

# Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 05. No. 360 Jamadi-us-Sani 28, 1445 AH Thursday January 11, 2024 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

## Cabinet approves reconstitution of committee on missing persons

Approves regularisation of 227 daily-wage teachers; PM vows to continue anti-polio mission till its complete eradication

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Cabinet on Wednesday approved the reconstitution of its committee on missing persons headed by the law minister. The reconstitution is being done on the recommendation of the Ministry of Interior. The position became vacant after the resignation of the previous head of the committee, Sarfraz Bugti.

The cabinet meeting, chaired by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, also approved regularisation of 227 daily-wage teachers as proposed by the Federal Directorate of Education and recommended by the Federal Public Service Commission

in line with the Islamabad High Court's decision of 2018.

For the construction of the Supreme Court Karachi Registry building, the cabinet on the recommendation of Ministry of Law and Justice as endorsed by the Supreme Court Building Committee, approved the transfer of federal courts and tribunals across the city.

It approved the summary regarding the operationalization of the Livestock and Dairy Development Board so as to fulfill the legal requirements for the appointment of chief executive, in line with the decisions of the Islamabad and Balochistan high courts.

The cabinet gave in principle approval to the Cannabis Control and Regulatory Authority Ordinance 2024 and forwarded it to the Cabinet Committee for Legislative Cases. Under the authority, necessary guidelines would be formulated for the cultivation, extraction, refining, and medicinal and industrial use. PM Kakar vowed to continue the anti-polio mission of the government till the complete eradication of the crippling disease.

The meeting offered Fateha for the security officials protecting the polio eradication team who were martyred in a terrorist incident in Bajaur.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addresses the Global Health Security Summit.

## 11500 policemen to perform duties in general election: CM

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar on Wednesday said that a total of 11,500 policemen have been assigned to perform security duty during the upcoming general election.

These police officers will be responsible for maintaining law and order on 191 seats, including 61 National Assembly seats and 130 provincial assembly seats. The election is scheduled to take place on February 8.

This he said while responding to the questions

asked by the participants of the PN Staff Course of Pakistan Navy War College who called on him here at CM House.

The meeting was attended by provincial ministers Brig 8 Haris Nawaz, Mubeen Jumani, Omar Soomro, Ahmad Shah, Chief Secretary Dr Fakhre Alam, Chairman P&D Shakeel Mangnejo, IG Police Riffat Mukhtar and provincial secretaries.

The war course delegation was led by Commandant Navy War College Rear Admiral Azhar Mehmood.

In response to a question, the CM stated that treatment plants were being installed to release treated waste and industrial water into the sea, which would help control the pollution in the seawater.

Additionally, the Sindh government has planted one million mangrove plants in the sea. Mangroves are a natural infrastructure that helps protect nearby populated areas by reducing erosion and absorbing storm surge impacts during extreme

## Current situation in country better than 2008, 2013 elections period: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday reiterated the commitment that general elections would eventually be held on February 8 in the country.

Talking to the media, he said that in the past elections were conducted even in the worst conditions. Murtaza Solangi pointed out that the current situation in the country was much better than the years 2008 and 2013.

He said that the government had been in constant contact with the Election Commission of Pakistan since the first meeting of the Caretaker Cabinet.

The minister said the communication with ECP was underway on the daily basis and his visit was part of the routine communication process.

He said he had not met the Chief Election Commissioner Raja Sikandar Sultan.

## PTI founder Imran Khan out of election race

LAHORE (INP): Justice Tariq Nadeem of the appellate tribunal of the Lahore High Court (LHC) Wednesday upheld the returning officer's verdict rejecting PTI founding chairman Imran Khan's nomination papers for constituency NA-122.

Imran's nomination papers were rejected from NA-122 (Lahore) and NA-89 (Mianwali) on December 30.

The verdict issued by the RO for NA-122 stated that the papers were rejected on "moral" and other grounds.

## Won't let N-League run away from polls: Bilawal

LAHORE (INP): In a fiery pre-election salvo, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has thrown shade at his former ally, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), saying that he won't let the Nawaz Sharif-led party "run away from polls".

The nation is getting ready to cast ballots in the general election which is set to take place on February 8 — after much ado — and while the PPP is seemingly in an all-out electioneering mode, the PML-N's low-key electioneering has raised eyebrows as it delays ticket issuance to candidates.

"I can't even see the PTI [Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf] over here," he said, assailing the embattled party, which just secured its iconic 'bat' electoral symbol earlier in the day after a court order.

Just like the PPP, the PTI was also complaining about not getting a level-playing field. However, as the days pass, the PPP chairman — who became Pakistan's youngest foreign minister last year — has shifted focus on his campaign "to win".



Ambassador of Croatia Dr. Drago Stambuk calls on Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori

Monitoring Desk

KARACHI: The Ambassador of Croatia to Pakistan, Dr. Drago Stambuk has called on the Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori in Karachi.

Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori and the Ambassador of Croatia Dr. Drago Stambuk discussed the bilateral relations, investment, increase in bilateral trade, and other issues during the meeting.

In his remarks, the Sindh Governor has invited Croatian investors to invest in Sindh as there are a lot of investment opportunities available in various sectors in the province.

## Minister announces to establish Tourism Police Unit in Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Minister for Tourism, Climate Change and Coastal Development Sindh, Arshad Wali Muhammad has announced to establish dedicated "Tourism Police Units" in the province.

"This initiative aims to bolster confidence in Sindh as a premier tourist destination", the minister said in a statement issued here on Wednesday.

Secretary Tourism and Culture, Government of Sindh, Khalid Chachar has formally requested the



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Senior Deputy Convener, Mustafa Kamal exchanging views with Ijaz-ul-Haq, Chief of Qaumi Yakehti Ittehad during meeting held at Pakistan House in Karachi.

## MQM-P says no seat adjustment with PML-N in NA-242

KARACHI (INP): The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has once again denied reports that it has reached an agreement with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) on a seat adjustment in a Karachi constituency.

The party's Convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said on Wednesday that there was no truth in reports that the MQM-P had agreed to a seat adjustment in NA-242. "All such news are baseless," he said categorically.

Siddiqui further said that Mustafa Kamal was the MQM-P's candidate from the constituency.

Earlier, there were reports that both parties had agreed on a seat adjustment in many national and provincial assembly constituencies, including three constituencies in Karachi.

On December 29, 2023, PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif had announced filing his nomination papers for the upcoming general elections from Karachi's NA-242, where Kamal had also filed his documents.



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister, Justice (Ret'd) Maqbool Baqar addresses to the participants of the Pakistan Navy Staff Course, at CM House in Karachi.

