team's efforts have led to the establishment of a groundbreaking hospital comprising 100

ISLAMABAD (APP): beds. Under the vigilant oversight of ICCPO, the hospital's developmental work is swiftly advancing, with concrete laid on the ground floor. He said that aligning with the current energy conservation trends, the hospital in Islamabad will utilize solar energy to reduce energy expenditures. The establishment of the National Police Hospital in Islamabad is of utmost importance, marking Pakistan's first-of-its-kind police medical facility. Initially offering specialized medical services in fields such as paedic, general medicine, cardiology, neurology, sur-gical ICU, medical ICU, cardiac ICU

ISLAMABAD: Activists of Muslim Talba Mahaz Pakistan shouting slogans during protest against Iran attack on Pakistan, outside National Press Club **17 outlaws** arrested;

#### 4-day training workshop for digitization of community teacher courses

ISLAMABAD (APP): Four-day training workshop for the digitization of community teacher courses concluded at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU)

Speaking during the ceremony, UNESCO representative, Aleema Bibi termed AIOU as the most effective platform for bringing out-of-school children into the educational we

#### Page 04

**OPINION** 

#### Daily Independent

### Daily Aoice of Masse Independent Friday January 19, 2024

#### 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 (832,000). The final tally



Ali Tauqeer Sheikh Disasters triggered by climate change leave deep scars. The impact is not just about the loss of lives and damage to properties; disasters also threaten social cohesion and exacerbate local economic, sociopolitical, religious, sectarian, and ethnic

divides In Pakistan, these are now being compounded by frequent and severe climate disasters. Emergent climatetriggered conflicts at the community level are complex and of long duration. Addressing them requires fresh approaches, governance systems, and climatesmart and participatory conflict resolution pro-

Climate threats have not spared any region in Pakistan. They manifest themselves in floods, droughts, heatwaves, glacial

growth). Dr Ayesha Razzaque Emigration has occupied

perhaps more than its usual share of space in the public discourse in the past year. Op-eds that popped up in the media have included pure opinions backed up by little more than feelings and anecdotes all the way to analysis of data from multiple sources. I put down some of my thoughts on the issue last year in an op-ed in these pages ('Are Pakistanis really leaving?', September 8, 2023).

The long and short of it was that, contrary to several alarmist pieces that had appeared in the media at the time, numbers published by the Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment (BEOE) for up to July when projected to the end of 2023 suggested that the number of emigrants captured in its data for 2023 would be roughly around the same as for 2022 for 2023 is in and the num-

F.S. Aijazuddin

squirm of termites feast-

igned their residual frag-

to me that, whereas once I

uring their preservation.

o more selective accessions

happened to be working on.

Lady Canning, from

I justified spending

Intellectual hermits

My collection had



call compound impact disasters; that is, one extreme weather event (EWE) triggering another. The climate-conflict nexus often intensifies resource-based clashes arising

from the absence of clear land tenure systems, water insecurity, crop failure, commodity price hikes, and environmental degradation. The last one also reduces the ecosystem's capacity to support our growing population.

Climate-triggered disasters potentially stoke new or old and simmering community-level tensions that turn into outright conflicts. These are intensified by the slow onset of climate change. Growing social inequalities, low economic growth, displacement, migration, and weak institutions make matters worse.

It must be recognised that climatic change does not always cause conflicts. It does, however, provide the fuel for prevailing environmental, economic, and social factors to turn into conflicts. It is important to recognise common. Historically,

outbursts, seawater intru- that EWEs accelerate the need for adaptation by communities, but also reduce the latter's ability to adapt on their own.

Upper Hunza, for example, has become a hotspot for glacial outbursts. Gilgit hosts the victim communities of the Attabad EWE, where a landslide created an artificial lake in 2010. As a result, Gilgit city, where several neighbourhoods are

already prone to sectarian violence between the Shia and Sunni sects, now also has displaced Ismaili communities. They face resentment

from the local populace as they move in and compete for the same resources and municipal services. In the absence of any conflict-resolution and peace-building institutions or other mechanisms, alre-ady simmering ethnic and sectarian undercurrents can be exploited by time. extremist clergymen.

The measures of simple climate adaptation have needlessly become complicated in countless similar situations. On the Sindh-Balochistan border, for example, conflicts between herders in the Jacobabad-Sibi region are

whenever drought conditions intensified, herders from Balochistan migrated towards Sindh.

This is now forcefully resisted by host communities who are already suffering from cycles of prolonged droughts and floods. Seasonal herders, known as kuchis and pawindas, traverse Afghanistan, parts of KP, Gilgit-Baltistan and Punjab.

They now face competition and conflict — from the Deosai national park in GB to the newly merged districts in KP, and the Salt Range in Punjab. At all these places, historically established grazing and wateruser rights are being violated because of the intense commercialisation of the shaamlats or communal lands. The cancerous climate-conflict nexus has become visibly stronger over

Globally, resourcebased conflicts and insecurities limit a community's ability to adapt to or cope with climate shocks. Examples can be seen in ethnic decision-making has become and sectarian conflicts in the norm, prioritising imme-Karachi, where many comdiate goals over long-term munities migrated because of climate action. environmental and climate-

various parts of the country. The pattern of climate-

induced floods and droughts has resulted in migration and displacement. Regular torrential rains and flash floods have intensified movement from south Punjab to different parts of the country, where local populations sometimes resent the presence of new entrants. Only recently, eight labourers from south Punjab were killed in the newly merged districts, ostensibly due to

their ethnicity. These problems add to security risks. Prolonged military rule and the fragility of democratic institutions have weakened comflicts munity-based policymaking and conflict-resolution capacities, thus contributing to an increase in local conflicts. Since the democratic system has in the past been frequently interrupted, all political governments faced uncertainty regarding their continuity. Hence, in order to show immediate results to voters, short-term bias in

resolution and consensusbuilding. None of the larger community-based civil society organisations, including the erstwhile RSPs or rural support programmes, designed interventions to redress climate-triggered local disputes. Laws and procedures dealing with alternative dispute resolution have remained mostly unimplemented and are unresponsive to emergent climate change contexts.

We have several lawenforcement institutions that are called upon to maintain law and order. But where are the institutions in the country to proactively resolve and manage con-

Climate hazards intensify conflict dynamics. Climate disasters erode human security, amplify other conflicts and exacerbate fragility. The natural environment has become a casualty of conflict in several parts of the country. Pakistan's climate security policies need to adapt to rapidly changing realities, and institutions need to develop capabilities to absorb climate shocks and risks in order to proactively avoid local conflicts, domestic instability, and civil unrest. -- Courtesy Dawn

Hardly any university induced local conflicts in offers courses on conflict

son for wanting to leave,

markedly higher than the

national average of 43.6 per

privileged backgrounds, re-

spect might not immedi-

ately figure as a compel-

the country. In this con-

text, respect is often se-

cured by gaining some level

of power, authority, and

influence in politics or gov-

ernment, or cultivating re-

lationships with people in

cent

## Why are Pakistanis leaving?

counting for population

If there are a dozen ways to skin a cat, there are at least a hundred ways to look at statistics by limiting context, being selective with datasets, discounting trends with unsubstantiated claims, or cherry-picking comparisons. I will say this though: If you look at datasets that go back far enough in time (like the BEOE data), one thing becomes rather clear – a steadily rising number of emigrants and overseas workers is a secular trend at least since the late '90s.

> Except for travel restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic, ascribing causes to fluctuations from one year to the next is as scientific as palm reading. I suspect that time-series of indicators (passport applications comprehensive counts of work and student visas, etc) over the same period will exhibit similar trends. Today, I am more interested in the reasons that compel people to decide to

in September/October more graduates of all cali-2022, it polled participants in a youth survey on what they thought was "the most compelling reason behind Pakistani students aiming to pursue higher education abroad". Some 52.4 per cent responded, "Pakistan is under a tough economic situation and has limited prospects for building academic & professional future for students" and another 20.5 per cent responded. "to settle abroad for a bet-

which both hint at the same underlying reason: a lack of opportunities in the broadest sense – opportunities to earn, to advance, to build, to create, and to grow professionally

ter economic lifestyle".

Put together, that makes for 72.9 per cent of respondents, a vast majority. I doubt this comes as a surprise to anyone. With the state of inflation and the cost of living for (even small) families being what it is, emigration or employment abroad is a rational choice.

are the reported reasons bers coming out of univerfor wanting to leave. A higher proportion of re-spondents from Sindh sities, is it any wonder then that the number of degree-(55.9 per cent) and Balochistan (51.9 per cent) holding emigrants from Pakistan should also see a rise? identified wanting to be more respected as their rea-Of course not!

