

Independent

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Grand public meeting held marking 56th foundation day of PPP: Bilawal calls for burying politics of hatred, division; desires to introduce new style of politics to end rivalries

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has called for "burying" politics of hatred and division in line with the vision of his father Asif Ali Zardari's reconciliatory politics.

Bilawal said: "we have to do politics wherein we should think about unity and not of division. The PPP wants to start a new kind of politics in the country".

He was addressing a grand public rally held to mark the PPP's 56th foundation day in Quetta.

The grand public meeting marking the 56th founding day of PPP was held at the spacious football ground located in the Ayub Sports complex.

Besides PPP's central leaders including its President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, other prominent leaders of the party who participated in the event were included: Faisal Karim Kundi, Syed Khurshid Shah, former Chief Ministers of Sindh, Syed Qaim Ali Shah and Syed Murad Ali Shah, Nafisa Shah,

Nayyar Bokhari, Manzoor Wassan, Ms. Shazia Marri, Sharjeel Memon, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Nisar Khoro besides the party's leaders from different other parts of the country.

The prominent provincial leaders participated in the party's public gathering were included its provincial President, Mir Changez Khan Jamali, General secretary, Rozi Khan Kakar, Nawab Sanauallah Zehri, Lt. General (Retd) Abdul Qadir Baloch, Ali Madad Jatak Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Iqbal Shah besides others.

The senior leader of PPP from Sindh, Nisar Khoro as well as provincial leaders including Mir Changez Jamali, Nawab Sanauallah Zehri, Abdul Qadir Baloch, Ali Madad Jatak, Rozi Khan Kakar, Sadiq Umrani and others addressed the public meeting. The party workers and leaders from all over the province participated in the public gathering.

They reached the jalsa gah in form of big caravans and groups mostly carrying the party flags and portraits of their leaders.



QUETTA: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses to his supporters during the public gathering meeting on the occasion of PPP 56th Foundation Day, at Ayub Stadium in Quetta.



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (R) Maqbool Baqar and World Bank South Asia Regional Vice President Mr Martin Raiser discuss the portfolio at CM House.

PM Kakar for utilizing Loss & Damage Fund on merit to cope with climate change issues

DUBAI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday stressed the need to immediately operationalize the Loss & Damage Fund, ensuring its utilization on merit to cope with the issues of climate change.

He said the utilization of Fund should not be linked with the development funds and loans from multilateral financial entities, but the funding should be additional and tangible.

The prime minister, in an interview with CNN on the sidelines of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP28, said that currently Pakistan's focus was on transformation from the coal-based

power plants to renewable energy projects to contribute towards minimizing the climate change impacts in the region and beyond.

"This is the area which could attract interest of countries here in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the settled economies and democracies on the Western side, so it is an opportunity for all of them and all of us," he added. He said the climate change was no more a fashionable point to discuss as it hit Pakistan very hard last year.

The prime minister pointed out that Pakistan was not primarily responsible for contributing to the climate disaster in which the country's two prov-

inces Sindh and Balochistan faced historical devastation.

"Everyone knows who have been contributing in last one century so it is more of a question of an honest conversation rather than passing judgment on countries and economies," he remarked. Therefore, he said, the responsibility shown by the wealthy nations themselves would be a welcome step.

To a question whether the Fund should be operationalized through a United Nations framework, the prime minister said, "If we wait for a UN framework it will take years of years. Therefore, initially it is possible to operationalize it under the World Bank and other multilateral entities."



KARACHI: Chairman Karachi Port Trust Syed Syedain Raza Zaidi calls on Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori.

Woman, three sons found beheaded at Karachi house

KARACHI (INP): Beheaded bodies of a woman and her three sons were found from a house in Gulistan Johar town of Karachi on Thursday morning while the police have arrested the slain kids' father.

According to police, the ages of the dead children were between two to 11 years and they were all sons of the victim woman.

In a statement to police, Arshad Ali, the head of the family said that he was not present at the time of the incident. However, the police detained him and started the investigation.

Police said that Arshad runs internet and cable TV network in the area.

The bodies of the mother and her children, killed in Gulistan Johar Block 5 have been shifted to a mortuary.

Talking to media men, Imdad Ali, the uncle of the deceased boys, said that at around 12:30 in the night, his brother Arshad Ali came to his house and called him to rush to his residence.

When he reached his brother's house, the body of his elder son was lying in the courtyard, said Imdad Ali, adding the body of his sister-in-law was in another room and the bodies of two other children were in a separate room.

After seeing the dead bodies, he went to his sister and brother-in-law's house and woke them up, Imdad Ali said.

All our relatives live at some distance in the area and Arshad own three houses in the area, Imdad Ali said and added they have no enmity with anyone.

