# Inachentent

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# Sindh's diversity its strength, not weakness: Solangi

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

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 Sindh culture like steel, which could be moulded but not

He said it was significant that in the poetry of great Sindhi poet Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai, seven

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

MULTAN (APP): Chief of Ummah. Underlining ideol-Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) ogy, belief, and attitude as Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Sunday expressed JUI's commitment to fostering moderation in political discourse while maintaining lective responsibility of and promoting religious safeguarding their lives,

identity. wealth, and honor.

While addressing to workers at Jhok Wanis, on occasion of Malik Sajjad policy of wisdom and fairness in dispute resolution, and the historical content of the historical c Wains, a local political figcritical role of public leaders, emphasized his dedication to solving societal issues and dismantling prejudices in order to pave the way for a harmonious

take stand against those who resorted to target Muslim silience.

the political foundation, he stressed the importance of compassion towards the impoverished and the col-

underscoring the historical ure in JUI, Fazalur Rehman acknowledging the 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, unit-Maulana Fazlur ing communities, and fos-Rehman firmly declared to tering a future marked by justice, compassion, and re-

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

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 Sindh has a history of peace, love, brav-

ery 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

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 Sindh and the entire country on Sindhi Cul-ture 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.



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 Sun-day said that the 'selection' of the prime minister based on being either a blue-eved 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 Mansoora. stressed the need for a systemic change in the country, saying that it went beyond changing merely

He expressed his concern over the escalating injustice and despair in the country, highlighting the distress of the common a caretaker setup.

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



DUBAI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addresses a ceremony on Living Indus

# 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 Pavilion at the venue of the Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said on Sunday that adapting Pakistan to the impacts of climate change as the majority of the population was linked to the river.

He said Pakistan's clineeded immediate action to be addressed.

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

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

Nadeem invited him to at-

tend Global Health Summit

counterpart on the success-

briefed his counterpart on

the ongoing reform agenda

in the health sector of Paki-

stan. The minister informed

his counterpart about the

Global Health Security

Summit to be held in Janu-

PM strongly

condemns firing

incident in GB's

Chilas area

ful conduct of COP 28.

During the meeting, Dr

He congratulated his

Dr. Nadeem Jan also

change summit

in Islamabad.

ary 2024.

United Nations' 28th Conference of Parties (COP 28), the prime minister said climate change was vital to adapting the Indus Basin to vulnerable country in the world to the impacts of climate change.

He said Living Indus was an umbrella initiative aimed at restoring the ecomate challenge was primarily a water challenge that within the boundaries of Pakistan, which was most vulnerable to climate

He maintained that the government of Pakistan was

clear on its priorities with tomorrow the Living Indus. "This umbrella initia-

tive emerged from extensive consultation with stakeholders, resulting in a set of 25 living interventions that emphasize nature-based solutions and ecosystembased adaptation approaches.

The prime minister said what was more impor-tant was that the Living Indus initiative sought to mobilize a moment that pre-

"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 pared and restored a 15 years to mobilize from healthy Indus for today and the public sector.



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.

# **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 336, indicating a decrease of six seats from the previous count of 342.

National Assembly has

been reduced from 51 seats

delimitation, the National

Assembly seats for the

GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulber Khan with other people

attending the funeral prayer of martyrs of Hudur incident by terrorist attack

After the process of

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.

on passenger bus.

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 consider-

The constituency Punjab will have list released by the Elec-141 general seats in the NA, Sindh 61, Khyber tion Commission of Pakistan (ECP) signifies a de-Pakhtunkhwa Balochistan 16, and three cline in the general seats of the National Assembly will be from Islamabad. (NA) from 272 to 266. Women will have 60 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's reserved seats, while minorities will have 10 (KP) representation in the

Punjab would have 371 seats, of which 297 would be general seats. Sindh would have 168 seats, of which 130 would merged districts have been be general seats.

# visit Pak to bolster bilateral talks ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa-

kistan will witness back-toback visits by senior US officials starting today, the foreign office spokesperson confirmed on Sunday.

