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dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 05. No. 323 Jamadi-ul-Awal 14, 1445 AH Wednesday November 29, 2023 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

Sindh CM orders

clearing of Badin Bus

**Stop encroachments** 

# Judges calling Musharraf martial law legal should too be put to trial: SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has re- Martial law legal should also be tried. marked the judges who called Musharraf martial law legal should also be put to trial.

A 4-member bench of SC presided over by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa took up for hear-trial will rise. Was attacking the judges more grave

Lahore High Court (LHC) decision in the court.

The CJP expressed displeasure due to lack of preparation when Haroon ul Rashid counsel for Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) gave arguments.

Rashid A Rizvi counsel for Sindh High Court Bar (SHCB) made mention of Pervez Musharraf martial law

Justice Athar Minallah while stopping him remarked Rashid Rizvi Sahb you will go to past how long. The CJP remarked I have respect for Justice Athar

Minallah. But we should go to the past now. Justice Athar Minallah remarked "go at every cost.

Then this Musharraf abrogated the constitution on October 12. He dissolved assemblies. This court gave way to October 12 steps. The judges who termed Musharraf

He further remarked why the action was taken on November 3 steps. The action will be taken in regard to ing former president Pervez Musharraf appeal against his sentence Tuesday.

matter than suspending the constitution and dissolving assemblies. We should speak the truth. If any decision Hamid Khan presented written arguments against has to be abolished then it should be abolished. Which gave way to martial law.

The CJP remarked what happened in the past I cannot abolish it. If we have to become nation then we have to correct future by seeing the past. Lawyers should come and tell why the pictures of the judges who abrogated the constitution are hung here. Why only judge should point out it while sitting here. Media too is responsible for it. They should also be held accountable. Tell us how many journalists were opponent and how were supporters of the martial law. We should learn lesson from the history. We should teach it to children as well. Justice Athar Minallah remarked history then is this whenever some one grows strong, no one speaks against him. When powerful grown weak then Asima



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Minister for Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr Jassim Mohammed Abdullah Al-Ostad receiving Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar upon arrival o a two-day official visit to meet the Kuwaiti leadership

HYDERABAD: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar inspecting Badin Stoop during his visit

Smog:

## Govt advises public to wear face masks

KARACHI (INP): Sindh pollution levels. masks amid Karachi's wors-

ening air quality. According to the statement released by the Sindh Chief Minister's House, the province's chief executive has urged the educational institutes to ensure that students wear face masks to "protect themselves from illnesses con-

comitant with smog. Furthermore, the chief minister has also urged all stakeholders to "move beyond car-centric infrastructure" and instead invest in public transport and pedestrian-friendly alternatives.

At present, IQ Air ranks Karachi as the third city with the worst air quality index in the world. The development comes as various parts of the country have been gripped with severe smog amid worsening

Caretaker Chief Minister
Justice (retd) Maqbool
Lahore which has repeat-Baqar called on the public edly topped the air quality to ensure the use of face charts as the world's most polluted city. AQI as high as 151-200 is considered unhealthy, while an AQI rating between 201 to 300 is more harmful and AQI over 300 has been extremely hazardous.

> The air becomes heavier in the winter as compared to summer, causing poisonous particles in the atmosphere to move downwards and making the atmosphere polluted. As a result, a layer of polluted particles, including large amounts of carbon and smoke covers an area

The smoke produced by burning crop remnants, factories and burning coal, garbage, oil or tyres enters in the atmosphere and the impact of it appears at the onset of winter and remain till the season's end, experts



KARACHI: Peoples Labour Breau Sindh President Habib Uddin Junaidi alongwith other cutting cake during ceremony in connection with 56th Founda-

#### Tuesday visited the Badin bus stop in Hyderabad. He was accompanied by the minister for local government Mubeen Jumani on this occasion.

Sindh Justice (Retd)

Maqbool Baqar on

According to the spokesperson of the chief minister of Sindh, he directed the Commissioner

Hyderabad to immediately remove encroachments from the bus stop. During this visit, he was briefed that the Badin bus stop was the property of the HMC, spanning

Pakistan fully

committed to

eradicate polio

virus: PM

(APP):Caretaker Prime

Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq

Kakar on Tuesday apprethe

Foundation's support to

the government's efforts to

secure a polio-free Pakistan

and reaffirmed its unwaver-

ing commitment to rid the

country of the debilitating

phone call from Bill Gates.

co-chair of the Bill &

Melinda Gates Foundation

discuss progress in the on-

going efforts to eradicate

currently on an official visit

to the United Arab Emir-

ates, the PM Office Media

Wing said in a press release.

the prime minister and Gates

followed up on their discus-

sion in New York when they

met on the sidelines of the

Jnited Nations General

Assembly session in Sep-

tember. In this regard, the

caretaker prime minister

briefed Gates on the polio

vaccination drive currently

in progress across Pakistan.

Prime Minister Kakar as-

sured Gates that the Gov-

ernment of Pakistan was fully

committed to delivering on the

and financially inclusive Paki-

partners such as the

BMGF in this endeavour.

During the telephone call.

The prime minister is

polio from Pakistan.

The caretaker prime

ciated

across ten acres of land. The chief minister stated that encroachments at the Badin bus stop should be removed immediately, and a report project.

#### HYDERABAD (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister should be submitted within 10 days. He directed the

secretary of transport to start the removal of encroachments and initiate efforts to construct a new and improved standard bus stand. He emphasized the need for the removal of all encroachments and the initiation of the project from now.

He also emphasized ensuring the fitness of vehicles and shutting down vehicles emitting black smoke. CM Sindh stated, "I will visit again within two months to see how the bus stand has been constructed, while minister provincial Mubeen Jumani will continue to oversee the progress of this bus stand | munity with a shared future | and hard work, even sacri- | Silk Road, he added.

# PM arrives in Kuwait on two-day official visit

KUWAIT (APP): Care- will meet Crown Prince of taker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday arrived here on a two-day official visit to meet the Kuwaiti leader-

minister received a teleairport, Kuwait's Minister for Electricity, Water and (BMGF) this evening to Renewable Energy Dr Mohammed Jassim Abdullah Al-Ostad received the prime minister, PM Office Media Wing said in

a press release. Pakistan Ambassador Malik Kuwait Muhammad Farooq and other senior diplomatic officials were also present on

the occasion. During his visit, the Caretaker Prime Minister rival.

Kuwait Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

During the visit, a new Upon his arrival at the era of economic and economic cooperation between the two countries will begin. A number of MoUs will be signed for mutual cooperation in various sectors including manpower, information technology, minerals and mining, food security, energy and defense, it was further added. As a traditional Kuwaiti welcoming gesture, the caretaker prime minister was also presented "Kahwa" upon his ar-

# Govt to support ECP for ensuring free, fair elections: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi Tuesday said under Article promise of a healthier, safer 218(3) of the Constitution, the Election Commission stan and counted on reliable of Pakistan (ECP) would fulfill its responsibility to conduct fair, transparent and impartial elections and the government would support it.

Talking to media persons here, he said that there were a total of 280 articles in the Constitution, not only the article of elections

in 90 days, it also had Article 254.