Caretaker Sindh CM approves scholarships for Palestinian students

KARACHI (INP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice Maqbool Baqar has approved scholarships for Palestinian students studying in government educational institutions of the province. The Chief Minister had already announced the waiving off the fees including hostel dues of the Palestinian students studying in various institutions of the province. In a statement, he said directions have already been issued in this regard to universities and other educational institutions where Palestinian students are enrolled.



KARACHI: A view of smog in provincial capital

We have formulas to strengthen country, Balochistan: Zardari pledges to make Pakistan stronger and great country after coming into power

Independent Report

QUETTA: The President of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) and former President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari has said that Balochistan is the heart of Pakistan, and it is very important to win this heart, and reaffirmed his resolve that he would, by bringing the entire nation together, make Pakistan a great country. He also urged that if Pakistan is to become an exporting country, Balochistan has to be supplied with water.

Addressing the grand public meeting organized on the occasion of the party's 56th foundation day in Quetta, the former president said that Pakistan is rich in all virtues. He furthered that Pakistan is not weak, and added: "a nation does not rise by itself, it is led and raised by leaders. He said that when he was in prison, people often asked him what his

activities were? "So I used to answer them that I dream for Pakistan," he added. He said that each and every one of the nation should work together to make Pakistan in real sense a Pakistan. "(Such a Pakistan) as 'Quaid-e-Awam' used to say that to make this country a great country, we have to emerge as a great nation on the map of the world," he added.

President PPPP said that individuals sitting in Islamabad do not see that Balochistan is the heart of the country, but PPP sees (without doubt) that Balochistan is the heart of the country. "Today I want to tell everyone that there is a great sadness and sorrow spread inside the land of Balochistan, and we have to put ointment on it. We put some ointment during our time, but it is not enough," he said.

Solangi underlines need of state media reforms at pat with modern standards

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Thursday urged the Senate's Standing Committee to discuss and work out the plan for reforms in the state media institutions.

Addressing the Senate Committee on Information and Broadcasting, the minister underlined the need to carry out reforms in the state broadcasters to bring them at par with modern standards.

Senator Fawzia Arshad presided over the meeting which was attended by members of the committee including Senator Maula Bakhsh Chandio, Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui and Senator Naseem Ehsan as well as Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Shaheera Shahid, MD Pakistan Television (PTV), Director

General Radio Pakistan, and Managing Director Associated Press of Pakistan (APP).

During the session at Committee Room No. 1 of the Parliament House, the panel discussed the implementation of the recommendations, worked out in its meeting on October 9, 2023.

The committee also took up the recommendations related to the appointment of 53 daily-wage employees during the meeting. The information minister said the caretaker government could not make permanent appointments or decide about the closure of any institution.

He said services of different people were hired sometime back to mitigate the shortage of staff and run essential programmes, but hiring of daily wagers through advertisement, seemed to be a time-consuming process.

Shehbaz meets Nawaz, felicitates him on acquittal

LAHORE (APP): Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif met party supremo Nawaz Sharif on Thursday and congratulated him over his acquittal in the Avenfield reference.

During the meeting, the two leaders discussed the current political situation and issues related to upcoming general election in February 2024. According to a post shared on PML-N official X (formerly Twitter) account, Shehbaz Sharif met Nawaz Sharif at the central secretariat of the party. He expressed his happiness over his brother's acquittal in the Avenfield reference.

CM, WB regional chief agree to speed up progress of projects

KARACHI (APP): Chairman P&D Shakil Mangnejo were part of the meeting. The World Bank's "Accelerated Action Plan for Reduction of Stunting and Malnutrition" in Sindh is aimed at achieving a goal of reducing stunting from 30 per cent to 15 per cent by 2026. The CM and the visiting World Bank regional chief discussed other factors to reduce stunting. They agreed to adopt a revised theory of change that includes all the critical drivers of stunting from "nutrition-specific" to include the critical environmental factors that drive a large part of the biological process underlying stunting. These include, in particular,

access to safe water and sanitation and the safe management of animal and solid waste.

The chief minister said that UNICEF was supporting the Sindh government through Rolling Workplan for two years 2023-2024 with a grant of \$50.573 million in the sectors of Health, Nutrition, Education, Water Sanitation, and hygiene. The European Union has recently initiated a project for "Strengthen Local Civil Society and Community-based Organizations and their Capacity in Nutrition Sector in Sindh" with a grant of Euro 6.1 million in six districts - Sukkur.

The meeting was held at the CM House and was attended by World Bank Country Director Najy Benhassine, Draugelis Operation Manager Gilius and others.

Chief Secretary Dr Fakhri Alam and



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Country Director of World Health Organization, Dr. Palitha Mahipala called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Winter vacations for schools in Sindh from Dec 22 to 31

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Government has announced winter vacations for all public and private educational institutions across the province with effect from December 22 to 31.