**Senior US** 

officials to

'Pakistan and the United States continue to hold consultations on a range of issues," foreign office spokesperson Mumtaz 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 Decem ber 4 to 6, she said.

### **ANP** ready for general election: Aimal Wali

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 pub-

lic 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 Khyber Pakthunkhwa as according to him PTI had failed to address masses issues

### leaves 9 dead, several injured in Chilas **Monitoring Desk** CHILAS: Unidentified at-

Firing on passenger bus

tackers opened fire on a passenger bus on Karakoram Highway in Gilgit-Baltistan's Chilas city, leaving at least nine dead and 20 injured.

The firing led to a collision between the bus and a truck. Resultantly, the truck caught fire. The bus was traveling

from Ghizar district of Gilgit-Baltistan Rawalpindi, the police

Diamer DC Captain (retd) Arif Ahmad told reporters the injured and bodies were shifted to a nearby hospital. "An unfortunate incident occurred in which a cowardly act was done, targeting a bus that set off high alert.

from Gahkuch in Ghizer." DC Ahmad said the bus bearing registration number BLN-4647 was owned by a private company. He said the "cowards" indiscriminately fired on the bus. "There are a total of eight bodies, out of which five have been identified and the rest are under

process," he added. Diamer police on Sunday lodged a first information report (FIR) and arrested six suspects in connection with an attack on an Islamabad-bound bus in Gilgit-Baltistan's (GB)

Chilas a day earlier. The official said all entry and exit points of GB had been closed and security in the region was on



**DUBAI: Federal Minister of Health Dr. Nadeem** Jan had a special meeting with the Minister of Health of the United Arab Emirates, Abdul Rahman bin Muhammad Al Awais, on the sidelines of COP 28 UN Climate change summit.

# 5th WMS encourages global media to build consensus, work together for high-quality development

ISLAMABAD (APP): The leaders of the 5th World Media Summit (WMS) on Sunday encouraged global media organizations to build consensus, work together for high-quality development, and pool powerful media strength for building a community with a shared future for humanity and a better

According to the joint statement for the 5th World Media Summit, the leaders of the media outlets agreed to strengthen cooperation, promote the common development of the world media industry, and facilitate mutual understanding and communication among countries and peoples with different historical backgrounds, cultural traditions, and development status to deliver greater stability and positive energy to a vola-

The joint declaration further stated, "We note that the world today is undergoing accelerated changes unseen in a century. Uncertainties and unforeseen factors are on the rise, posing unprecedented challenges for human society. The international community needs to strengthen unity and cooperation more than ever before." "Global media should build a bridge of communication to answer questions posed by the world, by the times, and by history," it added.
"We believe that

amid the rapid development of new technologies in the information age, global media should adhere to journalistic ethics and meet professional standards while actively carrying out innovation and making rational use of emerging technologies.



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

# PTI's intra-party election against principles of democracy: Khattak PESHAWAR (APP): Pa- election has revealed a

Chairman, Pervez Khattak here Sunday said that the intra-party election of PTI was against the principles of democracy and the right

Expressing his concerns over the intraparty election of Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf, Pervez Khattak termed the PTI's intra-party election as a political gimmick and merely paperwork

persons here, Pervez semblies were prema-Khattak said the PTI turely dissolved.

kistan Tahreek-e-Insaf lack of democracy in the Parliamentarians (PTIP) 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, Talking to media and KP and Punjab as-

# Daily Aoice of Masse, Independent

# **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'



Monday December 04, 2023

Muna Khan

Lately, I've been wondering what I'm worth. I don't mean this just from a selfesteem 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 iournalists 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 ost 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 ioin the chorus of voices glad that police action was quick and the state has shown up as the complainant. Maybe we're inching towards way 'honour' recognising 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 rimes to go unpunished. But this doesn't help me ascertain that dead woman's worth. Or the other women in Kohistan

images appeared in a video. The HRCP recorded at least 384 cases of be consequences. From 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 babymaking 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 I think dramas and ad-

vertising 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 re-

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

ferred to the situation as a

"shadow pandemic" in its

2021 report about domes-

tic violence in 13 coun-

killed in 2011, when their ficials in Kohistan for acting swiftly shows the sorry state of affairs. There must 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 po-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 at 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