## PTI gets back iconic 'bat' symbol as PHC annuls ECP decision

PESHAWAR (Online): Peshawar High Court (PHC) after hearing arguments in PTI intra-party election and election symbol case annulled the decision of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and restored the bat election symbol of PTI.

The court said that as a political party, PTI is entitled to the election symbol of the bat, and the election symbol should be given.

ECP's decision of December 22 is unconstitutional. PTI intra-party election certificate should be released on the website.

The case was heard by

a two-member bench comprising Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Syed Arshad Ali of the PHC, in which the lawyers of the parties objecting to intra-party election of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) gave arguments.

Earlier, the lawyers of PTI and Election Commission had completed their arguments last day. During the hearing, Qazi Javed Advocate said in his arguments that my client was the former district general secretary of PTI, who was found out from the media that intra-party Elections are taking place.

## British High Commissioner calls on Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (INP): British High Commissioner Jean Marriot continued her meetings with the political leaders and on Wednesday she met with Pakistan's Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto here.

In the meetings, various topics including Pak-UK relations, and economic topics came under discussion.

The British High Commissioner said that the upcoming elections of 8th February are vital for the future of Pakistan.

Before that Jean Marriot met with PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif and PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar.

## 11 family members found dead in Lakki Marwat

LAKKI MARWAT (INP): A total of 11 bodies, including children and women have been found in a house located in the town of Takhti Khel, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on Wednesday.

According to police statements, the discovery was made by the brother of the deceased household's head upon his return.

The initial investigations by the local police suggested that the unfortunate incident is believed to have happened two days ago from the consumption of a toxic substance mixed in the food. The police officials claimed that the relative of the deceased family allegedly bought food from Waziristan two days ago.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi talking with newsmen.

## KMC to organize annual Marigold Festival on Friday

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that KMC is going to organize the annual Marigold Festival on Friday at the Frere Hall Lawn which will continue for three days.

A large number of citizens will enjoy this festival in the winter season. The entry of citizens to the flower exhibition will be free.

He said this while inspecting the arrangements of the Marigold Festival on

## ECP to unveil preliminary candidate lists today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The preliminary lists of candidates will be released by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday, and candidates can opt to withdraw their nomination papers until Friday.

According to the spokesperson of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), the process of hearing appeals against the acceptance or rejection of nomination papers by the appellate tribunals for the general elections 2024 concluded Wednesday. These tribunals are being headed by judges of the High Courts.

## EU ambassador encourages Pakistan to maximize benefits of GSP plus status

KARACHI (INP): EU Ambassador Dr Riina Kionka emphasized that Pakistan should fully exploit the Generalized System of Preferences Plus (GSP Plus) status during a meeting organized by the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Ambassador Kionka urged Pakistan to broaden its exports beyond textiles to the European Union, taking full advantage of the recently extended GSP Plus status that now spans until 2027.

Highlighting the economic significance of GSP

Plus, Kionka noted its positive impact over the past decade.

The GSP Plus status, which benefits not only textile producers but also the entire workforce in the textile sector, has contributed to a notable 108% increase in Pakistan's exports to the European Union.

Ambassador Kionka informed that the extension of GSP Plus maintains the existing framework until 2027, providing stability for Pakistan's trade relations with the European Union.

## One passerby, three cops martyred in terrorists attack

PESHAWAR (APP): At least three cops and a passerby embraced martyrdom in a terrorists' attack on a police check post near Lachi Toll Plaza on Kohat-Indus Highway. According to a police spokesman, the terrorists attacked the check post around 3 a.m. The martyrs included Head Constables Amjad and Junaid, Constable Waqar, and civilian Noor Muhammad, a resident of Lakki Marwat.



KARACHI: Inspector General Police (IG) Sindh, Riffat Mukhtar presides over a high-level meeting, at CPO Headquarters in Karachi.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Maulana's mission

If one of the main purposes of JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman's visit to Afghanistan was to convince the Afghan Taliban to rein in the banned TTP and prevent the terrorist group from using Afghan soil as a launchpad for anti-Pakistan activities, either the message did not get through, or the TTP are in no mood to listen.

The Maulana received official protocol upon his arrival in Kabul and on Monday met the 'Islamic Emirate's' Prime Minister Mullah Hassan Akhund. Incidentally, on the day the Maulana was meeting the Taliban leadership, the TTP launched a murderous assault on policemen escorting polio vaccinators in Bajaur. At least six police personnel were martyred in the attack.

Mullah Akhund also brought up the issue of Afghan migrants' expulsion from Pakistan with the Maulana, decrying the allegedly 'cruel' treatment meted out to his compatriots by that country.

Maulana Fazl, who was accompanied by a delegation, also had Pakistan's top diplomat in Kabul with him during his engagements, indicating that the JUI-F chief's visit has state sanction. According to media reports, Mullah Akhund assured the JUI-F chief that his government bore no malice towards Pakistan, while adding that they would not let Afghan soil be used against any country.

The Afghan Taliban have long denied that their country is being used by terrorist groups to target regional states, while Pakistan has firmly argued that the TTP have havens on the other side of the Durand Line.

While Maulana sahib's efforts are welcome, questions arise about how effective these will prove to be in actually bringing down militancy. It should be remembered that in 2022, a delegation of Pakistani Deobandi ulama, led by Mufti Taqi Usmani, made a similar trip to Afghanistan and met both the Afghan Taliban as well as the TTP leadership.

While the Pakistani divines were received with great reverence in Afghanistan, their visit failed to dampen the TTP's appetite for violence against this country. Even if Maulana Fazl is able to convince the Afghan Taliban that controlling militancy is in Afghanistan's interest, will Kabul's rulers be able to rein in their ideological comrades in the TTP?

At the end of the day, both the Afghan Taliban and the TTP — though bound by ideology and worldview — are two different organisations, with separate leadership structures.

For the Taliban, the marching orders are received from the Kandahar-based Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada, while the TTP has its own hierarchy. The Taliban can and should apply pressure on the TTP to stop attacking Pakistan.

But while some militants may be reverential to the clergy, ultimately they are free agents, and not bound by the usual rules of engagement. Therefore, the days ahead will tell if Maulana Fazl's mission has been a success.



Mahir Ali

Across almost six decades of investigative journalism, John Pilger unsurprisingly torchlit many of what George W. Bush described as "the darkest corners of the world", relentlessly exposing the realities edited out of the mainstream Western media's distorted narrative.

The concept of speaking truth to power may have been sullied by overuse, but Pilger stands out among those who seriously made the effort — and, in the process, made a discernible difference.