This is borne out by the BEOE's figures of "highly qualified" emigrants, which went from ,155 in 2001 to 17,976 in 2022 – growth by a factor of 5.7. Despite the tough economic conditions, a greater proportion of highly qualified Pakistanis are staying home, and, with a reported graduate unemployment rate of 31 per the domestic cent. economy is unlikely to run out of graduates anytime

A 2022 report by the such offices. The need for Pakistan Institute for Depower and the lack of revelopment Economics puts spect without it is felt more acutely in societies the proportion of Pakistanis who wish to leave the country at 37.1 per with weak rule of law where protection, like all cent. Regional differences other necessities of life are small with Punjab must be secured by each (35.8 per cent) and Islamabad (36.5 per cent) at the low-end, AJK (43.6 per cent) and Balochistan person for themself, reminiscent of a jail, jungle, or

people living in countries other than the country of their birth. By 2020, this percentage had risen to 3.6 per cent. There will always be some global hotspots that will be greater sources of migrants and others that are more sought-after destinations. Air travel, even to once hard-to-reach places, has become easier, safer, and cheaper and the internet For those born to has made it easier than ever to find work opportunities ling enough reason to leave across the world

Together, the effect this has had is to make migration (motivated by whatever reasons) easier and has made it into the secular global trend. The solution does not lie in the national knee-jerk reaction of first resort, a ban, an idea some people have been carelessly tossing around in public, but in putting our own house in order.

This means more economic opportunities, ensuring rule-of-law, and inpost-apocalyptic world. According to the means developing many dividual freedoms. It also UN's International Organimore of our citizenry to be zation for Migration's just as productive and World Migration Report qualified as the one whose 2022 in 1990, 2.8 per cent decision to migrate so many

attacks last year, with the last ber of emigrants recorded major incident occurring in stands at 863,000, roughly in line with the earlier pro-December 2023, in which 11 Iranian law enforcers were in 2016 (839,000) but still 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 Recently, I needed material jointly, instead of pursuing on the 1971 East Pakistan crisis from a section in my unilateral actions. The immelibrary. There, I unearthed diate need is to prevent a ruping on my books. As I conture in ties. China, which enjoys cordial relations with both ments to a pyre, it occurred states, and has urged "both owned my books, now they sides to exercise restraint", can owned me. My remaining days would be consumed in perhaps use its good offices to help resolve this sensitive matbeen built up over years, since the mid-1960s. Spoter.

Meanwhile, it is also true radic purchases gave way that various foreign actors which were germane to would like to see a permanent whichever of my books I break in Pakistan-Iran ties; the Their subjects covered capitals of both countries must, Pahari painting, Sikh art, British and European arttherefore, prevent an escalaists working in the north of tion and work to restore calm. the subcontinent, antique

maps, on Dr Henry After matters have cooled Kissinger's secret visit to down, the mechanism that ex-Beijing in July 1971, US foreign policy towards Paists for border security mankistan between 1969-74. agement should be actively and the journeys of the British vicereine Charlotte, used to target militants threatening either state's security Kolkata to the Khyber Pass through joint operations.

Under no circumstances money on these books because they were essential should either state's soverfor reference purposes, as eignty be violated through unibooks were not as accessible as they are today on the lateral actions. The Iranian internet or through search authorities must particularly engines. As one author put , my library is "a cave of work to prevent a repeat of such words that I'd made myattacks. At a time when the self fires of conflict threaten to conmay burrow themselves in sume the region, both sides such caverns of learning, trying to decide whether to must act with restraint and read a book or to write one, statesmanship to prevent this but they have perforce also to live in an outer world. crisis from growing. The Turkish Nobel laure-

leave.

does

The Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development jection, almost the same as Transparency and (PILDAT) regularly conless than the 947,000 re-corded in 2015 (not ac-ducts polls on various is-sues. In results published less than the 947,000 resities nationwide have gone from 276,000 students in 2001-02 to 2.246.000 in

2020-21 - an increase by a factor of eight over the last two decades. With many

Enrollments in univer-(42.0 per cent) at the topend of the scale, and all other regions somewhere in between

Where things begin to of the global population are publicly lamenting. diverge more significantly comprised migrants – Courtesy TheNews

#### Time to reflect

growth longer and more fre-It is time we seriously questioned some critical aspects of the macroeconomic model we have followed, which has created this recurring situation. While no one can deny that, by running huge unsustainable fiscal deficits, our own policymakers must share a large part of the blame, we

must also seriously examine some IMF conditionalities, 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 market-driven 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, multilayered, imperfect foreign exchange market. With a large diaspora and migrant work-

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 market-driven 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,

ring stop-go cycles in which The exchange rate episodes of growth have would have gone further become shorter and shorter, down — possibly to Rs400

and episodes of very low by June 2024 - but for the timely strong-arm action taken by the government's new and powerful economic decision-making body, the Special Invest ment Facilitation Council. The SIFC came down hard on hoarders, 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 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 relave 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 revive growth with macroeconomic stability. -- Courtesy Dawn

ers abroad who send back as remittances an amount equal to or slightly more

less than a month of imports, and poverty levels increased. Even given specific factors such as exter-

thereby bringing the economy to the very edge of default.

Read, and gone ate, Orhan Pamuk, lagathered around a library" mented: "I live in a country I donated 500 of my books singularly devoid of books to Lums in Lahore, where and libraries [,] in a counstudents could broaden try that views the nontheir minds beyond manreader as the norm and the agement sciences, engineerreader as somehow defec-

ing and law. They can delve into Over the years, he exthe origins of Mehrgarh, panded his library until he history of the the had more than 12,000 volumes. In a moment of candour, he admitted that he had truly loved only "perhaps 10 or 15" of them. The rest he needed for his work. "If I were to compare my library to that of a well-read friend in a rich Western country, his would have fewer books than mine careers. And they will be

That is not surprising. The tradition of public libraries predates the ancient Great Library at Alexandria, said to contain 400,000 scrolls before it was burnt down. Over the centuries, most developed countries bulk readership have regarded libraries as necessary adjuncts to education. School libraries became a barometer of their attitude to education. One

quiring them faster than he author admitted that his could throw them away: parents bore him but he "For me, the imperative is not to own good books but Private libraries have to write them."

stopped buying books, where would they find a readership for theirs?

ery author/ bibliophile is if his precious library ends up on the footpath. I found a Persian/ Urdu/ Eng-lish dictionary signed by edented 35pc, the country Mustafa came perilously close to Tabassum for sale on a default as reserves fell to hand-cart in Anarkali bazaar. And I bought in Peshawar a romanised ver-

Muqqadas (the New Testament), dated 1860, weighed on a scale against Perhaps the Ancient

Egyptians were wiser than we thought. Their tombs were incised with hieroglyphics, ensuring they took enough reading matter with them to last be-

nal 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 recur-

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, gen-

erating additional revenues, opening up the economy, transforming agriculture and removing energy inefficiencies, few would disagree with their listed priorities in the medium to long term.

To illustrate: after

buying books? Pamuk Yet they seem to overlook that the real problem tried, but found to his dismay that he continued ac-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?

But then, if authors

achieving near six per cent growth in the preceding The nightmare of evtwo years, 2022-23, the economy abruptly reversed direction as economic growth became negative, inflation rose to an unprec-

him to decide that he sion of the Injil-i-

sacked, I made my selection summarily.

balkanise my library was made for me by ravenous termites. Following the historian Shelby Foote's maxim, that "a university is just a group of buildings

always been a luxury. Bibliophiles know that each book has an identity of its own; each set of covers contains the output of a creative mind; each volume is

a friend who never fails. Together, they are the sum of many lifetimes and the accumulated wisdom of the Ghulam Pamuk mentions that took an earthquake for

needed to weed out his library. "Like a sultan pacing among a crowd of slaves, singling the ones to be lashed, like a capitalist pointing out the lackeys to some stones.

as reared by libraries.

The decision to yond eternity. -- Courtesy

Mughals, the Sikhs and British rule. They can see Pakistan through the eyes **Rashid Amjad** of more recent chroniclers In a recent article in Dawn, like Herbert Feldman and S.M. Burke. Through the memoirs of former politicians, retired bureaucrats, and extinct state functionaries, they can relive their

able to uncurl secrets not taken by authors to the Books on interfaith subjects have proved more difficult to place. There are too few Hindus, Sikhs, and Zoroastrians left to form a Will one ever stop

#### Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

### 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 culture. He said that the 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 in are encouraging. He said that it is good to see that more Saudi business delegations Pakistan for Saudi investors

The Governor further painful, adding that plight said that there should be of Palestinians especially maximum exchange of student delegations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. He said that Saudi companies are also investing in

semiconductors, which are the basis of all technologies. He said that Pakistani universities are providing quality education in medical and various other disciplines. He said that Pakistani doctors are known for professional competence all over the world. He said that Saudi students should come to study in Pakistani

Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman and the Saudi Ambassador also discussed the situation in Palestine. The Governor said that the are visiting Pakistan. He destruction caused by the said that there are bombing of residential favourable opportunities in areas, refugee camps, hospitals, schools in the Palestinian Gaza Strip is

> women and children is heart wrenching. Saudi Ambassador Nawaf Bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malki said Pakistan is like his second home, adding that he was greatly touched by the love and

Pakistanis. He said Saudi Arabia giving scholarships to Pakistani students, adding that the student exchange program will be further expanded

The Ambassador said quality of Pakistani products like the textiles is

On this occasion, marketed better.

universities

respect given by the PESHAWAR Caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice ® Syed Arshad Hussain Shah on Thursday held a meeting with a delegation comprising members of the Pak-

border.

present on the occasion.