# 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 oftused 'higher than the Himalayas, deeper than the ocean, sweeter than honey, and stronger than

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 dif-ridor, a livelihood corridor, ferent. The reason is that an innovation corridor, a both have scrupulously respected each other's sovereignty and never interfered in the other's internal affairs. Another factor that underpins their ment puts its full weight close friendship is the behind these initiatives 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 power plants, that generated enough electricity to overcome loadshedding of over 16 hours a day, as well as hundreds of kilometres of quality

CPEC investments were to be complemented by certain actions that Pakistan was to undertake, most notably the Special we did not create these zones in time, Chinese industry moved out to other countries, and not to Pa-

In the second phase of CPEC, which coincided with the change of gov-Relationships are ernment 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-

green corridor, and an open corridor — an ambitious agenda, which can be accomplished only if the next elected governand 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 Port. Naturally, Pakistanis of electricity and freshwafelt deeply obliged. Of ter as well as security for popular interest were the Chi-nese nationals working in Gwadar. The government must also ensure that the people of Gwadar are the first beneficiaries of the port.

China 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 Economic Zones. Since 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

a groundbreaking initiative, the Pakistan-Qatar IT Conference commenced at the JW Marriott Marquis City Center in Doha, Qatar, active participation prominent Pakistani IT businesses.

ceremony was led by the Caretaker Federal Minister 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 stronger bilateral relations. release received here on Sunday

maiden voyage of an IT the The inauguration Pakistan's IT exports.

the Pakistani delegation, for IT and spearheaded by Dr Umar Telecommunication, Dr Saif, began with a Pakistan Attended by the Pakistani Pakistan, the gathering set

Jointly organized by

the Pakistani Embassy, the This event marks the Pakistan Software Houses Association (PSHA), and delegation from Pakistan to the Pakistan Business from Qatar, aiming to tap into Council of Qatar, the event considerable underscored firms and local Qatari unexplored opportunities collaborative efforts to in the region and bolster explore and harness the vast untapped potential in The historic visit of Qatar for the mutual Pakistani delegation, benefit of both nations.

As the conference unfolds, expectations are Umar Saif. During his noteworthy event at the high for fruitful discussions embassy. and partnerships that will not only elevate Pakistan's diaspora in Qatar and IT industry but also representatives from 30 contribute to the growth leading IT companies in and development of the Qatari technology sector.



Annual Christmas Market organized by German Embassy at a local hotel in

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

MULTAN (APP): Head of congoing programs across on existing taxpayers and Economy and Trade provinces, emphasizing (British High Commission) efforts to boost Furthermore, Mishra the United Kingdom was offering assistance to improve various sectors including health and education, in Pakistan.

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

Mahesh Mishra stated that employment in the SME sector and facilitate access to British markets for Pakistani businessmen.

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

He maintained that UK was assisting Pakistan

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

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

# China's public offering fund value tops

Assets under 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

# facilities being provided to the business community PESHAWAR (Online): took the form of a Khyber procession as Governor's Haji presence in King Gate

Governor assures all necessary

Governor Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali on Sunday embarked on a sudden visit to Kohat's renowned King eliciting children, and traders took expressions of joy from the local business community and residents.

Governor The engaging in informal interactions shopkeepers and traders.

took opportunity to gain insights into the issues and challenges faced by the business community.

presence in King Gate Bazar spontaneous celebrations. Local residents,

pictures, showered petals and adorned him with garlands. Witnessing the strolled through King Gate Governor casually in the central bazar, mingling with the public in the market brought genuine happiness to the

> 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

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.

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

Ahsan Bakhtawari, President, the

ISLAMABAD (APP): A 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 represented various sectors 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

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

RAWALPINDI: Vendors displayed warm jackets

attraction for customers outside their shops at Raja

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

Bazaar in the city.

