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Adapting Indus Basin key to adapt Pakistan to climate change: PM

Kakar suggests that "we need a minimum indicative investment between US\$11 and US\$17 billion over the next 15 years to mobilize from the public sector, private sector, citizens, and communities."

DUBAI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said on Sunday that adapting Pakistan to climate change was vital to adapting the Indus Basin to the impacts of climate change as the majority of the population was linked to the river.

He said Pakistan's climate challenge was primarily a water challenge that needed immediate action to be addressed.

Addressing an event on 'Living Indus Initiative' held here at the Pakistan

Pavilion at the venue of the United Nations' 28th Conference of Parties (COP 28), the prime minister said Pakistan was the 8th most vulnerable country in the world to the impacts of climate change.

He said Living Indus was an umbrella initiative aimed at restoring the ecological health of the Indus within the boundaries of Pakistan, which was most vulnerable to climate change.

He maintained that the government of Pakistan was

clear on its priorities with the Living Indus. "This umbrella initiative emerged from extensive consultation with stakeholders, resulting in a set of 25 living interventions that emphasize nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation approaches."

The prime minister said what was more important was that the Living Indus initiative sought to mobilize a moment that prepared and restored a healthy Indus for today and tomorrow.

"And we are here to collaborate and give voice to our rivers. The Indus River needs a voice, and we are here to give that voice. The industry feeds us, and if we do not take care of it, it will not be there to take care of us," he remarked.

This initiative, he said, suggested that "we need a minimum indicative investment between US\$11 and US\$17 billion over the next 15 years to mobilize from the public sector, private sector, citizens, and communities."



DUBAI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addresses a ceremony on Living Indus Initiative at COP-28 Pakistan Pavilion.



ISLAMABAD: Group photo of Federal Minister Madad Ali Sindhi and Caretaker Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi along with others during the Sindhi Cultural Day event organized by Soormiyun at PNCA.

Governor for increasing quota of jobs for persons with disabilities by 10 percent in Govt departments

Malik Abdul Wali Kakar asks to shift offices related to services and dealings with the PWDs in government buildings on ground floor in order to facilitate them; announces to open doors of Governor House for PWDs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has called for increasing the quota of jobs for the persons with disabilities (PWDs) in all federal and provincial government departments at least 10 percent so as to fully benefit from their special capabilities.

The Governor was addressing the ceremony marking the International Day of persons with disabilities at a local hotel here on Sunday.

The caretaker Minister Information, Jan Aachakzai, former Federal Minister and Senator (Retd) Mrs. Roshan Khursheed Bharucha, Chairperson of Balochistan

Commission on Status of Women, Ms. Fauzia Shaheen, persons with different disabilities besides representatives of the civil society and other concerned government high ups.

The event was organized by a welfare organization serving for rights of the PWDs, Breaking Barriers.

The Governor Balochistan said that it is very important to address the issues being faced by the persons with disabilities.

In this regard, the offices located in the government buildings dealing with their issues and services should be shifted on the ground floor to immediately remove the complaints and facilities the disabled per-

sons, he pleaded. He said that it is also very important to behave well with the special persons for formation of the civilized society.

Addressing the PWDs, the Governor said that he wants to bring the issues under discussion today which they face in practical life.

He said that he has opened doors of Governor House for resolving the issues of persons with disabilities.

The Governor said that he personally knows that the whole family of disabled persons suffer due to their presence, so it is commendable the role played by their families and other related people.



QUETTA: Provincial President ANP Asghar Khan Aachakzai addressing the condolence reference in memory of Aziz Mama organized by Awami National Party.

ECP's delimitation: NA reduced to 366 Gen Seats, six slashed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), in its recent notification of the final list of constituencies, has revised the number of National Assembly (NA) general seats to 366, indicating a decrease of six seats from the previous count of 372.

The constituency list released by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) signifies a decline in the general seats of the National Assembly (NA) from 272 to 266. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) representation in the National Assembly has been reduced from 51 seats to 45.

After the process of delimitation, the National Assembly seats for the merged districts have been reduced to six from the previous 12. This adjustment

aligns with the provisions of the 25th Constitutional Amendment, following the merger of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) with KP, and is determined by population considerations.

Punjab will have 141 general seats in the NA, Sindh 61, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 45, Balochistan 16, and three will be from Islamabad. Women will have 60 reserved seats, while minorities will have 10 seats.

Punjab would have 371 seats, of which 297 would be general seats. Sindh would have 168 seats, of which 130 would be general seats. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly will have 145 seats, of which 115 will be general seats.

PM strongly condemns firing incident in GB's Chilas area

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar strongly condemned the firing incident on a passenger bus in Gilgit-Baltistan's Chilas area on Sunday.

The prime minister expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of innocent citizens in the previous day's incident.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed souls in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved families to bear this loss with courage.

Two Levies officials killed in exchange of fire with accused

CM grieved over martyrdom of two Levies cops in Duki

DUKI (INP): Two Levies Force personnel were killed in an exchange of fire with a proclaimed offender and his accomplices in Kali Marjanjari area of Loni in Duki district of Balochistan on Sunday.

According to details, a Levies Force led by Duki Assistant Commissioner Zahoor Ahmad Baloch and Assistant Commissioner Beebrag Lehri raided the house of a proclaimed offender, Amanullah Marjanjari.

Seeing the law personnel coming, the proclaimed offender and his accomplices opened fire on them. As a result, two Levies of-

icials, Qasim Baloch and Ubaidullah Aachakzai, were martyred. While an accused also got injured by the firing of the law officials.

The bodies of the Levies officials have been shifted to the Civil Hospital in Duki. After the incident, another contingent comprising Levies Force and FC officials under the head of Deputy Commissioner Capt @ Fiaz Ali rushed to the scene. The Levies Force has besieged the house of the proclaimed offender. The PO is wanted by the police in an extortion case of Rs100 million and other serious crimes.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulber Khan with other people attending the funeral prayer of martyrs of Hudur incident by terrorist attack on passenger bus.

Caretaker Govt mobilizing all available resources for welfare of persons with disabilities: Domki

Fare not to be charged to disabled persons on Green buses

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Provincial government is mobilizing all available resources for welfare of the persons with disabilities in the province.

This was stated by the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki while addressing a gathering arranged by the Islamic Relief organization and social welfare department here at the Balochistan Boy Scouts Association headquarter on Sunday.

Prominent among those present on the occasion were Advisor to care-

taker Chief Minister, Ms Shania Khan, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat, Director General social welfare, Tariq Javed Mengal were

A large number of the disabled persons as well as representatives of the civil society and high ups of different departments were present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister on the occasion announced to exempt the disabled persons from fare in the Green bus service running in Quetta. He said that no fare would be charged from the persons with disabilities in

the Green buses. He said that implementation on the quota of jobs allocated for disabled persons would be ensured besides providing other necessary facilities to them in line with the country's and international laws.

He noted with concern that 10 to 12 percent suffer from different disabilities, and these have great importance for us and are near to our heart.

