

# Independent

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## Rallies, seminars being held on Sindh Culture Day to promote peace and tolerance

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari extended warm congratulations to the nation, particularly the people of Sindh, on the occasion of Sindh Culture Day.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari emphasizes the timeless nature of Sindh's culture, considering it a testament to one of the world's oldest and most exquisite civilizations.

Highlighting 'Mohun Jo Daro' as the epicenter of Sindh's cultural richness, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari underscores the historical traits of peace, tolerance, and patriotism exhibited by the people of Sindh. He further notes their appreciation for art and nature, describing these characteristics as integral aspects of Sindh's identity.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari views cultural diversity as the hallmark of Pakistani society, presenting an unparalleled example of national unity

to the global community. He advocates for purposeful cultural activities, considering them a potent antidote to hatred, division, and extremist ideologies within society.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari contends that cultural activities serve as a source of nourishment for promoting tolerance and social harmony, likening them to nectar.

Expressing the Pakistan People's Party's commitment to giving equal importance to all cultures across the nation, he declares their manifesto to showcase Pakistan's positive image globally by highlighting its ancient civilization and vibrant culture.

In conclusion, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's message on Sindh Culture Day reflects a dedication to preserving and promoting the rich heritage of Pakistan, fostering unity, and presenting a positive narrative of the nation to the world.



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

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

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 Pa-

kistan 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."

## Governor, Caretaker CM felicitate on Sindh Culture Day

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori and Sindh Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar while congratulating the people of the province on Sindh Culture Day, said that the history and culture of our province was centuries old.

In their separate messages on Sunday, they said that peace and harmony were the special qualities of the people of the province. They said that Sindh was

the land of Sufis and Saints, who always taught brotherhood and love.

The Sindh also had the honor of being the chapter of Islam (Bab e Islam).

They further said that Sindh Ajrak and Topi were the identity and glory of the province. The role of Sindh province in the establishment of Pakistan was unforgettable, they said adding that the celebration would help to highlight the civilization and culture of the province.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Mohamed Kamran Khan Tessori cutting the ribbon to inaugurate the event organized for special children.

## Pakistan, US continue to hold consultations on a range of issues: FO

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan and the United States continue to hold consultations on a range of issues and to advance these consultations, exchange of visits also takes place, says in media reports.

Responding to media queries, Foreign Office Spokesperson, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in this context the following visits are taking place in coming days.

The US Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees, and Migration, Julieta Valls Noyes is arriv-

ing in Pakistan on a three-day visit from Monday, while the US Special Representative on Afghanistan Tom West will visit Islamabad on Thursday. Similarly, the US Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Elizabeth Horst will also be visiting Pakistan from 9th of this month.

The Spokesperson further said that these visits are part of ongoing dialogue with the United States on a range of issues including, but not limited to the situation in Afghanistan.

## PPP vows to utilise 'constitutional' means against ECP's delimitations

Party has "strong objections" against the recent delimitations carried out by ECP, says Sharjeel Memon

KARACHI (INP): After the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) issued a final list of delimitations, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Sharjeel Memon Sunday said that the party will utilise "constitutional" means to convey its reservations over the redrawing of the national and provincial assemblies constituencies.

Earlier this week, the electoral watchdog, amid rumours of delay in general polls, notified the final list of delimitation of constituencies of the national and four provincial assemblies.

The development would pave the way for the announcement of the election schedule, which is expected during the first week of December as announced by the ECP. It had earlier stated that the final list of delimitations would be published on December 15 but it was later revised to November 30.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Senior Leader, Sharjeel Inam Memon addresses to media persons during press conference, held at PPP Media Cell Bilawal House in Karachi.

## MQM-P pledges support for any PM endorsing its constitutional amendments

"Things are in such a state that no other experiment is possible," MQM-P Syed Mustafa Kamal says

KARACHI (INP): Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) said it pledges support towards any federal government or prime minister that ensures pushing for the party's proposed constitutional amendments. The News reported on Sunday.

The party's Senior Deputy Convener, Syed Mustafa Kamal, said the MQM-P has adopted a singular focus of committing their endorsement towards such a government and premier.