"Everyone in Pakistan has freedom to express opinion, complain and criticize," Solangi added.

The minister said the freedom that Pakistan People's Party and other parties had been enjoying, Pakistan Muslim League (N) also had same freedom.

He said that the caretaker PM had informed the public about his visit to the United Arab Emirates ( UAE) last night through a

# **CPEC's 10th anniversary a new** starting point to build "upgraded version" of corridor: Chinese CG

KARACHI (APP):Consul General of China in Karachi Yang Yundong on Tuesday said that the 10th anniver-sary of the CPEC this year is a new starting point from which a new journey to build an "upgraded version" of the corridor highlighting Tessori, and CG of the United Arab Emirates in growth, livelihood, innovation, greenness and openness is in front of us.

He said that on the way forward, both countries shall continue to strengthen cooperation in areas such as industrial park, agriculture, mining and energy sector, and accelerate the implementation of major connectivity projects, creating more tangible benefits for the people of the two countries and make greater contributions to building a com-

for mankind. He expressed these views after performing the inauguration of three-day PropTech Convention & BuildAsia Expo, an international exhibition and conference along with Gover-nor of Sindh Kamran Khan

Karachi Bakheet Ateeq AlRemeithi at the Karachi Expo Center. In his address, Yang Yundong also extended respect and salute to both Chinese and Pakistani companies which have made vital contributions to the great achievements, and especially to those Chi-

nese and Pakistani engi-

neers and workers who

have devoted their talents

ficed their lives in building the CPEC.

He recalled that in 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the Belt and Road Initiative with great foresight and provided a pragmatic platform for building a community with a shared future for mankind. Since its launch 10 years ago, Belt and Road cooperation has evolved from ideas into actions, from a vision into reality, and from a general framework into concrete projects.

Today, a global network of connectivity, consisting of railways, roads, ports, airports, pipelines and power grids, has been built, injecting fresh vitality into the millennia-old



General of the United Arab Emirates in Karachi Bakheet Ateeq AlRemeithi and Governor of Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori perform the inauguration by cutting ribbon at PropTech Convention & BuildAsia Expo at the Karachi Expo Čenter.

#### 188 illegal Afghan immigrants detained

KARACHI (INP): In November, a total of 188 illegal Afghan immigrants were detained in District South

Deputy Commissioner South, Capt. (Retd.) Altaf H. Sario informed on Tuesday that District South Police apprehended 72 individuals, while District City Police detained 116 in the period from November 1st to 27th. ubsequently, all detainees were transferred to Haji Camp Lyari. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the ongoing efforts by their office to ensure the provision of necessary facilities in the district. Simultaneously, law enforcement agencies continue conducting search operations to apprehend illegal immigrants.

#### CTD arrests 'Lyari gang war commander' in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) investigation department conducted an operation and claimed to have arrested a 'commander' of the Lyari gang According to the CTD

in charge statement, the arrested accused was identified as Mir Mohammad Bakhsh who is allegedly a commander of the Dashti Waseem group of Lyari gang war and was arrested from the old Golimar area.

The arrested individual is allegedly involved in several gunfights against Sindh police and rangers, meanwhile, also been named in murder, terrorism, and extortion cases in the me-

The accused allegedly took extortion money from the businessman and hotel located in the Pak Colony area of Karachi and was also named for operating a drug

The security personnel also recovered a weapon from his possession during his arrest. Earlier this year, police

and Rangers claimed to have arrested two suspected 'Lyari gang war' members in a joint operation carried out in Karachi's Moach

According to the rangers' spokesman, a joint operation was conducted in Moach goth in which two suspected members of the Lyari Gang war have been

#### Zardari's proposed national govt lacks constitutional legitimacy: Siraj SUKKUR (INP): Ameer

Jamaat-e-Ìslami (JI), that the proposed national government advocated by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) colacks constitutional legitimacy, saying the proposal is designed to perpetuate the dominance of the same feudal and imported technocrats who have held power for decades, thereby preserving the existing status quo.

Speaking at an election convention held at Sirajul Haq has asserted Mehran Cultural Centre on Tuesday, he warned against the victory of former ruling parties in the upcoming elecchairman Asif Zardari tions, asserting that it would signify the defeat of Pakistan.

Sirajul Haq criticized the PML-N's assertion that its leadership would save the country, questioning the track record of those who previously held power.

# Government to conduct fire safety audit of all high rise buildings in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Following the directives of caretaker Chief Minister Sindh, 1122, K Electric and representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and Representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and Representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and Representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and Representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and Representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and Representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and Representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and Representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and Representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and Representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and Representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and Representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and Representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and Representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and Representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and Representations of the Minister Sindh, 1124, K Electric and Representations of the Ministe the Karachi administration has decided to carry out a fire safety audit of high-rise commercial, residential and government buildings in the

A Fire Safety Audit Committee, headed by Commissioner Karachi, has also been constituted to review the ground situation and recommend and take effective measures to prevent fire incidents in highrise buildings in future, said a statement issued here on

Besides all deputy commissioners and Town Municipal Commissioners, officers of Buildings Control Authority, Cantonment Boards, Civil Defense, Pakistan Rangers, Police, Provincial Disaster Managesentatives of SITE and ABAD were appointed as committee members. Commissioner Karachi

Muhammad Salim Rajput while presiding over a meeting in this regard directed and related departments fire safety audits of all highrise buildings situated in their corresponding areas.

meeting that the officers of all relevant departments along with their technical staff and experts will review the fire safety requirements and submit their report to the Commissioner Karachi in 25 days.

According to the terms will inspect all shopping

and commercial as well as residential and government high-rise buildings to review if required automatic fire extinguishers, fire safety mechanisms and emergency fire exit were in place or not.

The committee will also examine if the quality all deputy commissioners of electrical wiring was ensured as per approved and institutions to conduct safety standards or not. The committee has also been directed to check the building plans approved by It was decided in the the Sindh Buildings Control Authority and review its compliance status.

The commissioner said that the fire safety audit reports of all institutions will be reviewed and a consolidated report along with recommendations for fire safety prevention will be of reference, the committee submitted to the CM Sindh in the next 30 days.



KARACHI: Activists of Palestine Foundation holds protest at Tariq Road to show solidarity with the oppressed Muslims of Palestine.

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# Daily Soice of Masse Independent

# Climate resilience

The IMF's advice to Pakistan to use its resources more effectively and efficiently to build a climate-resilient infrastructure and strengthen its ability to attract climate finance is timely. Pakistan is among the countries most vulnerable to the impact of climate change and the authorities are looking for international support to meet their climate finance tar-

Formulating sound public investment policies and aligning them with national climate adaptation and mitigation goals would be a step in the right direction. The Fund wants the next budget to be a "turning point" for planning mechanisms and investment portfolios based on climate adaptation. At the moment, Pakistan's capital stock and efficiency of public investment are low.

The IMF has underscored the need for improving transparency on climate-related actions in the budget documents by providing information on key aspects of the public investment programme.

It wants the Planning Commission, together with the finance ministry, to come up with a proposal that, after approval, can be included in the next budget, and is encouraging the government to publish its climate-related spending for the ongoing fiscal year.