The Chief Minister stressed that he have to work together for welfare and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Dr. Nadeem meets UAE Health Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan had a special meeting with the Minister for Health of the United Arab Emirates, Abdul Rahman bin Muhammad Al Awais, in Dubai on the sidelines of the COP 28 UN Climate change summit.

During the meeting, Dr Nadeem invited him to attend Global Health Summit in Islamabad.

He congratulated his counterpart on the successful conduct of COP 28.

Dr. Nadeem Jan also briefed his counterpart on the ongoing reform agenda in the health sector of Pakistan.

The minister informed his counterpart about the Global Health Security Summit to be held in January 2024. The minister informed that initially the Global Health Security Summit was scheduled to be held in December 2023.

Senior US officials to visit Pak to bolster bilateral talks

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan will witness back-to-back visits by senior US officials starting today, the foreign office spokesperson confirmed on Sunday.

"Pakistan and the United States continue to hold consultations on a range of issues," foreign office spokesperson Murtaz Zahra Baloch said in a statement. "To advance these consultations, exchange of visits also takes place."

Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration Julieta Valls Noyes is scheduled to visit the country from December 4 to 6, she said.

FO spokesperson said that Special Representative for Afghanistan Thomas West will be visiting Islamabad from December 7 to 9 while Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Pakistan Elizabeth Horst will pay a visit from December 9 to 12.

Sindh's diversity its strength, not weakness: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Sunday that Sindh has been a multi-lingual, multi-religious and multi-ethnic unit for centuries.

Delivering his speech at the Sindhi Cultural Day ceremony here, he said Sindh had united different religions and races from different regions of the world.

"Sindh's diversity is its strength, not its weakness," Murtaza Solangi remarked.

The Sindhi Cultural Day this year was linked with the celebration of Sindhi women's event, Murtaza Solangi said.

The minister said that humility and resilience were embedded in Sindhi culture like steel, which could be moulded but not broken.

He said it was significant that in the poetry of great Sindhi poet Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai, seven ragas were named after women.

From Bhittai to Sheikh Ayaz, poets had highlighted the role of Sindhi women, Murtaza Solangi maintained.

Fazl firmly declares to take stand against those resorted to target Muslim Ummah

QUETTA: Senior Politician, Nawabzada Haji Lashkari Raisani addresses during celebration ceremony on the occasion of Sindhi Culture Day organized by Jamote Students Council Balochistan, held at Quetta press club.

MULTAN (APP): Chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Sunday expressed JUI's commitment to fostering moderation in political discourse while maintaining and promoting religious identity.

While addressing to workers at Jhok Wanis, on occasion of Malik Sajjad Wains, a local political figure in JUI, Fazlur Rehman acknowledging the critical role of public leaders, emphasized his dedication to solving societal issues and dismantling prejudices in order to pave the way for a harmonious future.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman firmly declared to take stand against those who resorted to target Muslim

Ummah. Underlining ideology, belief, and attitude as the political foundation, he stressed the importance of compassion towards the impoverished and the collective responsibility of safeguarding their lives, wealth, and honor.

The chief outlined a policy of wisdom and fairness in dispute resolution, underscoring the historical sacrifices of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam elders as a testament to the people's trust. JUI always rejected sectarianism, Fazal added. He promised to serve people if voted to power. He also expressed resolve to propel the party forward, uniting communities, and fostering a future marked by justice, compassion, and resilience.

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Promises, promises

The ongoing COP28 summit in the UAE is a crucial event in the global climate discourse, with significant implications for countries like Pakistan. The summit has seen a complex mix of diplomatic manoeuvring, fervent appeals for climate justice, and sharply divergent views on the future role of fossil fuels. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar's address yesterday emphasised Pakistan's urgent need for "sufficient, additional, and predictable grant-based climate finance" from developed nations. Urging the immediate execution of the \$100bn goal for climate finance, Mr Kakar said this should not exacerbate the debt burden of developing states. He stressed the need for a robust framework for global adaptation goals, with clear targets, indicators, and progress monitoring. He called for at least half of climate finance to be allocated to adaptation, reflecting the growing urgency for balanced climate action. Mr Kakar also highlighted Pakistan's proactive climate initiatives, and mentioned that at COP26 Pakistan committed to a 60pc reduction in projected emissions by 2030. He introduced the National Adaptation Plan and the Living Indus Initiative, showcasing Pakistan's commitment to integrating climate considerations into national development plans. The conference has been marked by major developments, notably the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund to aid poorer countries in coping with climate disasters. Despite the fund's initiation with \$700m, it falls short of the \$100bn sought by developing nations, highlighting the challenge in securing adequate financial support for those most affected by climate change.

COP28's discussions on fossil fuels have been particularly contentious. UN Secretary General António Guterres' call for a future without fossil fuels starkly contrasts with COP28 President Sultan Ahmed al-Jaber's advocacy for their continued use. This discord underscores the complexities and political intricacies of the climate crisis, particularly in oil-producing regions like the UAE. Moreover, geopolitical tensions, notably surrounding the situation in Gaza, played into the summit's climate-focused agenda. Given the scale of the devastation there, several world leaders were compelled to diverge from the norm of avoiding politics at UN climate summits, using their platforms to criticise Israel's actions in Gaza. This aspect adds another layer of complexity to the negotiations. The decisions and discussions at COP28 will undoubtedly shape the global response to climate change and the fate of vulnerable countries like Pakistan. The summit must result in actionable commitments, not just in financial terms but also in technological and capacity-building support, to ensure an equitable path forward in the global climate effort. The climate crisis transcends national borders and political agendas, demanding a unified, decisive response. As nations convene and deliberate, the world watches, hoping for outcomes that will chart a sustainable course for the planet's future. For Pakistan, a nation at the front-line, the stakes could not be higher.

'We're worth it'



Muna Khan

Lately, I've been wondering what I'm worth. I don't mean this just from a self-esteem perspective or a religious one. I'm thinking, instead, of how much my life is worth in monetary terms. My father, for example, spent a considerable sum raising and educating me and my sisters, and continues to provide a roof over my head because journalism doesn't pay well. (I will write another time about how some journalists are rich.) I'm uncomfortable having someone else define my worth, because, as a woman, I know I will be undervalued; as often happens when salaries are decided, for example, I am also not looking for affirmations to post on Instagram.

Quotes telling you to live your authentic life do no good to the women whose worth is attached to someone else's notions of honour. I'm thinking of the woman reportedly killed by her father and uncle in Kohistan after her (doctored) photo with a man was shared on social media. I won't go into the details of the case because I think we know how these things go — or don't. I can join the chorus of voices glad that police action was quick and the state has shown up as the complainant. Maybe we're inching our way towards recognising 'honour' crimes for what they are: murder. Maybe we'll one day get to a place where we can talk about revoking blood money laws that allow honour-related crimes to go unpunished.

But this doesn't help me ascertain that dead woman's worth. Or the other women in Kohistan

killed in 2011, when their images appeared in a video. The HRCP recorded at least 384 cases of honour killings in 2022, of which 103 occurred in KP. How can a woman's worth change from being easily disposable to worth something? I do not want worth ascertained by patriarchal systems that view a woman purely as a baby-making factory to keep their capitalist dreams alive. No matter how many strides women make in various fields, society still sees her primary role as wife and mother.

