

# Independent

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has remarked 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 hearing former president Pervez Musharraf appeal against his sentence Tuesday.

Hamid Khan presented written arguments against 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 in his arguments.

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

Martial law legal should also be tried.

He further remarked why the action was taken on November 3 steps. The action will be taken in regard to attack on judges on November 3 then question of fair trial will rise. Was attacking the judges more grave matter than suspending the constitution and dissolving assemblies. We should speak the truth. If any decision 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 Jillani decision comes.



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 of 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

## Sindh CM orders clearing of Badin Bus Stop encroachments

HYDERABAD (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar on Tuesday visited the Badin bus stop in Hyderabad.

He was accompanied by the minister for local government Mubeen Jumani on this occasion.

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 across ten acres of land.

The chief minister stated that encroachments at the Badin bus stop should be removed immediately, and a report 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 provincial minister Mubeen Jumani will continue to oversee the progress of this bus stand project."

## 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 anniversary of the CPEC this year is a new starting point from which a new journey to build an "upgraded version" of the corridor highlighting 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 community with a shared future for mankind.

He expressed these views after performing the inauguration of three-day PropTech Convention & BuildAsia Expo, an international exhibition and conference along with Governor of Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, and CG of the United Arab Emirates in 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 Chinese and Pakistani engineers and workers who have devoted their talents and hard work, even sacrificed 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 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 Silk Road, he added.



KARACHI: Consul General of China in Karachi Yang Yundong, Consul 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 Center.

## Smog: Govt advises public to wear face masks

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqar called on the public to ensure the use of face masks amid Karachi's worsening 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 concomitant 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 pollution levels.

Punjab, especially Lahore which has repeatedly topped the air quality 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 remains till the season's end, experts said.

## Pakistan fully committed to eradicate polio virus: PM

ABU DHABI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday appreciated the Gates Foundation's support to the government's efforts to secure a polio-free Pakistan and reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to rid the country of the debilitating virus.

The caretaker prime minister received a telephone call from Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) this evening to discuss progress in the ongoing efforts to eradicate polio from Pakistan.

The prime minister is currently on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the telephone call, the prime minister and Gates followed up on their discussion in New York when they met on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly session in September. In this regard, the caretaker prime minister briefed Gates on the polio vaccination drive currently in progress across Pakistan.

Prime Minister Kakar assured Gates that the Government of Pakistan was fully committed to delivering on the promise of a healthier, safer and financially inclusive Pakistan and counted on reliable partners such as the BMGF in this endeavour.



KARACHI: Peoples Labour Breau Sindh President Habib Uddin Junaidi along with other cutting cake during ceremony in connection with 56th Foundation Day

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

KARACHI (APP): Following the directives of caretaker Chief Minister Sindh, the Karachi administration has decided to carry out a fire safety audit of high-rise commercial, residential and government buildings in the metropolis.

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 high-rise buildings in future, said a statement issued here on Tuesday.

Besides all deputy commissioners and Town Municipal Commissioners, officers of Buildings Control Authority, Cantonment Boards, Civil Defense, Pakistan Rangers, Police, Provincial Disaster Management Authority, KMC, KDA, MDA, Rescue 1122, K Electric and representatives of SITE and ABAD were appointed as committee members.

Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Salim Rajput while presiding over a meeting in this regard directed all deputy commissioners and related departments and institutions to conduct fire safety audits of all high-rise buildings situated in their corresponding areas.

It was decided in the 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 of reference, the committee will inspect all shopping

malls, shopping centers, 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 of electrical wiring was ensured as per approved safety standards or not. The committee has also been directed to check the building plans approved by 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 submitted to the CM Sindh in the next 30 days.

## PM arrives in Kuwait on two-day official visit

KUWAIT (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday arrived here on a two-day official visit to meet the Kuwaiti leadership.

Upon his arrival at the airport, Kuwait's Minister for Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr Jassim Mohammed Abdullah Al-Ostad received the prime minister, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Pakistan Ambassador to Kuwait Malik Muhammad Farooq and other senior diplomatic officials were also present on the occasion.

During his visit, the Caretaker Prime Minister will meet Crown Prince of 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 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 arrival.

## 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 218(3) of the Constitution, the Election Commission 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 video message.

## 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, subsequently, 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 war.

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 den.

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 Goth.

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 arrested.