Pakistan has experienced several climate disasters caused by global warming. The World Bank's Country Climate and Development Report has estimated that 6.5-9pc of GDP will likely be lost by 2050 to climate change, unless the challenge to lessen the impact of increased floods and heatwaves, which are reducing farm yields, destroying infrastructure and lowering labour productivity, is addressed.

Last year's devastating floods, which displaced millions of people in the country and wiped out crops and infrastructure worth over \$30bn, sharply demonstrate the need for greater investments in climate-resilient infrastructure.

With temperatures rising and unpredictable rainfall patterns increasing the risk of floods, cyclones, droughts and heatwaves, it is imperative our policymakers formulate sound development policies to mitigate the risk.

Transparent investments based on demonstrable needs in climate-resilient infrastructure are crucial to alleviating the impact of climate change and the increasing natural disasters the country is witnessing.

# The little prince



Finally, there is a twist in the tale and we have some new political stuff to discuss. And for this, one has to thank Asif Ali Zardari (AAZ), whose candidness will allow us to spend a few days away from the usual conjecture over the PTI's fate and PML-N's honeymooning and what it will bring for different members of the Sharif family.

In a surprise interview to Hamid Mir on Geo, which stretched on for two hours, the former president spoke about all things politics, which ranged from the coming election to economic miracles that sugar and agriculture policies can

But as I know very little about the latter, all I could focus on was the political stuff, especially his remarks about his heir and co-chairman. Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari (BBZ). The 30-something, who has been heading this party for 15 years and has travelled the world as foreign minister, needs more training said

The party can try and spin it as much as it wants, but this is a snub, BBZ will not find easy to recover

Indeed, in those remarks lay the basic dilemma of both Maryam Nawaz and BBZ, struggling to grow in the shadow of their respective parents. And it appears the growth simply means being sunflower-like and to keep turning their gaze in the diection of their fathers.

So Maryam blows hot when her father is in trouble and is silent when he is basking in the glory of a fourth victory. That poli-

not allow for periods of fi- aunt, Feryal Talpur on ery leadership followed by ticket distribution. dutiful shadowing, is lost

on all political parties. BBZ has been through similar phases of 'now you see him now you don't', so much so that it has been hard for people to view him as an independent player, even when he gave up his part-timing for full-time politicking. And this image refuses to change because the party continues to treat him like a poster boy rather than the man in charge.

And I say this not because of his father's assertion during the interview that he (AAZ) was the one who would decide the party tickets including the one given to Bilawal but also the manner in which the vote of no confidence played out in 2022. Bilawal led a long march

to Islamabad from Sindh, which was to culminate in the overthrow of Imran Khan. However, once he reached Islamabad, the big three (Shehbaz Sharif, AAZ and Maulana Fazlur Rehman) held a press conference and announced filing the no-confidence motion. And once that was done, few were interested in the speech BBZ gave as his rally reached the capi-

The attention and focus had shifted; if BBZ was really the man around whom the party revolved, this would not have happened.

The more public and direct snub by the father in the Geo interview is simply more of the same, in a way. And as South Asia happens to be a place where the children rarely ever break away from their parents, chances are BBZ will not defy this tradition (the Mughals proved an excep-

But there is a second aspect to the notion that the father and son are not always on the same page. Indeed, it is not a new phenomenon. Back in 2013, it was reported that BBZ had stormed off to Dubai because he didn't see eye to his son in the process.tics and public opinion do eye with his father and his Courtesy Dawn

This time around, it appears AAZ's comments about his son needing more training were partially due to the latter being aggressive and vocal about the facilitation being provided to the PML-N and Nawaz Sharif. While the jury is still out on whether this is a serious rift or simply a good cop bad cop routine (which Hamid Mir brought up), this has to be seen in the larger political context.

The PPP has two distinct views within; while most of those from Sindh are satisfied with the party's focus on palace intrigues, those who were part of the party in Punjab and the few who continue to still be around felt it needed to be more aggressive, especially in confronting the PML-N, the dominant power in the

However, this never became party policy and as a result, the entire anti-PML-N space was captured by the PTI, as Imran Khan proved indefatigable in taking them on. Be it voters or politicians who are not in the PML-N camp, they flocked to the former sportsman and his party.

This lack of aggression is a major reason the PPP stopped being a contender in the province.

However, the voices within the party which wanted BBZ to play a role closer to Khan's were never completely silenced; especially as the party also saw the utility of using this opposition to PML-N whenever needed.

What we witnessed in recent days was perhaps a mix of both the subdued voices within the party plus the cynicism the party has become known for. And for reasons only he is aware of, AAZ decided it was a good moment to send a message to the right quarters by pooh-poohing his own party's stand, embarrassing

# Making sand castles



By Dr Niaz Murtaza

Why have some elements had an odd addiction to making shaky political sand castles that soon collapse? Free polls rejuvenate the political process. Incumbents defend their track record; opponents propose new policy directions and voters decide after hearing both sides. The winners, possessing a credible fresh mandate, tackle state challenges with gusto. Unluckily, polls, being usually rigged, rarely provide such impetus in Pakistan

Out of 15 national referenda and polls held to date, the 2013 one was largely credible as per both the European Union election report and a Supreme Court verdict. Nine were seen to be rigged to the extent of the final outcome being changed, while three were partially rigged to reduce (1998 and 2008) or up (1977) the winner's margin. Arguably, only one was rigged by civilians (1977). We seem destined to have two rigged polls in a row; the extent of the alleged rigging may exceed that in 2018.

Our political landscape is surreal today. None of the parties have presented credible manifestoes to tackle our serious and multifaceted challenges which threaten an economic meltdown. The sole focus is on roping in electables and smaller parties without regard to ideological affinity. The PML-N, the outgoing ruling party, has a head start in this regard. But this is odd given its poor performance

in power and the steady model without a president stream of opinion polls in in uniform which emwhich it lags behind. So, ployed the threat of presione would expect few to align with it given its political liabilities. But defy- in check. Musharraf reing the natural pull of po- cycled Zia's second hybrid litical gravity, political actors are rushing towards it Will this political sand party-based polls. His castle be more sturdy than those made before by the mostly the same reasons as same hands and minds? It is instructive to look

at the different types of political sand castles or hybrid regimes erected over the decades to give the illusion of civilian rule while ruling from behind and the reasons why they fell. Ayub's entire era is usually seen as military rule. But unlike the other three army rulers, he re- prime ministers. In 2018, signed as army chief after and by January 1960 got up our first hybrid regime. sions in civilian ranks. After achieving unsustainable and unequal growth, he fell due to age-related health issues, political unrest against his autocratic models. rule even in the urban areas that benefited most from the unequal growth, economic stagnancy, the the PTI facing a bigger impatience of generals with his long rule, and loss of American support.