I think dramas and advertising worldwide are a good indicator of how gender roles are reinforced to portray women as wives and mothers. It's playing out on TikTok too, with American women especially creating 'traditional wife' content, posting their wonderful lives caring for home, husband and children. The trend #TradWife on TikTok had 281m views at the time of writing. Of course, conservatives have women allies to help push their retrogressive agendas. There's the likes of Andrew Tate, who has risen in popularity despite bans on social media platforms; who amplifies views like women are a man's property.

Name a place where a woman says she is free of fear of assault. Misogyny and violence against women is endemic everywhere. Policies and legal systems are failing women everywhere too — the inability of prosecutors to get rape convictions is one small example of that. Violence increased to record levels around the world during lockdown. The UN referred to the situation as a "shadow pandemic" in its 2021 report about domestic violence in 13 countries.

In Pakistan, the FIA cannot seem to act effectively on cybercrime. The less said about law-enforcement agencies' treatment of women the better. That we have to cheer of-

ficials in Kohistan for acting swiftly shows the sorry state of affairs. There must be consequences. From punishment for murder without recourse to a 'get out of jail free' card, to some rebuke of political leaders — especially Imran Khan and Nawaz Sharif — for their deeply problematic misogyny-laced comments. Their supporters double down, instead of apologising.

The largest demographic in this country are the young, nearly half of whom are women. While internet penetration is woefully low at 25 per cent, worldviews are changing due to social media — and creating intergenerational conflict. Women cannot exercise choice or fight back without state support. Why can't, for example, misogyny be treated as a crime that is taken seriously by the police?

I ask the men being awarded the next government to treat women's crimes with the same zeal they do expanding their wealth base and DHA schemes. Perhaps they can take inspiration from a World Bank report in March 2023, on how Bangladesh offers "invaluable" development experience for other countries and how it realised that independence that investing in people was as important as investing in infrastructure. "Bangladesh's poverty reduction strategy centred on women's empowerment." Fertility rates have decreased, almost all children go to school, and women's labour force participation has increased dramatically.

It has contributed to Bangladesh's economic growth. This doesn't mean it doesn't have challenges, but both government and society have reaped the benefits of good development choices.

Can Messrs Sharif and Co agree to making similar choices? Women are worth it. -- Courtesy Dawn

Iron brothers



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

The Chinese like to call Pakistan an 'iron brother'. This is a glowing tribute to a neighbour that has stood with them through thick and thin. Pakistanis also hold China in high esteem, as a neighbour that has respected their core concerns and interests. Even when Pakistan was closely aligned with the West, China enjoyed a special place in its foreign policy.

No doubt, the two countries' all-weather strategic cooperative partnership has endured the test of time. However, at times, we tend to go overboard in describing this relationship. For instance, referring to the latter as a relationship 'made in heaven', or telling the Chinese that we trust them 'blindly', is a notch higher than the other countries, and not to Pakistan.

Relationships are sometimes described as the distance from winter fires; if you go too close, you burn; if you go too far, you freeze. Pakistanis can benefit from viewing relations with all its neighbours through the lens of pragmatism and national interest, rather than extreme emotion. There is another downside to emotional streaks. When we indulge in emotion-laden refrain, expectations go high, and when the results are not commensurate, disappointment sets in.

China and Pakistan have always been close, even though their cultures, language, cuisine

and political ethos are different. The reason is that both have scrupulously respected each other's sovereignty and never interfered in the other's internal affairs. Another factor that underpins their close friendship is the economic partnership that has flourished since 2015, when the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was launched. Pakistan was in a difficult situation then. The US-led 'war on terror' had taken a heavy toll. At a time when no country was willing to invest in Pakistan, the Chinese put billions of dollars into the country's energy sector, transport infrastructure, and Gwadar Port. Naturally, Pakistanis felt deeply obliged. Of popular interest were the power plants, that generated enough electricity to overcome loadshedding of over 16 hours a day, as well as hundreds of kilometres of quality roads.

CPEC investments were to be complemented by certain actions that Pakistan was to undertake, most notably the Special Economic Zones. Since we did not create these zones in time, Chinese industry moved out to other countries, and not to Pakistan. In the second phase of CPEC, which coincided with the change of government in Pakistan (2018-22), greater emphasis was to be placed on socioeconomic development, agriculture and IT. However, the political signalling of functionaries of the then government dampened Chinese enthusiasm to invest further in Pakistan. The slowdown in CPEC also coincided with the intensifying US-China competition. The US and other Western countries started criticising CPEC, citing issues of transparency and debt trap.

For the past one year, however, both countries seem to be making efforts to rejuvenate CPEC. Notably, they intend to jointly build a growth cor-

ridor, a livelihood corridor, an innovation corridor, a green corridor, and an open corridor — an ambitious agenda, which can be accomplished only if the next elected government puts its full weight behind these initiatives and ensures ease of doing business.

The next government should also double down on efforts to complete the development of Gwadar Port, which is uniquely placed to advance cross-regional connectivity. The port infrastructure, airport, free zone, and expressway are ready. To make the port optimally functional, we need a steady provision of electricity and freshwater as well as security for Chinese nationals working in Gwadar. The government must also ensure that the people of Gwadar are the first beneficiaries of the port.

China is now Pakistan's largest trading partner, but the balance of trade is heavily tilted in China's favour. The two free trade agreements signed by Pakistan and China have not worked well for us. It is encouraging to note that China intends to help Pakistan improve its export capacity through experience-sharing, special studies, expert exchanges and personnel training. The Special Investment Facilitation Council created recently can be another conduit to attract Chinese investments and businesses in Pakistan.

If the 'iron brothers' wish to make this relationship stronger than steel, let us move away from rhetoric and focus our energies on implementation of the projects. We must not allow CPEC to be dragged into the US-China rivalry. A welcome development in this regard is that both countries have agreed to make CPEC projects open and inclusive, enabling third parties to benefit from CPEC investments. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Dr. Umar Saif unveils Pakistan's IT potential

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a groundbreaking initiative, the Pakistan-Qatar IT Conference commenced at the JW Marriott Marquis City Center in Doha, Qatar, drawing active participation from prominent Pakistani IT firms and local Qatari businesses.

The inauguration ceremony was led by the Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Dr Umar Saif. During his address at the conference, Dr Umar Saif introduced the technological prowess of Pakistan to a diverse audience, comprising both business leaders and

government executives in Qatar, according to a news release received here on Sunday.

This event marks the maiden voyage of an IT delegation from Pakistan to Qatar, aiming to tap into the considerable unexplored opportunities in the region and bolster Pakistan's IT exports.

The historic visit of the Pakistani delegation, spearheaded by Dr Umar Saif, began with a noteworthy event at the Pakistan embassy. Attended by the Pakistani diaspora in Qatar and representatives from 30 leading IT companies in Pakistan, the gathering set

the tone for fostering stronger bilateral relations. Jointly organized by the Pakistani Embassy, the Pakistan Software Houses Association (PSHA), and the Pakistan Business Council of Qatar, the event underscored the collaborative efforts to explore and harness the vast untapped potential in Qatar for the mutual benefit of both nations.