RAWALPINDI (APP):

Caretaker Provincial

Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare and

Population Welfare Dr

Jamal Nasir on Thursday

be made functional by the

available funds would be

The minister said that

end of this month.

The

members

very good and need to be

SARGODHA: Caretaker Federal Minister for Culture Syed Jamal Shah visits deferent stalls during opening ceremony of the two-day Orange Mela organized by Lock versa At Sargodha Arts Council.

#### **Caretaker KP Minister GB** police foil chairs meeting of reforms committees

Independent Report

TMAs, WSSCs and PESHAWAR: Caretaker Peshawar Development Provincial Minister for Authority here on Local Government and Thursday. The meeting was rural development Amir held in the conference room Nadeem Durrani said that of the local government

committees.

which was attended by the

members of the reforms'

terror bid near reconstruction police HQs ISLAMABAD (APP): A terror bid near the police headquarters in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) was thwarted by the local

police on Thursday. According to Gilgit Baltistan police, an xplosive device was

planted near the central

police office, underneath a

All the roads adjacent

bridge.



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 and Malir. of Pak-Afghan border

Commerce and Industry (APP): (SCCI), Faud Ishaq, Director PAJCCI, Imtiaz Ahmad Ali, Vice Chairman All Pakistan Customs Agents Association, Farooq Ahmad and Ex. Presidents SCCI, Zahid Shinwari and Faiz Muhammad Faizi. Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) and discussed The delegation apprised Caretaker Chief

problems being faced by businessmen due to the Minister Justice ® Syed closure of Pak-Afghan Arshad Hussain that hundreds of goods-laden Caretaker Minister trucks were stuck on both for Industries, Commerce sides of Pakistan and & Technical Education, Dr Afghanistan due to the Amer Abdullah, Secretary

closure of the border. Industries and other They said a large relevant officials were number of trucks were carrying perishable items delegation included like fresh fruit, vegetables, poultry and other items Coordinator PAJCCI, Ziawhich may get rotten due ul-Haq Sarhadi, President to border crossing

significant financial losses on the business community of both countries.

Speaking on the occasion, Coordinator PAJCCI, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi thanked the chief minister for listening to the issue of Pak-Afghan trade. Zia Sarhadi also

briefed the CM about the working of PAJCCI for the promotion of trade in the region through coordination and arranging meetings of businessmen of both countries for discussion over issues and removal of hurdles.

The chief minister said the KP government fully realizes the problems faced by the business communities and any decision in this regard will be taken in accordance with the government's policy. Sarhad Chamber of restrictions, inflicting **Dr Jamal directs BBH** 

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

LAHORE (APP): The Political Officer of the American High 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 workshop in a local hotel

Apart from this, the elections in Pakistan and

#### **Aseefa Champions Progressive Change in Province-wide Campaign**

KARACHI (Online): and poverty. She Aseefa Bhutto Zardari has highlighted the party's vigorously in preparation for the upcoming general elections.

ational

ews

dedication to understanding campaigning across Sindh and alleviating the struggles of the poor, a cornerstone of the PPP's ethos under the leadership of the Bhutto family. Áseefa

Page

05

Her recent rally in Tando Mohammad Khan, Further, accompanied by local Bhutto Zardari candidates Syed Naveed underscored the party's Qamar, Syed Áijaz Hussain vision as outlined in Shah Bukhari, and Khurram Bilawal Bhutto's 10-point Karim Soomroo, marks a Awami Muash Muahida', focusing on significant highlight in her provincial tour, which so economic growth far has included stops in healthcare, education, and Tando Allahyar, Tando Jam, Nawabshah, Sanghar, housing. She urged voters to recognize the PPP's genuine efforts in making During her impassioned speech in tangible improvements in their lives, contrasting this with other political entities Tando Mohammad Khan, Aseefa Bhutto Zardari driven by power motives.

emphasized the PPP's A significant point of commitment to addressing pride for the PPP, as mentioned by Aseefa, is key issues such as inflation, unemployment, the reconstruction



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

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

Independent Report Officer (CEO) Khyber PESHAWAR: KP Caretaker Minister for Pakhtunkhwa Oil and Gas Company Limited, Nasir Industries, Commerce & Khan, officials of the 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. Speaking as a chief guest at a consultation

Board of Investment (BoI), Muhammad Ali, Ali Waheed and Mahmood Tufail, focal persons from various provincial government departments participated in the workshop. He said that in

Ali Shah, Chief Executive

bringing reforms, it is important to pay special attention to the principle in the rules and regulations of balance between the for the business and needs of the economy and the public interest, because

directed the officials concerned to complete the and renovation work of the Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH)Outdoor Patient Department by January 31. During a visit to review the ongoing BBH's three blocks of Doctors Hostel was being started for Rs 140 million. He said renovation work, he said

renovation by Jan. 31

provided to nursing hostel and college that would be fully functional in February.He also inspected the hospital's basement and said that work was being carried out to lay a new water supply and sewage system to resolve the issue of water seepage.Dr Jamal Nasir said that the repair and reconstruction work of the

residents of Rawalpindi

and more than three billion

rupees had been provided

for the reconstruction.

discussed.

United States. that the OPD including pathology, eye ward, ENT, dentistry, skin and blood bank departments would that the Punjab government was committed to providing the best kind of health facilities to the dentistry skin and blood bank departments would

the caretaker government's mandate is limited but our effort is to give a better roadmap to the next elected government.

work for the betterment of the reforms committees the people adding that and was told that Urban local reforms in government are the need of the hour.

Appreciating the Development Authority efforts of the Reforms are facing various issues. 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 Area Development Authorities,

**PESHAWAR: Ombudsperson KP** Protection

Ms. Rakhshanda Naaz addressing during Election

**Youth Alliance protest** 

against black marketing,

organized by Aurat Foundation.

fertilizer.

cial shortage of urea fertil-

izer has not ended. The lead-

ers staged a protest outside

the office of Deputy Com-

missioner Ghotki in

Mirpur Mathelo and locked

the main gate of Deputy create artificial scarcity.

At the meeting Nadeem Durrani was brief to the building have been He said I desire to about the establishment of closed for traffic, whereas Area Development Authorities, TMAs. WSSCs and Peshawar The Reforms

authorities have started defusing the device, a private news channel reported. Case file of **PTI founder** Committees were formed transferred to on November 29, 2023 to find a long-term and short-

term solution of issues and challenges. during iddat case TORs of reform PESHAWAR (Online) committees were to bring Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri of Islamabad forward the problems, and challenges and make High Court (IHC) has sent suggestions for their file of PTI founder Imran solutions Khan in nikah during Iddat

> IHC The court remarked a case of similar nature is already in the court of CJ IHC

case to Chief Justice (CJ)

**CJIHC** in nikah

The PTI founder has taken plea in his petition judicial proceedings is continuing in trial court illegally since November 25. Trial court's December 11 and January 9 orders be declared null and void. It is pertinent to

Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace mention here case file of Bushra Bibi too was sent to CJ IHC. Manifesto Suggestions on Women Empowerment

> **Dera police** recover 21300 ltr NCP diesel DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): District police arrested three accused and

NCP diesel in the limits of various police stations here on Thursday.

recovered from a passenger

LAHORE: Special Assistant to Prime Minister Allama Tahir Ashrafi talking to the media at Jamia Islamia Manzoor Cantt.

#### ANF recovers 389 kg drugs in 11 operations; arrests 10 accused

going to Malaysia at Allama Iqbal Airport.

tablets were recovered from a container being sent to Thailand from South Asia Pakistan Terminal Karachi.In seventh operation, 210 kg hashish and 7 kg opium were recovered in two separate elections. operations conducted near

He said Theera Orakzai area. punctuality and dedication In 8th operation, 91 kg should be ensured in the hashish was recovered office so that all the affairs from two suspects netted were completed in a good near RCD Road Hub. manner.

spokesman Courtsummons police along with record on bail plea of

> plea in the cases related to May 9 incidents. He has filed the bail plea in Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Rawalpindi.

