

# Independent

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## Art reminds us of beauty, emotions, stories in a world data: CM

KARACHI (APP): The Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar believed that in an era that is often dictated by numbers and data, the arts serve as a reminder of the beauty, emotions, and stories that make us human.

This, he said on Friday while speaking at Arts Council Academic Convocation-2024 organised by the Arts Council of Pakistan (ACP), Karachi. The program was attended by Minister of Information & President Mohammad Ahmed Shah, diplomats from different countries, faculty, alumni, students and parents.

The CM said that this convocation was meant to celebrate the achievements of the talented graduates from the ACP Academies,

who would be receiving their diplomas in music, theatre, dance, fine arts and textile.

He said, "This is a special day, not just for the graduates, but for the entire community that supports and values the arts."

The disciplines are the heartbeat of our cultural identity—expressions of the soul, reflections of our rich heritage, and gateways to creativity, the CM said and added that in a world often dominated by numbers and data, the arts reminded us of the beauty, the emotions, and the stories that make us human.

Baqar told the graduates that their journey has been more than acquiring a diploma; it has been a voyage of self-discovery, a pursuit of passion, and a commitment to excellence.



KARACHI: Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar addressing the Arts Council Academic Convocation 2024.

## World Court orders Israel to prevent acts of genocide in Gaza

International Court of Justice fails to order ceasefire, says it would not throw out the case, as Israel requested

**Monitoring Desk**  
THE HAGUE: The World Court ordered Israel on Friday to prevent acts of genocide against the Palestinians and do more to help civilians, although it stopped short of ordering a ceasefire as requested by South Africa.

While the ruling denied Palestinian hopes of a binding order to halt the war in Gaza, it also represented a legal setback for Israel, which had hoped to throw out a case brought under the genocide convention established in the ashes of the Holocaust.

The court found that Palestinians were protected under the convention, and that there was a case to be heard about whether their rights were being denied in a war that the court said was causing grievous humanitarian harm. It also called

for Palestinian armed groups to release hostages captured in the Oct. 7 attacks that precipitated the conflict.

Palestinian officials largely hailed the decision. The Palestinian Foreign Ministry said it was a welcome reminder "no state is above the law". Sami Abu Zuhri, a senior Hamas official told Reuters the decision would contribute to "isolating the occupation and exposing its crimes in Gaza."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that the court had "justly rejected the outrageous demand" to deprive Israel of what he called the "basic right to defend itself", by ordering it to halt fighting.

"But the mere claim that Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians is not only false, it's

outrageous, and the willingness of the court to even discuss this is a disgrace that will not be erased for generations."

Israeli Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir mocked the ruling in a two-word social media post with a Yiddish-style putdown: "Hague shmague".

South Africa brought the case to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) earlier this month, asking it to grant emergency measures to halt the fighting, which has killed more than 26,000 Palestinians and displaced the majority of the population in a more than three-month campaign of intensive bombardment.

It accused Israel of state-led genocide in its offensive, begun after Hamas fighters stormed into Israel killing 1,200 and kidnapping more than 240. Israel

sought to have the case thrown out.

The judges ordered Israel to take all measures within its power to prevent its troops from committing genocide, punish acts of incitement, take steps to improve the humanitarian situation and report back on its progress in a month.

It did not decide the merits of the genocide allegations, which could take years. Although the ruling cannot be appealed, the court has no mechanism to enforce its decision.

Israel had demanded the case be thrown out, calling South Africa's allegations false and "grossly distorted". It says it has acted in Gaza in self-defence against a foe that attacked first, and blames Hamas for harm to civilians for operating among them, which the fighters deny.

## PPP to bring CM from South Punjab if voted into power: Bilawal

MULTAN (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto on Friday pledged to bring chief minister (CM) from South Punjab if his party came to power in the upcoming general elections 2024 while outlining the party's plans for governance.

Addressing a public gathering in Multan in connection with elections 2024, Bilawal Bhutto—who is contesting from Lahore NA-127—urged the voters to support his party to end the "politics of hatred and division".