It's hard to know where to begin in evaluating his multifarious — and multimedia — contributions to reportage. I first encountered him, indirectly, in the 1980s when ITV in Britain re-broadcast some of his groundbreaking 1970s documentaries. It's hard to be sure, but most probably the first one I viewed was The Quiet Mutiny, an account of small but consequential revolts among American troops in Vietnam that invariably went unreported in the US.

This was followed by further reports on Vietnam and Cambodia, in the latter case notably a soul-shattering report on the aftermath of the depredations decreed by the Khmer Rouge, Year Zero: The Silent Death of Cambodia. As an eyewitness to the consequences of genocide, he was inevitably appalled when the US and China conspired in a cover-up only because they resented the fact that it was Vietnamese forces that had liberated Phnom Penh. Pilger, who died on the eve of 2024, was born

in Sydney in 1939 and joined the Australian city's press corps as a teenager before travelling to Europe, beginning with Italy. The Reuters news agency was his first way station in London, from where he moved on to a 20-plus year residency at the Daily Mirror, where he was elevated to the post of chief foreign correspondent.

Pilger's days at the Mirror were numbered once Robert Maxwell acquired the tabloid, but he found a potentially wider-reaching outlet at ITV, which hosted his film reports, interviews and some of his longer documentaries. Beleguared as it was in the Thatcher and Blair years, British media — or at least sections of it — stood up to the challenges from the British establishment, the US State Department and CIA, and even the Israel lobby.

Pilger latched on to the dilemma of the Israeli-occupied territories in the early 1970s, and his pair of documentaries titled Palestine is Still the Issue are separated by almost 30 years, illuminating how little has changed. Recently re-watching the second of these documentaries, I was reminded of Pilger's interview technique with subjects he probably found repulsive, notably the Israeli regime's official spokespersons: his tone never got belligerent, but his questions gave them just enough rope to expose the absurdity of their contentions.

There are some conflicts to which Pilger did not turn his attention, including Balochistan and Kashmir, which is a pity. And his area of operations as a forensic investigator across the decades stretched from South Africa, Palestine and Iraq to the cre-ation of Bangladesh and the absurdity of 'India shining', as well as Myanmar, East Ti-mor, the US (he witnessed the assassination

of Robert F. Kennedy from metres away), Nicaragua, Venezuela, the Czechoslovak Republic and Ukraine, among other regions. His laser-focus on his native Aus-tralia related chiefly, but not exclusively, to the horrendous treatment of the colonised continent's indigenous population, and he devoted several documentaries (and thousands of words) to the subject. Not surprisingly, he also delved extensively into the woes of his adopted country, and his last documentary reflected on a subject that had bothered him for at least half a century: the creeping privatisation and spiralling neg-lect of Britain's vau-nted National Health Service.

As he would have proudly acknowledged, Pilger belonged to a long line of Western journalists who have defied the odds — often their own governments and their allies — to sift the truth from propaganda or PR, and to report what they see, notably Martha Gellhorn, Wilfred Burchett, Paul Foot, Robert Fisk and Seymour Hersh.

Pilger wasn't perfect and very occasionally succumbed to the leftist disease of glossing over the inadequacies or repressive tendencies of regimes justifiably opposed to the long arm of American imperialism. In my humble opinion, it's possible to point out the flaws of the Ortega regime 2.0 or the cruelty of the mullahcracy in Tehran without lapsing into the "Washington consensus", without losing sight of the hypocrisy that unfailingly guides the US worldview. But Pilger was at most a peripheral cult in this sense.

He leaves behind a visual and written legacy that will serve humankind for decades, and although he wasn't alone in his endeavours, in many ways he was one of a kind. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Neoliberal approach



Nazir A. Jogezi

The advent of neoliberalism has been marked by the transition from an administrative state, which was previously accountable for both the economy and human welfare, to one that empowers multinational corporations. This transition implements systems and ideologies that re-shape individuals into economic entrepreneurs and transfer accountability for domains such as education, healthcare, and security.

This represents more than a mere revival of liberal principles that regard self-sufficiency and independence as prerequisites for self-respect, self-esteem etc. Rather, it signifies a disregard for collective responsibility for the vulnerable and marginalised and an emphasis on enterprise and the capitalisation of existence via calculated investments and actions.

The public service institutions that initially implemented the novel modes of governmentality were educational institutions and universities. But the implementation of neoliberal policies has significantly transformed the discourse, structure, and role of education within society.

Academic institutions, including schools and universities, are undergoing significant changes to cultivate subjects who bear the responsibilities of entrepreneurs and operate in every aspect of their lives. As a result, policy currently frames and justifies education as a venue for constructing

human capital and fostering economic productivity beginning from early schooling and continuing through higher education.

The underperformance of young individuals on international standardised tests, or their failure to complete secondary education, constitutes a policy issue as it imposes an economic burden on the nation. Put simply, the lack of success exhibited by young individuals in their pursuit of education is perceived as an economic issue, given that education is primarily regarded as economically significant.

A similar argument posits that public education is unproductive, excessively uni-omni-ised, indifferent to the needs of its students, devoid of accountability, and inadequate in fostering the development of human capital. Neoliberal strategies have included market practices such as the chartered status of failing schools in the United States and their quasi-marketisation in other countries. Public-private partnership (PPP) initiatives, such as voucher programmes, serve as a means to reduce the burden of the state in terms of public education. Lack of investment in education and indifference to the deteriorating quality of education contribute to the desire for PPP. As a consequence, an alternative approach is to propose the privatisation of public education. Within the framework of neoliberal education, institutions strive to create the illusion that they are fulfilling the expectations of their "clients". This is accomplished through various means, such as strategically prioritising exam-oriented instruction, allocating additional support to students deemed likely to perform

well on assessments, attracting academically superior students who will elevate the school's standing, and reallocating resources away from students with special needs.

Critics frequently consult the works of theorists such as Foucault, who delineates the instruments of disciplinary authority as hierarchical observation, normalising judgement, and their amalgamation within a procedure known as the examination. Normalising judgement creates a consistent benchmark for every learner, whereas hierarchical observation oversees and controls conduct. Curriculum and standardised examinations employ these instruments to quantify and regulate individuals by delineating their worth in relation to a predetermined standard. This standardised approach exacerbates inequities and has adverse effects on teaching, learning, and institutional culture. It compromises inclusion in terms of identities, ideologies, ethnicity and history from the outset. Furthermore, it undermines holistic human development, erodes the capacity for critical thinking, and most significantly, transforms education into an afterthought rather than something that originates from individual and societal requirements. This mode of education also strengthens social dichotomies and empowers those in authority and the privileged. For continuous attempts to improve education, the emphasis should not be solely on its economic methods and ramifications, but rather on the broader social welfare through public ownership and the promotion of diversity and inclusion. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### EU keen to enhance cooperation with Pakistan in various fields, including trade: Ambassador

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the European Union H.E. Dr. Riina Kionka, Wednesday said that the EU is keen on enhancing cooperation with Pakistan and focusing on exploring more avenues of trade, and investments in multiple sectors like information technology, surgical instruments, sports business, women entrepreneurs, education and textile industry.