Sheikh Rashid through his counsel. Sheikh Rashid has taken plea in the petition that he is not nominated in

students, and gained awareness about education distributed certificates to the staff for their excellent

with the record on January 20.

the imbalance in this regard Thursday, the Caretaker Minister said that he wants to improve the rules and regulations while keeping the public interest and rights in mind.

regarding possible reforms

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). in this regard and try to Besides, Khyber reach global standards. Pakhtunkhwa Secretary

may lead to the neglect of the rights of the people. The caretaker minister added that for the promotion of business activities and investment, the world has gone a long way in providing a friendly environment for work and bringing rules and regulations. Therefore, he said that we should also have to take effective steps

In the workshop, Industries Syed Zulfiqar

KARACHI: Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM-H) Chief, Afaq Ahmed addresses to media persons during press conference, at Afaq House in Karachi.

#### **DC** distributes gifts among children at Zamung Kor

PESHAWAR (APP): Underprivileged children in Deputy Commissioner Zamung Kor were delighted Peshawar, Afaq Wazir, to see the Deputy visited "Zamung Kor" on Commissioner among Thursday and distributed them, expressing joy He directed the toys and gifts among street children residing in these Zamung administration to provide shelter houses established Khyber the best facilities for Pakhtunkhwa government. underprivileged children's During the visit, Additional Assistant education and emphasized special attention to their Commissioner Syeda Zainab Naqvi, Director education and upbringing so that these future Zamaung Kor Najam Sehar, architects could achieve high positions in society. Principal Afshan Banu, Communication Officer Zamung Kor Director Faisal Khan, Tehsildar

briefed the DC on the agency's functioning, stating that there are five centers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with over a thousand street children receiving education, including 120 female Commissioner Peshawar interacted with the children, and distributed

students. DC Afaq Wazir stated that street children are also part of society, and every class should be provided with essential facilities that facilities. DC Peshawar are their right. On this occasion, DC Peshawar provided awareness about polio, emphasizing the eradication campaigns. need to plan polio drops.

artificial scarcity of urea Commissioner Ghotki's of-Tanveer Ahmed Soomro MIRPUR MATHELO: In fice, Ayaz Khahawar, Mirpur Mathelo, on the call Waqar Bozdar and others of youth alliance against while talking to the media. black marketing and artifisaid that they have been cial scarcity of urea fertilprotesting against the black marketing of urea fertilizer izer, farmers and political social leaders staged a profor the past two months, test outside the office of but no action has been taken against the dealers who sold Deputy Commissioner Ghotki in Mirpur Mathelo. urea fertilizer worth Rs. 35 And shouting slogans against the dealers of urea hundred for Rs. 6,000. Fertilizer has exceeded six thousand rupees which is cru-According to the deelty and abuse to the farmtails, due to the nexus of the ers. He further said that our dealers of urea fertilizer in crops are being destroyed Mirpur Mathelo, the series due to not getting fertilof black marketing of artifi-

police izer on time but the officers are silent spectators. They demanded that urea fertilizer should be used.

Black marketing should be eradicated by taking action against the dealers who

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 country managed to recover 389 kg drugs and arrested 10 accused, said an ANF Headquarters

Thursday.

Airport. recovered 21300 litres of

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

Tandoiam.

spokesman, following the directions of District Police Officer Dera Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani, the district conducted

crackdown on illegal diesel agencies and smugglers in the limits of Chaudhwan Police Station, Shaheed Nawab

Police Station and Daraban Police Station. During the action, Chaudhwan police station led by SDPO Daraban Circle Malik Anees Al Hasan along with SHO Khalid Javed Lashar stopped a Hino truck during the checking police seized 15000 litres of Iranian diesel

operations across the

spokesman here on He informed that five

hashish-filled capsules were recovered from the stomach of a passenger going to Abu Dhabi at Bacha Khan Airport.

250 grams intoxicated

According to a police

tablets were recovered from two passengers going to Muscat from Multan

210 grams Ice drug was recovered from a

**HYDERABAD: Caretaker Minister for Tourism** 

The

18 kg Ice was recovered

Kot Abdul Malik Interchange Sheikhupura.

**Sheikh Rashid** RAWALPINDI (Online)

Former interior minister Sheikh Rashid has filed bail polio staff, and regional

Bail plea has been filed by

toys, and gifts. in Zamung Kor, met with the case. He is being subjected to political vengeance after May 9.

and Environment Arshad Wali Muhammad giving The court has summoned police along degree award to the graduates during 12th **Convocation of Sindh Agriculture University** 

informed that 29 kg hashish and 7 kg opium were recovered from an accused rounded up near from an accused arrested near Sona Khan Chowk.

on February 8, 2024. Addressing the meeting, the PEC Punjab urged the officers to 354,400 intoxicated perform their duties with hard work, honesty and integrity and establish a chain strong communication with their field officers to ensure timely completion of all stages of the general

#### **New PEC** Punjab

and prosperity were also

takes charge LAHORE (APP): Newlyposted Provincial Election Commissioner (PEC) Punjab Aijaz Anwar Chohan took charge of his office here on Thursday. According to a spokesperson of PEC

unjab, Joint Provincial

Election Commissioner

Sain Bakhsh Channar

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

the preparations for the

general elections, to be held

of

that

the

Inamur Shahzad, Jamil

Khan, Khalid Khan, along

with Zamaung Kor staff,

staff were present. Deputy

He also visited classes

performance in polio

#### Daily Aoice of Masse, **Independent** Friday January 19, 2024

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

Karachi.

Government,

Pakistan and Dubai have Container Terminal which investment pact in diverse fields including cooperation in railways, economic zones infrastructure and development.

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

According to the Pakistan Railways and Port Ministry of Railways, the Qasim Authority will act cooperation covers the development of a dedicated freight corridor, multimodal logistics park, and projects.

freight terminals. World will work on

ISLAMABAD (APP): at Qasim International Arabian Sea, passing through inked more than \$3 billion is Pakistan's leading trade Pakistan's most populous gateway and plans to city, to the develop an economic zone near the terminal.

> have signed two Inter-Governmental Framework Karachi besides improving Agreements to strengthen road safety. It will their relations in the marine significantly improve efficiency, and transport and logistics sectors, times and reduce the overall cost of logistics.

> and Economic Zone near Pakistan's national, stateowned railway company on behalf of the Pakistan development of the

Karachi, Pipri Marshalling Yard, approximately 50 km Both governments away. This would decongest

> DAVOS: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar witnessing Pakistan Railways is Federal Minister for Communications, Railways, & Maritime Affairs Shahid Ashraf Tarar and Government of Dubai inked more than \$3 billion investment

### sector to attract investment ISLAMABAD (APP):

expressed Thursday would attract investment in the oil and gas sectors.

During outlined leading oil and gas E&P infrastructure, stressing companies, including the need for research and

release issued here.

In Decer

This

impressive current account

contributed to the overall

surplus of \$198 million in

surplus of \$397 million.

Pakistan achieved an economic

surplus

OGDCL, PPL, GHPL, development 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. percent to state-owned gas The companies. This initiative highlighted the significance of optimizing allocations aims to encourage

companies to invest more for natural gas, revisiting in oil and gas exploration. priority orders, and revising Petroleum and LPG policies for the Muhammad Ali emphasized the importance of geographical and seismic studies to enhance onshore conversion of domestic consumers from natural gas and offshore exploration. to LPG. He also advocated He called for investment in for devolution of power to refineries, explorations, ease business processes terminal and investment in Genco's efficiency for 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.

Meanwhile, net foreign

reserves held by commercial banks stood at

\$5,117.7 million, it added.

eserves held by the

Total liquid foreign

### Pakistan achieves record breaking exports target in 2<sup>nd</sup>,quarter of FY, 2024

and

ISLAMABAD (APP): the second quarter of The Ministry of Financial Year 2024. The Ministry of Commerce on Thursday This substantial

said that Pakistan has increase in surplus is a achieved record-breaking testament to the effective exports target and economic strategies implemented by the surpassing expectations at the end of second quarter government.

of Financial Year 2024. In a remarkable turn of events, Pakistan has The December 2023 surplus is particularly noteworthy compared to the deficit of transitioned from facing potential default to \$365 million recorded in achieving a record-breaking December 2022. This surplus in its current significant improvement account, showcasing the has led to a remarkable 77% reduction in the nation's resilience and Current Account Deficit commitment to economic (CAD), which now stands stability, said a press at \$2.8 billion. Highlighting commitn

Govt releases Rs3,097.50 mln for agriculture sector uplift projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): spent sofar on different The government has released an of amount of Rs3,097.50 million for various agriculture and sustainable agriculture livestock uplift projects under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) 2023-24 as against the total allocation of Rs8.850 billion.