Earlier this week, the party organised a conference to facilitate "comprehensive" constitutional amendments to decentralise power. MQM-P leaders insisted that the Constitution, in its present form, could neither protect itself nor common citizens and, therefore, made proposals for amendments to the Constitution.

The politician's com-



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.

## US Consulate spokesperson felicitates on "Sindh Culture Day"

KARACHI (APP): The spokesperson of the United States Consulate in Karachi, Heather Murphy extended felicitations on the Sindh Culture Day being celebrated here on Sunday.

In her video message released on the X, the spokesperson extended her heartfelt wishes on behalf of the United States for

prosperity and peace to Sindh and across Pakistan on this cultural day.

I am delighted to be in Karachi to celebrate the rich heritage of Sindh, Heather added.

"The people of this province created an inclusive and vibrant society," she said, adding that she was excited to be part of the province.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulber Khan visit the hospital to inquire the injured person health of Hudur incident by terrorist attack on passenger bus.

## PM strongly condemns At least 8 killed, scores injured as passenger bus fired upon in Chilas

6 arrested, case registered after bus comes under gun attack in GB's Chilas

Monitoring Desk CHILAS: At least eight people were killed and 16 injured after unidentified assailants opened fire on a passenger bus on Karakoram Highway in Chilas, police said on Saturday.

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

Following the attack, the driver of the bus lost control and collided with a truck which ignited fire and burnt the truck.

The bus was traveling from Ghizar district of Gilgit-Baltistan to

Rawalpindi, the police added.

The deputy commissioner of Chilas said the injured and bodies were being shifted to a nearby hospital. 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.

At least nine people, including two soldiers, lost their lives and 21 passengers received injuries on Saturday evening after unknown gunmen targeted a bus from nearby hills which caused the vehicle to collide with a goods truck.

## Caretaker PM felicitates people on observance of Sindh Cultural Day

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

In a message shared by PM Office Media Wing in a press release, the prime minister said the Sindh Cultural Day was being celebrated to mark the centuries-old beautiful culture and customs of Sindh province.

He extended his heartfelt congratulations to the Sindh brothers and sisters on the day. "The land of Sufis, Sindh, has been the place of tolerance and peace for centuries."

## Masses laud General Asim's one year as Army chief

ISLAMABAD (INP): The COAS General Asim Munir has gained widespread approval from the public for his strategic initiatives and decisive actions in combating terrorism and ensuring national security.

Citizens have commended the General for his resolute efforts in combating terrorism, resulting in enhanced national security.

Furthermore, his administration has been credited with substantial improvements in the country's economy, including effective measures to stabilize the fluctuating value of the Pakistani rupee against the US dollar.

## Illigal Afghan deportation continues

ISLAMABAD (INP): Around 404,909 illegal Afghan nationals in Pakistan have returned to Afghanistan. Out of 2597 Afghan citizens, 832 men, 678 women, and 1087 children went to their country.

As per data, 315 families have been repatriated in 98 vehicles to Afghanistan.

Earlier, the youth who exploded himself in a rickshaw in Bakka Khel, Bannu on November 26 also turned out to be an Afghan citizen, who entered Pakistan based on a Tazkre - Afghanistan Identity card.

Rabinullah son of Khanur Gul. The registration number is 08916164. That means people holding legal documents of the Afghan government are also involved in terrorism in Pakistan.

## Sindh Cultural Day celebrated, Soormiyun lights up Islamabad with vibrant colors and cultural harmony

Sindh's diversity its strength, not weakness: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): A cultural organization, Soormiyun in collaboration with Sindh Cultural Department and Takori, painted the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) in Islamabad with vibrant hues and lively music as they celebrated Sindh Cultural Day.

The grand event aimed to showcase the rich tapestry of Sindh culture

while emphasizing the importance of cultural harmony and empowering women from diverse backgrounds and fields.

Federal Education Minister Madad Ali Sindh on Sunday graced the event as the chief guest, while Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi added prestige to the Sindh cultural pro-

gram. The event revolved around providing a platform to promote cultural harmony, empower women to combat the hazards of global warming and recognize women from various walks of life.

The captivating Soormiyun song resonated through the venue, beautifully encapsulating the spirits of Soormiyun working in Islamabad.