In an exclusive interview with a private

news channel said that the EU was continuing support to Pakistan's economic development, adding, that the bonds between the two nations are much older which is cementing with each passing day.

Answering a question about educational cooperation, she said our institutional partnerships between universities of EU and Pakistan in the field of science and technology and higher education are seeking more potential

for better outcomes, adding, that EU application for 2024 scholarships is open for Pakistani students, they can apply for different study fields through EU program and enjoy their higher full funded studies in European countries.

She said that highest number of Pakistani students have been receiving scholarships to study in European universities under the EU's flagship program this year.



Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, is presenting the commemorative shield to Dr. Jeanette Forbes, Scottish Chambers Ambassador for Pakistan. Mr. Asif Inam & Abdul Mohamin Khan, VPs FPCCI; Mr. Khurram Ijaz & Mr. Shakil Ahmed Dhingra, former VPs FPCCI and other prominent business personalities were also present on the occasion.

### Minister says: EV charging stations to come up at 50 locations of Punjab province soon

ISLAMABAD (APP): Provincial Transport Minister Ibrahim Hassan Murad Wednesday said that Punjab was making a big push for electric vehicles in controlling environmental pollution where over 50 charging stations will soon be set up at various points of the province. Talking to a private news channel, he said that CM had issued the first E-Rickshaw license while providing over 10,000 electric bikes

will be distributed among graduate university students, adding, 2,000 electric three-wheeler bikes will also be granted to special individuals free of interest.

He said that the government's historic initiative aims to become a manufacturing hub for electric vehicles, EV batteries, and components, adding, that the electric three-wheeler market is the most ripe market right now for electrification.

### Workers' remittances record \$2.4 bn inflow in Dec

ISLAMABAD (APP): The overseas workers' remittances recorded an inflow of US\$2.4 billion during December 2023, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Wednesday said.

In terms of growth, during the month under review, remittances increased by 5.4 per cent on month on month basis and 13.4 per cent on year on year basis.

### Rupee gains 10 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistani Rupee on Wednesday witnessed an appreciation of 10 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs281.12 against the previous day's closing of Rs281.22. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs280.5 and Rs283 respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by 94 paise to close at Rs307.16 against the last day's closing of Rs308.10, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

### Business community representatives meet SM Tanveer

LAHORE: The representatives of business community of Lahore and Faisalabad met Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industry and Commerce SM Tanveer, here on Wednesday.

Problems being faced by the industry were discussed during the meeting. The delegation congratulated the minister on success of United Business Group in the election of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI). The minister said, "We have to solve business community problems together. By promoting the industry, the direction of the economy will be corrected. The economy will move forward only

when the wheel of the industry will move."

SM Tanveer said due to efforts of the government and the hard work of farmers, production of cotton had doubled this year. The government would also achieve record production of wheat.

One-window facility had been given to investors for setting up new factories.

After Lahore, he said, Business Facilitation Centers (BFCs) were in the final stages of completion in five major cities including Faisalabad. He said the success in election of the Federal Chambers was a manifestation of confidence of the business community in the leadership of UBG.



ISLAMABAD: Laborers cutting wood into pieces for selling purpose at his workplace in the Federal Capital.

### DC Khyber assures Businessmen dealing in Pak, Afghan trade of facilitation for smooth sailing of trade

PESHAWAR (APP): Deputy Commissioner Khyber, Sanaullah Khan has said the government believes in the facilitation of businessmen and keeping in view the prevailing harsh economic situation it is need of the hour to take all possible measures for the smooth sailing of trade and commerce in the country. He expressed these views while talking with a

delegation of businessmen dealing in Pak-Afghan trade, according to a press statement issued here on Wednesday.

The delegation was led by the Coordinator Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi. Other participants of the delegation included Former VP of SCCI, Engr. Manzoor Ellahi, Vice Chairman All Pakistan.



MULTAN: Deputy DS Railway Saima Bashir cutting the ribbon during the opening ceremony of the inauguration of the dining sleeper of Bahauding Zakria Express.

### Commissioner directs to ensure smooth fertilizer's supply among farmers

MULTAN (APP): Local Commissioner Aamir Khattak ordered to ensure a smooth supply of fertilizers to cope with its increasing demand among farmers.

Chairing a meeting here Wednesday, he maintained not exceeding urea's prices beyond the purchasing limit of farmers. Regarding the preparation for the upcoming general election, Amir Khattak directed to the requisite authority to complete all-out

arrangements to carry out the needful.

Extending "full cooperation" to the EC body, he asked to expedite measures for marking places of polling stations by choosing the dedicated staff to conduct the poll smoothly.

He ruled out compromising on the code of conduct of the Election Commission to hold free and fair elections in the divisions across the country.

### Gold rates decline by Rs.300

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.300 and was sold at Rs. 216,100 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs.216,400 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs. 257 to Rs. 185,271 from Rs. 185,528 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs. 169,832 from Rs. 170,067 the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

### SNGPL replaces 254 km outdated gas pipeline at cost of Rs 709m last year

MULTAN (APP): Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has replaced 254 kilometres outdated gas pipeline in last fiscal year 2022-23 at a cost of Rs 709 million to address the gas leakage complaints. Deputy Chief Engineer Operations SNGPL Multan region, Hussain Zafar, while talking to APP here on Wednesday said that the department had conducted scanning of areas

across the region after every three years to examine the condition of sui gas pipeline. He said that the outdated lines were replaced after scanning. He said that the scanning process was underway at various places to check the pipelines. He informed that they have set target to replace 235 kilometres outdated gas line for current fiscal year as Rs 510 million would be spent on the replacement of lines.

## Naqvi lays foundation stone of GOR-9 project at DHA phase 9

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi laid the foundation stone of GOR-9 project at DHA Phase 9, here on Wednesday. A total of 29 houses were established for the officers of the Punjab government at GOR-9 and for this purpose 56 kanals of land has been allocated. Addressing the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of GOR-9, the CM stated, "Earlier, we laid the foundation stone for the construction of residences of low ranked government employees, and today laid the foundation stone for the construction of official residences."