Research.

lecte

in

minister

OMMERCENEWS

growth and economic development of the country. The government has allocated Rs 8.850 billion for the Ministry of National Food Security and

Page

06

The amount was released during the first 06 Research in its PSDP) months of the current 2023-24 for different financial year (July-December) for the completion of different projects relating to agriculture and livestock sectors' development in ongoing development schemes, besides initiating the country, he added. He said that under the new projects of vital importance, said an official PSDP 2023-24, an amount in the Ministry of National

of Rs8.599 billion would be spent on the completion of 21 ongoing developmental Food Security and projects, whereas Rs 250 Talking to APP here on Monday, he said that out of the total released billion was allocated for three new schemes during the current financial year funds, an amount of to achieve sustainable Rs429.97 million had agriculture growth.

**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.

#### **IT exports witnesses** remarkable surge in December 2023, Saif

ISLAMABAD (APP): online freelancers, he Interim IT Minister Dr Umar Saif Thursday said that Pakistan's Information information Technology exports experienced a remarkable surge of 22% in December 2023, reaching a total of \$303 million where annually millions of youths across the country will get opportunities to sit and work. Talking to PTV news

added.

Dr Saif said that and communications technology is the main key to opening the door to stabilising and strengthening Pakistan's economy.

" Our target is to achieve the target of \$10 billion, adding, that we have paved the way for the channel, he explained that next government will Pakistan has recently continue these policies and undertaken historic steps to uplift the IT industry

to facilitate the country's through reforms, he said.

He also stressed that

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): release issued here. Dr Shamshad Akhtar, Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs on Thursday said that a comprehensive overhaul of the government's fiscal lead to a new era of enhanced government development and

She highlighted five key areas that have increased the vulnerability of Pakistan's economy to domestic and global shocks: first, unsustainable fiscal policy due to revenue apparatus is vital to lower gaps and unproductive the revenue-expenditure expenditure, second, fiscal gap. Bold reforms would unsustainability has recourse to public debt (IMO), according to the



DAVOS: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif visits Salesforce Pavilion.

#### The DP World will act on behalf of the Dubai nearly 8,000 route-km of pact on cooperation in Railways, Economic Zones and Infrastructure at the World Economic Forum. while railway across the country **Minister says:** from Peshawar in the northwest to Karachi in Govt initiative in exploration the south. The Qasim Government, for the International Container Terminal, a second framework agreement was ht terminals. The rail-based signed with Pakistan's The Dubai Port (DP) Dedicated Freight Corridor Ministry of Maritime is planned to run from Affairs to dredge the Caretaker Federal Minister infrastructure development Karachi Port on the navigation channel of Energy, Muhammad Ali,

hope on that the government's initiative in the exploration sector

his

presentation at the National Seminar on 'Pakistan's Economy Crisis: Challenges and the Way Forward," organized by NUST, the minister that the government is set to permit

prosperity in the country, which has increased. the minister said.

Effective implementation of warming model predicts ambitious reforms will that Pakistan's weather implementation depend on addressing patterns will become even underlying critical institutional, governance, and structural constraints, temperatures by 1.3% to 4.9% by 2090; fourth, the said Dr Shamshad Akhtar, Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, during of the economy; and fifth. the keynote address on Pakistan's economic the failure to integrate Pakistan's economy with challenges and the way forward, said a press the rest of the world.

Center.

Executive

Muhammad

Development Authority of

Pakistan (TDAP) Chief

Motiwala inaugurated on

Thursday the  $3^{rd}$  Annual

Engineering and Healthcare

Show here at Expo Centre.

he said international

experts and guests were

arriving in Lahore to

was doing exports of \$30

were being made to increase

atmosphere in the country,

adding that the purpose of

participate in the event.

Talking to the media,

He said that country

the export figure up to \$60 the country.

high commission's post on The third, climate shocks as the global commissioner shared

lack of innovation and

diversity in the structure

LAHORE: CEO Trade Development Authority of

Pakistan Muhammad Zubair Motiwala inaugurates

the 3rd Engineering and Health Care Show at Expo

**TDAP CEO opens** 

3<sup>rd</sup> Engineering &

**Healthcare Show** 

Pakistani products.

Officer

Zubair

details of Pakistan's candidature for the IMO. Dr Faisal also more volatile and extreme expressed best wishes to in the decades ahead, with Viljar Lubi for his an average increase in

The

#### **PSX stays** bearish, loses **364** points

Pak, Estonia

envoys in UK

discuss trade,

public diplomacy

Commission in London Dr

Mohammad Faisal on

Thursday held a meeting

with his Estonian counterpart Viljar Lubi. Their "fruitful"

discussion encompassed a

host of issues including

trade, public diplomacy,

and the International

Maritime Organization

(APP)

High

high

LONDON

Pakistan's

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 points against 63,567.34 points the previous 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.

Some 345 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 96 of them recorded gains and 227 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 22 remained unchanged.

Limited with 59,720,141 LAHORE (APP): Trade organising the show was to shares at Rs.5.47 per share, PIAC(A) with 40,427,500 provide one platform to national and international shares at Rs.11.56 per traders so that they could share and WorldCall Telecom with 35,387,750 come here and witness for themselves the quality of shares at Rs.1.30 per share.

He said that such Products events always help project Limited witnessed a country's soft image at global level besides boosting its exports. He said that elements which were involved in carrying out negative propaganda rise in its per share price to Rs.789.59. against Pakistan should see billion and all-out efforts that peaceful economic activities were ongoing in

billion. He said there was said, "People of Pakistan business-friendly are hard working and country has huge potential for business.

The three top-trading companies were K-Electric

Maize Rifhan Company maximum increase of Rs.149.00 per share price, closing at Rs.8,950.00, whereas the runner-up Philip Morris (Pakistan) Limited with a Rs.55.09

Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of

Rs.397.00 per share closing at Rs.21,900.00, followed by Pakistan Fobacco Company.

evolving digital world. Addressing the event Aamir Ibrahim, CEO of Jazz and Chairman of Mobilink Microfinance Bank identified the challenges faced by the country

> emphasized the critical role of technology in addressing them.

As Pakistan's leading digital operator, we are fully committed to leveraging technology to empower our citizens, he

selling crispy peanuts at every nook and corner. The poor cannot afford most dry fruits because their prices are beyond their reach, but

fruits is not possible for that serving approximately the common man, except 45 million Pakistanis, of peanuts because of their whom 30% are women, reasonable price,' JazzCash is at the

Ahmad, a roadside forefront of financial vendor of peanuts in empowerment in Pakistan. Qasimabad, told this scribe that peanuts were mostly used in the winter season to get relief from cold and argued that due to the normal rates and no price hike why sale of peanuts is in high demand.

According to health experts, peanuts are nutritious and provide necessary energy to the body.

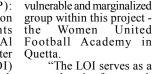
#### NCHR, Bank Al Habib join hands to empower women

ISLAMABAD (APP): vulnerable and marginalized The National Commission Human Rights the (NCHR) and Bank Al Habib have signed a Letter Ouetta

Interest (LOI) of committing to work together and empower women and girls through sport-based human e v e l o p m e n t interventions.

for

"The NCHR is currently engaged in a project around this theme through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), supported by the High Commission of Canada in Pakistan. However, the NCHR has identified the need to



comprehensive framework outlining the terms of the agreement for Bank Al Habib's sponsorship of the Hazara Women United Football Academy in Quetta," an NCHR press release said.

The strategic partnership, the NCHR said, aimed to bolster the Academy's capacity to train and equip more girls, thereby extending the impact of the ongoing support the most CFLI project.



**PESHAWAR: Worker busy in printing different** political parties posters at his workplace in Mohallah Jhangi in connection with upcoming general elections.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Commerce, Senator Zeeshan Khanzada presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

**Peanuts sale** 

#### Jazz, Pathfinder **Group hosted Digital** HYDERABAD (APP):

ISLAMABAD (APP) Jazz, a leading digital operator of the country, in collaboration with the Pathfinder Group, hosted the "Digital Pakistan Breakfast".

event was The organised on the sidelines of World Economic Forum Annual Meeting taking place in Davos.

A press digital transformation, underscoring its potential and resilience in a rapidly

release received here on Monday said the event highlighted Pakistan's journey of

and

Fechnology, Trust and Transparency, we can advance the digital agenda of Pakistan, he said adding that the 3T approach can

here today a consumer of peanut Shams said that among the dry fruits, peanuts are comparatively cheaper and are, therefore,

country, in the previous week ended on January 05. the IT industry. 2023, were \$13,256.6 The government had when the caretaker million. Among them government assumed foreign reserves held by the central bank.

burgeoning workforce of freelancers and to promote financial institutions to embrace this transformation and harness launched an initiative to the power of artificial build 10,000 co-working intelligence and innovative spaces across Pakistan for technology.



when

recovery,

Minister of Commerce, Dr.

Gohar Ejaz, noted that

when the caretaker

charge in July 2023.