Highlighting the unprecedented levels of inflation and unemployment, the PPP chairman claimed, "At present, no party, ex-

cept the PPP, has a comprehensive plan to tackle these issues. Other political entities are solely focused on elections for their own gains, neglecting the well-being of the people."

"I have personally crafted PPP's economic plan, and our first priority upon assuming power will be their swift implementation to curb inflation and unemployment," he added.

Bilawal also lauded the sacrifices made by the military and police to eradicate terrorism but pointed out, "The resurgence of terrorism today is a consequence of the social division sown by old politicians. It's time to bury the politics of hatred."



MULTAN: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses to his supporters during public gathering meeting as a part of Election Campaign in connection of the General Election 2024 coming ahead, in Multan.

## Minster urges political parties to prioritize education in their election manifestos

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindh on Friday urged all the political parties to prioritize education and governance agenda in their election manifestos for the next five years to improve the quality of education in the country. We need to focus on developing educational infrastructure, improving learning system, framing sustainable policy and initiatives as well as ensuring training of teachers and enrollment of out of school children to achieve objectives of quality education for all, he underscored.

The minister expressed the views while presiding over meetings during visits to the regional offices of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) and Inter Board Coordination Commission (IBCC) at Karachi and talking to media persons

on the occasion.

The minister visited different sections of the regional offices where he received the briefing on the working, role, functions and issues being faced and future strategies of the organizations. Madad Ali Sindh observed that over 25 million out of school children, the dilapidated condition of public sector educational institutions, disconnection between teachers and parents, non-utilization of earmarked funds and other issues indicate that the education sector could not get proper attention of political parties in the past and remained excluded from their manifestos while bureaucracy also failed to play a positive role in the regard. Now it has been inevitable that whichever political party comes into power after the upcoming general elections must dedicate its five year.



KARACHI: Caretaker Minister for Federal Education Mr. Madad Ali Sindh addressing a press conference in Provincial Capital.

## PPP participating in elections-2024 without crutches, it doesn't need alliance: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that Pakistan Peoples Party is participating in elections without crutches because the party does not need an alliance with any party as other parties are forming an alliance.

He said this while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the newly constructed Fatima Jinnah Park in North Karachi Sector 11-E on Friday.

After February 8, the PPP will form government in the country if people gave mandate to the party. We will not cry for power and funds, he said. He said that he will start the development projects of Karachi in a big way under the leadership of Bilawal Bhutto.

He said that all the citizens and areas of Karachi are equal for us and the PPP will not disappoint the people of any district. He said that restoring parks and playgrounds for the public is our priority and the reconstruction of Fatima Jinnah Park will provide quality recreation facilities to the residents of North Karachi.

He said that Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) is running by the PPP and its mayor and we are fulfilling the promises we have made. Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said sports facilities have also been provided for children in Fatima Jinnah Park, public welfare works are being done in every area of the city. The Mayor Karachi said that there will be further improvement in the coming times.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Rotary International calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

## Feb 8 election to bring political stability: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Friday said that the general election on February 8 would bring political stability in the country.

The prime minister, in an interview with a private television channel, said after the elections, the new government would work to achieve political and economic stability.

He said his government successfully achieved most of the targets set by it and a white paper would be issued to enlist those successes.

"The biggest challenges were economic issues," he said, adding the next government would have to work with the International Monetary Fund and bring reforms in the

taxation system to take the economy forward.

He said the government carried forward the process of privatisation of state-owned entities, including Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). The process of privatisation was almost complete, he added.

The prime minister said the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) led the effort to sign \$ 25 billion worth of memorandums of understanding with the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. The SIFC was formed by the previous government after enactment of a law in the Parliament, he recalled.

He said the social media would be regulated and some people would have to stop the wrong use of the medium.

## Siraj seeks electoral support of public for JI's candidates in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD (APP): The Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq has urged the people to cast their votes over the election symbol scale (Tarazoo) if they want accountability of the corrupt rulers. Addressing the party's public meeting in Latifabad here on Friday Haq urged to change dispensation of government which replicated the Western governance model and to replace it with an Islamic system if JI formed the government.