The government employees have to wait for a long time in order to acquire their residences, he said. "We are striving that the officers should not have to wait for their residences" he added. Mohsin Naqvi apprised that 29 houses are going to be constructed in GOR-9. Hopefully, the residences would be built before the stipulated 15 months timeline. "We are making a consultation jointly with the Chief Secretary for establishing one main GOR near the Mall Road so that the shortage of official residences can be fulfilled" he said. He said the problems increase manifold due to non-allocation of houses for the staff members and government officers, apprising that concrete measures would be taken with regard to shortage of residences in coming 10 to 15 days. High-Tech design smart houses are being built in GOR-9, he apprised. The problem of residences would be resolved with the establishment of GOR-9, he added.



ABBOTTABAD: Deputy Commissioner Abbottabad, Khalid Iqbal presiding over the polio review meeting for anti-polio campaign, in Abbottabad.

## Rawalpindi police launch Pak's first regular school classes for transgenders

RAWALPINDI (APP): In a major development, the Rawalpindi police have launched regular school classes catering specifically to the transgender population of the city. The classes, conducted at Islamia Higher Secondary School in Liaquat Bagh, have garnered support from the district administration and the Education Department. A spokesperson for the Rawalpindi police told media on Wednesday that 52 transgender individuals had been enrolled in these special classes, emphasizing the significance of providing education as a fundamental right. This initiative is aligned with the broader efforts of the Rawalpindi police, which recently established Pakistan's inaugural Transgender Protection Center, he added. The spokesperson highlighted the multifaceted approach of the Transgender Protection Center, which extends beyond education.



PESHAWAR: A representative delegation of Lecturers appointed under a Project in Government Colleges meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali.

## Governor urged to rehabilitate lecturers appointed under projects in merged districts

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of lecturers of colleges situated in newly merged districts called on Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here Wednesday and urged him to rehabilitate lecturers appointed under various projects. The delegation was comprised of districts, including Kurram, Waziristan, FR Bannu, Khyber, Kohat, Mirali Dara Adam Kail, and Alizai. The governor was informed that about 42 lecturers have been suspended by the Managing Unit Higher Education Department. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor assured cooperation to the delegation and directed the secretary of higher education and Chief Secretary to resolve the issue. He urged lecturers to work with dedication and said that lecturers would not be removed.

## Passing out ceremony held for 96 prison staff's success

HARIPUR (APP): The Passing out ceremony was held at the Prison Staff Training Academy in Haripur on Wednesday marking the successful completion of training for 96 prison staff members. The event encompassed foundational training for jail warders, along with advanced courses for the promotion of head warders and chief paid warders. Inspector General (DIG) of Prisons Hazara Division, Muhammad Naem Khan, graced the occasion as the special guest. Amir Khan, the Superintendent of Central Jail Haripur, also attended the event. Addressing the participants of the ceremony, Academy Commandant Amin Shoaib extended heartfelt congratulations to the graduating prison staff. He provided a comprehensive overview of the academy's performance and achievements during the training period. DIG Naem Khan while addressing the ceremony emphasized the pivotal role of training in enhancing the capabilities of prison staff and the academy's crucial contribution to this process. He assured that funds and necessary facilities would be promptly provided to further bolster the academy's training programs.

## AJK PM orders for early arrest of accused of UK based local expatriate

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has taken strong notice of the recent cold-blooded murder of a young Kashmiri expatriate by unknown assailants near Islamabad international airport on his return from abroad. The AJK premier expressed his profound grief and sorrow over this tragic incident and extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. The Prime Minister has also directed the Chief Secretary of Azad Kashmir to contact the IG Punjab police to ensure early arrest of the absconding accused, according to an official handout issued here late Tuesday. It may be mentioned here that the slain youth, hailing from AJK's Dadyal town of expatriates in Mirpur district, was gunned down by unknown attackers near Islamabad international airport on his return from abroad. The AJK premier expressed his profound grief and sorrow over this tragic incident and extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. The Prime Minister has also directed the Chief Secretary of Azad Kashmir to contact the IG Punjab police to ensure early arrest of the absconding accused, according to an official handout issued here late Tuesday. It may be mentioned here that the slain youth, hailing from AJK's Dadyal town of expatriates in Mirpur district, was gunned down by unknown attackers near Islamabad international airport on his return from abroad.



LAHORE: Visitors and staff are taking interest in the pictures during exhibition at Lahore College for Women University regarding the oppression on Palestinian people.

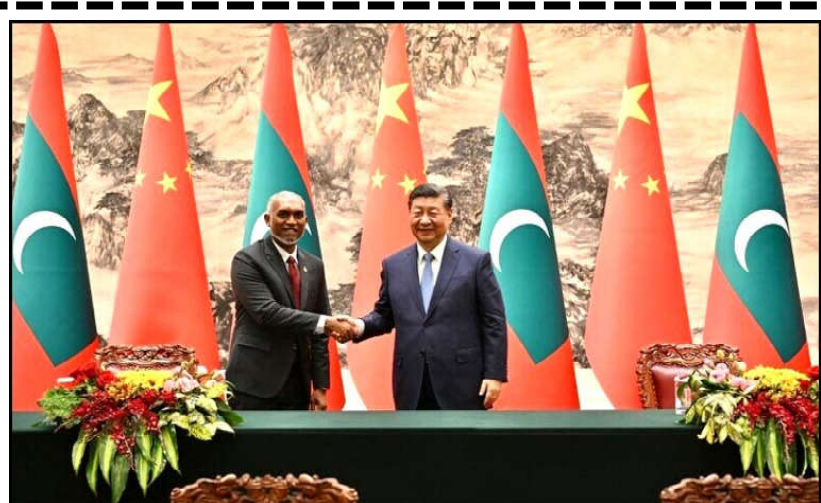
## ANF seizes 65 kg drugs in seven operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations across the country managed to recover 65 kg drugs and arrested 12 accused including four women, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday. He informed that 28.8 kg hashish and 1.2 kg opium were recovered from the possession of an accused netted near Chungi No. 26. 10.5 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of six accused including four women arrested near Burhan Interchange Attock. 8 kg heroin and 2.2 kg Ice drug were recovered from two suspects near Sangiani Toll Plaza Islamabad. 8.4 kg hashish was recovered from two suspects near Bahria Town Phase 4 Islamabad. In fifth operation, 5 kg hashish was recovered from Khar border area in Khyber. In sixth operation, 1.1 kg hashish was recovered from an area in Gilgit while in 7th operation, 175 ecstasy tablets were recovered from the possession of an accused near Labor Colony Peshawar.