Technology, Islamabad and delivered a lecture on Energy Sector Crisis and Reforms.

rises in chilly

condition

The sale of dry fruits,

particularly peanuts, is at its peak as the weather has

turned chilly due to cold winds. Vendors are seen

# Pakistan Breakfast

added

In line with this year's World Economic Forum theme 'Rebuilding Trust,' by adopting a strategic 3T Approach-

be crucial for charting a path towards an inclusive and equitable Pakistan, he remarked. He also highlighted

the impact of JazzCash in in the access of common the fintech sector. people. "Now buying dry Aamir Ibrahim said

peanuts are the most popular item among them as their rates are comparatively low and affordable for them. Talking to this scribe

Daily Noice of Masse,

### **International News**

23 killed in

Thai fireworks

factory blast

Monitoring Desk

BANGKOK: Twenty-three people died after an

explosion at a fireworks

factory in central Thailand

on Wednesday, the provin-

local rescue service showed

metal debris littered on the

Images shared by the

cial governor said.

Page 07

### **Houthis strike** another US vessel

"will not hesitate to target

all sources of threat in the

people.

(Online): 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 the Yemeni Armed Forces Trade Organization (UKMTO) had received a Trade 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 late on Wednesday, referring 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.

Houthi spokesman erated, while flying the flag Brigadier General Yahya Saree claimed responsibility for the attack in a televised address, naming the vessel as the US-owned Genco Picardy. 'The naval forces of

way. 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 the Israel-Hamas war in Aden...leaving direct hits," Saree said. He reiterated October. that Yemeni armed forces

The militant group has vowed to continue until the war ends and the blockade f Gaza is lifted.

Arab and Red Seas within The increased risk of the legitimate right to defend dear Yemen and to continue supporting the ping firms to respond by avoiding the Suez Canal, the oppressed Palestinian fastest cargo route from The US Central Com-Asia to Europe. The traffic mand said on X (formerly route normally accounts for Twitter) that the ship was 15% of the world's comindeed US-owned and op- mercial shipping.

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

#### Jordan accuses Israel of damaging hospital in Khan Yunis

Monitoring Desk GAZA: Israel stepped up its assault on Khan Yunis in southern Gaza on Wednesday, pushing tanks westwards and prompting accusations from Jordan that its field hospital in the city had been badly damaged by nearby shelling.

The Jordanian army said it held Israel responsible for a "flagrant breach of international law" in air strikes that damaged what it said was the dam- homes near the hospital.

age to the facility as a re-sult of Israeli shelling in the vicinity. The Israeli military had no immediate comment. People in and around another hospital, Nasser, fled as tanks approached the district overnight following an Israeli army statement tycoon. that it had come under fire from the area. Palestinian

health officials said seven people were killed by Israeli city-state.



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

#### **Tel Aviv steps up** Gaza strikes after medicine-aid deal

Monitoring Desk GAZA CITY: Tel Aviv stepped up air strikes on

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 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.

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

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: The Singapore plight of the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank transport echoed in the US Senate on Tuesday evening as minister resigns senators debated a resoluover corruption tion questioning US aid to Israel The lawmakers over-

charges SINGAPORE (AFP/ APP):Singapore's transwhelmingly rejected the move by Senator Bernie Sanders, a former presiport minister has resigned dential candidate, to fie US his post after being charged aid to Israel's treatment of with 27 offences in a cor-Palestinians but he did ruption probe that has also succeed in generating a passionate debate on the ensnared a billionaire hotel S. Iswaran was ar**issue** 

rested in July of 2023 and The Senate voted 72 to 11 against the resolution, released on bail in connection with a rare top-level with nine Democrats, and one Republican, Rand Paul, graft investigation in the

supporting Sanders. Iswaran, 61, said he The Hill, a Washingon newspaper focusing or

Violence has also surged in the Israeli-occupied West Bank since Oct 7 to a level not seen since the second Palestinian uprising between 2000 and 2005 Israeli army raids and

ground, and a huge plume 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 Yunis throughout Tuesday

night, according to eyewitnesses in the southern Gaza

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

BERLIN (Internews):

At Frankfurt air port, Germany's largest hub, more than 300 out of almost 1,000 planned arrivals and departures were cancelled in the morning, according to a spokesperson. Trains to and from

Paris were again cancelled, German rail operator Deutsche Bahn said, and for other train journeys, occasional disruption could still occur due to the weather.

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

WASHINGTON (Internews): to an anticipated battle-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 per-

centage points. The trip, tied to the rollout of new funds for broadband internet, is Biden's fourth this month

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

of a growing number of fic and acts as a vital conships around Africa to duit between Europe and avoid potential attacks in Asia. the Red Sea is altering refueling patterns and boosting demand for bunker fuel at

far-flung ports, from the Mauritius to South Africa to the Canary Islands. Ships are also ex-

Singapore and Rotterdam, the two busiest bunkering ports and where fuel is competitively priced, as they try to hedge against uncertainty over route changes, traders and analysts said.

Attacks by Yemen's Houthi militia on merchant ships in the Red Sea and retaliatory U.S. strikes have ratcheted-up tensions in the Middle East as the Gaza war rages on.

The attacks by the Iran-allied Houthis, which Africa, said traders and in-they say are in support of dustry sources.

ground state in the 2024 presidential election. It comes as Biden's re election 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 Clinton's in 2016.

The incumbent president will need liberals like those concentrated in urban, highly educated Raleigh to turn out in high numbers to win a state whose vast rural regions favor Trump.

SINGAPORE/CAPE<br/>TOWN/LONDON<br/>(Internews): The re-routingPalestinians, target a route<br/>that accounts for about 15%<br/>of the world's shipping traf-

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

"Ships are diverting pected to top up more at away from the Red Sea and re-routing around the coast of South and West Africa this increased traffic has created huge congestion in bunkering ports around Africa and placed significant pressure on port infrastructure," John A. Bassadone, founder and CEO of independent bunker supplier insula, told Reuters.

Bunker fuel demand has risen at ports including Mauritius' Port Louis, Gibraltar and ports in the Canary Islands and South

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

TOKYO (Internews): Ja- that was meant to match nan aims to become the cost-competitivenes

Strip's biggest city.

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 ex-

ceed 24,000." 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.

By pushing the resolution, Sanders drew attention to the urgent need for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. Even those opposing the resolution acknowledged the pressing need for a cessation of hostilities in

the region.

# governor.

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

second day

Heavy snowfall and icy conditions upended air, car and train travel across Germany for a second day on Thursday.

#### China's population drops for second year after record low birth rate

**Monitoring Desk** HONG KONG: China's population fell for a second consecutive year in 2023, as a record low birth rate and a wave of Covid-19 deaths when strict lockdowns ended accelerated a downturn that will have profound long-term effects on the economy's growth potential.

The National Bureau of Statistics said the total number of people in China dropped by 2.08 million, or 0.15 per cent, to 1.409 billion in 2023. That was well above the population decline of 850,000 in 2022, which had been the first since 1961 during the Great Famine of the Mao Zedong era. China and its rapid urbanisation experienced a dramatic na- during that period.

tionwide Covid surge early last year after three years of tight screening and quarantine measures kept the virus largely contained until authorities abruptly lifted curbs in December 2022. Total deaths last year rose 6.6pc to 11.1 million, with the death rate reaching the highest level since 1974 during the Cultural Revolution.

New births fell 5.7pc to 9.02 million and the birth rate was a record low 6.39 births per 1,000 people, down from a rate of 6.77 births in 2022. Births in the country have been plummeting for decades as a result of the one-child policy implemented from 1980 to 2015

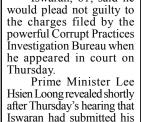
#### A day in Trump's world: morning in courtroom, evening on campaign trail

ATKINSON (Internews): week as he pursues his po-Donald Trump's schedule on Wednesday summed up the unprecedented nature of this year's election: spend the day in court fighting a defamation case and the evening rallying supporters in his bid to become the next U.S. president.

That is how the former president, the frontrunner for the 2024 Republican nomination and the world's most famous defendant, has chosen to divide his time this

litical comeback. Trump was not obliged to be in the federal courtroom in Manhattan, where a judge warned him he could be kicked out if he was disruptive. His appearances for the civil court case are entirely voluntary.

From there, he planned to spend Wednesday evening on the campaign trail in New Hampshire ahead of the state's Republican presidential own manifesto for the Lok primary next week Sabha elections.



Iswaran had submitted his resignation from the government, parliament and ruling People's Action Party (PAP) 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.

#### **BJP, RSS** attacking different cultures in India, says Rahul Gandhi NAGALAND (INP): Con-

gress leader Rahul Gandhi has said that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) are attacking different cultures in India. Rahul Gandhi addressing a public gathering

in Mokokchung, Nagaland, said, "Nobody has a right to decide about your tradition and what you eat and what you wear. Every culture and religion must be respected.

He said any decision on having a joint manifesto of the INDIA bloc parties will be taken by chiefs of all outfits, even as it launched a website and email ID for seeking people's suggestions for its

### gion of Ayeyarwady on Feb. 14 and 15, according to the Ayeyarwady Region's Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization on Thursday

Workers reconstruct a street, which was damaged on the first months of Russia's attack on Ukraine in the town of Trostianets, Sumy region, Ukraine.