## Zardari's proposed national govt lacks constitutional legitimacy: Siraj

SUKKUR (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Sirajul Haq has asserted that the proposed national government advocated by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Zardari lacks 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 Mehran Cultural Centre on Tuesday, he warned against the victory of former ruling parties in the upcoming elections, asserting that it would signify the defeat of Pakistan.

Sirajul Haq criticized that its leadership would save the country, questioning the track record of those who previously held power.



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



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

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: A delegation of students and teachers from Sindh, 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 Nazria Pakistan, Mian Farooq Altaf, Member

Board of Governors, Mian Salman Farooq, Secretary Idara-i-Nazria-i-Pakistan, Naheed Imran Gill, Secretary Idara-i-Nazria-i-Pakistan, Muhammad Saifullah Chaudhry, Mr. Usman Ahmed and President of Nazria-i-Pakistan Forum Peshawar, Malik Liaquat Ali Tabsem, were also present. Talking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Pakistan is an ideological state that came into existence under

the two-nation theory. He said that all minorities living in Pakistan are equal citizens of Pakistan and have equal rights. He said that we have to promote love and discourage hatred. He urged the students not to become a tool of such people who spread hatred. Governor Punjab said that there are many positive things in Pakistan. He said that it is a matter of great pride that Pakistani nation is the most philanthropic nation in the world. He said that

there are institutions like Akhuwat and Edhi Foundation, adding that Pakistan is better than many countries of the world. Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that people and delegations from different walks of life keep visiting the Governor's House, but the delegation under goodwill and national unity caravan is unique in the sense that it is comprised of four provinces.



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 Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab 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 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 era of economic cooperation. According to a handout issued here on Tuesday, the Pakistani

delegation experienced a warm reception in the UAE, with a special welcome extended to them. Chief Minister Naqvi deemed the meeting with the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, as highly valuable. He applauded the commendable efforts of the Prime Minister of Pakistan and acknowledged the praiseworthy role played by the Army Chief in facilitating these significant agreements. Highlighting the transformative impact of the investment agreements on mutual relations, Chief Minister Naqvi

emphasized that the UAE's investment will diversify into key sectors such as energy, port operations, wastewater treatment, food security, banking, and financial services. This substantial investment is anticipated to pave the way for economic stability in Pakistan, heralding a new era of economic partnership between the two nations. Chief Minister Naqvi underscored the enduring historical and brotherly relations between Pakistan and the UAE, asserting that these ties have withstood the test of time.

## CM KP decides to involve NAB in project cycle

**PESHAWAR (APP):** As an 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 to involve NAB representatives in project cycle including conception, planning and execution of development projects. He directed the quarters concerned to send a formal letter to the higher authority of NAB in this regard. He was presiding over the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the

Board of Directors of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Urban Mobility Authority (KPUMA) held here at Chief Minister's House on Tuesday. Caretaker Provincial Minister for ST&IT Dr Najeem Ullah, administrative secretaries of concerned departments, DIG Traffic Police, MD KPUMA, CEO Trans Peshawar and other board members attended the meeting. Touching upon the need and importance of the decision regarding the involvement of NAB representatives in the project cycle, the chief minister said that the whole exercise will not

only ensure transparency 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. 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 projects within the stipulated timelines".

## 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 resources. 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.

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

**RAJANPUR (APP):** In a laudable endeavour to uplift education in the aftermath of floods, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has delivered a 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 bolstering school 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

by enrolling their children in schools operating under the Literacy Department. Highlighting recent initiatives, UNICEF's distribution of school bags, books, notebooks, solar panels, fans, batteries, and sports equipment would surely facilitate the kids. This comprehensive support aims not only to restore normalcy in the learning environment but also to create a conducive 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 23,680 students.

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

**PESHAWAR (APP):** 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

throughout the year. He addressed a 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

**GAZASTRIP, 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 prisoners. "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 Twitter. 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-

ording 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 reunited with their families," it said in a statement, adding that the military "salutes and embraces the released hostages 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 community, 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, who gripped him tightly to her. Shortly after the arrival of the hostages was confirmed, Israel's prison authority said 33 Palestinian inmates had been released. In east Jerusalem, prisoner Muhammad Abu Al-Humud 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 coach.