## International News

## Maldives upgrades ties with China amid pivot from India

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: China and the Maldives upgraded their relationship on Wednesday during newly elected President Mohamed Muizzu's first state visit to Beijing, following a campaign in which he cast China's regional rival India as a threat to sovereignty. His government has since asked dozens of locally based Indian military personnel to leave while talking up opportunities for Chinese investors despite being heavily indebted to Beijing. Relations between India and China nosedived after soldiers from both sides clashed in the western Himalayas in June 2020, resulting in the death of 20 Indian soldiers and four Chinese troops. By upgrading ties with the Maldives, China is setting the stage for further investment in a region where India has already seen another neighbour, Sri Lanka, gravitate towards China. "During the talks, President Dr Muizzu expressed gratitude for China's significant role in the Maldives' economic success... and infrastructure development," a statement from his presidential office read following the meeting, adding that "20 key agreements between the two countries" were signed. The Maldives owes China \$1.37 billion, or around 20 per cent of its public debt, according to World Bank data, making Beijing its biggest bilateral creditor ahead of Saudi Arabia and India.



Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu and Chinese President Xi Jinping sign key agreements in Beijing, China.

## Hezbollah targets Israeli base to avenge Lebanon killings

BEIRUT (INP): Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah group said it targeted a command base in northern Israel on Tuesday in retaliation for the killings of one of its commanders and a Hamas leader. Hezbollah said the attack was part of its response to the killings of top field commander Wissam Tawil on Monday and Hamas deputy leader Saleh al-Aruri on January 2. The Shiite Muslim movement, a Hamas ally, said in a statement that it had targeted the "enemy's northern command centre" in the Israeli city of Safed with "several suicide drones". The Israeli military confirmed that a "hostile aircraft" had crashed at one of its bases in the north, and said that "no injuries or damage were reported". Hezbollah and its arch-foe Israel have been exchanging near-daily fire across the border since the Israel-Hamas war broke out on October 7. Tawil—the highest-ranking Hezbollah member was killed since October 7 — was buried in his south Lebanon home village of Khirbit Silm on Tuesday.

## Gunmen in Ecuador storm TV studio in wave of gang violence

**Monitoring Desk**  
ECUADOR: Gunmen with explosives stormed a TV station on-air in Ecuador on Tuesday during a wave of violence around the nation that prompted President Daniel Noboa to name 22 gangs as terrorist organisations to be hunted by the military. Police eventually rescued the TV staff and arrested the 13 men who burst into TC's studio during a live broadcast with long-range guns, grenades and dynamites, according to witnesses in the coastal city of Guayaquil. Elsewhere in Ecuador, at least seven police officers were kidnapped and there were several explosions. "Thank God, we are alive, because it was an extremely violent attack," said Jorge Rendon, deputy director of the news program that was interrupted. Noboa, who took office in November promising to stem drug-related violence, declared a 60-day state of emergency on Monday in response to prison violence — including hostage-takings of guards by inmates — and the apparent escape of Los Choneros gang leader Adolfo Macias over the weekend. In a revised decree on Tuesday, Noboa declared nearly two dozen gangs terrorist groups, including Los Choneros. The government has said the violence is a reaction to Noboa's plan to build a new high security prison for gang leaders. "They have created a wave of violence to frighten the populace," said Admiral Jaime Vela, head of the joint command of the armed forces, adding that the decree made the gangs military targets. Prison transfers of gang leaders have historically led to violence, with hundreds of inmates killed in recent years.



People accused of invading and taking over television station TC with weapons and forcing staff to lie and sit down, lie handcuffed on the floor in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

## US, British forces shoot down 21 drones and missiles fired from Yemen

WASHINGTON (INP): American and British forces shot down 18 drones and three missiles Tuesday that were launched by Yemen's Iran-backed Huthi rebels toward international shipping lanes in the Red Sea, the US military said. The attack came a week after 12 nations led by the United States warned the Huthis of consequences unless they immediately halted firing on commercial vessels — strikes the rebels say are in support of Palestinians in Gaza, where Israel is battling militant group Hamas. "Iranian-backed Huthis launched a complex attack of Iranian designed one-way attack UAVs... anti-ship cruise missiles, and an anti-ship ballistic missile from Huthi-controlled areas of Yemen into the Southern Red Sea," the US Central Command (CENTCOM) said in a statement.

## Israel in the dock as International Court of Justice takes up genocide case

**Monitoring Desk**  
THE HAGUE: Israel and South Africa face off at the UN's top court from Thursday, after Pretoria accused Israel of "genocidal acts" in Gaza, charges the Israelis have dismissed as "blood libel". In an 84-page submission to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), South Africa urged judges to order Israel to "immediately suspend its military operations" in Gaza. South Africa alleges that Israel "has engaged in, is engaging in, and risks further engaging in genocidal acts against the Palestinian people in Gaza". Israel has angrily hit back at the accusations, with government spokesman Eylon Levy vowing to fight the South African case he described as "absurd blood libel". Top officials from the two countries will face off in the ICJ's Great Hall of Justice housed in the extravagant Peace Palace in The Hague.

## Pentagon reviews Secretary Austin's not disclosing his hospital stay

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: Both the White House and Pentagon said Monday they would look into why President Joe Biden and other top officials weren't informed for days that Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin had been hospitalized. A Pentagon spokesman pointed to one reason: A key staffer was out sick with the flu. Even as the Biden administration pledged to look into what rules or procedures weren't followed, it maintained its silence about why Austin had been hospitalized for a week. Late Monday, the Pentagon issued an update saying Austin "is recovering well." Some Republicans have demanded Austin's resignation, but the Pentagon said he has no plans to step down. Austin, 70, went to the hospital on Dec. 22 for what the Pentagon press secretary called an "elective procedure" but one serious enough that Austin temporarily transferred some of his authorities to his deputy.

## SFJ besieges Indian consulate in San Francisco with Indira Gandhi float

**Monitoring Desk**  
SAN FRANCISCO: Pro-Khalistan Sikh for Justice (SFJ) blocked and besieged the Indian Consulate in San Francisco, challenging India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) team visiting America with a float depicting the assassination of Indira Gandhi by Satwant Singh and Beant Singh. As news of the incident quickly spread, Muslims strongly condemned the heinous act. **Judges question Trump's immunity claim in poll subversion case**  
**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: A Washington appeals court questioned Donald Trump's claims that he is immune from criminal charges for trying to overturn the 2020 election, as the former US president on Tuesday warned he could prosecute Joe Biden if he returns to the White House. Trump looked on as his legal team sought to convince a panel of three judges that former presidents should not be prosecuted for actions they took in office. Francisco Indian Consulate. The participants exuded enthusiasm as they passionately chanted slogans in support of Khalistan. The Khalistan Freedom Car Rally, organized by the secessionist group SFJ ahead of the Khalistan Referendum voting on 28th January in San Francisco, serves as a stark reminder to Modi that "Violence begets violence." Simultaneously, as reported by Indian media, an NIA team is currently in the United States. Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, General Counsel of SFJ, pointed out that Modi, who instigated the cycle of violence through the orchestrated assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, should be mindful of the historical response of Sikhs to the violence unleashed by the Indian state on Oct 31, 1984.