Unlike Ayub, Zia ruled for eight years diintroducing our second hybrid regime prototype: a party-less assembly from rigged polls with a president in uniform. While Zia's death formally ended this experiment, it evitable tensions bewas failing even earlier due to tensions between the puppet civilian rulers and the puppet pullers, A divided mandate may resulting in reduced US support, heightened insecurity and apparent impatience in the ranks with his long rule and political unrest, all of which had led Zia to fire his handpicked prime ministers. But Zia's successors within the state quickly invented a third hybrid Berkeley.

dential dismissal of assemblies to keep the civilians model after three years of direct rule but with rigged, system too collapsed for

This was followed by two regimes in 2008 and 2013 that won polls without the establishment's help. Yet, a fourth semihybrid system was soon devised to keep civilian regimes under control and unstable by engineering crises and dharnas and using the judiciary to dismiss many note the third model deposing Iskandar Mirza of poll manipulation was reintroduced, which too elected as president via a fell due to an economic cririgged referendum to set- sis, political unrest and ten-Though the space for the first two models has shrunk, one can't say as much about the two newer

Are attempts being made to manipulate the electoral scene again, with crackdown than the PML-N in 2018? Even a cursory analysis shows that any rigged regime led by the PML-N will face the same rectly in uniform before pressure points and may soon fall

These pressures include age-related health issues of both Sharif brothers, economic turmoil, security threats, and the intween the twin cities, given the elder Sharif's desire for civilian sway. make the system more unstable. Thus, the political stability we desperately need seems elusive in the foreseeable fu-

The writer is a political economist with a PhD degree from the University of California,

# Commerce News

# Pakistan to reaffirm commitment, WB's to support people of Pakistan

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: The World Bank's Regional Vice President for South Asia, Martin Raiser, is in Pakistan to reaffirm the Bank's commitment to support the people of Pakistan. He Time to Decide" banner. launched a series of Policy Notes that outline critical policy shifts required for a productive, sustainable, resilient, and healthy

Pakistan. The policy notes focusing on child stunting, trap with poor human address its acute human fiscal sustainability, private sector growth, energy,

of several months of insufficient country under the "Reforms adaptation," said Martin for a Brighter Future - Raiser.

"Pakistan's economy

public outreach and engagements resources to finance conducted across the development and climate

"It is now time for They are intended to Pakistan to decide whether help inform the public to maintain the patterns of policy dialogue in the the past or take difficult but context of the upcoming crucial steps towards a brighter future.

The policy notes is stuck in a low-growth argue that Pakistan needs to development outcomes and capital crisis—including the increasing poverty. high prevalence of stunting Economic conditions leave and learning poverty—by

agriculture, and climate Pakistan highly vulnerable adopting a coordinated and change—are the culmination to climate shocks, with coherent cross-sectoral approach to basic services involving both provincial and federal governments.

He suggested Pakistan Improve the quality of public spending and take serious measures to expand the revenue base, ensuring that the better off pay their share. The country to Pursue business regulatory and trade reforms and reduce the presence of the state in the economy to increase productivity, competitiveness, and

exports, he said.



Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Dr. Umar Saif in a meeting with the World Bank delegation in Islamabad.

#### **High Commissioner says:** Pak share in \$100billion import market

of South Africa quite negligible FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan's share in the \$100 billion import market of South Africa is quite negligible and the private sector of Pakistan must aggressively penetrate in it under "Look Africa" policy, said Mr. Mthuthuzeli Madikiza, High Commissioner of South Africa.

Addressing the business community in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he said that being an import economy, it offers Pakistan a wide range of products to this market. He said that South Africa is a mineral rich country and Pakistani investors could also avail from this opportunity. He said that Pakistan could export mangoes in lieu of avocado under a barter system but direct contacts between the business communities of two countries are

Responding to a question about law-and-order situation, he said that security issues are similar all over the world. He said that South Africa is more suitable for import and export with other landlocked African countries as it has a well-equipped sea port.

About tourism, he said that the scenic valleys of northern areas of Pakistan are more beautiful than Switzerland but Pakistan should make



KARACHI: Pakistani stockbrokers monitor the share prices during a trading session at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) as The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a historic surge in intraday trade as the benchmark index.

# **NEPRA** holds hearing into KE's distribution, supply licence application

(NEPRA) on Tuesday conducted public hearing into K-Electric (KE's) application for grant of distribution and supply licence for next 20 years which has already expired in July 2023.

The hearing was presided over by Chairman NEPRA Waseem Mukhtar while member Balochistan Mathar Niaz Rana, member Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Engineer Magsood Anwar, member Punjab Ms Amina Ahmed and member Sindh Rafique Ahmad Shaikh were also present.

Briefing the authority, Chief Financial Officer of KE. Muhammad Amir said that the company's

ISLAMABAD (APP): licence had expired in July National Electric Power and they had applied for Regulatory Authority its extension. Six-month its extension. Six-month extension in licence haf been granted by the

authority, he added.

He said that since privatization of KE in 2005, the company showed remarked performance in generation, distribution, reduction in transmission distribution losses.

Some 1,957 megawatt (MW) has been added to the generation system besides reducing T &D losses from 34.2 per cent to 15.3 per cent. The KE had made investment of Rs 474 billion after privatization, he added.

#### Pak delegation | visits Kashgar to explore

cooperation BEIJINĞ (APP): A delegation from Pakistan, led by Nadeem Alam, CEO of Alam Group of Businesses, recently visited the Kashgar Yiwu Shopping Mall Group in Kashgar, China to explore potential collaboration opportunities. Accompanied by Xie Hongjun, Head of Kashgar Yiwu Supply Chain Company, the delegation toured the Kashgar International Procurement Center and the Cross-Border Ecommerce Marketing Department, which provided valuable into insights development prospects of the Kashgar Yiwu Shopping Mall Group

Sharing the future investment plan, he said and the specific the KE would invest Rs i n v e s t m e n distribution and supply 544 billion in generation. I advantages it offers.

# **Business confidence on increase: OICCI survey**

its latest Business Confidence Index Survey (BCI) - Wave 24, the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) unveiled a promising upswing in Pakistan's business confidence. The survey, spanning from October to November 2023, showcases a substantial seven percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): In the preceding wave in its latest Business March-April 2023, said a news release. The survey paints a nuanced picture of business sentiments, with the overall business confidence in Pakistan standing at negative 18 percent, marking a positive shift from the negative 25

percent recorded earlier. The largest increase was recorded in the improvement compared to manufacturing sector at

negative 10 percent followed by the services sector. President OICCI Amir Paracha attributed the improvement in business confidence to "relatively stable macroeconomic indicators, favourable changes in the political and economic landscape which were also supported by some stability in FX rates and a record performance at Pakistan Stock Exchange.

# **IPO-Pakistan, US for** improving IP policies, laws in Pakistan

In a bid to promote intellectual property rights in the country, IPO-Pakistan and US Intellectual Property Counselor for South Asia reaffirm the commitment to carry forward the agenda of improving IP policies. laws and regulations in Pakistan.

This was discussed during a high level visit of the US delegation to IPO-Pakistan Headquarters Islamabad, headed by Mr. John Cabecca, US IP Counselor for South Asia and consisted of Ms. Dong Eun, Zach Bailey and Hamza Khan. While the Pakistani side was led by Mr. Farukh Amil, Chair IPO. Ms. Shazia Adnan, Director General and of two more has been senior management of IPO- granted.

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan were also present in the meeting.
Chair IPO-Pakistan

briefed the delegation about the measurements taken by IPO-Pakistan for the promotion of IPRs. He said that IPO-

Pakistan believes that Patents, Trademarks and Copyrights had an important role in economic growth and development and in this regard it has already taken a number of initiatives to improve the IPR regime in the country.