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



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

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

**SRINAGAR (INP):** The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (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-

nounced the unabated arrest spree launched by Indian forces in nook and corner of the occupied territory in the garb of cordon and search operations and said that more than four thousand leaders and activists belonging to the Kashmir resistance movement had been put behind bars on baseless charges. Terming the arbitrary arrests as the worst example

of political vendetta, the spokesman said that such repressive policies were aimed at changing the freedom narrative of Kashmir, which had remained a distant dream of Indian fascist regime since its illegal occupation of the territory in 1947. The spokesman hailed the steadfastness and valour of the illegally detained Hurriyat leaders and activists.

### 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 paper over past differences 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 in Riyadh—have failed to find common

ground over what immediate economic and political steps to take. Analysts believe that Raisi will pressurize Turkey to move past the rhetoric and cut its blossoming trade and energy relations with Israel. "Iran expects Turkey 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 including thousands of children—have died since Israel began to retaliate for Hamas's unprecedented cross-border attacks in which Israel says 1,200 people died.

### N.Korea defends satellite launch at UN as Kim takes images of White House

**UNITED NATIONS, 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 week. 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.

At the Security Council, 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 Korea. "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 UN ambassador, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, rejected North Korea's as-

sertion it was acting in self-defence and said that joint US-South Korea 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 problems.

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

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 release.

A detailed presentation by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination on the National Mental Health App "Humraaz" highlighted that more than 240,000 calls had been re-

ceived since its launch in 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 officials.

Representatives of the provincial health departments, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan Psychiatric Society, Tasken 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 link.

The president appreciated the launching of "Humraaz" that was pro-

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 by both the public and private sectors to utilize their expertise.

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 country.

President Alvi stressed upon the need for the capacity building of human resources, besides providing online trainings to overcome the shortage of mental health professionals.

The meeting under-

scored the need for raising 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 Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## USAID convenes dialogue on PPPs for enhanced municipal services

KARACHI (INP): The United States government through U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) joined Hissar 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 Governance for Sindh Activity

implemented by Health and Nutrition 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 management of water re-

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 children."

She praised the collective 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 Government of Pakistan but also

contribute to the upcoming World Water Forum and discussions at COP28 in Dubai.

The critical role of safe water supply and the demand for efficient and sustainable municipal services has reached unprecedented levels. Rapid urbanization further underscored the importance of PPPs as an alternative avenue to meet these demands, fostering collaboration between the public sector and private enterprises.

USAID in collaboration with the Sindh government has already pioneered successful PPPs through its Education Management Organizations model introduced through the USAID Sindh Basic Education Pro-

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 of societal and economic development.



A high level delegation led by Liu Jianming Deputy Party Secretary, Deputy Political Commissar 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 heroes.

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 line of duty.

Chairman of the Office of Development and Martyrs Families Affairs, Sheikh Theyab bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan briefed PM Kakar about the monument as an icon to highlight the great sacrifices of national he-

roses.

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

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

Online adds: The Prime Minister commenced his visit by offering fatiha at the mausoleum of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and recalled visionary leadership of the Founding Father of the UAE that enriched the culture of tolerance and peaceful coexistence among various nations of the world. He recalled late Sheikh Zayed's close relationship with the people and the leadership of Pakistan.

## Jaffar Express rams into tractor-trolley at Sukkur crossing

SUKKUR (INP): The movement of trains remained suspended after Jaffar Express narrowly escaped a disaster near Mando Dero in Sukkur early Tuesday morning.

According to the railway officials, a tractor trolley, 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 to clear the track.

## 16th Int'l Urdu Conference from November 30

KARACHI (INP): The 16th International Urdu Conference by the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi will be held from November 30 to December 3 at the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi.

These dates were announced by the President of the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi in a press conference held regarding the 16 Almi Urdu Conference.

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

## Maryam assures youth, minorities of offering chance in next elections

LAHORE (INP): Senior Vice President Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Maryam Nawaz on Tuesday assured the youth and minorities for offering a chance for bringing them to forefront of politics in next election.

She remarked this while heading a session participated by members and officials of Muslim Students Federation (MSF) and minority wing.

Regarding general elections to be held on February 08, 2024, Maryam

Nawaz expressed satisfaction 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 mobilize the youth in the four provinces including the federation, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

She said, "PML-N will increase the role of youth and minorities in politics while mentioning that the youth are the capital of the country and their development will lead to the

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 towards the prosperity."