According to a notification issued here on Thursday, as per the decision taken in the Steering Committee meeting, all public and private schools and educational institutions under the administrative control of the School Education Department will remain closed for 10 days from December 22 to 31 for winter vacations.

Naval Chief emphasizes perpetual combat readiness to thwart any aggression

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Command & Staff Conference of Pakistan Navy concluded here on Thursday which was chaired by Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf.

During the conference, matters related to national security, geo strategic affairs, combat readiness and training of troops were discussed, a Pakistan Navy news release said. The conference assessed the evolving maritime situation in the region due to ongoing conflict in Middle East.

Under the prevailing maritime situation in the

Middle East, deployment of Pakistan Navy Ship for the protection of Pakistan's merchant ships was discussed.

Progress on Pakistan Navy projects including future plans was also reviewed and way forward was deliberated.

The Naval Chief emphasized on maintaining perpetual combat readiness to effectively thwart any aggression against Pakistan.

He lauded the initiatives undertaken towards capability development through acquisition of state of the art platforms and emerging technologies.

Agencies decide joint check post at Mochko to enhance traffic management & combat smuggling

KARACHI (APP): The authorities have decided to establish a collaborative check post at Mochko aimed at streamlining traffic flow, curbing smuggling activities, and catering to passenger needs. The meeting, spearheaded by DIGP - South Syed Asad Raza at the DIGP - South Office, focused on evaluating challenges in implementing this joint check post, according to a spokesman for South Zone Police.

Representatives from various law enforcement agencies, including Rangers, Pakistan Coast Guard, Pa-

kistan Customs Intelligence, Estate Management, and engineers, attended the meeting.

The SSP Keamari provided a comprehensive overview of the plans for the joint check post.

The initiative involves acquiring three acres of land and engaging all departments to develop standard operating procedures (SOPs). It is intended that representatives from multiple agencies, including Police and Customs, will be stationed at the checkpost. The facility will be equipped with 24-hour

CCTV surveillance and proposed installations of explosive detectors, scanning, and X-ray machines. Dedicated waiting areas for male and female passengers will be arranged, and collaboration with NADRA, FIA, and Excise and Motorway Police will establish a legal framework. Approximately 4,000 to 5,000 vehicles, including passenger buses and cargo vehicles, traverse Hub River Road daily. Different lanes will accommodate commercial and private vehicles, while heavy vehicles will be screened outside the check post.

Baligh-ur-Rehman says Pakistan, China bound in a relationship of mutual trust, love

*Chinese Jiangsu police delegation
calls on Punjab governor*

Independent Report
LAHORE: Chinese Jiangsu Police delegation, led by Deputy Director General of Police Security Tan Yongsheng, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at the Governor's House, here on Thursday.

The governor told the delegation Pakistan and China were bound in a relationship of mutual trust, love and unparalleled friendship, adding that the strong friendship was higher than the Himalayas, deeper than the sea and sweeter than honey.

He said the Belt and Road Initiative was a revolutionary project of provide an opportunity for modern policing, he said and added that defence and other agreements between Pakistan and China were a reflection of mutual trust between the two countries.

Jiangsu Deputy Director General of Police Security Tan Yongsheng said that in addition to cooperation in the field of policing between Pakistan and China, economic cooperation and people-to-people contacts would also be enhanced. He said that Pak-China friendship would be further strengthened through investment and exchanges at the public level.

CM Punjab visits DG Khan cardiology hospital

Independent Report

DG KHAN: Punjab Chief Minister made visit to institute of cardiology along with the provincial ministers, Amir Mir and Ibrahim Murad here on Thursday.

CM ordered to make the hospital functional completely. He directed to appoint medics of the concerned diseases and nurses with paramedics in the institute on a priority basis. Mohsin Naqvi made a detailed visit to the basement, ground and first floors and OPD of the hospital in particular.

He reviewed CT Scan machine, MIR room and ensured that they were working properly.

Later during the visit, he held a little talk with the media where he expressed contentment that the hospital was providing good services to the people across Southern Punjab.



RAHIM YAR KHAN: Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi enquiring about health injured Constable at Sheikh Sheikh Zayed Hospital.



LAHORE: Chinese Jiangsu Police delegation, led by Deputy Director General of Police Security Tan Yongsheng, in a group photo with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at the Governor's House.

Jamal highlights role of journalism in countering adverse effects of media

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Caretaker Minister for Information and Public Relations, Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel on Thursday highlighted the pivotal role of journalism in mitigating adverse effects of social media emphasizing the importance of ethical reporting.