As the conference unfolds, expectations are high for fruitful discussions and partnerships that will not only elevate Pakistan's IT industry but also contribute to the growth and development of the Qatari technology sector.



RAWALPINDI: Vendors displayed warm jackets attraction for customers outside their shops at Raja Bazaar in the city.

Achieve bumper crop production China to support Pakistan in developing high-quality hybrid seeds

ISLAMABAD (INP): Liu Jianming, Deputy Party Secretary and Deputy Political Commissar of Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, said that China will provide support to Pakistan in best-quality disease-resistant, high-yield hybrid seeds for cotton, canola, and wheat crops. This aims to achieve bumper crop production while also meeting the ever-increasing needs of the textile industry to earn desperately needed foreign exchange.

During his visit to the head office of Guard Agricultural Research and

Services, he said, "We have better crop production through modern mechanized agriculture farming," according to a news release. He said, "China will cooperate with Pakistan for cotton hybrid seed, including sunflower, maize, sesame, and others."

He said, "China will also share its successful experience with 'Water Saving Technology.'" He highly appreciated the research activities of Guard Agriculture Research, and all nine members of the delegation evinced keen interest and were invited to visit China for one-on-one interaction with stakeholders.

PFC to participate in gulf expo

LAHORE (Online): Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Mian Kashif Ashfaq announced that PFC delegation is set to participate in 5-days Gulf Expo Dubai starting from 19 February for exp'l new market and promotion of bilateral trade.

Chairing board of directors meeting here today he said the primary purpose of this visit is to explore and enhance the possibilities of expanding trade relations, fostering joint collaboration, and identifying potential investment avenues between our two countries. He said during the visit, the delegation aims to engage in meaningful discussions with key stakeholders, government officials, and business leaders in United Arab Emirates.

He said we are enthusiastic about the prospect of building lasting partnerships that will not only boost the furniture industry but also contribute to the overall economic development of both countries.

He said the PFC is fully committed to promoting economic ties and strengthening partnerships.



ISLAMABAD: Diplomat women are busy buying clothes in a stall during Annual Christmas Market organized by German Embassy at a local hotel in the Federal Capital.

UK offering assistance to improve health, education sectors in Pakistan: Mahesh

MULTAN (APP): Head of Economy and Trade (British High Commission) Mahesh Mishra stated that the United Kingdom was offering assistance to improve various sectors including health and education, in Pakistan.

He said this while addressing a ceremony at Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI). Mahesh Mishra hailed Pakistan's commitment to economic stability.

Mishra highlighted

ongoing programs across provinces, emphasizing efforts to boost employment in the SME sector and facilitate access to British markets for Pakistani businessmen.

Mishra commended the unique aroma and taste of Multani mangoes and explored the renowned Blue Pottery Institute, acknowledging its global significance.

He maintained that UK was assisting Pakistan to expand the tax net, aiming to alleviate pressure

on existing taxpayers and attract new contributors.

Furthermore, Mishra outlined collaborative measures to address challenges in health and education, stressing the importance of skill development in the SME sector.

He stated, "The Infra Zamin" (Guarantee) Program, a non-profit credit extension facility designed to accelerate economic growth and enhance the regulatory environment.

China based company acquires renewable energy firm in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): China-based M/s. CNNP Rich Energy Co. Ltd. strategically invests in Pakistan's renewable energy sector through its wholly-owned subsidiary, M/s. CRE International Co., Limited. The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the acquisition of M/s. Super Success Investments Limited (SSL) by M/s. CRE International Co., Ltd. CRE is the wholly

owned subsidiary of CNNP Rich Energy Co. Limited, located in Hong Kong. M/s. Super Success Investments Limited (SSL) is based in Mauritius, according to a press release issued here on Sunday. SSL owns a 100 percent shareholding in M/s. UEP Wind Power (Private) Limited is a private company operating and maintaining a 99 MW wind-powered electric generation facility.

China's public offering fund value tops 27 trln yuan

BEIJING (Xinhua/APP): Assets under the management of China's public offering funds totaled 27.38 trillion yuan (about 3.85 trillion U.S. dollars) by the end of October, data from the Asset Management Association of China showed.

By the end of October, a total of 11,268 public offering funds were being operated by 144 fund management companies, the association said.

Governor assures all necessary facilities being provided to the business community

PESHAWAR (Online): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali on Sunday embarked on a sudden visit to Kohat's renowned King Bazar, eliciting expressions of joy from the local business community and residents.

The Governor strolled through King Bazar in the central bazar, engaging in informal interactions with shopkeepers and traders.

He took the opportunity to gain insights into the issues and challenges faced by the business community. The impromptu visit

took the form of a procession as Governor's presence in King Gate Bazar triggered spontaneous celebrations.

Local residents, children, and traders took pictures, showered petals and adorned him with garlands.

Witnessing the Governor casually mingling with the public in the market brought genuine happiness to the people.

This spontaneous interaction showcased strong public relations between the Governor and the local community and business fraternity.



FAISALABAD: Labourers are busy in packing of snacks (Paparr) in a local factory in the city.

ICCI urges Pakistani diaspora to play role in reviving economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Pakistan-US Alumni Network (PUAN) led by Salman Wahab, Alumni Engagement Coordinator of US Embassy on Sunday visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and discussed possibilities for further improving bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and the USA.

The delegation represented various sectors including academia, engineering, entrepreneurs, and IT professionals, according to a press release issued here.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, the

Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, welcomed the PUAN delegation and urged that the Pakistani diaspora in the US should bring modern technology and invest in Pakistan to contribute to the economic revival of the country.

He said that many members of the Pakistani diaspora have achieved good expertise, best business practices, and modern technology by doing business in the US and this is the time that they should explore Pakistan for joint ventures and investment to help the country achieve better growth.

UNCHR rep, CM discuss repatriation of foreigners

Independent Report
LAHORE: The representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) Ms. Philippa Candler met with Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi at the CM's Office here on Sunday. Matters pertaining to the evacuation of foreigners residing illegally came under discussion while matters with regard to support, coordination and cooperation to

evacuate them were also discussed. CM Mohsin Naqvi underlined, "We have formulated a clear policy against foreigners residing illegally. The Punjab government is implementing the guidelines of the federal government in this regard. So far, more than 15,000 foreigners residing illegally have been sent back. The whole process has been made transparent and it is our utmost strive that no foreigner residing illegally

should remain in the province. We will continue every possible cooperation with the UNHCR," he said. The representative of UNHCR acknowledged that the steps being taken by the government to give a documentary shape with regard to the evacuation of foreigners residing illegally along with regulating the whole process is an appreciable step. Provincial Minister for Information Amir Mir, Additional IG, Special Secretary (Home),

Secretary to CM Implementation, Liaison Officer of UNHCR Islamabad Farman Khilji, Commissioner Afghan Refugees in Punjab Rana Muhammad Arshad, Director Afghan Refugees Muhammad Usman Ghani and officials concerned were also present. Meanwhile, Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid a surprise visit to Allama Iqbal Town Police Station here on Sunday.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman in a group photo with children of SOS village. Wife of Governor Punjab Aysha Baligh is also present.