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

better crop production agriculture farming," according to a news release. He said "China will cooperate with 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

AHORE (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 expl 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 strengthening partnerships.

stability. to expand the tax net, aiming to alleviate pressure 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 (SSIL) 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 (SSIL) is based in Mauritius, according to a press release issued here on Sunday.SSIL 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.

# 27 trln yuan BEIJING (Xinhua/APP)

# **UNCHR rep, CM discuss** repatriation of foreigners

United Nations High have formulated a clear Commissioner Refugees (UNCHR) Ms. Philippa Condler 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 foreigner residing illegally

ort evacuate them were also should remain in the Secretary
The discussed CM Mohsin province. We will continue Implementa Naqvi underlined, "We for policy against foreigners residing illegally. The Punjab government is implementing 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

every possible cooperation

with the UNHCR," he said. The representative of UNHCR acknowledged that the steps being taken the by the government to give guidelines of the federal 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),

Implementation, Liaison Islamabad Farman Khilji, Commissioner Afghan Refugees in Punjab Rana Muhammad 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.

CM KP condemns tragic

bus shooting in Chilas, offers

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

KOHAT (Online): In March took the form of a rally support of the oppressed people of Gaza and Palestine and against the aggression of the usurper Israel, Majlis President MWM KP Muslimeen (MWM) organized grand 'Azadi e Palestine March" in Kohat. March was led by the head of Majlis Wahdat Muslimeen Pakistan Allama

on Tal Parachinar highway MWM leader Syed Nasii Abbas Shirazi, Provincial Allama Jahanzeb Jafari, Majlis Ulema Maktab Ahl Bait Khyber Pakhtunkhwa along with Provincial President Allama Ahmad Rouhani along with Ulemas Raja Nasir Abbas Jafari, the and Elders of Kohat.

### Sindh Rangers hosts Peace **Bicycle Rally**

KARAČHI (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 Qayyumabad, through Ayesha Masjid, Clock Tower Bilawal Chowrangi.

### Punjab governor meets children of SOS Village character building is very

**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,

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 administration of SOS Children's Village, he said said that institutions like SOS Children's Village

were doing a good job by

providing good care,

education, and training to

contributions of the lumi-

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, chal-

The "Badalta Hua

condolences, assures coop. ABBOTTABAD (APP): the Chief Minister Chief Minister KPK strongly condemned the Justice ® Syed Arshad Hussain Shah has incident and extended expressed profound grief over the tragic incident of an unknown armed attack

heartfelt sympathies to the grieving families. CM Arshad Hussain Shah on a passenger bus in the Hudur area of Chilas at Karakoram Highway the families affected by (KKH), resulting in the this devastating event. He also conveyed best wishes loss of precious human lives.In an official for the swift recovery of local p statement from his office, those injured in the attack. vigilant.

Taking swift action, the strongly condemned the Chief Minister contacted the Additional Chief Secretary Interior, directing him to closely monitor the security situation in the border areas offered sincere condolences of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and prayers for the and the Quetta-Karachi forgiveness and patience of highway. Emphasizing the importance of maintaining law and order, Chief Minister Shah instructed for the swift recovery of local police to remain

# Sindhi Culture Day celebrated with traditional zest across sindh

**By Tanveer Ahmed** 

Soomro 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



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

Sindhi culture slogans ech-

A dignified ceremony

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

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

### to thwart Israeli aggression to secure Palestine KARACHI (APP): The lighted the life and art of revered actors, poets, and 16th Aalmi Ùrdu Ćonference on Sunday concluded literary figures including Shakeel, Amjad Islam here at the Arts Council of Amjad, Zia Mohyeddin, Pakistan Karachi. Shoaib Hashmi, and Qavi

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 Firagi. Engaging discussions unfolded about prominent figures such as Shamsur Rahman Faruqi, Gopi Chand Narang, and oth-

A notable session titled "Yaad Raftagan" high- lenging negative percep- behaviour.