Smoke rising after an explosion at a fireworks factory near Sala Khao township in Thailand's Suphan Buri province. King Charles, Kate postpone appearances over health woes

**Monitoring Desk** LONDON: British head of state King Charles III has been treated for an enlarged prostate and will undergo a procedure in hospital next week, Buckingham Palace said on Wednesday.

The rare announcement about the monarch's health comes after Kensington Palace said his daughter-in-law Catherine, Princess of Wales, had undergone successful abdominal surgery.

Catherine, often known as Kate, is facing up to two weeks in hospital

and several months' recuperation after the operation, which palace officials said was non-cancerous, without specifying further. Charles, 75, became king on the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, in September 2022 after spending most of his life as her heir. He is head of state of

14 other countries outside the United Kingdom, including Australia, Canada and New Zealand, and is head of the 56-member Commonwealth, which comprises 2.4 billion

Myanmar to hold coconut-based products expo in delta region

people.

tion Organization, told Xinhua on Thursday. YANGON (Xinhua/APP) -: Mvanmar is set to orga-The primary objective nize the coconut-based products exhibition and of the event is to showcase competition in the delta re-

coconut-based products with export potential in the international market and to bolster support for local businesses, he said. "As the event features

a competition, the participat-"It is the first event ing exhibitors have a chance that solely includes cocoto receive awards for their nut-based products. Previproducts. Additionally, they ously, coconut-based prodmay be selected for particiucts were exhibited alongpation in international side various items at the Micro, Small and Medium expos," he said. The showcased coconut-based prod-Enterprise (MSMEs) prod-ucts expos," U Nay Win ucts will cover various categories, including food prod-Soe, an official from the ucts, consumer goods, cos-Ayeyarwady Region's Myanmar Trade Promometics and handicrafts made from coconuts, he said

NEW DELHI (INP): At least two previously unknown incidents of skirmishes between the Indian

out at a ceremony by the Army's Western Command last week, provided brief details of how the Indian troops responded firmly to the aggressive behaviour by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers.

> Ecuador prosecutor probing TV studio attack killed: AG

QUITO (AFP/APP):A prosecutor investigating the dramatic live-broadcast armed assault last week on an Ecuadoran television station was shot dead Wednesday, the country's attorney general said. "In the face of the

murder of our colleague Cesar Suarez... I am going to be emphatic: organized crime groups, criminals, terrorists will not stop our commitment to Ecuadoran society," said Attorney General Diana Salazar in a statement on X.

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

(JAXA) probe is attempting to land within 100 metres (328 feet) of its target, a technology JAXA says is unprecedented and essential in the search for moon water and human habitability. Japan is increasingly looking to play a bigger role in space, partnering with close ally Washington to respond to China's military and technological might, including in space. Japan boasts a number of private-sector space startups and aims to send an astronaut to the moon as part of NASA's Artemis

But JAXA has faced

#### **Brazil's Indigenous** Yanomami again face illegal mining-linked crisis

APP): The Yanomami Indigenous group are again facing a severe humanitarian crisis blamed on illegal gold miners, despite Brazil's president deploying the military to wrest back con-

trol of their territory. year after Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva declared a state of emergency over the isolated group's plight, images emerging from their Amazon rainforest reservation remain desolate: severely malnourished children being fed through IV tubes in hospital and their staple food source, fish, decimated by the toxic mercury used in the mines. least 308 At Yanomami died from January to November 2023, half of them children under five, according to health officials. That is little better

than the 343 deaths re-corded in 2022. Cases of malaria among the Yanomami increased by 61 percent last year, and influenza by 640 per cent compared to 2022. Those bleak figures

BOA VISTA (AFP/ are a problem for Lula, who came to office in January 2023 vowing to do a far better job protecting Brazil's Indigenous peoples than far-right predecessor Jair Bolsonaro.

One of the veteran leftist's first actions in office was to deploy the military to expel an estimated 20,000 illegal miners from the Yanomami reservation, a sprawling northern territory bigger than Portugal.

Indigenous leaders and rights activists accuse miners of raping and killing Yanomami inhabitants, poisoning their water with mercury, spreading disease, tearing down virgin rainforest and triggering a food crisis. Lula ordered the air force to impose a no-fly zone to cut off supplies to the mines, and sent hundreds of police and soldiers to evict the invaders. Thousands of miners fled as the authorities carried out a total of 400 operations last year, seizing seizing 600 mil-lion reais (\$120 million) from criminal groups involved with the mines, according to official figures.

and Chinese troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh have come to light after the Indian Army attempted to boost the otherwise very low morale of its troops. The Indian Army conferred gallantry awards on its personnel mentioning these clashes. The citations read

More skirmishes

along LAC in

Ladakh come

to light

Dubbed the "moon

sniper", the Japan Aero-space Exploration Agency programme.

against commercial rocket providers like SpaceX. JAXA's Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) probe will start a 20-minute touchdown phase on its one-way mission from midnight on Saturday (1500 GMT Fridav). trying to land on a target site roughly the size of two

athletic tracks on the slope

of a crater just south of the lunar equator. 'No other nation has achieved this. Proving Japan has this technology would bring us a huge advantage in upcoming international missions like Artemis." said Shinichiro Sakai, JAXA's SLIM project manager. India's Chandrayaan-3 in August made a historic touchdown on the moon's south pole, a major technological feat given the rough terrain, highlighting India's rise as a major player in space. JAXA stresses its high-precision technology

will become a powerful tool in future exploration of hilly multiple setbacks, including a launch failure in March of tential source of oxygen, fuel tential source of oxygen, fuel the new flagship rocket H3 and water.

#### Daily **Independent**, Quetta

Punjab.

-9

HIEFIER(O): (I.F.

#### Friday January 19, 2024

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

Thursday stressed the need to increase use of the technology in the education sector of Azad Jammu and Kashmir to increase the 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. purpose

The president said the education could be brought to the remote and difficult areas with the help of tech-

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): also help increasing the Kashmir Textbook Board President Dr Arif Alvi on number of students while Chairman Syed Tufail Chairman Syed Tufail maintaining the quality of Hussain Bukhari and Foundation Chairman Muzaffar education

President Alvi main-Muhammad Qureshi also participated in the meeting. tained that around 28 million children in Pakistan do not go to school while meeting that the foundation thousands of new schools runs three schools and a would be needed to educate teacher training college in those children.

Punjab and Azad Jammu He said mosques and Kashmir. The delegation in could 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 of Foundation's role in prothe youth. The president appremoting quality education ciated the foundation's role and literacy in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and rural

in promoting education in Azad Jammu and Kashmir Azad Jammu and and rural Punjab

It was informed in the



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Kashmir Education Foundation called on Presimarks during the concluding ceremony of the inaudent Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr. gural Maritime Security

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

BEIJING (APP): 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 ex-

DAVOS: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar held a meeting pert, told the Global Times. The aircraft has outwith Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO of UAE-based DP standing situational aware-World, a multinational logistics company on the sidelines of the World Econess and can carry a wide selection of munitions, including not only air-to-air missiles but also precision bombs as well as air-to-

ground and air-to-surface not likely get stealth fighter missiles, Wei said. 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 exercises with other countries, the Pakistan Air Force could display the capabili the Chinese aircraft is, Wei

The PAF has long been using weapons and

ties of the FC-31, and more potential customers will get to know how competitive

Independently developed by the state-owned Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC), the FC-31 is a single-seat, twinengine, medium stealth fighter jet that analysts said is comparable with, if not superior to, the US' F-35.

Pak Navy vows concrete action to enhance maritime security Highlighting the scope

KARACHI (APP): Vice Chief of Naval Staff Ovais of the exercise, the Vice Na-Ahmed Bilgrami has emphasized 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 re-

Exercise SEA GUARD-24

aimed to review response

procedures against maritime

security incidents, identify

gaps, and propose ways to

in Karachi today.

val Chief mentioned that it provided an opportunity to strengthen and rejuvenate the bonds among diverse maritime stakeholders in the country, including shipping, fishing, law enforcement, and private entities, through a common platform-the Joint Maritime Information Coordination Centre.

Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami expressed appreciation for During his address, he the efforts of all stakeholdstated that the exercise ers in making the exercise a success, as it served as a platform for engaging in tactical exercises, exchanging best practices, and fosimprove the response tering mutual understand-



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

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): Tehran's envoy. Former Pakistani ambassador Abdul Basit has issued a strong response to Iran's 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

The former ambassador pointed to Iran's growing regional ambitions, claiming that its "expansion of capabilities across Asia is a "dangerous game." He

further warned that Tehran's actions will only lead to its own 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 capachas "responded appropri-ately" by recalling its am-bassador and blocking once again.