Regarding the establishment of IP tribunals in the country, the Chair IPO informed the US delegation that two new IP tribunals have been established in Quetta and Rawalpindi and approval

# **ICCI organizes ceremony** to commemorate 67th

The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Tuesday organized a ceremony to commemorate 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pakistan Movement Leader Maulana Zafar Ali Khan.

Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Syed Federal Minister Dr. Tariq release issued here.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Fazal Chaudhry were the chief guests. Islamabad Bar Council Vice Chairman Raja Aleem Khan Abbasi, National Press Club Secretary Finance, Nayar Ali and others addressed the ceremony and paid tributes to Maulana Zafar Ali Khan for his outstanding services for the Pakistan Jamal Shah and former Movement, said a press

# Governor urges students not to become tool of such people who spread hatred

**Independent Report** LAHORE: A delegation of students and teachers from Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Jammu &Kashmir (Caravan of Goodwill and National Unity) under the auspices of the Idara- i -Nazria- i- Pakistan called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore, here today. During the meeting, Senior Vice-Chairman of Idara

Salman Farooq, Secretary Idara-i- Nazria-i- Pakistan, Naheed Imran Gill, Secretary Idara-i- Nazriai- Pakistan, Muhammad Saifullah Chaudhry, Mr. Usman Ahmed and Pakistan Forum Peshawar, a tool of such people who Malik Liaquat Ali Tabsem. were also present.

Rehman said that Pakistan Nazria Pakistan; Mian is an ideological state that most philanthropic nation Farooq Altaf, Member came into existence under in the world. He said that

living in Pakistan are equal citizens of Pakistan and have equal rights.

He said that we have promote love and discourage hatred. He urged President of Nazria-i- the students not to become spread hatred. Governor Punjab said that there are Talking on this many positive things in occasion, Governor Punjab Pakistan. He said that it is under goodwill and Muhammad Balighur a matter of great pride that Pakistani nation is the unique in the sense that

Board of Governors; Mian the two-nation theory. He there are institutions like said that all minorities Akhuwat and Edhi Foundation, adding that Pakistan is better than many countries of the

> Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that people and delegations from different walks of life keep visiting the Governor's House, but the delegation national unity caravan is it is comprised of four



LAHORE: A delegation of students and teachers from various provinces (Caravan of Goodwill and National Unity) under the auspices of the Idara-i-Nazria-i- Pakistan in a group photo with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam inaugurates central library in Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Shringal Dir Bala.

# CM envisions economic triumph as historic agreements with UAE unveil new era of partnership

**Independent Repor** 

Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi affirms that the historic agreements between Pakistan and the UAE are poised to bolster the economy, elevating mutual relations to unprecedented heights. In He applauded the economic stability in his message from the United Arab Emirates, Naqvi anticipated positive effects soon as the implementation of these agreements takes effect, signaling the commencement of a new economic cooperation.

Tuesday, the Pakistani Minister

Arab Emirates, Sheikh

Prime Minister of Pakistan era of economic and acknowledged the praiseworthy role played by the Army Chief in facilitating significant agreements. historical a Highlighting the relations

Naqvi time.

delegation experienced a emphasized that the warm reception in the UAE's investment will UAE, with a special diversify into key sectors welcome extended to them. such as energy, port Chief Minister Naqvi operations, wastewater deemed the meeting with the President of the United banking, and financial services. This substantial Mohammed bin Zayed Al investment is anticipated Nahyan, as highly valuable. to pave the way for commendable efforts of the Pakistan, heralding a new partnership between the

these underscored the enduring historical and brotherly transformative impact of Pakistan and the UAE, According to a the investment agreements asserting that these ties handout issued here on on mutual relations, Chief have withstood the test of

Chief Minister Naqvi

two nations.

# CM KP decides to involve NAB in project cycle

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Urban Mobility Authority

(KPUMA) held here at

Chief Minister's House on

administrative secretaries

Caretaker Provincial

PESHAWAR (APP): As an Board of Directors of only ensure transparency important step to make the officials working in development projects more confident as well as to ensure the completion of projects in a timely and transparent manner, Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice ® Syed Arshad Hussain Shah has decided involve representatives in project cycle including conception, planning and execution of development projects.

quarters concerned to send a formal letter to the higher authority of NAB in this

of concerned departments, DIG Traffic Police, MD KPUMA, CEO Trans Peshawar and other board members attended the

Tuesday.

Najeeb

Touching upon the He directed the need and importance of the decision regarding the involvement of NAB representatives in the project cycle, the chief He was presiding minister said that the projects within over the 15th meeting of the whole exercise will not stipulated timelines"

in the development works but also give confidence to the working officers resultantly, they will not feel any hesitation and fear regarding implementation of the projects.

Minister for ST&IT Dr The chief minister directed that all matters related to development projects should be kept fair and transparent in all respects from the very beginning so that implementation of projects is not delayed due to fear of accountability in the future.

"This process will help to ensure the completion of development

# Minister advocates prudent resource use, focus on higher education, cost efficiency

PESHAWAR (APP): During a recent session of the Peshawar Public School and College Board of Governors, Provincial Minister for Elementary, Secondary and Higher Education, Dr Muhammad Qasim Jan, emphasized the necessity of improving educational institutions' performance within limited

He highlighted the importance of a strategic plan to reduce unnecessary expenses and endorsed an austerity policy.

The minister stressed the need to prioritize higher education for youth and suggested the implementation of contract-based and fixed-pay recruitments after the retirement of employees in model schools and colleges.

Tough decisions were deemed essential to address budgetary challenges. At the meeting, the Board of Governors decided to revise the fee structure for Peshawar Public School and College's students. The new monthly fees were established at Rs 3,820 for nursery to fifth grade, Rs 4,250 for sixth to tenth grade, and Rs 7,150 for eleventh and twelfth grade.

Additionally, a 25% ad-hoc relief for Grades 1 to 16 and a 20% ad-hoc relief for Grade 17 and above employees.

# **UNICEF** offers aid package to 105 schools in flood affected areas

uplift education in the the Literacy Department. aftermath of floods, the United International Children's Emergency Fund books, notebooks, solar (UNICEF) has delivered a panels, fans, batteries, and transformative aid package to 105 schools across the district. The assistance includes an array of essentials such as books, solar panels, and various other articles vital for also to create a conducive bolstering infrastructure.

District Literacy Officer Muhammad Abu Bakar Siddique, talking to APP expressed the ongoing commitment to advancing education and enhancing literacy levels in Rajanpur.

Siddique fervently urged parents to actively participate in this initiative 23,680 students.