MWM Chairman says: We reject two-state solution, state-only Palestine

KOHAT (Online): In support of the oppressed people of Gaza and Palestine and against the aggression of the usurper Israel, Majlis Wahdat Muslimen (MWM) organized grand "Azadi e Palestine March" in Kohat. March was led by the head of Majlis Wahdat Muslimen Pakistan Allama Raja Nasir Abbas Jafari, the

March took the form of a rally on Tal Parachinar highway. MWM leader Syed Nasir Abbas Shirazi, Provincial President MWM KP Allama Jahanzeb Jafari, Majlis Ulama Maktab Ahl Bait Khyber Pakhtunkhwa along with Provincial President Allama Ahmad Rouhani along with Ulemas and Elders of Kohat.

Sindh Rangers hosts Peace Bicycle Rally

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Rangers on Sunday hosted a peace bicycle rally to persuade the masses to participate in peaceful healthy activities for further promotion of sports and tourism in the port city. Over 50 male and female cyclists from different walks of life participated in the bicycle rally, said a spokesperson. The rally started from Indus Chowrangi and passed through Qayyumabad, Ayesha Masjid, Clock Tower, Bilawal Chowrangi.

Punjab governor meets children of SOS Village

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman met with children of SOS Children's Village here at the Governor's House on Sunday. Ayesha Baligh, wife of the governor, was also present. The governor said that children are our future and the management and entire team of SOS Children Village deserves to be praised for taking good care of the children. He said that along with educating the children,

character building is very important. He asked the children to inculcate high moral values in themselves and achieve excellence in life. The governor added that a good character enables one to achieve success in life and hereafter. Appreciating the administration of SOS Children's Village, he said that institutions like SOS Children's Village were doing a good job by providing good care, education, and training to children without parents.

CM KP condemns tragic bus shooting in Chilas, offers condolences, assures coop.

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Chief Minister KPK Justice @ Syed Arshad Hussain Shah has expressed profound grief over the tragic incident of an unknown armed attack on a passenger bus in the Hudur area of Chilas at Karakoram Highway (KHK), resulting in the loss of precious human lives. In an official statement from his office,

the Chief Minister strongly condemned the incident and extended heartfelt sympathies to the grieving families. CM Arshad Hussain Shah offered sincere condolences and prayers for the forgiveness and patience of the families affected by this devastating event. He also conveyed best wishes for the swift recovery of those injured in the attack.

Taking swift action, the Chief Minister contacted the Additional Chief Secretary Interior, directing him to closely monitor the security situation in the border areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Quetta-Karakoram Highway. Emphasizing the importance of maintaining law and order, Chief Minister Shah instructed local police to remain vigilant.

Sindhi Culture Day celebrated with traditional zest across sindh

By Tanveer Ahmed Soomro
MIRPUR MATHELO: On the occasion of Sindhi Culture Day, like other cities

on Sindhi songs and expressed love for Sindhi culture, while rallies were taken out by political and social leaders, Jai Sindh, Jai

Press Club, children from different schools, famous folk artists, political social leaders and journalists expressed their love for the great culture of Sindh with Sindhi cultural songs on this occasion.



of Sindh. Sindhi Culture Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Mirpur Mathelo, the district headquarters of Ghotki district. Dressed and danced

Sindhi culture slogans echoed the city, on this occasion, DHQ Press Club Mirpur Mathelo. A dignified ceremony was held in front of DHQ

Ali Nawaz Jalbani, Azam Gabol, Taj Tanwari, Latif Laghari, Allah Wasayo Wasir, Ghulam Hussain Soomro, Mumtaz Hussain Arain Zeeshan Arain, Hakim Abro, Hafiz Naem Kolachi, Hadi Bakhsh Jalbani Muhammad Arif Tanwari, Jai Sindh National Front leader Faqir Ranzan Kalwar, including a large number of political social organizations and nationalist leaders participated and expressed their love for Sindh and the culture of Sindh.

16th Aalmi Urdu Conference urges UN, global powers to thwart Israeli aggression to secure Palestine

KARACHI (APP): The 16th Aalmi Urdu Conference on Sunday concluded here at the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi.

The conference featured a diverse range of sessions, discussions, and insightful dialogues. The last day commenced with a session titled "Masters of Urdu Criticism," chaired by the distinguished scholar and critic Tahseen Firaqi. Engaging discussions unfolded about prominent figures such as Shamsur Rahman Faruqi, Gopi Chand Narang, and others.

lighted the life and art of revered actors, poets, and literary figures including Shakeel, Amjad Islam Amjad, Zia Mohyeddin, Shoaib Hashmi, and Qavi Khan. The session resonated with the audience, shedding light on the rich contributions of the luminaries.

The conference showcased diversity with a session titled "Pashto Language and Literature Giants," moderated by Gulam Khan. Prominent figures in Pashto literature, including Abaseen Yousafzai, Irfanullah, and Qaiser Afridi, were recognized for their significant contributions.

A notable session titled "Yaad Raftagan" highlighted the life and art of revered actors, poets, and literary figures including Shakeel, Amjad Islam Amjad, Zia Mohyeddin, Shoaib Hashmi, and Qavi Khan. The session resonated with the audience, shedding light on the rich contributions of the luminaries.

The "Badalta Hua Samaj" session addressed societal changes, featuring insightful perspectives from Noor-ul-Huda Shah, Ghazi Salahuddin, Nasir Memon, and Haris Khalil. Nasir Memon emphasized positive transformations in Pakistani society, challenging negative perceptions propagated by social media.

Moreover, in "Japan main Urdu," the audience had the privilege of engaging with Professor Hiroji Kataoka, acknowledged as the "Father of Urdu in Japan." Hosted by Salim Mughal, the session celebrated Professor Kataoka's dedication to promoting the Urdu language and literature in Japan. A captivating session titled "Meeting with Bushra Ansari" featured the legendary artist sharing her journey and concerns about changing fan behaviour.



KARACHI: Renowned Writer Mustansar Hussain Tarar addressing during a closing ceremony of 16th Aalmi Urdu Conference at Arts Council.

International News

700 Palestinians killed in Gaza in last 24 hours: govt

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: The director general of the Government Media Office in Gaza has told the foreign media that more than 700 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza during the last 24 hours.

He added that over 1.5 million people have also been displaced in the Gaza Strip. Israel intensifies strikes on Gaza amid international calls for ceasefire. Israel launched hundreds of strikes on Saturday evening and Sunday on what it referred to as "Hamas infrastructure targets," reports FRANCE 24's Luke Shrago from Tel Aviv.

Israeli forces said they have hit tunnels, command posts and warehouses holding ammunition as they widen their offensive into southern Gaza. Hamas authorities, as a result, have started to update their death tolls.