KARACHI: Caretaker Chief Minister of Sindh Maqbool Baqir cut the ribbon along with others during the launching ceremony of 30 green buses of "Peoples City Bus Project" outside Quaid Mausoleum in Provincial Capital.

## PM for establishing global fund to ensure worldwide health security

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday stressed the need to explore mechanisms for global funding that could support nations in need, ensuring that no one was left behind, in the global pursuit of health security.

"The call for a sufficiently funded, widely supported country medium-term road-map, as highlighted in the International Health Regulations Core Capacities evaluation, resonates globally. We must invest in open, transparent, and multi-sectoral processes to strengthen buy-in and commitment at all levels," the prime minister said while addressing the inaugural session of the first-ever

two-day Global Health Security Summit 2024.

Highlighting the importance of enhancing coordination in the health sector beyond borders, Prime Minister Kakar said "One Health" approach, recognized the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health. "Our commitment should extend to establishing global frameworks that facilitate information sharing, joint research, and collaborative strategies for an effective response during emergencies."

He stressed the need for a strong, visible, active surveillance and tiered public health laboratory system that was integral to early detection, response, and mitigation.

He also called for collaboratively working towards establishing international standards for food safety, harmonizing regulations to ensure the highest level of protection for populations worldwide.

"A cross-sectoral approach to managing antimicrobial resistance requires international collaboration," he said adding "We need a unified front against antimicrobial resistance, with coordinated efforts to develop and enforce global standards for the responsible use of antibiotics and infection prevention," he remarked.

Highlighting the need of collective response to address external and internal health challenge, he said

no state in the world could meet the health challenges all alone. Likewise, he said the internal challenges posed by population growth, rapid urbanization and climate change could not be dealt with by a country alone.

"New diseases, like COVID-19 and climate-induced incidents such as the historic floods of 2022 in Pakistan, are disrupting our citizens' health and causing social and economic impacts. While the developed world has systems in place to timely respond to such health emergencies, a similar ideal system is lacking in the developing world as health systems are relatively weak," he added.

## Mushaal highlights double standards in global discourse on Kashmir & Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Wednesday highlighted the prevailing double standards in the global discourse on Kashmir and Palestine.

She was addressing a seminar on "US policies on the issues of Kashmir and

Palestine", organized by Area Study Center for Africa, North and South America of the Quaid-e-Azam University. The event, which saw participation from distinguished speakers including Ambassador of Iran in Pakistan Reza Amiri Mughaddam, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, and Ambassador

Naila Chohan, drew a significant audience comprising students, media professionals, and members of civil society.

Mushaal said the world appeared to be divided between those who supported the oppressive regimes and those who advocated for the rights of the oppressed. In the contemporary global landscape, she added, moral values and principles took a back seat to economic opportunities, power dynamics, and materialistic gains.

She pointed out the shifts in the United States policies towards Kashmir and Palestine, which, she said, were dictated by their own strategic interests rather than a steadfast commitment to democratic principles, human rights, and the right to self-determination.

Mentioning the escalating deterioration of the global human rights situation over time, she lamented that genocide had seemingly become an unfortunate new norm in international affairs.



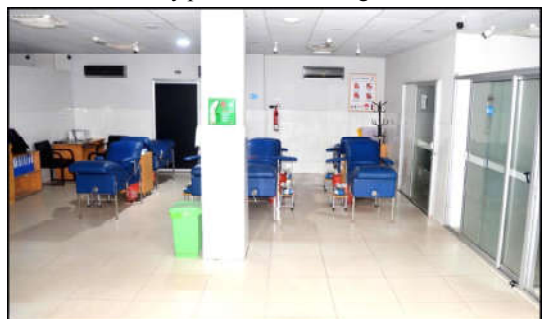
Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick addressing a seminar on "US policies on the issues of Kashmir and Palestine" organized by Area Study Center for Africa, North and South America, Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad.

## Croatian envoy invites Pakistani workers to explore opportunities in Croatia

KARACHI (APP): Ambassador of Republic of Croatia Dr Drago Stambuk, inviting Pakistani workers to explore employment opportunities in Croatia, said that his country was demographically falling down and it needed human resource especially skilled and young people.

He informed that Croatia, which is a member of Euro zone, holds fantastic geo-political position with big ports and railways network, hence, work was underway to make Croatia the hub for Central and South-Eastern Europe.

Stressing on need of enhancing bilateral trade relation between Pakistan and Croatia, he said that Croatian Embassy was trying its best to improve trade exchange between the friendly countries and it was his duty to put the business people of both sides together.



HYDERABAD: A view of closed Blood Center due to protest against non-payment of their salaries at Civil Hospital Hyderabad.

## DC Matiari inaugurates renovated building of PPHI basic health center

HYDERABAD (APP): The Deputy Commissioner Matiari Lal Dino Mangi has directed health officials to take effective measures to provide better healthcare facilities to the people of district Matiari. He expressed these views at the inauguration of the renovated building of the PPHI basic health center Laloo Mangwano.

Following the inauguration, deputy commissioner Matiari visited various sections of the health center and assessed the available facilities. During the briefing, District Manager PPHI Dr. Dileep Kumar highlighted that PPHI health center Laloo Mangwano caters to over 4,000 OPDs monthly, providing free 24-hour normal delivery services and around 70 deliveries conducted monthly under the supervision of senior lady doctors.

He mentioned that screening and treatment for malnourished children, family planning services, free laboratory facilities, Hepatitis B and C tests, and vaccine facilities are also available. Furthermore, a program has been initiated to provide financial assistance of 36,000 rupees during pregnancy for the social protection of pregnant women.

Additional Deputy Commissioner-I Noor Ahmed Khebro, District Health Officer Dr. Iqbal Jagirani, District Manager PPHI Dr. Dileep Kumar, Additional Deputy Commissioner-II Monis Ahmed and other officials were also present on the occasion.

## Caretaker Sindh CM inaugurates hybrid city bus project in Karachi

Monitoring Desk KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqir on Wednesday inaugurated hybrid city bus project in Karachi, ARY News reported.

He handed over 30 hybrid and 50 electricity buses to the provincial transport department. These buses will be run on different routes in Karachi.

Later, addressing a ceremony, the provincial chief

minister said the government is determined to resolve the transport issue of the city and an agreement has also been signed with National Radio and Telecommunication Corporation in this regard.

It is pertinent to mention here that the intra-district People's Bus Service project was launched in Karachi in June 2022 by the government of Sindh during the PPP's tenure. The buses were imported from China.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori giving away Umrah ticket to patient with her parents from Make A Wish.