Egypt envoy of calls on **Minister for Defense**,

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

Independent Report QUETTA: The country Director UNICEF, Director Abdullah A. Fadil has as-sured that the UNICEF would extend full cooperation to work on the better healthcare of the mothers and infants in the province.

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

The country Director of UNICEF was in meeting with the caretaker Minis-ter Health, Dr. Amir during the course of meet-

Muhammad Khan Jogezai here on Thursday.

ated the roadmap as dis-cussed with them by the

interim Health Minister

The UNICEF repre-Also present in the sentatives also briefed the meeting were included the overall functioning and conprovincial representative of tribution of the Fund in the UNICEF, health Ms. Mariym, Dr. Aamir Alizai, Balochistan. field security officer, Naseeb Kakar and Dr. Amin Earlier, the Minister

Health Dr. Jogezai appre-Khan Mandokhail. ciated the services being rendered by UNICEF in the The Country Director and Provincial representahealth sector of the provtive of UNICEF appreci-

ıng.

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

sector

Pakistan envoy meets Czech senate president ISLAMABAD (APP)

day announced that the

equipment procured from China, including J-10C me-dium fighter jets, JF-17 light fighter jets, HQ-9BE longrange surface-to-air missile systems, HQ-16FE mid-

to-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

experts said.

capabilities by a generation, The FC-31 will allow the PAF to enjoy a generational gap over its rivals with fast delivery, while Pakistan's main rival will



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

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 authori-Prophet Muhammad SAW

ties instead of taking the lay

### management plant

**Commissioner Quetta** 

inspects solid waste

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The Commissioner Quetta Division, Hamza Muhammad Shafqaat visited the solid waste management plant at eastern bypass, Quetta on Thursday.

The Commissioner was briefed about different parts of the solid waste management plant plant, issues and it's operation.

The Commissioner directed to rehabilitate the solid waste management plant within a week

He said that the longstanding issue of solid on Thursday met with waste would be resolved President of the Senate of after making the plant op-Vystrcil. erational So, every possible

In the meeting, they discussed the ways to strengthen the Pak-Czech steps would be taken to keep functioning the plant, adding he assured. relations.

He said that solid "Honored to meet waste management plant with the President of the would resolve the issues of Senate of the Czech Repubsolid waste in Quetta city. lic Miloš Vystrcil at his an-The Commissioner nual reception for the dip-

**SHC allows** 

Fahmida,

to contest

election

KARACHI (Online): Sindh

High Court (SHC) has al-

lowed Fahmida Mirza and

Zulfiqar Mirza to contest

cepted constitutional peti-

tions of Fahmida Mirza and

Zulfiqar Mirza.

The court has ac-

election.

stressed the need to proplomatic corps," the ambaserly dispose the solid waste sador wrote on her X acby the people. count

Ambassador of Pakistan in government under its en-Czech Republic Ayesha Ali deavour to promote interfaith harmony will organize awareness sessions on the Czech Republic Miloš 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.

The Federal Minister, speaking at the occasion, Jaranwala, he said that if

into hands and resorting to to be kind and polite in their dealings. Prophet violence. The Minister Muhammad's (SAW) commended the role of Ulema for raising voices teachings on tolerance, emagainst the intolerable acts bedded in the conquest of Mecca and Treaty of in society and uttered that Hudebia, should always be the message of interfaith kept in mind while dealing harmony should be dissemiwith the people of differnated through knowledge ent faiths, Aneeg Ahmed and evidence. stated adding that the hearts

Aneeg Ahmed said of non-Muslim brothers that the ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith could be won through kindness and politeness rather Harmony was organizing a than misplaced arguments. series of awareness events While expressing conon interfaith harmony in cities, particularly in higher demnation on incidents like education institutions.

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

#### **Independent Report**

UETTA: The caretaker 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 **Zulfiqar Mirza** traffic management system in Quetta city.

Jan Achakzai appreciated the traffic control and management mechanism of traffic police in Quetta. He said that the traffic of Quetta city is being

managed well by the traffic police despite the resources constraints.

to create awareness among the citizens about the traffic laws.

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

Rahima Jalal, social activist and politician Meena Majeed Baloch,

Prof Dr Gul Hassan of University of Turbat and researcher BBTN Dr Siraj Bashir.

**IHC** accepts He stressed the need

petitions against jail trial of Toshakhana,

> £190 million reference

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Ćourt (IHC) on Thursday accepted the petitions of PTI founder against the trial of Toshakhana case and the £190 million reference in jail, for hearing. IHC bench Operators comprising Justice Gul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Arbab Tahir heard the PTI founder's plea against the jail trial for the two cases. The court issued directives to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and the Interior Ministry to submit their replies on Monday. It also issued di-

rectives to schedule the case to be heard by any avail able bench on Monday.

security issues discuss RAWALPINDI (Online): 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 develop in all sectors because both countries are facing common challenges and have common strategic interests. We hold the same desires for peace and development. The guest thanked the Defense Minister and expressed his government's commitment to work with that both countries can Pakistan in all matters of work for collaborative mutual interest, including

projects and cooperation in defense.

Defense Lieutenant General

(retired) Anwar Ali Haider

in his office Defense Min-

istry Rawalpindi on Thurs-

that Pakistan and Egypt

have cordial historical and

traditional relations.

Defense Minister said

Defense Minister said

dav

QUETTA: Country Director UNICEFAbdullah A Fadel and Ms. Maryam meeting with caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Jogezai

#### **PTA hosts workshop** on IPv6 Transition & **Routing Security** ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- tive participation from pro-

kistan Telecommunication fessionals in the telecom industry, underscoring the Authority (PTA) organized a two-day workshop collective commitment to on 'IPv6 Transition' and staying abreast of techno-'Routing Security' in collogical advancements, said a laboration with the Asianews release issued here on Pacific Network Informa-Thursday. Speaking on the tion Centre (APNIC), the occasion, Chairman PTA, Internet Society (ISOC), Major General ® Hafeez Ur and the Pakistan Network Rehman said that PTA is well aware of the importance Group (PKNOG). The workshop of capacity building therefore featured esteemed foreign it is working closely with inspeakers and witnessed ac- ternational stakeholders.

#### Efforts should be made to avoid complication with Iran, Khawaja Asif

should make a joint strat-egy to deal with terrorism. ISLAMABAD (Online): Former Defense Minister Khawaja Asif said that we movements are going on in should try to avoid complication with Iran.

Arabia-Iran conflict.

Pakistan and Iran. Khawaja Asif said that Pakistan and Iran need to While talking to Pri-vate TV channel, Khawaja Asif said that during our jointly deal with these tenure, we had very good movements. It is pertinent to say relations with Iran. Pakistan had played an active

that according to foreign office, Pakistan has tarrole in resolving Saudi geted specific hideouts of PML-N leader said terrorist in Sistan province that Pakistan and Iran of Iran this morning

Baloch separatist

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Waste Plant

the implementation of the

'Pakistan Digital Stake,' re-

inforcing the government's

commitment to the digiti-

Dr. Shamshad Akhtar

zation agenda, she added.

underscored the importance

of the project for Pakistan's

progress, asserting, this ini-

tiative was of utmost im-

portance for the develop-

ment of the country adding

the government would use

all available resources to

ated the government's com-

mitment to financial inclu-

sion, economic self-suffi-

ciency, poverty reduction,

and transparency in gover-

nance. Drawing inspiration

from the positive impacts

The minister reiter-

ensure its success.

#### **Finance Minister** appreciates digital transformation efforts

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 for the digital transformation of Pakistan. Speaking at the 'Pakistan Digital Stake' Workshop here, the Minister said the creation of Digital Stake by these organizations was in line with the government's policy of digitization She said digital transactions play a vital role in empowering both urban residents and business individuals, offering them the flexibility to complete fitransactions nancial promptly and with ease.

The collaborative efforts extend beyond the private sector, with active participation from key government institutions such as the State Bank of Pakistan, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and the Accountability Bureau.

These entities are contributing significantly to

of digital transformation in the United Arab Emirates. Estonia, and Singapore, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar expressed confidence in the potential of 'Digital Stake' to bring similar improvements to Pakistan. The 'Pakistan Digital Stake' aims to establish the country on digital lines, creating opportunities for millions of Pakistanis to engage in daily financial transactions seamlessly



Fahmida Mirza and building Zulfiqar Mirza had filed About 400 girl stunomination papers from NA-223 while Zulfiqar dents and faculty participated in the seminar held at Mirza had filed nomination Sheikha Fatima bin Mubarak Cadet College papers from PS-70, 71 and Turbat through Voice of Balochistan (VoB). Returning officer and election tribunal had re-The students came jected their nomination pafrom University of Turbat, Government Girls College pers. Fahmida Mirza and Zulfiqar Mirza were Turbat, University

TURBAT (APP): A semiversity of Gwadar. Prominent politician nar was organized here on