These latest strikes come as worldwide pressure continues to mount, with international negotiators trying to reintroduce a pause in the fighting. A renewed pause is looking unlikely, reports Shrago, as Hamas and Israel are blaming each other for the collapse of their seven-day ceasefire, with both saying the other didn't fulfill the terms of the truce. Pope deplores end of Israeli-Hamas truce, calls for new ceasefire. Pope Francis on Sunday said it was "painful" to see that the truce between Israel and Hamas had been broken and called on all parties involved to reach a new ceasefire agreement as soon as possible. He also said he was thinking about the people still being held hostage in

Gaza and the lack of basic necessities in the Palestinian territory. Francis, who is suffering from a lung inflammation, had his words read by an aide during his Sunday Angelus message, which he delivered indoors from his Vatican residence rather than by a window overlooking St. Peter's Square. Meanwhile Israeli settlers attacked two Palestinian villages in the occupied West Bank late on Saturday, killing one man and torching a car, Palestinian authorities said. The Palestinian ambulance service said a 38-year-old man in the town of Qarawat Bani Hassan, in the northern West Bank, was shot in the chest and died as residents confronted settlers and Israeli soldiers.

Francis, who is suffering from a lung inflammation, had his words read by an aide during his Sunday Angelus message, which he delivered indoors from his Vatican residence rather than by a window overlooking St. Peter's Square. Meanwhile Israeli settlers attacked two Palestinian villages in the occupied West Bank late on Saturday, killing one man and torching a car, Palestinian authorities said. The Palestinian ambulance service said a 38-year-old man in the town of Qarawat Bani Hassan, in the northern West Bank, was shot in the chest and died as residents confronted settlers and Israeli soldiers.



Mourners carry the body of 38-year-old Palestinian, Ahmad Assi, who was killed in an Israeli settler raid, during his funeral near Salfit in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

WHO says Gaza's health system must be protected as disease spreads

Monitoring Desk
GENEVA: The World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday called for Gaza's vulnerable health infrastructure to be safeguarded as the war-torn enclave faces an increased risk of epidemics and challenges in detecting infectious diseases.

A fragile truce agreement between Israel and Hamas last week has allowed WHO and aid organizations to increase their deliveries of essential supplies but these have been far from enough to meet the needs of Gaza's 2.3 million people. Speaking at a press

conference in Geneva, World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said only 15 of Gaza's 36 hospitals were still functioning and were completely overwhelmed. "Of the 25 hospitals north of the Wadi Gaza (river) before the conflict began, only three are functioning at the most basic level, but they lack fuel, water and food," Tedros said. "The remaining health system capacity must be protected, supported and expanded."

of infectious disease in Gaza, where the internal displacement of the population has caused overcrowding in shelters and other temporary living facilities. The agency has noted a staggering increase in cases of diarrhoea, especially among infants and children, and detected "very serious signals around acute jaundice syndrome" in the enclave. "With severe overcrowding, the risks are increasing for epidemics of respiratory tract infections, acute watery diarrhoea, hepatitis, scabies, lice and other diseases."



Members of the International Federation of Medical Students Associations hold placards during a protest demanding an end to fossil fuels at COP28 World Climate Summit, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Think of what happened to Hong Kong when you vote, Taiwan president says

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen appealed to voters on Sunday to think of what had happened to Hong Kong when they cast their ballots next month, saying peace must be backed up with a commitment to boost defenses. Taiwan prepares for presidential and parliamentary elections on Jan 13 as China, which claims the

democratically governed island as its own territory, ramps up military pressure to assert its claims, including two major war games around the island in the past year and a half. China and Taiwan's main opposition party, the Kuomintang (KMT), have cast the election as a choice between war and peace. China detests Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP).

Russia says it hit air defence HQ in Ukraine's Dnipro

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian forces hit a fortified commander post of Ukraine's "East" air defence and alerting centre in the central city of Dnipro, the Russian defence ministry said on Sunday. It said that it inflicted combined strikes by operational-tactical and army aviation, unmanned aerial vehicles, missile forces and artillery. Reuters was not immediately able to corroborate the battlefield reports from either side. Earlier on Sunday, Ukraine's air force said Russia launched 12 drones and a cruise missile at Ukraine overnight, with air defence systems destroying 10 drones before they reached their targets. Russia's defence ministry also said it hit fuel depots in the areas of Myrhorod, Poltava region and the city of Khmelnytskyi, an ammunition arsenal in the Mykolaiv region as well as manpower and equipment in 107 various districts.

Pope deplores end of Israel-Hamas truce, voices hope for new ceasefire

Monitoring Desk
VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis on Sunday said it was "painful" to see that the truce between Israel and Hamas had been broken, and voiced hope that all parties involved can reach a new ceasefire "as soon as possible". A seven-day pause in the fighting between Israeli forces and Hamas militants, which had allowed the exchange of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners, collapsed on Friday. On

Sunday, Israel stepped up its bombing campaign. More than 15,400 Palestinians have been killed as of Sunday, according to Palestinian officials, in the conflict that broke out after a Hamas attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7 in which 1,200 Israelis were killed and more than 200 taken hostage. "It is painful that the truce has been broken. This means death, destruction and misery," Francis said - his words read out by an aide because of the pope's

India agrees to withdraw soldiers from Maldives - President Muizzu

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India's government has agreed to withdraw its soldiers from the Maldives, the Indian Ocean archipelago's President Mohamed Muizzu said on Sunday. Muizzu won the presidential election in September, having campaigned to alter the Maldives's "India first" policy and promising removal of a small Indian military presence of some 75 personnel. "In the discussions we had, the Indian government has agreed to remove Indian soldiers,"

Ukraine says blackout at N-plant risked 'accident'

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine said on Saturday that two power lines connecting its electricity grid to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant were cut overnight, putting the plant at risk of an "accident".

The plant has been at the centre of fighting since it was captured by Russian forces last year, and both sides have accused each other of compromising its safety. "Due to the complete blackout, the nuclear power plant switched to powering its own needs from 20 diesel generators," Ukraine's nuclear energy operator said in a statement.

It said the plant was on "the verge of a nuclear and radiation accident" before Ukrainian specialists were able to promptly restore off-site power. The plant's Russian-installed operator confirmed it resorted to diesel generators overnight, but said that it had operated within safety limits and that no safety violations were reported.



Lanao Del Sur Governor Mamintal Adiong Jr. visits the injured at a hospital following an explosion during a Catholic Mass in a gymnasium at Mindanao State University, in Marawi, Philippines.

Lula in Berlin for first Brazil-Germany talks in eight years

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is set to land in Berlin on Sunday for the first Brazilian-German government consultations in eight years as Latin America and Europe's largest economies seek to revive ties. Lula has jetted across the globe since returning to office in January, trying to restore Brazil's standing on the global stage after years of diplomatic isolation under his far-right predecessor Jair Bolsonaro, to mixed results. He is expected to have dinner on Sunday with fellow leftist, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, before the consultations on Monday. Scholz was the first foreign leader to visit Lula in Brazil, just weeks after his inauguration. The German Chancellor has been on a quest since taking office in late 2021 to improve ties with the Global South. Germany also considers Brazil a key partner in its bid to diversify its trade, in part to reduce its reliance on China, and plug a gap in skilled labour. Both countries are pushing for a quick trade deal between the European Union and Mercosur, South America's major trading bloc over which Brazil currently presides.