She said that Nawaz Sharif wanted the youth to be the vanguard of political activities in the general elections as they would be the future leaders while highlighting that the active role of the minorities in the election activities would strengthen the democratic culture.



KARACHI: Caretaker Home Minister Brig (Retd) Harris Nawaz meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$180 million loan to improve water supply and solid waste management services in Rawalpindi and Bahawalpur cities of Punjab province.

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

"This project will help make municipal services in these two cities more sustainable, resilient, and less carbon-intensive," said ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeniy Zhukov.

"By helping to deliver reliable water supply and improving waste management, we expect to significantly improve the lives of people in Rawalpindi and 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 and distribution pipes to serve 82,000 households with metered connections.

## Smuggled items worth Rs120mln confiscated in joint operation

KARACHI (INP): Smuggled items worth millions of rupees were confiscated during joint operation of Rangers and Customs in Baldia Yusuf Goth.

According to details, on an intelligence tip-off regarding 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 arrest the elements involved in smuggling.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The speakers at a roundtable discussion on the 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 level.

The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), organized a Round Table discussion on "Climate Change and the Role of Media", a news release said. The keynote Speaker at the event was Chief Executive of the Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change (CSCCC), Aisha Khan, Foreign Office Spokesperson, Ambassador Mumtaz Zahra Baloch and Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Asif Hyder Shah were among the prominent speakers.

Director CSP, Dr. Neelum Nigar in her introductory remarks stated that the acknowledgment of Pakistan's pivotal role in COP-27, particularly in the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund, underscores the country's proactive stance on this global issue. In this context, the role of media was pivotal in the global discourse on climate change, acknowledging its influence in shaping public

perceptions, policy priorities, and advocacy endeavors. In his welcome address, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohai Mahmood highlighted 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 for complacency.

ing to Rs.116,000 were imposed on 18 poultry shops and 14 meat sellers were fined with Rs.31,000.

According to the district-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 in 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 of Rs.107,000 were imposed on 8 shopkeepers while in district Keamari 9 profiteers were fined Rs 21,500.

## NDRRA launches special helpline for disable persons

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a 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 service.

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

He said that the newly

## Rupee gains 12 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday gained 12 paise against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 285.52 against the previous day's closing at Rs 285.64.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs285.7 and Rs 288.5 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by 33 paise 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 paise to close at Rs1.92; whereas an increase of 08 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound.

## 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 items.

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 here.

In various actions in different areas of Karachi, fines of Rs.138,000 were imposed on 21 grocery stores, penalties amount-

## 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.

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 MPA.

## Aerial firing incident occurred outside residence ex-MPA

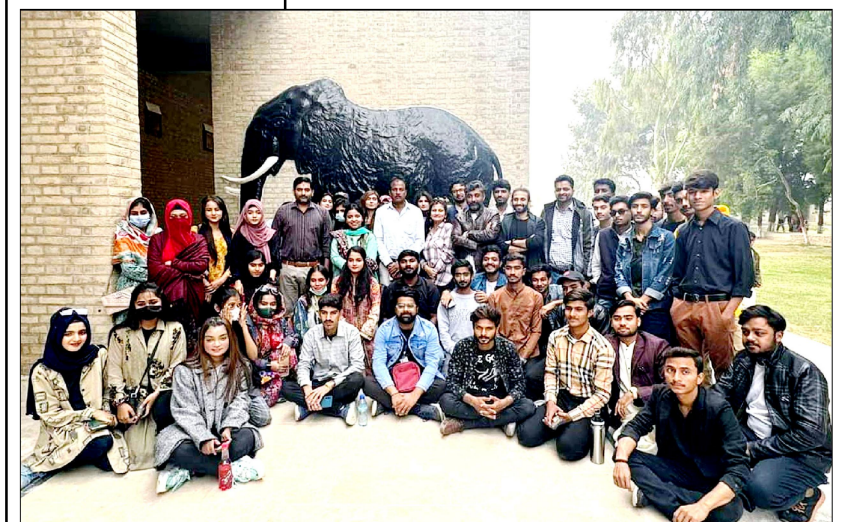
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MOHENJO DARO: Students and teachers of Aror University Sukkur visiting and express keen interest in the historical ruins of the World Heritage Monuments of Mohanjodaro