He was addressing a gathering of journalists at Peshawar Press Club. The minister also highlighted the importance of journalism in countering the negative influence of social media. Referring to incidents such as the Kohistan incident, he stressed the need for responsible journalism as a crucial antidote to the harmful effects of social media.

He visited various sections of the press club underscoring the commitment to providing journalists with a conducive and efficient working environment.

Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Secretary Information Syed Abdul Jabbar Shah.

278,000 children vaccinated in 3 days of anti polio campaign

CHINIOT (APP): A total of 278,000 children have been vaccinated during the three days of the anti-polio campaign in the district on Thursday. According to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) office, DC Muhammad Asif Raza presided over the evening meeting of the District Polio Eradication Committee and reviewed the implementation of the anti-polio campaign.

To ensure the success of the campaign, the Deputy Commissioner directed the District Health Authority to take strict departmental action against any negligent supervisory staff. He also stressed the importance of continuing measures to maintain the sense of administration of drops.

CM KP directs completion of computerization land records

PESHAWAR (APP): A progress review meeting of the Board of Revenue (BoR) was held with caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice @ Syed Arshad Hussain Shah in the chair.

The meeting took stock of the implementation status of the Chief Minister's directives issued in the previous meeting and was informed that the progress so far made on the project regarding computerization and digitization of land records in the province.

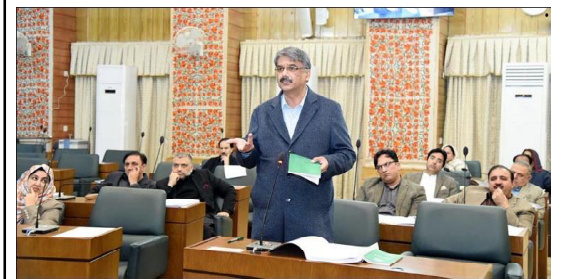
Caretaker Provincial Minister for Revenue and Finance Ahmed Rasool Bangash, Caretaker Minister for ST&IT Dr. Najeeb Ullah, Senior Member Board of Revenue Ikramullah Khan and other relevant authorities attended the meeting.

Briefing the participants, it was informed that after the Chief Minister's notice on slow implementation of the land record computerization project,

significant improvement has been made in the process of land records computerization, adding that during the last week, 30 more Mauzas have been operationalized in different districts of the province, and thus, the total number of operational Mauzas has increased from 2356 to 2386.

Similarly, the number of manual Mauzas has reduced from 813 to 474 within one week. It was further told that during the last 11 days, a total of 31 Mauzas have been made live which include; 10 Mauzas in Bannu, six Mauzas in Abbottabad, seven in Charsadda, three in Peshawar, three in Kohat and one Mauza each in Swat and Shangla.

Whereas, during the same period, a total of 261 Mauzas have been notified for stoppage of manual mutations which include; 15 Mauzas in Haripur, 10 in Swat, 11 in Shangla, 44 in Bannu, 15 in Peshawar, 159 in DI Khan and seven Mauzas in Battagram.



MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar Haq is speaking in the session of the Legislative Assembly.

Minister advocates hemophilia awareness

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister, Professor Dr. Javed Akram, emphasized the urgent need for hemophilia awareness during a seminar at the Children's Library Complex here on Thursday.

Addressing the audience, he highlighted the hereditary nature of hemophilia and the challenges in its diagnosis.

Dr. Javed Akram commended the Hemophilia Society's efforts, providing treatment facilities to over 1,100 patients across the province, with a significant number in Lahore. He stressed the importance of early diagnosis, stating that 40 per cent of complications can be avoided with timely detection.

One dead, 11 injured in high school truck Collision

ATTOCK (APP): A woman was killed and 11 passengers were injured in a traffic accident in Jand Tehsil of Attock on Thursday. According to Rescue Sources, the incident occurred near Namal village in Jundtehsil when a high school truck carrying female students collided with a stationary Ford loader vehicle.

Empowering women dire need of hour

MULTAN (APP): Provincial Woman Ombudperson, Ms Nabila HakimAliKhan, emphasized the need to empower and build confidence in women on Thursday.

While speaking to the media at the Circuit House, she advocated for providing women with a conducive work environment at workplaces.

Ms Nabila stressed that women should not be deprived of their inheritance rights under any circumstances.

Empowering women is a dire need of the time, she said adding that facilities are being provided to women in regional offices. The Woman Ombudperson mentioned that the Punjab government was taking important initiatives for the betterment of women.

International News

Nations urged to take 'great leaps' at UN climate talks

DUBAI (AFP/APP): The UN climate conference opens in Dubai on Thursday with nations under pressure to increase the urgency of action on global warming and wean off fossil fuels, amid intense scrutiny of oil-rich hosts UAE.