tions propagated by social Moreover, in "Japan main Urdu," the audience

16th Aalmi Urdu Conference urges UN, global powers

had the privilege of engaging with Professor Hiroji Kataoka, acknowledged as The session resothe "Father of Urdu in Janated with the audience, shedding light on the rich

Hosted by Salim Mughal, the session cel-ebrated Professor Kataoka's dedication to promoting the Urdu language and literature in Ja-

A captivating session titled "Meeting with Bushra Ansari" featured the legendary artist sharing her journey and concerns about changing fan

The conference figures in Pashto literature, showcased diversity with a session titled "Pashto Language and Literature

including Abaseen Yousafzai, Irfanullah, and Qaiser Afridi, were recog-Giants," moderated by Gulfam Khan. Prominent contributions.



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

Ukraine says

blackout at N-plant

# 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 24's Luke FRANCE

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 date their death tolls. These latest strikes

come as worldwide pressure continues to mount, with international negotiators trying to reintroduce a tion, had his words read by newed 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-Ĥamas 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 still being held hostage in

Gaza and the lack of basic necessities in the Palestin-

ian territory. Francis, who is suffering from a lung inflammapause in the fighting. A re- 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 38year-old man in the town of Oarawat Bani Hassan in the northern West Bank was shot in the chest and died as residents conthinking about the people fronted settlers and Israeli

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

# 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

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

The remaining health system capacity must be protected, supported and WHO has sounded

Speaking at a press the alarm about the spread

of infectious disease in displacement of the population has caused overcrowding in shelters and other temporary living fa-

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 en

"With severe over crowding, the risks are in creasing for epidemics of respiratory tract infections, acute watery diarrhoea, hepatitis, scabies, lice and

other diseases.' **India agrees to** withdraw soldiers

# from Maldives -President Muizzu Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: India's gov

ernment 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.

### risked 'accident' **Monitoring Desk** Ukraine's nuclear energy operator said in a state-

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 power-

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 safe limits and that no



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

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.

**Monitoring Desk** 

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, be-

fore 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

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 Chinese-controlled Hong Kong when they cast their ballots next month, saying peace must be backed up with a com-

mitment to boost defences. Taiwan prepares for presidential and parliamentary elections on Jan 13 as China, which claims the

land 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).

democratically governed is-

### 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 Jkraine overnight, with air defence systems destroying 10 drones before they reached their targets.

Russia's defence ministry also said it its daily dispatch that it hit fuel depots in the areas of Myrhorod, Poltava region and the city of Khmelnytskyi, an ammunithe city of tion 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

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



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 ers from various faiths, all united under the common try. He said that every reliligious touris

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 aimed to bringing together a diverse array of religious scholars and lead-

goal of promoting harmony and thwarting divisive agendas. Ashrafi, who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulema 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

gion 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 curtail for any country's development. He said that state-ofthe-art facilities were being provided to religious tourists as per direction of Caretaker Prime Minister and Army Chief. He said Paki-

heartedly 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 visits their holy places in Paki-

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

# **FGEHA** to complete Green Enclave-II in 2025

The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) would complete the development work of Green Enclave-II residential project of the government employees by 2025.

"The work of the first part of the project Green Enclave-II (Commoners Sky Garden) is going on vigorously. The Housing Authority Green Enclave II-Project is a joint venture of FGEHA, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Housing and Construction, with Sky Garden to provide low-cost plots/flats to government employees," an official told

spheres of society and development.

with, and by persons with disabilities.

ebrated every year on December 3.

face no barriers in all aspects of their lives.

sisted of about 11,000 kanals of land, and the development work on about 2403 kanals of the first part consisting of (A, B, C, D & E) blocks of Phase-I to

be completed by the end of 2025 while 20 per cent

work is completed in Block

The road work and other facilities would also be completed soon as per promises made by the Housing Authority would be fulfilled within the stipulated time period, he added.

To a question, the official replied, "FGEHA is planning to start new resi-He said, "Work on the dential projects in eight he added.