LAHORE: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Interfaith Harmony Maulana Tahir Ashrafi addressing during Interfaith Harmony Conference at local hotel.

Ashrafi emphasises collective efforts to promote interfaith harmony

LAHORE (APP): Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and the Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has stressed the need for collective efforts from all stakeholders to promote interfaith harmony in the country, as it is the key pillar of development.

He was addressing the Interfaith Harmony Council conference, hosted by International Interfaith Harmony Council here at a local hotel on Sunday. The conference was arranged with an aim to bring together a diverse array of religious scholars and leaders from various faiths, all united under the common goal of promoting harmony and thwarting divisive agendas. Ashrafi, who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulama Council, said the most important thing for interfaith harmony was mutual respect between religious denominations and the acceptance of others, adding that nobody should abandon their religion and beliefs, nor should they attack the religion and beliefs of others.

The Pakistan's Constitution guaranteed the rights of every citizen living in the country, he remarked and mentioned that minority communities should come together for development of the country. He said that every religion teaches peace and love and discourages hatred, adding that the government and security forces had always stood shoulder to shoulder with the minority communities. Ashrafi said that Pakistan always desires peaceful and productive relations with all neighboring countries, adding that peace is the only message of Pakistan as it is crucial for any country's development. He said that state-of-the-art facilities were being provided to religious tourists as per direction of Caretaker Prime Minister and Army Chief. He said Pakistan always wholeheartedly welcomed all religious tourists coming from across the world.

Kartarpur Corridor was made operational as a gesture of peace and the Sikh pilgrims were invited to visit their holy places in Pakistan. He mentioned that Muslim religious leaderships were also playing their effective role for promotion of interfaith harmony in the country, adding that Islam always advocates peace as forced marriages and forced conversions of religion was prohibited in Islam.

He said that Gaza was not an issue of Palestine or Arab nations, but of entire humanity. He asked the world what was fault of innocent children of Gaza as more than 3,500 children had been martyred in Israeli aggression since October 7.

PM commends UAE's \$30bn climate fund as historic

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar while lauding the United Arab Emirates announcement of a \$30 billion fund to channel investments to mitigate climate change, has said that the climate fund initiative by the UAE is promising and will be translated into tangible projects, especially in the Global South.

However, at the same time, the prime minister noted that the challenge was global, and the contribution has to be global as well. "It is not just the UAE who should cater to climate mitigation," he opined during an interview with Al-Itihad, a UAE newspaper.

The caretaker prime minister also highlighted the

importance of modern knowledge-based economies and the transformation towards low carbon, adding that Pakistan considered the climate change a "national security challenge" and a shared global issue.

He said the climate change was a common challenge to all of them, whether it was a small nation or a large nation.

Elaborating his viewpoint, the caretaker prime minister further said that one could not rely on the assumption that drought would only affect a particular country, or a hurricane would target a specific nation, or the melting of a glacier would only occur in certain regions.

"Yes, there will be more vulnerable countries,

but that vulnerability does not protect others. Climate change is changing its face, shape, and form, affecting more or less the entire globe," the media outlet quoted the prime minister as saying.

Emphasising the need for solutions, he said that scientific and empirical evidence should guide governments. Vulnerable nations as well as emitters determined the terms of reference for dialogue. These terms outlined the role of all contributors, he observed.

"Rather than being judgemental, the focus should be on resolving the challenge, and the key question is who would play that role!" the caretaker prime minister said.

Greets Sindhi people on Sindhi Culture Day: CM stresses need to celebrate important days of all nationalities at national level

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stressed the need to celebrate important days of all nationalities at national level in order to promote peaceful environment. In a message issued on the Sindhi Culture Day observed on Sunday, the Chief Minister congratulated the Sindhi brethren and sisters living all over the world on their Culture Day.

He said we need to celebrate the important days of all nationalities so that they could play their role in development and prosperity of the country. The Chief Minister

said culture spreads the colour of happiness in life of the people. He said that the culture of Pakistan is a combination and bouquet of different cultures and the Sindhi culture is prominent among them. He also said that the Sindhi culture is the culture of peace, love, beauty, tradition and solidarity. He said that it is our top responsibility to keep alive all cultures of Pakistan and motivate the younger generation to get education and consciousness.

He said that culture, civilization, love and human respect is the name of connecting with the motherland.



DUBAI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets the Pakistani students who won the award in one of the categories of Zayed Sustainability Awards 2023.

Levies rendered great sacrifices in war against terror: Jan Achakzai & Zubair Jamali pay homage to martyr Levies personnel

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai and Minister for Home, Mir Zubair Jamali have expressed condolence and deep grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of two Levies force cops in Duki.

In their separate condolence and condemnation statements issued here on Sunday, they paid homage to the Levies force personnel martyred in exchange of fire with armed criminals. Jan Achakzai said that we are proud of sacrifices of the martyrs. He said

that our brave Levies jawans embraced martyrdom during the operation against criminals.

He expressed condolence with the bereaved families of the martyrs and prayed for them.

He also prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed souls into His eternal peace and give enough strength and patience to the bereaved families to bear the tragic loss.

Similarly, Mir Zubair Jamali said that Levies force has rendered great sacrifices in the war against terrorism.

He said that the whole nation is proud of the services of the security forces and is standing by them.

The caretaker Chief Minister said that we are proud of the bravery of our brave jawans of levies force who embraced martyrdom in the line of duty.

He said that we would not let the bereaved families of martyrs alone.

He also directed to the concerned authorities to complete the process of payment of the compensation and other incentives to the bereaved families under Shuhada package imm.



QUETTA: President of Local Councils Officers Association, Hafiz Munir Ahmad Kurd along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Quetta press club.

Speakers for holistic, inclusive strategy to address PWDs challenges

QUETTA (APP): The speakers at a seminar in connection with the Person With Disabilities (PWDs) global day called for a holistic and inclusive strategy to address the challenges faced by the marginalized communities of the society that demand urgent attention to become an active member of the society.

On the occasion, Secretary Social Welfare Syed Sikandar Shah, Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafaqat, Senior Area Program Manager of Islamic Relief Afzal Haider Khan, President Quetta Online Zia Khan, DG Social Welfare Tariq Mengal, Dr. Humayun Amiri, Dr. Saeed Ullah representing of Mercy Corps, Dr. Sarmad, Dr. Ayub Akbari, Nasir Iqbal, Dr. Tahir Rashid from BRSP, Ahmed Jalal, Riyaz Baloch,

Zarghuna Wado were present. Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Ali Mardan Khan Domki and Adviser to CM for Social Welfare Shania Khan were also participated in the ceremony. Secretary Social Welfare Syed Sikandar Shah called to play a joint role to utilize the talent of persons with disabilities and make them useful citizens in order to put the country on the path of development and prosperity. He said "we have to provide them with education and training, rehabilitation services and access to information and communication technology to meet the demands of the present age." The Secretary while addressing a ceremony organized in the collaboration of Islamic Relief, Quetta Online, Social Welfare Department, UNICEF, Mercy Corps and other organizations.



QUETTA: Balochistan Archery Association leader, Asif Lango addresses to participants during seminar organized by Balochistan Archery Association, held at Quetta press club.