The two-week-long climate negotiations being held this year in the glitzy Gulf city come at a pivotal moment, with emissions still rising and this year likely to be the hottest in human history.

Britain's King Charles III, world leaders, activists and lobbyists are among more than 97,000 people expected to attend what is being billed as the largest climate gathering of its kind.

The UN and hosts the United Arab Emirates say these talks, known as COP28, will be the most important since Paris in 2015, when nations agreed to limit global warming to well below 2C since the preindustrial era, and preferably to a safer limit of 1.5C.

Scientists say the world is not on track to achieve these targets, and nations must make faster and deeper cuts to emissions to avert the most disastrous impacts of climate change.

"Right now, we're taking baby steps where we should be taking great leaps and great strides to get us to where we need to be," said UN climate chief Simon Stiell on Wednesday.

A central focus will be a stocktake of the world's limited progress on curbing global warming, which requires an official response at these talks.

On Friday and Saturday, about 140 heads of state and government—Pope Francis had to cancel last minute due to the flu—are expected to articulate their ambition after a year of devastating floods, wildfires and storms across the globe.

The UAE sees itself as a bridge between rich developed nations most responsible for historic emissions and the rest of the world, which has contributed less to global warming but suffers its worst consequences.

But the decision for it to host has attracted a firestorm of criticism, particularly after the appointment of Sultan Al Jaber—the head of UAE oil giant ADNOC—to steer the talks as COP president.

The 50-year-old Emirati, who also chairs a clean energy company, has defended his record and resisted pressure from European and US lawmakers to stand aside.

Fears of a conflict of interest were given fresh life on the eve of COP28 when Jaber was accused of using the presidency to pursue fossil fuel deals in meetings with governments—accusations he strenuously denied.



Palestinians check damage following a raid in Jenin in the Israeli-occupied West Bank

Gaza truce is not enough, say residents of bombed-out neighbourhood

News Desk

KHAN YUNIS: Returning home to find their neighbourhood wrecked by bombs, residents of Abu Ta'imah, on the outskirts of Gaza's Khan Yunis, said the Palestinian territory needed a permanent ceasefire, not just an extension of the truce between Israel and Hamas. Local people fled the area on the eastern edge of the city at the start of the fighting and did not return until the truce, which was in its sixth day on Wednesday.

"We were shocked to see this destruction. We were shocked to see our homes, our streets, our lands, our yards and everything demolished," said Gihad Nabil, who was recently married and had been living in Abu Ta'imah with his wife. Standing on a roof with a view of ruined buildings and mounds of rubble as far as the eye could see, he said the area had been home to about 5,000 or 6,000 people before the Hamas raid. He asked where they would go. "My house is completely destroyed. My brother's home, my uncle's, my neighbour's, all of them destroyed. We don't need this truce, we need a complete ceasefire," he said, likening what he was seeing to an earthquake zone.



Tarek al-Anabi, a 25-year-old Palestinian, gives English lessons to displaced children at a school in Rafah, which is used as a temporary shelter.

Ex-US secretary of state Henry Kissinger dies at 100

CONNECTICUT (INP): Former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger, known for his influential role in shaping post-World War II global dynamics, passed away on Wednesday at the age of 100, as announced by his consulting firm. "Dr. Henry Kissinger, a respected American scholar and statesman, died today at his home in Connecticut," Kissinger Associates announced in a statement late on Wednesday.

While the statement did not disclose the cause of death, it noted that the family would hold a private funeral, with a memorial service planned for later in New York.

Kissinger remained active even in his centenarian years, travelling to China in July to meet President Xi Jinping.

China was one of Kissinger's most lasting legacies.

Hoping to shake up the Cold War fight against the Soviet Union, Kissinger secretly reached out to China, culminating in a historic 1972 visit by then-president Richard Nixon and later the US establish-

ment of relations with Beijing.

After the Watergate scandal brought down Nixon, Kissinger served under his successor, Gerald Ford. Unprecedentedly, Kissinger served both as the secretary of state and national security adviser.

His involvement in negotiations to end the Vietnam War also earned him the Nobel Peace Prize even though the conflict continued afterward and his North Vietnamese counterpart declined to accept the prize.

However, Kissinger's realpolitik approach and involvement in controversial actions, such as undermining Chile's elected president Salvador Allende and supporting General Augusto Pinochet's coup, have left a lasting and divisive legacy. He is also said to have supported Indonesia, a close anti-communist ally, as it seized East Timor in 1975, and turned a blind eye to Pakistan's alleged mass atrocities as Bangladesh won independence in 1971, seeing Islamabad as a valuable go-between with China.

War-ravaged Gaza City now a 'ghost town', UN aid agency

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Amid hopes of a deal to extend the pause in Israeli attacks on Gaza, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, reported on Wednesday that humanitarian assistance had reached its shelters in northern Gaza for the first time since conflict erupted last month.