32nd Int'l Day of Persons with

Disabilities being celebrated

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 32nd International Day of Persons with Disabilities is being

This day aims to promote the rights and well-being of people with disabilities in all

The theme for this year is "United in action to rescue and achieve the SDGs for,

According to the United Nations, there are an estimated one billion people living

International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) is a UN day that is cel-

The day is about to raise awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in

with disabilities worldwide, facing many barriers to inclusion in many key aspects of

all aspects of political, social, economic, and cultural life. WHO joins the UN in observ-

ing this day each year, reinforcing the importance of securing the rights of people with

disabilities so they can participate fully, equally, and effectively in society with others and

celebrated in the country as well as across the globe on Sunday (today).

first part of Green Enclave- major cities of the country II was progressing towards completion, which congeneral public.

'The authority has already received several applications from land owners, companies and firms interested in the mega projects," he added.

He said the applications were invited from land owners, developers, firms and eligible individuals for the supply of land for housing schemes (plots, houses and apartments projects in major cities of the country.

The procedure for applications and selection was being followed as per Joint Venture Regulations 2020.

# **Bukhari directs PPP** ticket aspirants to submit application till December 4

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary General Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) Syed Nayyer Hussain Bukhari Friday directed the candidates seeking PPP tickets to contest National and Provincial Assemblies to submit applications for party tickets till December

"The candidates who have submitted applications for the Party tickets earlier are advised to send their applications without bank drafts," he said.

Nayyer Bukhari said that PPPP issued these instructions to the candidates who want to contest upcoming general elections on PPP tickets to write their constituency no in accordance with the new constituencies announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

The General Secretary said that the new applicants are directed to attach a bank draft of Rs 40,000 for the National Assembly and Rs 30,000 for the Provincial Assembly seats.

Nayyer Bukhari said that the applications would be in the name of President PPPP and sent the same to the address of Bilawal House Karachi or House No. 1, Street 85 Embassy

# should come together for stan always whole- humanity. ACCESS.ABILITY BILITY.WALK

ISLAMABAD: A view of walk title "International Day of Persons with Disabilities in front of Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Federal Capital.

# **ICCPO** visits Security division Orders to enhanced

security measures **Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: According to the details, the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Ďr Akbar Nasir Khan conducted a visit to the Diplomatic Enclave to assess security arrangements and issue directives

ficer said He said that, the ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan interacted with officers and officials of the Islamabad Capital Police entrusted with the security of the diplomatic enclave. nior officers for the enhancement of security measures at the embassies.

activities or items by dialing helpline "Pucar 15" or at ICT-15 app.

this year.

for enhancing security mea-

sures, a public relation of-

Emphasizing the need for effective monitoring on both internal and external routes of the diplomatic enclave, the ICCPO stressed the importance of ensuring effective surveillance through the Safe City centralized camera systems.

The Islamabad Capital Police remains steadfast in its commitment to maintaining a peaceful environment and ensuring the protection of the lives and property of the citizens within the federal capital.

Citizens are urged to cooperate with the police report any suspicious

ISSI to hold its annual

# 88,000 cusecs water ISLAMABAD (APP):

IRSA releases

Indus River Systèm Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 88,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 43,200 cusecs. According to the data

released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1494.92 feet and was 94.92 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. The water inflow and

outflow in the dam was recorded as 22,100 cusecs and 45,000 cusecs respec-

tively.

The water level in at Mangla Dam was 1173.65 feet. which was 1244.65 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 6,100 cusecs and 28,000 cusecs respec-

tively.
The release of water at
Guddu Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 65,900, 43,700, 41,700 and 11,700 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 7,300 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 2,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at

DC Islamabad

leads charge,

netted

ISLAMABAD (APP)