RAJANPUR (APP): In a by enrolling their children laudable endeavour to in schools operating under Highlighting recent

Nations initiatives, UNICEF's distribution of school bags, sports equipment would surely facilitate the kids. This comprehensive support aims not only to restore normalcy in the learning environment but atmosphere for educational growth, he added. Providing a snapshot of the educational landscape in Rajanpur, Siddique revealed that 825 schools are currently operating

under the auspices of the Literacy Department. This educational lifeline caters to the aspirations of

# Govt making efforts to promote culture, tourism of KP: Shah

PESHAWAR Provincial Minister for Information and Tourism, Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel here Tuesday stated that the government was making incessant efforts to promote culture, tourism and project the natural beauty of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He added that the day is not far when tourists from around the world would visit KP to witness its beauty

(APP): throughout the year. He addressed painting exhibition, culture showcase, and art display organized by the Department of Art and Design at the University of Peshawar in collaboration with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA) for students of merged districts, providing opportunities to showcase

their work

# International News

# Truce between Israel and Hamas extended for two days

GAZA STRIP, Palestinian Territories (AFP/APP): A truce between Israel and Hamas will be extended by two days, mediator Qatar said hours before the pause was due to end Tuesday, as more hostages were freed from Gaza in exchange for the release of dozens of Palestinian prison-

"The Palestinian and Israeli sides have reached an agreement to extend the humanitarian pause in Gaza for two additional days under the same conditions," Qatar's foreign ministry said in a statement on X, formerly Twit-

Militant group Hamas also confirmed the extension, though there was no official word from Israel.

The extension came as 11 more hostages were freed from Gaza, along with the release of another 33 Palestinian prisoners—the last exchange under the existing deal. The extension of the truce was welcomed internationally, with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres calling it "a glimpse of hope and humanity in the middle

of the darkness of war"

The truce has paused fighting that began when Hamas militants poured over the border into Israel, killing 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and kidnapping dozens, according to Israeli officials.

Israel's retaliatory ground and air operation in Gaza has killed almost 15,000 people, mostly civilians, ac-

cording to the territory's Hamas government.

Late Monday, 11 hostages arrived in Israel, the

country's military said. "Our forces will accompany them until they are re-united with their families," it said in a statement, adding that the military "salutes and embraces the released hos-

tages upon their return home" Most of the group are dual nationals, with Argentinians, Germans and French among those released, and all 11 were from the Nir Oz kibbutz, the community said. The releases brought "a sigh of relief to our commu-

nity, however we remain deeply concerned about our loved ones that are still held hostage," kibbutz official Osnat Peri said.

Images released by the Israeli military showed French-Israeli child Eitan Yahalomi reunited with his mother, ho gripped him tightly to her. Shortly after the arrival of the hostages was con-

firmed, Israel's prison authority said 33 Palestinian inmates had been released.

In east Jerusalem, prisoner Muhammad Abu Al-Humus called his release "an indescribable joy" and kissed his mother's hand as he entered his home while crowds in the West Bank town of Beitunia waved green Hamas flags to greet those arriving on a



ABU DHABI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visiting the Sheikh Zayd Grand Mosque



ASTANA: Chinese Vice Prime Minister Ding Xuexiang meeting with Kazakhstan President Kasym-Jomart Tokayev

# **APHC** expresses concern over detainees' plight in jails

ference (APHC) has expressed concern over the plight of illegally detained Hurriyat leaders and activists, languishing in notorious jails of India and occupied Jammu and Kashmir for the past many years.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar de-

forces in nook and corner of the occupied territory in the garb of cordon and search operations and said that more than four thou- tant dream of Indian fascist sand leaders and activists regime since its illegal ocbelonging to the Kashmir resistance movement had been put behind bars on baseless charges.

arrests as the worst example

SRINAGAR (INP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conspree launched by Indian spokesman said that such repressive policies were aimed at changing the freedom narrative of Kashmir which had remained a discupation of the territory in 1947. The spokesman hailed the steadfastness and valour of the illegally de-Terming the arbitrary tained Hurriyat leaders and

# Iran's Raisi in Turkey to forge joint response to Gaza war

ANKARA (AFP/ APP):Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi makes his first official visit to Turkey on Tuesday, hoping to pa-per over past differ-ences and forge a forceful joint response to Israel's actions in

Gaza. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has emerged as one of the Muslim world's most vocal critics of Israel's onslaught on Gaza in response to Hamas October 7 attack.

He has branded Israel a "terrorist state" and called Hamas "a liberation

group".
Erdogan has also suggested trying Israeli politicians and military commanders in the International Criminal Court in the

Hague. But past meetings between Muslim and Arab leaders—including talks this month Rivadh—have failed to find common

ground over what immediate economic and political steps to take.

Analysts believe that Raisi will pressure Turkey to move past the rhetoric and cut its blossoming trade and energy relations with Israel. "Iran expects Tur-

key to end its direct and indirect trade with Israel.' Istanbul's Centre for Iranian Studies director Hakki Uygur told

AFP.
"Turkey, on the other hand, has taken an attitude that cares about separating political and commercial issues." According to Gaza's Hamas-led government, nearly 15,000 people—mostly civilians and 15,000 including thousands of children—have died since Israel began to retaliate for Hamas's unprecedented cross-border attacks in which Is-

rael says 1,200 people

# N.Korea defends satellite launch at UN as Kim takes images of White House At the Security Coun-sertion it was acting in self-

United States (AFP/APP):North Korea's ambassador made a rare appearance at the UN Security Council on Monday to defend his country's launch of a spy satellite, as leader Kim Jong Un studied images including of the White House and Pentagon.

Western powers, Japan and South Korea have said North Korea violated Security Council resolutions by launching the satellite last

The totalitarian state has said that its new eye in the sky has already provided images of major US and South Korean military sites, as well as photos of the Italian capital Rome.

On Monday it took "in detail" images of the White House and the Pentagon in Washington, according to state-run KCNA news agency, which said Kim was reviewing the photos.

He also counted some aircraft carriers at a military base and a shipyard in the neighbouring state of Virginia, the report said.

cil, North Korea's ambassador to the United Nations, Kim Song, complained that other countries faced no restrictions on satellites.

'No other nation in the world is in the security environment as critical as the DPRK," said Kim, using the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Ko-

"One belligerent party, the United States, is threatening us with a nuclear weapon," he said. "It is a legitimate right for the DPRK as another

belligerent party to develop, test, manufacture and possess weapons systems equivalent to those that the United States possesses or is developing."

He mocked US charges that satellite technology also helped North Korea hone its missile capacity, questioning whether the United States put satellites into orbit "with a catapult."

The US ambassador, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, rejected North Korea's as-

defence and said that joint US-South Korean exercises were "routine" and 'defensive in nature.'

"We intentionally reduce risk and pursue transparency by announcing the exercises in advance including the dates and the activities, unlike the DPRK," she said, adding that the drills did not violate Security Council resolutions.

South Korea's spy agency said that Russia. eager for assistance in Ukraine, helped North Korea on the satellite following a summit between Kim and President Vladimir Putin.

The United States said last month that North Korea has delivered more than 1.000 containers of military equipment and munitions to Russia.

Russia and China. North Korea's main allies, have put forward a resolution, opposed by the United States, to ease sanctions on Pyongyang as part of an effort to encourage dialogue

# President calls for national policy to address mental health issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday emphasized the need for formulation of a national policy to address the mental health issues as 24% population of the country was suffering from various mental health prob-

He stressed upon an institutional framework and public-private partnership to provide mental health services to the

The president expressed these views while chairing a follow-up meeting at the Aiwan-e-Sadr on mental health in Pakistan, the President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press

A detailed presentation by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordinatal Health App "Humraaz"

April 2023.