"As we drove through Gaza City it was like a ghost town; all the streets were deserted," said Thomas White, Director of UNRWA Affairs in Gaza.

"The impact of heavy airstrikes and shelling was so visible. Roads are riddled with craters, complicating aid deliveries," he said.

Wednesday marks the sixth and final day of a truce between Hamas and Israel that was facilitated by Qatar, a rising diplomatic star at the world stage.

Humanitarian officials have urged the two sides to support repeated international calls to extend the pause in fighting, which has facilitated the reported release of at least 85 hostages by Hamas, and of more than 180 Palestinians detained by Israel.

The pause has also enabled humanitarian actors, primarily the Egyptian and Palestinian Red Crescent Societies and UN agencies, to "enhance" desperately needed aid deliveries into and across Gaza, according to the aid coordination office, OCHA.

The UN office's latest aid update noted that a Palestine Red Crescent Society convoy had reached the north on Tuesday carrying food, medical supplies, water, and non-food items, although the bulk of aid distribution has focused on the south, where most displaced Gazans now live.

In a statement, UNRWA said that on Monday a six-truck convoy had reached Jabalia, the largest and most built-up refugee camp in Gaza, located north of Gaza City.

UNRWA colleagues in Jabalia continue to serve their communities day in, day out, including one of the agency's sanitation services chiefs - "despite the unspeakable grief of his wife and daughter being killed", White said. Some 200 aid trucks have been able to cross into the enclave via

Egypt every day since the pause in fighting came into force on Friday 24 November. Images provided by UNRWA on X on Wednesday showed volunteers unloading sacks of supplies into a warehouse and a static fuel tank being filled.

More than 15,000 Gazans have been killed during Israeli airstrikes, according to the enclave's health authorities, including about 6,000 children.

In a related development, the head of the UN health agency issued a fresh warning on Wednesday about the high risk of diseases spreading among those displaced by the violence. Writing on X, formerly Twitter, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus reiterated dire assessments that "given the living conditions and lack of healthcare, more people could die from disease than bombings".

Latest data from the World Health Organization (WHO) pointed to 111,000 acute respiratory infections, 75,000 cases of diarrhoea and tens of thousands of people suffering from scabies, lice, skin rashes and jaundice.



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (R) Maqbool Baqar speaks at the International Urdu Conference at the Arts Council of Pakistan

16th International Urdu Conference featuring a bunch of literary events kicks off

KARACHI (APP): The 4-day long "16th Aalmi Urdu Conference" 2023 kicked off at the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi on Thursday.

The caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice @ Maqbool Baqar inaugurated the conference that would continue till December 04, 2023. The inaugural ceremony was attended by notable figures in literature and arts, including Ifikhar Arif, Zehra Nigah, Kashif

Nadeem, Pirzada Qasim Raza Siddiqui, Manzar Athar Baig, and others. The ceremony began with a minute of silence condemning Israel's aggression in Palestine. The International Urdu Conference features a host of literary events including sessions on prose and poetry, Aalmi Mushaira, the launching of books, documentaries, theater plays, and literary discussions. The conference witnessed a large number of delegates from abroad, representing various regional languages and Urdu writers from different parts of the country.

Caretaker Sindh CM Justice @ Maqbool Baqar, addressing the inaugural ceremony, said that the international Urdu conference being organized by the Arts Council for the last 16 years has now become our 'literary brand' to spread the message of love, respect and tolerance. The CM said that Literature can bring people of different backgrounds, cultures, and ways of life together. When people relate to a piece of literature, it makes you think that you're not alone and that someone else has been through what you are going through, he maintained. Quoting Shakespeare, he said, "Literature is the expression of life in words of truth and beauty; it is the written record of man's spirit, of his thoughts, emotions, and as-

Planning Minister reviews progress on water resource, National Water Policy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saied here on Thursday chaired a meeting to review progress on the Water Resource Sector and implementation status of the National Water Policy framework.

The meeting was attended by Member Infrastructure, Chief Water Resources and other relevant stakeholders, according to a press statement issued by the ministry.

During the meeting, a comprehensive briefing was given to the minister over Indus Basin Irrigation System (IBIS), the availability of water in the system, to-

tal sectoral water demand and challenges faced by the system due to population growth and inefficient utilization of water resources. In addition, salient features of National Water Policy 2018, its strategic priorities and national targets set for 2023 were also discussed.

During the meeting, it was informed that IBIS is the fourth largest Irrigation Network in the world. About 20.2 million hectares of land is cultivated through annual flows of 138.4 MAF in Pakistan.

Pakistan has 6668 glaciers more than any country, anywhere on Earth while groundwater contribution is about 50 MAF.