## Supreme Court Justice Mazahir Naqvi resigns amid pending reference

ISLAMABAD (INP): Supreme Court Justice Mazahir Ali Akbar Naqvi has tendered his resignation to the President, citing the decision as a result of the challenging circumstances surrounding his position. Justice Naqvi expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve in both the Lahore High Court and the Supreme Court but stated that continuing under the current conditions is untenable.

Recently, a 3-member Supreme Court bench dismissed a request for an injunction on the council's proceedings.

Justice Naqvi had previously submitted a detailed response to the show cause issued by the Supreme Judicial Council, denying the allegations against him. He emphasized that while the council can receive information, it lacks the authority to act on any complaint against a judge.

In his comprehensive reply, Justice Naqvi argued that the council's orders are in violation of established rules, contending that individuals providing information to the council should not play a role in the proceedings as per the rules.

The resignation, once approved by the President, will leave two vacancies in the Supreme Court.

It is noteworthy that a reference against Justice Mazahir Naqvi is awaiting consideration by the Supreme Judicial Council.

## State institutions should have confidence on rule of law: IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani of Islamabad High Court (IHC) has remarked state institutions should have trust on rule of law.

He further remarked states institutions don't have confidence on courts therefore people are being lifted.

He gave these remarks during hearing of petition filed by Imaan Mazari in IHC regarding recovery of Baloch students Wednesday.

## Gilani predicts PPP's victory with heavy margin

MULTAN (APP): Former Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani expressed confidence that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) would secure a substantial victory in the upcoming elections, attributing this anticipated success to the party's people-friendly policies.

Speaking to the public and local influencers gathered at Gilani House on Wednesday, he highlighted the PPP's commitment to safeguarding the rights of the masses and providing them with maximum facilities for a more comfortable life.

Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani maintained, that PPP values the contributions of its dedicated workers and assured that this recognition would persist in the future.

As a democratic political party, the PPP has consistently prioritized addressing public concerns and resolving issues faced by the people. Gilani expressed optimism that, once triumphant in the upcoming elections, the PPP would live up to the expectations of the people.

## Home department report claims significant decline in crime rate

KARACHI (APP): During the tenure of the interim government from August 14<sup>th</sup> to December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Sindh maintained a commendable law and order situation, largely owing to the effective performance of the Sindh Police and Pakistan Rangers Sindh.

A report compiled by the Provincial Home Department, reviewed by the Sindh Caretaker Minister for Home and Prison, Brig. (Rtd.) Harris Nawaz unveiled significant achievements. Key highlights from the report: Police Actions Against Crime: 932 encounters and the dismantling of 458 gangs.

Elimination of 101 dacoits, arrest of 6,458 criminals, and capture of 2 highway robbers and 11 kidnappers. Apprehension of 5,373 proclaimed offenders and 10,344 absconders. Recovery of various firearms and ammunition.

Actions Against Narcotics: Execution of 3,657 raids, leading to the arrest of 5,203 accused individuals. Seizure of substantial quantities of ICE, heroin, hashish, and liquor.

Crackdown on Smuggling and Electricity Theft: Multiple operations resulting in arrests and the confiscation of smuggled goods, including sugar, urea, diesel, petrol, edible oil, and others. Extensive efforts to curb electricity theft, disconnecting 9,173 connections and confiscating faulty meters, with legal action taken against several accused individuals.



PESHAWAR: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Lawyers are celebrating after the Peshawar High Court verdict in favor of the party intra-party elections and electoral symbol of bat, at High Court in Peshawar.

## KU, SBK Women University Balochistan ink MoU for academic collaboration

KARACHI (APP): The University of Karachi (KU) and Sardar Bahadur Khan (SBK) Women University of Balochistan signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for academic collaboration between the two universities of both provinces.

Vice Chancellor KU Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi and the VC SBK Women University Professor Dr Sajida Naureen inked the MoU at the VC Secretariat on Wednesday.

Their knowledge and experiences with the students and faculty of SBK Women University.

The KU KIBGE and DFS&T would arrange lab training for the students of SBK Women University, and they would also be guided about the bio-safety, risk management, and on-hand training of various lab equipment.

The KU and SBK Women University have also agreed to arrange webinars, seminars, and joint research, besides student and faculty exchange.

On this occasion, KU Professor Dr. Khalid Mahmood Iraqi said that without increasing the literacy rate, we cannot achieve our goals. The only way for Pakistan to move forward is by investing in the education sector and without investing in it, we cannot join the ranks of developed countries.

## WPC dispose off 2728 complaints in 2023

HYDERABAD (APP): The Women and Child Protection Cell (WPC) has disposed of as many as 2728 complaints of various natures in the year 2023.

According to a press release, the Women and Child Protection cell established in DIG P Hyderabad range received as many as 2728 complaints of various natures regarding Cyber harassment, Harassment in work and public places, and disputes among couples, domestic violence, divorce, dowry, early and forced marriages.

Executive Director Women and Child Protection Cell Hyderabad Sindh Marvi Awan and Incharge WPC Inspector Sadaf Arbab and different Incharges of relevant districts taking sincere efforts and professional potential resolved relevant issues.

## Qureshi moves LHC against rejection of nomination papers

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Wednesday challenged the decision of rejection of nomination papers by the appellate tribunals in the Lahore high Court (LHC) while the party founder's legal team is preparing to move the court. The PTI founder's team announced that it would appeal against the decision of returning officer who rejected his papers from National Assembly constituency NA-122 which was dismissed by the appellate tribunal.

Justice Tariq Nadeem announced his decision served on Tuesday and upheld the verdict of the returning officer.

Meanwhile, PTI vice chairman and former foreign minister Qureshi on Wednesday challenged rejection of his nomination papers from three constituencies by a tribunal.



KARACHI: A lady health worker is administering anti-polio drops to a child during the anti-polio campaign in Korangi area.

## PMD forecasts minimum temperature of 10°C for Karachi in coming days

ISLAMABAD (APP): Karachi may experience coldest night of the winter as Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Wednesday forecast minimum temperature of 10°C in coming days.

Chief Meteorologist Sardar Sarfaraz, speaking to a private news channel revealed that the minimum temperature recorded this winter season was 11.5°C in December. However, residents could experience even colder weather in the next three to four days, with a minimum temperature reaching 10°C.

Comparatively, last year's chilling January 14 saw temperatures plummet to 6°C in the port city, he said. Sarfaraz further emphasized that this cold spell is expected to linger for the next two to three weeks.

The current humidity level stands at 60%, and the winds blowing from the northeast are measured at a gentle 3 kilometers per hour, he mentioned.

Despite the current cold snap, the chief meteorologist noted that this winter has not been as frigid as in previous years.