The meeting was attended by Caretaker Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr Nadeem Jan and representatives of the National Commission for Human Rights, the World Health Organization, and senior government of-

provincial health departments, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan Psychiatric Society, Taskeen Health Initiative, Pakistan Psychological Association, Pakistani American Psychiatric Association of North America, British Pakistani Psychiatrists Association, and other organizations working on mental health attended the meeting via video

ceived since its launch in viding mental health assistance and counselling services to the people in need.

He called for improving the effectiveness of the Humraaz app, besides strengthening the mental health support system in the country

He highlighted that mental health was a major concern for Pakistan which required coordinated efforts Representatives of the by both the public and private sectors to utilize their

He further emphasized the need for an integrated approach on all mental health-related programmes and initiatives to effectively address the mental health challenge being faced by the

President Alvi stressed upon the need for the capacity building of human resources, besides provid-

Jaffar Express rams

into tractor-trolley

at Sukkur crossing

SUKKUR (INP): The movement of trains re-

mained suspended after

Jaffar Express narrowly

escaped a disaster near

Mando Dero in Sukkur

According to the rail-

vay officials, a tractor trol-

ley, loaded with sugarcane,

suddenly appeared before

the train on, heading from

Karachi to Punjab, at a rail

crossing. And despite the

fact that the driver applied

emergency brakes, the train

slammed into the trolley.

Fortunately, no one was

hurt in the accident. Later,

heavy machinery was used

16th Int'l Urdu

Conference from

November 30

KARACHI (INP): The

16th International urdu

Conference by the Arts

Council of Pakistan Karachi

These dates were an-

early Tuesday morning.



A high level delegation led by Liu Jianming Deputy Party Secretary, Deputy Political Comissar of Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps met with the Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Mr. Madad Ali Sindhi, Islamabad.

# PM pays tribute to UAE's national heroes at Wahat Al Karama monument

ABU DHABI (United Arab Emirates) (APP): :Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday visited the martyrs memorial of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Abu Dhabi and paid tribute to the national

The prime minister laid a wreath at 'Wahat Al Karama', the national and cultural monument, meaning the oasis of dignity, to commemorate the Emiratis who laid their lives in the

of Development and Mar- of the UAE that enriched the tyrs Families Affairs, culture of tolerance and peace Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan briefed PM Kakar called late Sheikh Zayed's about the monument as an close relationship with

The prime minister was presented with a static guard of honour on

Later, PM Kakar went on a tour across the memorial and penned his expressions in the visitor book placed on the pre-

Online adds: The Prime Minister commenced his visit by offering fateha at the mausoleum of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and recalled visionary leader-Chairman of the Office ship of the Founding Father Theyab bin ful coexistence among various nations of the world. He reicon to highlight the great sacrifices of national he-

# **Smuggled items worth** Rs120mln confiscated

pees were confiscated during joint operation of Rangers

garding presence of smuggled goods, the Sindh Rangers

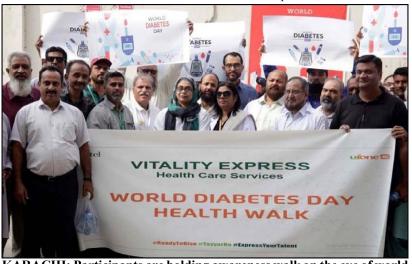
and Customs raided a godown. During joint operations, 12 trucks of smuggled items including Iranian blankets, confectionary items and other

edibles were confiscated. The recovered smuggled items valued Rs120 million in Pakistani market.

The customs sealed the godown and started raids to arrested the elements involved in smuggling.

#### will be held from November 30 to December 3 at the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi. in joint operation nounced by the President KARACHI (INP): Smuggled items worth millions of ruof the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi in a press and Customs in Baldia Yousaf Goth conference held regarding According to details, on an intelligence tip-off rethe 16 Almi Urdu Confer-

Eminent poet Iftikhar Arif, Senior Journalist Ghazi Salahuddin, Author Noor ul Huda Shah, Qudsia Akbar and Secretary Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi Aijaz Farooqi were also present on the occasion.



KARACHI: Participants are holding awareness walk on the eve of world Diabetes Day organized by telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) in

## Speakers underscore media role in educating masses on global climate debate

ISLAMABAD (APP): eign Office Spokesperson, The speakers at a Ambassador Mumtaz Zahra The speakers at a Ambassador Mumtaz Zahra roundtable discussion on Baloch and Secretary, Minthe climate change and role of media on Tuesday underscored the media's role as crucial in educating the masses on the climate debate taking place at the global

The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at Studies Islamabad (ISSI), Change and the Role of Media", a news release said. The keynote Speaker at the of the Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change (CSCCC), Aisha Khan, For- influence in shaping public for complacency

istry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Asif Hyder Shah were

speakers. Director CSP, Dr. Neelum Nigar in her introductory remarks stated that the acknowledgment of the Institute of Strategic Pakistan's pivotal role in COP-27, particularly in the organized a Round Table establishment of the Loss discussion on "Climate and Damage Fund, underscores the country's proactive stance on this global issue. In this context, the role event was Chief Executive of media was pivotal in the global discourse on climate change, acknowledging its

perceptions, policy priorities, and advocacy en-deavors. In his welcome address, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted among the prominent the escalating seriousness of climate change, noting that it was already acknowledged as an "existential threat" for humanity. He recalled that the UN Secretary-General had recently pointed to the shift from "global warming" to "global boiling," and had underscored the need for immediate, dramatic action to handle the climate crisis. In the wake of this global warming trajectory, Pakistan faced severe impacts which left no room awareness about mental health issues to educate the people about the importance of seeking mental

health counselling.
The role of the family in providing psychological support and helping manage health issues was also highlighted.

During the meeting, the need for collective measures and an integrated approach involving various stakeholders, including relevant ministries, Pakistani psychiatric associations based in the United States and the United Kingdom, and civil society was also stressed



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi chairing a meeting on mental health issues in Pakistan, at

# **USAID** convenes dialogue on PPPs for enhanced municipal services

KARACHI (INP): The United States government through U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) joined Ĥisaar Foundation for the 6th Karachi International Water Conference.

The theme "Bring Water Back to Climate Discourse" held on November 27-28 focused on water-related disasters, their fundamental role in the global climate emergency, and the need for collective action to mitigate the damaging impacts of climate change. Experts and thought-leaders working on water, climate, food and livelihood security came together to discuss the challenges and ways forward. USAID's Water Gover-

LAHORE (INP): Senior

Vice President Pakistan

Muslim League-Nawaz

(PML-N), Maryam Nawaz

on Tuesday assured the

vouth and minorities for of-

fering a chance for bringing

them to forefront of politics

heading a session partici-

pated by members and offi-

cials of Muslim Students Federation (MSF) and mi-

She remarked this while

Regarding general elec-

Karachi

in next election.

nority wing.

implemented by Health and Nûtrition Society (HANDS) organized a panel discussion on "Synergizing Growth: Public Private Partnership Redefining Municipal Services." The session emphasized the significance of Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in enhancing municipal services. The discussion explored collaboration opportunities and effective models, bringing together experts from relevant sectors to exchange insights and best practices.