In a decisive move to curb

the issue of professional

begging in Islamabad, the

teams of Assistant Com-

missioners and Magis-

trates on Sunday

launched a comprehen-

sive crackdown sweeping

the streets of the capita

eye of Deputy Commis-

sioner Irfan Nawaz

Memon, the Assistant

Commissioner Industrial

Area Awaid Irshad Bhatti

swooped into the

Karachi Company area,

apprehending ten profes-

sional beggars, ICT

AbdullahTabasum said

that these individuals

were promptly taken into

custody and transferred

to the police station for

further processing

Meanwhile, minor chil

dren found among the

spokesman

Under the watchful

# **Provincial constituencies** modified across 18 **Punjab districts** ISLAMABAD (APP): established districts, the

The provincial constituencies across 18 districts in Punjab have undergone modifications due to the creation of new districts and population increase, as indicated in the notification of final constituencies issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)

This adjustment, detailed in the latest notification of final constituencies from the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), reflects the evolving demographic landscape. In response to these changes, the Commission strategically added and reallocated seats, ultimately keeping the total at 297.

The Election Comency delimitation details, indicating decrease in 15

constituencies of eight Punjab districts in accordance with the latest census results.

Punjab has added five provincial assembly seats across five districts to address population growth. Additionally, despite allototal seats in the Punjab Assembly remain at 297. Some districts gained

seats, like Taunsa, Kot Addu, Murree, Talagang, and Wazirabad, while others, including Gujrat, Khushab, Rajanpur, and Kasur, saw reductions.

Some districts experienced seat reductions, while others gained seats. Notable changes include additional seats for Taunsa, Kot Addu, Murree, Talagang, and Wazirabad, as well as one extra seat for Gujrat, Khushab, Rajanpur, and Kasur. According to the ECP, there is a reduction of two seats in each of the districts of Rawalpindi, Chakwal, and Gujranwala. Additionally, Sialkot, has released the constitu- witness a decrease of one provincial assembly seat. Similarly, Muzaffargarh sees a reduction of four seats, and Dera Ghazi Khan experiences a decrease of two seats. According to the official notification, Taunsa now has two designated seats, Kot Addu has been assigned three, Murree secured one, Talagang acquired two, and Wazirabad

ISLAMABAD: A woman is distributing sweets among the children's during Annual Christmas Market organized by German Embassy at a local hotel in the Federal Capital.

# HIV/AIDS cases on the rise in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): The alarming surge in HIV/AIDS cases persists in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), with a total of 6,305 individuals testing positive from 1998 to October 2023.

According to Kashmir Media Service, as per official data, 1,452 HIV-positive patients have succumbed to the disease during the same period, while 3,583 individuals are currently undergoing anti-retroviral therapy (ART). An additional 521 patients have discontinued follow-up.

The official revealed that Govt Medical College, Jammu, has reported 5,154 cases of HIV, with 1,274 fatalities, 470 discontinuing follow-up, and 2,782 individu-

als currently on ART. Similarly, at Soura Institute of Medical Sciences, Srinagar, 776 patients are registered in HIV care until October 2023, with 152 deaths, 35 discontinuing followup, and 473 on ART. In ART Kathua, 375 patients are registered in HIV care, with 26 deaths, 16 discontinuing follow-up, and 328 on ART. The health officials emphasized the impact of social stigma on deterring people from undergoing HIV tests, contributing to the escalating number of infections over the years.

# Wanted member of bike lifter gang arrested; three stolen bikes recovered

**Independent Report** 

I S L A M A B A D : Islamabad Capital Police Khanna police team have arrested a wanted member of a bike lifter gang involved in numerous bike theft activities and recovered three stolen motorbikes and a mobile phone from his possession, a public relations officer

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police had categorically started a crackdown against criminal elements ther investigation is unin order to save the pre- derway

cious lives and property

Following these directions, the Khanna police team used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending a wanted member of a former jailbird bike lifter gang member involved in numerous theft activities.

The accused was identified as Shahzaib. Police team also recovered three stolen motorbikes and a mobile phone from his possession. Cases have already been registered against the nabbed accused and fur-

### Int'l mountain day to be observed on Dec 11

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Mountain Day, themed "Restoring Mountain Ecosystems," will be observed on December 11 across the world to highlight the significance of the mountains and their people's lifestyles.