"We don't accept the monarchy of 2 political families in Pakistan," he said. He argued that the time of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Pakistan Peoples Party and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan was over, adding that his party would form the government after the February 8 polls. He maintained that

PML-N and PPP had ruled Punjab and Sindh, respectively, for 3 decades but their performance had remained critically poor. Haq also criticized PML-N's chief Mian Nawaz Sharif and PPP's Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for their efforts to become elected as the Prime Minister of Pakistan. "The people of Pakistan are brave but their leadership is in the hands of cowards," he asserted. He claimed that JI was the only political party which practically supported Palestinians when they were facing brutal and inhuman Israeli onslaught.

The JI's Ameer asked did the Sindh government establish a public sector university or an advanced tertiary care hospital in Hyderabad during the last 15 consecutive years of their government?

## President for greater cooperation on Islamophobia, science among OIC countries

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday stressed the need for increasing cooperation among Islamic countries to overcome the issue of Islamophobia in the world. The president, in a meeting with outgoing Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan Ismatullo Nasredin, who paid a farewell call on him, emphasized greater cooperation among the OIC member states in the areas of science and technology to meet modern-day challenges.

## Prices of petroleum products likely to go up from February 01

ISLAMABAD (Online): Petroleum products prices are likely to be increased in Pakistan in next week owing to surge in prices in international market.

As per sources of ministry of petroleum prices of oil have increased by 4.37 dollar per barrel in international markets during the last 12 days. The oil price has been enhanced from 77.78 per dollar to 82.15 dollar per barrel in international markets. The price of petrol is likely to scale up Rs 7 per liter and diesel Rs 5 per liter from February 01. OGRA and ministry of petroleum have started working about the prices of petroleum products.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori talking with shopkeeper during his visit Shama Shopping Center and Resham Bazaar of Shah Faisal Colony.

## Caretaker minister launches Sindh Mental Health Policy

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Minister of Health and Social Welfare Dr Saad Khalid Niazi on Friday launched Sindh Mental Health Policy containing guidelines and measures to deal with psychological issues. Sindh Health department has launched the policy in collaboration with Pakistan Institute of Living and Learning (PILL) at a ceremony held here at Dow University of Health Sciences Karachi, said a statement issued here.

Sindh Caretaker Education Minister Rana Hussain, Vice Chancellor Dow University Professor Saeed Qureshi, Head of PILL Professor Naseem Chaudhry and a large number of psychologists, doctors, teachers and students attended the ceremony.

## DC South reviews security arrangements for general election-2024

KARACHI (APP): Deputy Commissioner South Captain @ Altaf Hussain Sario on Friday reviewed the overall security arrangements in the jurisdiction of district South with regard to the general elections-2024, here.

The DC South issued instructions to the officials concerned to ensure fool-proof security measures for candidates, voters as well as polling staff and also for equipment, ballot boxes and delivery of election material. Among other notables, District Returning Officers (DROs) and Returning Officers (ROs) also participated in the meeting.

In the meeting, held detailed discussion regarding the whole polling process and security measures for the general elections. The DC South was briefed on the foolproof security plan for all polling stations and election constituencies situated in the jurisdiction of district South.



HYDERABAD: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Siraj ul Haq rising hands with party leaders to showing solidarity during a public meeting (Jalsa) in the city.



## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Historic address of COAS to youth

The Pakistan National Youth Conference held at Jinnah Convention Center, Islamabad recently turned out to be a historic event mainly because of address of the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir to the youth there.

Indeed, it was a historic address delivered by the Army Chief. In his key-note address at the National Youth Conference, General Syed Asim Munir spoke passionately about the crucial role of the youth in shaping the future of Pakistan.

During the address, General Syed Asim Munir stated that he was greatly pleased to address the future builders of Pakistan. He further said that the purpose of creating Pakistan was that its religion, culture, and civilization were different from those of the Hindus in all respects, instead of the citizens adopting Western civilization and culture.

In his address, the Army Chief said that youth were the guardians of the bright and sublime traditions of the nation and country, the epitome of Allama Iqbal and Quaid-e-Azam's visionary leadership.

Addressing the National Youth Conference, COAS said: "It gives me great pleasure to address the future builders of Pakistan and Shaheen of Iqbal."