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

## Sindh Culture Day celebrated with traditional zest

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Culture Day was celebrated also in the metropolis like other parts of the Sindh province and the world, where Sindh people live, with zeal and zest on Sunday.

The Sindh Culture Day also known as Sindh ajrak and topi day is celebrated every year on the first Sunday of December.

The Day is celebrated to highlight Sindh's rich culture.

On the occasion, from the morning to night various programmes and rallies were organized

across the city. The main event of the Sindh Culture Day was held outside of the Karachi Press Club (KPC), where a big number of people including men, women and children with Sindh topi and ajrak celebrated the day.

A cultural musical programme was also held to mark the culture day.

Many Sindh singers sang Sindh cultural songs and danced to the tunes.

The people with their families also participated in the event.



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

## Daily Voice of Masses 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.



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

### 'We're worth it'

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

officials 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 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 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.

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.

### 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 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 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 per cent 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 Gate 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

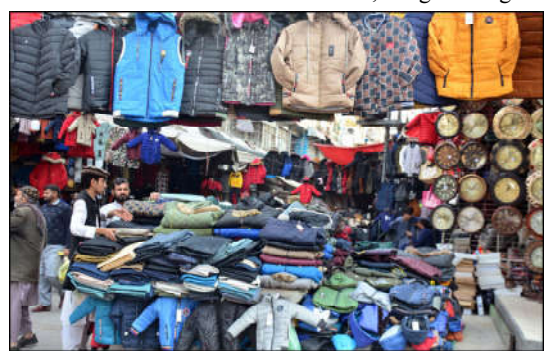
ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Pakistan-US Alumni Network (PUAN) led by Salman Wahab, Alumni Engagement Coordinator of US Embassy on Sunday visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and discussed possibilities for further improving bilateral trade and economic relations between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



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.

# UNCHR rep, CM discuss repatriation of foreigners

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: The representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) Ms. Philippa Condlor 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 Ulema 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 Chowringhi and passed through Qayyumabad, Ayesha Masjid, Clock Tower, Bilawal Chowringhi.

## 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's 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 (KKH), 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-Karachi 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.

Ali Nawaz Jalbani, Azam Gabol, Taj Tanwari, Latif Laghari, Allah Wasayo Soomro, Mumtaz Hussain Arain Zeeshan Arain, Hakim Abro, Hafiz Naeem 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.



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

## 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.

A notable session titled "Yaad Raftagan" high-

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 "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 percep-

tions 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.

The conference showcased diversity with a session titled "Pashto Language and Literature Giants," moderated by Gulam Khan. Prominent



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.

date 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.



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."

WHO has sounded the alarm about the spread

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."

## 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 safe 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.

for 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.



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 commitment to best defences. 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' "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,"

## 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.



LAHORE: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Interfaith Harmony Maulana Tahir Ashrafi, Turkish Consul General Durmus Bastug, and Chinese Consul General Director Mr DU YUE cutting cake during the Interfaith Harmony Conference at a local hotel.

## 'Pakistan, KSA reach consensus on investment modalities for ratification of FTA with GCC'

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have reached consensus on investment modalities, paving the path for ratification of a free trade agreement with the Gulf Cooperation Council.

In a statement on social media platform X on Sunday, Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said the agreement has been pending for the last 19 years.

He expressed the

## MQM-P to meet CEC over final delimitation

KARACHI (INP): Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has decided to meet Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Raja Sultan over its reservations regarding the final delimitation list of national and provincial assembly constituencies notified by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

The MQM-P has constituted a delegation, which will meet CEC Sikandar Raja Sultan to table the party's reservations regarding final delimitation and Sindh election commissioner.

The MQM-P delegation will consist Convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Farooq Sattar, Aminul Haque and others, sources added.

## Sindh Govt all set to recover official vehicles illegally held by ex-ministers, MPs,

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh government has set its sights on recovering official vehicles illegally held by former ministers, MPs, and officers. A special committee, headed by the Additional Secretary S&GDA, has been tasked with conducting a comprehensive investigation and initiating legal action against those found responsible.