The Agriculture Sector is the major user of available water, 94% of irrigation water is utilized by the agriculture sector whereas domestic use is 5.2 and Industrial use is 0.8 percent.

Furthermore, it was further informed that in order to cope with the challenges of water resources and climate threats, the first ever National Policy was developed and approved by the Council for Common Interest (CCI) in 2018.

The strategic priorities of the policy are Conservation and Efficiency, Storage, Renewable Energy, IWRM and Regulatory Frameworks.

ECP adjourns contempt case hearing until December 6

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has adjourned the hearing of a case linked to contempt of the commission until December 6.

Nisar Durrani, an ECP member, chaired a four-member bench that resumed the hearing of a case, where Chairman PTI Asad Umer and Fawad Chaudhry face accusations of contempt of the Chief Election Commissioner and the commission.

The bench again deferred the indictment of PTI chairman in the contempt until next hearing.

Faisal Chaudhry, representing Fawad Chaudhry, and Shoaib Shaheen, counsel for Chairman PTI Asad Umer, appeared before the bench. PTI counsel Shoaib

Shaheen stated that they haven't received copies of the election commission's orders pertaining to PTI chairman.

A member of the ECP said, the Law Ministry has cited security concerns, stating that the PTI chairman cannot be brought before the commission.

Shoaib Shaheen expressed his desire to present arguments, stressing the importance of transparency by making the report public. Alternatively, if public disclosure isn't possible, he requested the commission to share the report with the accused's counsel, especially as it is being used against PTI. In the event of a jail trial, he insisted that the entire proceedings should be conducted

in a court of law.

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KARACHI: Qaumi Awami Tehreek (QAT) President, Ayaz Latif Palijo addresses to media persons during a dialogue program to bring justice to the heirs of Fatima Pabro, a young girl, who was sexually assaulted and murdered in Ranipur Haveli, held at the meeting hall in Karachi press club

Pak, Kuwait ties getting stronger with each passing year: Ambassador

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to Kuwait Malik Muhammad Farooq Thursday underlined the importance of the strategic relationship between Pakistan and Kuwait that both countries' leadership was keen to strengthen bilateral relationship in different domains such as food security, trade, investments and people-to-people engagement.

In an exclusive talk with PTV news channel, he elaborated that Pakistan and Kuwait had share a cherished relationship that only grew stronger with each passing year.

"We are seeing greater interest from Kuwait to invest," he added. He also expressed his satisfaction at close cooperation between the two countries at multilateral fora. Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar was on a two-day official visit to Kuwait with the primary objective of signing of MoUs in multiple areas geared to transforming the six decades' long bilateral relations into mutually beneficial economic ties, he said.

APHC calls for complete shutdown in IIOJK today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has called for a complete shutdown in Indian's illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir on Friday (today).

According to Kashmir Media Service, the shutdown is meant to protest against the posting of a blasphemous video by an Indian student about Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). It is also aimed at protesting against illegal arrests, booking of seven Kashmiri students under draconian law, dismissal of Kashmiri government employees and confiscation of properties of people.

The APHC in a statement urged the people of the occupied territory to make the strike a success. It also asked them to hold protest demonstrations on Friday.



KARACHI: The Provincial Ombudsman of Sindh Mr Ajiaz Ali Khan and the Chief Ombudsman of Thailand/President of IOI Asia Region Mr Somsak Suwansujrat sign MOU for fostering cooperation in the field of complaint handling at CM House. Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (R) Maqbool Baqar, Secretary Health Dr Mansoor Rizvi, Rehana Memon and others witnessing the ceremony.

DC Larkana visits various villages to monitor six-day polio eradication campaign

LARKANA (APP): The Deputy Commissioner Larkana Jaweed Ahmed Kumbhar along with Additional Deputy Commissioner-II Larkana and District Health Officer Larkana on Thursday visited the various places of Larkana district in order to monitor and to review the performance of the polio teams during the ongoing 6-Day National Polio Campaign.

The campaign would be started from Monday till Sunday in Larkana District. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner was briefed that the officials of the Health Department with the assistance of WHO and UNICEF, set up 890 teams, who were visiting

door-to-door to administer Anti anti-polio drops to 0-5-year-old children in the Larkana district.

The DC Larkana urged upon the parents, teachers, representatives of NGOs, and the members of the community that they should come forward to play their role in the success of the 6-day 'Anti Polio' campaign which is being started from Monday, in the district, so that no any child aged 0-5 years may be deprived of Oral Polio Drops.

The Deputy Commissioner also said that in order to monitor the Anti Polio Campaign in Larkana district at District and Taluka level the control rooms have already been set up.

Int'l mountain day to be observed on Dec 11

KARACHI (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 peoples' 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.