PTI's intra-party election against principles of democracy: Khattak

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistani Tahreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarians (PTIP) Chairman, Pervez Khattak here Sunday said that the intra-party election of PTI was against the principles of democracy and the right to vote. Expressing his concerns over the intra-party election of Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf, Pervez Khattak termed the PTI's intra-party election as a political gimmick and merely paperwork.

Talking to media persons here, Pervez Khattak said the PTI election has

revealed a lack of democracy in the party.

He claimed that the former chairman of PTI did not tolerate anyone and his irrational decisions caused the dissolution of Punjab and KP assemblies.

Following the end of the PTI Government in the centre, Pervez Khattak claimed that the former PTI chairman thought he would not let the country run and wanted to spread political chaos in the country, and KP and Punjab assemblies were prematurely dissolved.

PM greets people on observance of Sindhi Cultural Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday congratulated the people of Sindhi province on observance of Sindhi Cultural Day and said that the Sindhi culture was one of the fascinating colours of different civilizations and cultures of Pakistan.

Pakistan defeats India, bags vice-chairmanship of UNESCO executive board

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has been elected as Vice Chair of the UNESCO executive board defeating its historical opponent India by 20 votes for the term 2023 to 2025. Pakistan was elected as Vice Chair of the UNESCO Executive Board for the term 2023-2025 from the Asia Pacific Group. The elections were held at the 218th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board held in Paris.

In the elections, Pakistan secured 38 votes whereas India got 18.

The re-election of Pakistan for the UNESCO Executive Board will very beneficial for the country.



KARACHI: Folk singer performing Sindhi song during celebration of Sindhi Ajrak Topi Culture Day at Karachi Press Club.

Sirajul Haq deems PM 'selection' between blue-eyed, super blue-eyed persons unacceptable

LAHORE (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami chief Sirajul Haq on Sunday said that the 'selection' of the prime minister based on being either a blue-eyed person or a super blue-eyed person in the next general elections is not acceptable - an obvious reference to the PML-N supremo and the former PTI chairman.

The JI leader, during a press conference at Mansoor, stressed the need for a systemic change

in the country, saying that it went beyond merely changing faces.

He expressed his concern over the escalating injustice and despair in the country, highlighting the details of the common man as the entire nation remains entangled in a quagmire.

"The country's youth will continue their efforts from December 10 to February 8 for the elections. We are hopeful that the elections will be held in the

country. The country will have to face severe hardships if the democracy is derailed," he said.

The JI chief berated former rulers for prioritising stashing of their bank balances over public welfare.

According to Siraj, the past decade has been a nightmare for the people, witnessing a sequence of governments, including the PTI, a coalition government for 16 months, and now a caretaker setup.

Three siblings among five dead in road accidents

NAWABSHAH (INP): As many as five people were killed in two accidents in parts of the country on Sunday. According to the details, three siblings were crushed by an over-speeding truck in Nawabshah, Sindh. The tragic accident took place at Sarhari link road in Nawabshah. The details showed that all four brothers were going to their work when they were crushed by an over-speeding truck. Three brothers were killed on the spot while one sustained injuries. The deceased and the injured were shifted to the Sakrand hospital. The deceased were later identified as 18-year old Saman Khaskheli, 40-year old Gul Sher Khaskheli and 24-year old Munawar Khaskheli.

NAB Balochistan inspires student talent with divisional competitions

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan in collaboration with the Education Department, on Sunday conducted divisional-level competitions, featuring declamation, essay writing in Urdu and English, calligraphy and poster making for college students in Quetta, Pishin and Chaman districts.

The NAB arranges annual competitions for students in universities,



colleges, and schools, aiming to cultivate awareness and vigilance against corruption.

Dr. Saeed Ahmed Khan from Mercy Corps Balochistan served as the chief guest, alongside the

from other educational institutions were present.

The students conveyed their perspectives on the detrimental effects of corruption in their own and unique ways. Throughout the program, the chief

guest, Director NAB Haroon Rasheed and other guests shared their sentiments opposing corruption. In their speeches, they underscored the vital role of educational institutions in combating corruption.

Peace, love, hospitality woven into tapestry of Sindhi culture: Zardari

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial President of Awami National Party (ANP), Aimal Wali Khan here Sunday said that free, fair and transparent election would help strengthen democracy on the country and his party was ready for February 8, 2024 election.

Addressing a big public gathering here, the ANP leader said that his party after winning the election would remove the 10 years long sense of deprivation of people of Kyber Pakhtunkhwa as according to him PTI had failed to address masses issues.

He claimed that PTI had disappointed the people in its nearly 10 years unpopular rule and his party would start development projects for socioeconomic emancipation of electorates on uniformed basis. Aimal Wali said ANP would field candidates in all constituencies and would achieve landslide victory. Aimal Wali said that his party would continue struggle for rights of people and supremacy of democracy. He urged party workers to start mobilization of masses for election and informed them about the party manifesto.

KARACHI (INP): Former president Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday felicitated all Sindhis on the occasion of Sindhi Culture Day.

In his felicitation message, the PPP leader said that nations are identified by their cultures, and the culture of Sindhi has a history of peace, love, bravery and hospitality.

Zardari recalled that the PPP founding leader, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, had established a ministry to preserve the cultures of all communities residing in Pakistan.

He said that the Lok Virsa Museum in Islamabad narrates the history of the cultures of the communities residing in the country.

Extending congratulations to the people of Sindhi and the entire country on Sindhi Culture Day, PPP Women Wing Central President Faryal Talpur said that the culture of the Indus Valley is a mirror of a 5,000-year-old and great civilisation. She said that Sindhi topi, Ajrak, art and the Sindhi language are distinct identities. Talpur stated that Pakistan is immensely rich in unparalleled cultural heritage, and "it is the responsibility of all of us to play our role in preserving and promoting this great heritage".

The media should also play a leadership role in promoting all cultures of Pakistan, she added.



QUETTA: Members of Supreme Welfare Society and disabled persons participate in awareness walk, in connection of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, held at Quetta press club.

Missing facilities exposing citizens to health hazards

QUETTA (APP): Insufficient facilities of standard Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) laboratories as well as ineffective scientific approach to deal with epidemics exposed thousands of Balochistan residents to hazardous spread of epidemics. Application of scientific approaches like Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) was also yet to be fully in place as witnessed in recent emergence of Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever virus (CCHF).

Healthcare staff including doctors, nurses and paramedics was also seen falling short of meeting international standards of treatment for CCHF as its recent spread claimed four lives and many had to be shifted to Karachi hospitals.

Although timely efforts of the caretaker government yielded some positive results, minimizing the risk of the epidemic spread to a great extent, yet one doctor, a paramedic and two other citizens lost their lives in recent sudden outbreak of the epidemic. However, the year-wide figure of deceased and infected people had been.....and..... respectively. This situation raises multiple questions on existing flaws within the health system urging the need for better adherence to global guidelines designed for best healthcare and curbing the spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and pathogens. "Soon after the CCHF outbreak in Quetta, the health department shifted the infected patients including doctors, nurses and health workers to Karachi to control the situation.