The committee's mandate is twofold: first, to locate all missing government vehicles and secondly, to probe the unauthorized use of these vehicles by individuals not entitled to them. This investigation will span a decade, meticulously examining the records of vehicle purchases and usage from 2007 to 2016. No stone will be left unturned in uncovering instances where government vehicles were deployed for personal gain or outside designated purposes.

The committee's approach is multifaceted. Firstly, it will issue direct notices to all former ministers, MPs, and officers currently holding onto official vehicles. These individuals will be given a clear seven-day window to return the vehicles without any further delay. Failure to comply will prompt swift legal action.

## Three brothers killed in road mishap in Nawabshah

NAWABSHAH (INP): Three brothers were killed while two injured in a collision between a truck and two motorcycles at tehsil Sakrand, Nawabshah, police said on Sunday.

The dead were identified as 18-year-old Shamaj Khaskheli, 40-year-old Glacier Khaskheli and 24-year-old Munnawar Khaskheli. The dead as well as the injured were shifted to Taluka Hospital where the condition of one of the injured was stated to be critical. Driver of the truck, however, managed to escape from the spot, while police, on the other hand, impounded the vehicle.

The police spokesman informed here on Sunday that the encounter occurred near Bismillah City in Latifabad.

He claimed that Jatoti was wanted by Market, Cantt, A-Section and B-Section police stations in multiple robbery incidents.

According to him, the slain suspect's involvement in the crimes was also witnessed in the CCTV footage obtained after separate incidents of robberies.

He apprised that Jatoti was booked in 11 separate FIRs lodged at Qasimabad, Cantt, GOR, A-Section and B-Section police stations in Karachi.

## Police kill suspected robber in encounter

HYDERABAD (APP): The Hyderabad police shot dead a suspected outlaw, identified as Imtiaz Jatoti, in an alleged encounter in the limits of the B-Section police station.

The police spokesman informed here on Sunday that the encounter occurred near Bismillah City in Latifabad.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary General Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) Syed Nayer Hussain Bukhari Friday directed the candidates seeking PPP tickets to contest National and Provincial Assemblies to submit applications for party tickets till December 4.

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

Nayer 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.



KARACHI: Sunni Tehreek (PST) Chief, Sarwat Ijaz Qadri addresses his supporters during General Workers Meeting held in Karachi.

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## Sindh Police marks Sindh Culture Day

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Police marked 'Sindh Cultural Day' with enthusiasm at the Central Police Office (CPO), Karachi, hosting a cultural event at the Police Headquarters.

Senior officers adorned traditional Sindh Ajrak attire, adding vibrancy to the occasion.

Artists paid tribute to martyrs with Sufi songs. Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh, Riffat Mukhtar Raja, highlighted Sindh's significance, its ancient culture, and stressed fostering a crime-free society. Emphasizing respect for all, he urged upholding Sindh culture's essence and promoting safety.

IGP Riffat Mukhtar Raja emphasized Sindh's historical significance, calling it a symbol of peace with a unique identity and global recognition.

According to the new schedule, the flight operation will be functional for three days (Wednesday, Friday and Sunday) per week at the airport.

## Karachi becomes most polluted city of world

KARACHI (INP): Karachi made a shocking distinction by becoming the most polluted city in terms of air quality on Sunday.

The concentration of pollutants in Karachi was recorded at 244 AQI on Sunday morning. Over the past few years, according to the yearly report issued by IQAir, it is evident that pollution levels in Karachi have not improved but have worsened.

It's worth noting that an AQI reading in the range of 151-200 is considered unhealthy, while an AQI reading between 201 and 300 is even more detrimental to health.

Meanwhile, the weather will remain dry and cold in Karachi. The cold breeze will blow in night.

SUKKUR: Female Police officials are wearing Sindh traditional dresses as they are performing their duties during celebration demonstration in connection of Sindh Culture Day, held in Sukkur.

## Dr Nadeem meets Bill Gates

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Sunday met with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Co-Chairman Bill Gates and apprised him about measures to eradicate polio from Pakistan.

The minister met him on the occasion of COP-28 conference in Dubai and discussed the progress made in efforts for polio eradication.

Dr. Nadeem Jan informed about the ongoing polio vaccination campaign in Pakistan.