PM to lead Pakistan's delegation in COP-28

DUBAI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will lead the Pakistani delegation in the high-level segment of the 28th UN Conference of Parties (COP 28) starting here at the Expo City on Friday.

The prime minister will attend the World Climate Action Summit on December 1 and 2, a press release by the Prime Minister Office Press Wing said.

Prime Minister Kakar will give a national statement at the World Climate Action Summit on December 2.

Meetings of the prime minister with various world leaders are expected on the sidelines of the conference.

Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jalani, Caretaker Finance Minister Dr Shamsah Akhtar, Caretaker Minister for Climate Change Ahmed Irfan Aslam and Caretaker Energy Minister Muhammad Ali will also participate in the COP 28.

Tik Toker awarded death sentence for murder

ISLAMABAD (APP): The district and session Court here on Thursday awarded a death sentence to a Tik Toker on charges of murder and dacoity. Additional District and Sessions Judge, Tahir Abbas announced the verdict after hearing the arguments.

The TikToker was sentenced to the death and a fine of half a million was imposed on him. The TikToker was booked by Goira police station on the charges of murder and dacoity.

9 suspects held, liquor, marijuana recovered

HYDERABAD (APP): Police claimed to have arrested nine suspects and recovered marijuana and wine from their possession on Thursday.

According to details, Station House Officer Tando Yousuf police station Inspector Muhammad Ali Dhamrah during patrolling arrested three drug peddlers Abdul Razaq, Osama and Riaz Ahmed and recovered marijuana, and liquor from their possession.

SHO City police station Muzaffar Ali Khalidi conducting raids in his territorial jurisdiction arrested Asad Ajmeri and recovered liquor and a motorcycle.

Meanwhile, SHOs of Hussainabad, Sakhi Peer, Airport, B Section also conducted raids in their territorial jurisdictions and arrested five accused, recovered a huge quantity of liquor and motorcycles from their possession.

Federal cabinet approves jail trial of PTI chairman in cipher case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Cabinet has accorded approval to jail trial of PTI chairman in cipher case.

According to media reports federal cabinet has approved trial of Imran Khan in Adiala jail in cipher case.

Approval has been obtained from cabinet regarding summary of ministry of law and justice through circulation under which the trial of former Prime Minister (PM), Shah Mehmood

Qureshi and others will be conducted in Adiala Jail as per official secret act.

It has been said that approval was obtained from federal cabinet in the light of decision of judge Abul Hasnat Zulfikar of special court established under official secret act. The cabinet was informed about Islamabad High Court (IHC) decision on nullification of jail trial of PTI chairman and others.

Boy has three mothers thanks to Nadra's brilliance

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court has issued a notice to National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) seeking its response for registering names of three women as mother of a 17-year-old boy as per its record in Karachi.

The biological mother of the boy, Sadaf, filed an application in the court against the Nadra seeking remedy against such an illegal act. The court heard the plea on Thursday and issued orders.

Petitioner's lawyer Nasir Ahmad said in the petition that as per NADRA's record, the boy, Umar Raza, has three mothers which is nothing but a blunder. The lawyer said the boy's parents have separated long ago but the NADRA record now mentions names of grandmother, mother and stepmother as all his mothers, the lawyer added.

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The lawyer argued that this kind situation may create hurdles for Umar Raza and hinder his education. The biological mother of the boy, Sadaf, filed an application in the court against the Nadra seeking remedy against such an illegal act. The court heard the plea on Thursday and issued orders.

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HYDERABAD: People are wearing traditional clothes as they are holding celebration rally on the eve of Sindhi Cultural Day, at Qasimabad in Hyderabad

11 policemen lose job for involvement in organized crimes

KARACHI (APP): SSP District Keamari, Arif Aslam Rao took stringent measures against officers and officials engaged in organized crimes, resulting in the dismissal of 11 individuals involved in drug-related activities, gutka/mawa, smuggling, and other criminal acts.

Following the issuance of show cause notices, an inquiry was conducted by the authorized officer, said Keamari Police spokesperson.

After the final show-cause notices were served and the guilty officers and officials were heard during

an orderly room session on Thursday, a decision was made.

In total, 14 police officers and officials appeared before SSP Keamari in the orderly room. Eleven officers were dismissed from their positions, the services of two were forfeited, and one official underwent orders for a re-inquiry.

Among the dismissed individuals are Sub-Inspector Mehboob Tanoli, Head Constable Ikrumullah, Constables Chan Zaib, Jabbar, Sohail, Anil Ali, Zahid Rafiq, Owais, Muhammad Javed, Abdul Majid, and Musawar Ali.



KARACHI: A large number of vehicles stuck in traffic jam due to negligence of traffic police staffs and illegal parking, at Stadium road in Karachi