There is a pressing need for comprehensive, inclusive, and transparent frameworks ensuring equitable distribution, conservation, and efficient man-

Maryam assures youth, minorities of

offering chance in next elections

Nawaz expressed satisfac-

tion over the performances

of the MSF and minority

wing. During the meeting, it

was decided to accelerate

the election activities across

the country and also to mo-

bilize the youth in the four

provinces including the fed-

eration, Gilgit-Baltistan and

Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

increase the role of youth

and minorities in politics

while mentioning that the

youth are the capital of the

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami Karachi chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman addresing

1777 will serve as a one-

stop resource for persons

with disabilities, providing

comprehensive information

and guidance on NADRA's

services, including the

home-based NIC issuance

حماعتاسلامي

tions to be held on February 08, 2024, Maryam country and their development will lead to the strength culture.

She said, "PML-N will

sources," Rachel Grant, USAID Regional Office Director said while addressing the closing ceremony. "Clean water, proper sanitation, and hygiene are crucial to eradicating malnutrition. Our collective commitment to confronting these challenges head-on is so important for the health and well-being of our chil-

tive commitment to confronting these challenges head-on and highlighted the United States' continued commitment to fostering a resilient and thriving future for the people of Pakistan and mentioned that the outcomes will not only bolster the efforts of the Governnance for Sindh Activity agement of water re- ment of Pakistan but also

progress of the country.

Maryam also claimed that under the leadership of

the PML-N supremo

Nawaz Sharif, the country

would take a positive turn

Sharif wanted the youth to

be the vanguard of political activities in the general elec-

tions as they youth would

be the future leaders while

highlighting that the active

role of the minorities in the

election activities would

strengthen the democratic

arachi

She said that Nawaz

towards the prosperity.

contribute to the upcoming World Water Forum and discussions at COP28 in The critical role of safe water supply and the demand for efficient and sus-

ternative avenue to meet these demands, fostering She praised the colleccollaboration between the

public sector and private USAID in collaboration with the Sindh government has already pioneered successful PPPs through its Education Management Organizations model introduced through the USAID

tainable municipal services

has reached unprecedented

levels. Rapid urbanization

further underscored the im-

portance of PPPs as an al-

gram, where modern USAID-built schools are being managed by private sector organisations contracted by the government. This has received positive feedback from various stakeholders and other provinces have shown keen interest in replicating the success. Effective water governance and sustainable water resource management stand at the heart of social development. Whether it's managing clean drinking water, water distribution for agriculture and industry, or operationalizing systems for effective wastewater disposal, the approach to these water-related issues

will shape the foundation



KARACHI: Caretaker Home Minister Brig (Retd) Khan Tessori at Governor House

#### ADB approves \$180 mln for water supply improvement, solid waste management

ISLAMABAD (APP): "This project will The Asian Development help make municipal Bank (ADB) has approved a \$180 million loan to improve water supply and solid waste management services in Rawalpindi and Bahawalpur cities of

many as 1.5 million people, the Developing Resilient Environments Advancing Municipal Services in Punjab Project will curtail excessive groundwater extraction and environment degradation by expanding and modernizing urban water supply in Rawalpindi and solid waste management systems in Bahawalpur, according to ADB press statement

Punjab province.

services in these two cities more sustainable, resilient, and less carbon-intensive, said ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeniy Zhukov.

ab province. "By helping to Expected to benefit as deliver reliable water supply and improving waste management, we expect to significantly improve the lives of people Rawalpindi Bahawalpur," Zhukov added. In Rawalpindi, the project will help build new surface water intakes and a water treatment plant with a capacity of 54 million liters a day. It will lay transmission distribution pipes to serve 82,000 households with received here on Tuesday. metered connections.

#### Aerial firing incident occurred outside residence ex-MPA

KARACHI (INP): An incident of aerial firing occurred outside the residence of former Member of the Provincial Assembly (MPA) Abdul Rasheed of Jamat-e-Islami in Lyari-Bihar Colony on Tuesday, causing panic in the area. Fortunately, no casualties were reported.

According to the City District Police spokesperson, the incident appears to be an act of intimidation. Upon receiving information about the incident, SHO Chakiwara and a police team immediately rushed to the scene.

Preliminary investigations revealed that aerial firing took place in the street where the former MPA resides. However, no bullet marks were found on the walls of his residence or any other surrounding structures.

Police recovered two 9mm pistol shells from the spot and seized them as evidence. They are also examining CCTV footage from the area to identify the suspects. A report has been filed based on the statement of the former



MOHENJO DARO: Students and teachers of Aror University Sukkur visiting and express keen interest in the historical ruins of the World Heritage Monuments of Mohanjodaro

#### **NDRA** launches Rupee gains special helpline for disable persons

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a launched Special Helpline significant move to enhance accessibility and convenience for people with disabilities, the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has introduced a dedicated helpline and a home-based identity card issuance ser-

This initiative will make the process of obtaining a national identity card (NIC) seamless and hasslefree for individuals with disabilities, a public relations officer talking to APP on uesday said.

process. The dedicated staff will be available to assist callers with any queries or concerns they may The home-based NIC

issuance service will cater to individuals with disabilities who are unable to visit NADRA registration centers due to mobility or other He said that the newly physical limitations.

#### Fines of Rs.0.5 million imposed on 98 illegal profiteers KARACHI (APP):During

ongoing campaign against illegal profiteering and hoarding, the city administration, Tuesday, imposed fines of Rs.508,000 on 98 shopkeepers and vendors found involved in overpricing of essential

The Commissioner Karachi, Muhammad Saleem Rajput, vowed to continue the campaign against illegal profiteers and hoarders and directed officers concerned to ensure the availability of essential items of daily use at official rates to citizens, said a statement issued

In various actions in different areas of Karachi, fines of Rs.138,000 were imposed on 21 grocery stores, penalties amountposed on 18 poultry shops and 14 meat sellers were fined with Rs.31,000. According to the dis-

trict-wise details, fines of Rs.79,000 were collected from 13 illegal profiteers in district South. Fines amounting to Rs.60,500 were imposed on 10 profiteers District East while fines of Rs.36,500 were imposed on 16 shopkeepers in District West. In district Central fines

of Rs.186,000 were imposed on 17 illegal profiteers, in district Malir 25 shopkeepers involved in overpricing were fined Rs.18,000 and in District Korangi fines Rs.107,000 were imposed on 8 shopkeepers while in district Keamari 9 profiteers were fined Rs 21500.

#### 12 paisa against Dollar ISLAMABAD (APP):

Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday gained 12 paisa against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 285.52 against the previous day's closing at Rs

according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 285.7 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by 33 paisa to close at Rs312.39 against the last day's closing of Rs312.72, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen gained one paisa to close at Rs1.92; whereas an increase of 08 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound.

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah printed at Dhoom Printing Press Building No. RY/9/11/6X11/7, Mashoor Mahal, Off: I. I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi and Published from Room # 44, 3rd Floor, Handicraft Building, Abdullah Haroon Road, Saddar, Karachi Cell No. 0300-3898091 E-mail: dailyindkhi@gmail.com, khi.editor@gmail.com