He said that the government is working under an integrated strategy to eradicate polio in Pakistan. He said that Pakistan is ensuring all the necessary

measures to eradicate the polio virus.

Dr. Nadeem Jan said that steps are being taken to ensure 100% vaccine access to children in Pakistan.

He said that after the elimination of polio, the services of polio workers will be utilized in other programs. He added the government has made a comprehensive plan for taking the services of workers in mother and child health, nutrition and family planning programs.

Bill Gates praised the health minister's comprehensive plan.

Dr. Nadeem Jan appreciated the contribution of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for the eradication of polio.

He said that Pakistan is ensuring all the necessary



QATAR: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif addressing Pakistan-Qatar IT Conference in Doha.

## Masood praises Pakistani-American entrepreneurs' contribution to Pak economy

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, Saturday met top Pakistani-American entrepreneurs and professionals from Washington metropolitan area, saying he was proud of their successes in running their enterprises in the U.S.

"You have been making direct and indirect contributions to Pak-US relations in different roles and you have been contributing directly to Pakistan's economic development," the Ambassador told them, according to a press release from the Pakistani embassy.

The diverse group was composed of Pakistani-American businessmen who have excelled in various fields including tech, finance, banking, and services and sectors.

## IG jails Syed Munawar Ali Shah visit district jail

HYDERABAD (APP): Inspector General Jails Syed Munawar Ali Shah said that facilities at Jails are being improved and now department is working on providing better food, education and training to make the prisoners a useful citizen of the society.

During a sudden visit of District Jail Nawabshah, IG said that on the instruction of caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice @ Maqbool Baqar, he is visiting jails of Sindh Province to overview the facilities being provided to prisoners.

The dead were identified as 18-year-old Shamaj Khaskheli, 40-year-old Glacier Khaskheli and 24-year-old Munnawar Khaskheli. The dead as well as the injured were shifted to Taluka Hospital where the condition of one of the injured was stated to be critical. Driver of the truck, however, managed to escape from the spot, while police, on the other hand, impounded the vehicle.

## 3-day 14th Sartyoon Sang Crafts Exhibition concludes

KARACHI (APP): Sindh handicrafts made by rural women were exhibited during the 3-Day 14th Sartyoon Sang Crafts Exhibition concludes in the Ocean Mall at the city on Sunday. A wide mixture of Sindh's handicrafts made by 6,005 rural women artisans were exhibited. Over 5,729 products including home textiles, baskets, jewellery, dresses, dupattas and shawls, embellished with traditional embroidery and cutwork were part of the event.

The event was Sindh Rural Support Organisation's (SRSO) efforts to provide market links to rural women and artisans.

The festival attracted large numbers of women residents of Clifton, Defence Housing Authority, Bath Island and nearby areas.

Ex Provincial Minister, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah during visit to the exhibition said that we need to be very practical in understanding the issues of women on the ground and should solve them in ways that will bring about change, adding that platforms like the exhibition helped indigenous artisans bring their products into the limelight.

Support Organisation's (SRSO) efforts to provide market

He apprised that Jatoti was booked in 11 separate FIRs lodged at Qasimabad, Cantt, GOR, A-Section and B-Section police stations in Karachi.

## Passenger offloaded at airport over fake Japan visa

KARACHI (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) offloaded a passenger at Karachi airport on Sunday over fake travel papers.

The FIA-Immigration offloaded a passenger Tauseef Ahmed from an overseas flight over fake travel documents. "Accused Tauseef Ahmed was traveling with fake visa of Japan on his passport," FIA officials said.

"The accused has been transferred to the FIA's anti-human trafficking cell Karachi for investigation", FIA spokesperson said.

Earlier today nine alleged beggars travelling to Saudi Arabia in the disguise of Umrah pilgrims were offloaded at Multan airport.

According to the FIA spokesperson, FIA Immigration arrested nine alleged beggars from Saudi Arabia-bound flight from Multan International airport.

## International day of persons with disability observed in Shaheed Benazirabad

NAWABSHAH (APP): Like other parts of the country, International Day of Persons with Disabilities was observed at District Shaheed Benazirabad on Sunday. In order to express solidarity and highlight their issues among the general public, an awareness rally was organized by district administration and Department of Special Education Shaheed Benazirabad.