According to details, the United Nations General Assembly nominated December 11 as "International Mountain Day" in 2002. However, beyond their aesthetics, mountains play a crucial role in our planet's well-being, impacting global ecosystems, climate, and communities.

This theme was selected to fully include mountains in the UN decade on ecosystem restoration 2021–2030, co-led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and the UN Environment Programme.

The decade is an opportunity to draw together political support, scientific research, and financial resources to significantly scale up restoration and prevent further degradation of mountain ecosystems. It is pertinent to men-

tion here that mountains cover around 27 percent of the Earth's land surface and host about half of the biodiversity world's hotspots.

Mountains are home

to an extraordinary range of plants and animals and many culturally diverse communities with different languages and tradi-

### flagship event 'Islamabad Conclave' next week ISLAMABAD (APP): The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) is holding its annual flagship event, "Islamabad Conclave", next week with "Pakistan in a Changing World" as the thematic focus for The Islamabad Conclave embodies a 1.5-track initiative designed to converge the highest tiers of foreign and Pakistani leadership, policymakers and academia onto a singular platform. The event serves as a forum to evaluate the intricate political, security and economic issues as well as traditional and non-traditional threats affecting

Pakistan and the region and to suggest responses and innovative solutions, a news release said. The event's third iteration is scheduled for December 6-7, 2023. Comprising a sequence of highlevel interactions in the Plenary and 5 Working Sessions, the Conclave focuses on five distinct sub-themes. The first working session, titled "Evolving Geopolitical Dynamics, Emerging Technologies, and Shifts in Strategic

Centre (ACDC) at ISSI. It will delve into the transformative changes at the international level, marked by major power rivalries, military modernization, and the surge in emerging technologies, accompanied by a decline in arms control and disarmament norms. The second working session, "Changing Regional Landscape: From Afghanistan to Middle East," is being organized by the Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at ISSI. It will concentrate on the evolving relation-ships between Pakistan and key neighboring countries, especially Afghanistan and in the Middle East. It aims to analyze shifting non-traditional security dynamics, challenges, and the imperative to fortify economic and regional connectivity for sustainable growth. "Navigating Complex Geopolitics: Accentuating Pivot to Geoeconomics" forms the crux of the third working session, fostering insightful deliberations on the transformative shift in interna-



Italy Embassy in Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: A view of dry leaves of tree drops on floor during autumn season in Federal Capital.

# India uses torture systematically to disable Kashmiris

the world observes the "International Day of Persons with Disabilities" here on Sunday, India continues to use torture systematically to disable the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K).

A report released by Kashmir Media Service on the occasion of 'International Day of Persons with Disabilities', said brutal and inhuman torture techniques, employed by Indian troops, paramilitary forces and police personnel, have left thousands of Kashmiris disabled for life, including over 200 losing eyesight in one or both eyes in the occupied terri-It said that among the

most brutal tactics used in the territory by Indian troops to disable and maim the Kashmiris include the firing of bullets, pellets, teargas and PAVA (made of pelargonic vanillylamide, an organic

compound found in natural chili pepper) shells on peaceful protesters as well as resorting to severe beatings, electric shock, crushing the leg muscles with a wooden roller,

ISLAMABAD (APP): As burning with heated objects and hanging upside down in interrogation The report deplored

that besides, booby traps, landmines, and mine blasts were also used against the hapless Kashmiris which had caused thousands of deaths and disabled innocent people of Kashmir since 1947. Cases of disabilities have increased manifold since India started using deadly pellets as over three thousand Kashmiris are on the verge of losing vision in one or both eyes, it added. The report urged the international community to take notice of Indian government's inhuman act of disabling the Kashmiris under a systematic torture mechanism in IIOJK. Meanwhile, All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders, including Muhammad Khan Sopori, Syed Bashir Andrabi, Khawaja Firous, Zamruda Habib, Yasmeen Raja, Farida Behanji, Dr Musaib, Chaudhry Shaheen Iqbal, Ghulam Nabi War, Hakeem Abdur Rasheedand Muhammad Aaqib as well as Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party.