The rally that commenced from the DC office and terminated at Nawabshah Press Club was led by Assistant Commissioner Nawabshah Salmon Ayub, Regional Director Special Education and Rehabilitation Center Ghulam Murtaza Channar, Director Special Education DEPD Murad Khan Jamali. The rally was also participated by Additional Director Social Welfare Muhammad Sabir Qureshi, Assistant Director Social Welfare Manzoor Mallah, Asad Memon, Special Education (RCMHC)'s Bilal Ahmed, Adnan, employees, teachers and students in large numbers. The rally participants were holding banners and placards inscribed with slogans to give legitimate rights to disabled persons in the society.



ISTANBUL: Caretaker Minister of Commerce and Industries, Dr. Gohar Ejaz meeting with Atilla Demir President of Anadolu Group on side lines of the 39th Ministerial Session of COMCEC.

## Commissioner for taking effective action against profiteers

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Salim Rajput has directed all the Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners to take effective action against profiteers in the city.

According to the statement issued by the Commissioner's Office here Sunday, Rs. 1.155 million was imposed against 233 profiteers during last three days.

A fine of Rs 303000

was imposed against against hoarders in district South, Rs. 124000 in district East and Rs. 63500 in district West.

The local administration also fined Rs. 325000 in district Central, 74000 in district Malir and 228000 were fined in district Korangi.

In district Keamari, profiteers were fined Rs. 37000 for overcharging rates as compared to government fixed prices, statement added.

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In district Keamari, profiteers were fined Rs. 37000 for overcharging rates as compared to government fixed prices, statement added.

## PPP demands apology from MQM for past crimes

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Waqar Mahdi responding MQM-P leaders said MQM-P should stop dreaming of holding Karachi 'hostage' and Muttahida leadership should apologize for their past 'crimes'.

Mehdi said fearing defeat, the MQM-P boycotted the municipal elections and to avoid defeat, MQM may opt out of the elections. "MQM has been a partner of different governments for 40 years," adding that, but it has never 'served' the people.

announced general elections to be held on February 8. Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto has now opened up our culture was enriched with the colors of love.

In his statement on Sindh Culture Day here Sunday, Nizam said that like other nationalities, we also loved our ajrak and topi as well and desired to introduce it at national and international level.

Mehdi said fearing defeat, the MQM-P boycotted the municipal elections and to avoid defeat, MQM may opt out of the elections. "MQM has been a partner of different governments for 40 years," adding that, but it has never 'served' the people.

After ruling 16 months in the coalition government, former allies of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), now become political 'rivals' as the political temperature has been brewing to its peak level with each passing day since ECP announced general elections.

Addressing a press conference in Mithi, the PPP chairman also asked PMLN supremo to look only towards Lahore and Punjab—in terms of the political baseline of PMLN—as PPP has been looking towards people and highlighting the pro-people and pro-people policies.

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KARACHI: Karachi University (KU) Vice Chancellor, Khalid Mehmood Iraqi visiting the examination hall during the Entry Test 2023, in Karachi.

## Over 8, 000 candidates appear in KU entry test for academic session 2024

KARACHI (INP): As many as 8, 098 candidates appeared in the entry test held for the morning session in BS, B.Ed (H), and B.E., and Doctor of Pharmacy (morning and evening program), and Doctor of Physical Therapy of the University of Karachi on Sunday. The KU conducted the entry test for the academic year 2024 in the departments of Applied Chemistry and Chemical Technology, Applied Physics, Biotechnology, Business Administration (BBA), B.E. Chemical Engineering Commerce, Computer Science — (BSCS) and (BSSE) — Split 2 +2

Chinese, Criminology, Education, Environmental Studies, Food Science and Technology, Human Nutrition and Dietetics, International Relations, Mass Communication, Public Administration, Petroleum Technology, Special Education, Sports Business Management and B. Ed (H) Teacher Education, and Doctor of Physical Therapy (five-year program) and Doctor of Pharmacy (five-year program) in morning and evening shifts.

The KU in charge Directorate Admissions Committee Dr Saima Akhtar informed that the University of Karachi has received 8,