The Army Chief said the establishment of Pakistan highlighted the core issue that Islamic culture and civilization were different from Hindus in all respects and Muslims might not adopt Western civilization and culture. The youth, he said should have immense confidence in their country, nation, culture, civilization and themselves. "The youth should be sure that they are scion of a great homeland and nation," he added. He said Pakistan Army could fight against terrorists, but the cooperation of the entire nation was imperative in that regard.

The COAS said that the main objective of social media and propaganda was to spread uncertainty, chaos and despair, whereas social media news verification was critical as without research and positive thinking, society remained chaotic. Citing verses of the Holy Quran on disinformation, he said:

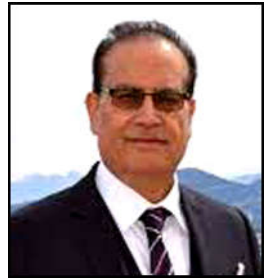
"Allah Almighty says: 'O believers! If a transgressor brings news, you should firstly confirm it.'" The establishment of Pakistan was just like the Tayyaba state (referring to Islamic State of Medina), that were founded under the sublime banner of Kalima-e-Tayyaba, the Army Chief said. "Allah Almighty has blessed Pakistan with abundant natural resources, agriculture and young manpower," he added.

He said that a Muslim always offered gratitude to Allah Almighty for patience in turbulent and good times adding, "Our forces are always ready against any kind of threat and conspiracy. If Pakistan exists, so we do, if there is no Pakistan then we are nothing."

He said that Pakistan would not compromise on its sovereignty. "We need to have full faith in the bright future of Pakistan and maintain the legacy of our ancestors," he added.

He urged the youth for having full faith in the bright future and maintaining the legacy of the ancestors.

During the address of COAS, the students kept on raising slogans of Pakistan Army Zindabad, Pakistan Zindabad and Quaid-e-Azam Zindabad.



The inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22, 2024, is a highly abhorrent and agonizing event, particularly for the Muslim community in India and globally. The event was a symbol of the neglect of secular principles in the Indian Constitution and a disregard for the religious and communal sentiments of Muslims. The demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992 and the subsequent legal and political developments leading up to the temple's inauguration are a painful and humiliating chapter in the Muslim history. The Ram Temple, for many, will remain a symbol of ongoing agony and a deep sense of injustice, reflecting broader tensions and challenges in the multicultural and multi-religious fabric of Indian society.

Pakistan has raised concerns in international forums such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the United Nations about the agonizing crime of building the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, describing the event as a symbol of growing majoritarianism in India. It highlighted the event as an affront to the Muslim community and expressed apprehensions about the safety of mosques, churches and worship places of other religious minorities in India. It called upon international organizations to ensure the protection of Islamic heritage sites and uphold the rights of minorities in India.

But the list of Indian state sponsored crimes are countless not only within

India, in the region and globally. It has reduced Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K) into a large prison. It persecutes religious, linguistic and ethnic minorities with impunity. It intimidates neighboring countries, foments border disputes with almost all neighbors. It is suppressing genuine and bonafide separatist movements by use of brute force and has resorted to a global killing spree with total impunity.

India's actions in IIOJ&K particularly following the revocation of the region's special status, have drawn international scrutiny and criticism. Human rights organizations including Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Amnesty International (AI) have documented a range of serious rights violations in the region. These include arbitrary detentions, a communication blackout, and severe restrictions on freedom of movement and peaceful assembly, alongside the suspension of internet and telecommunication services.

The reports from AI and HRW also highlight a crackdown on media and civil society, with cases of relentless interrogation of journalists, lawyers, and human rights defenders, as well as arbitrary travel bans and detentions.

The rampant and arbitrary use of laws like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Public Safety Act (PSA), and Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) has led to pre-trial detentions and arrests without judicial review, coupled with unlawful killings lacking accountability. These developments have damaged India's reputation as a state committed to ethical practices and human rights, drawing parallels to historical instances of oppression and leading to significant international outcry.

The story does not

end here, HRW and other international HR organizations have recorded mistreatment of religious minorities under the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s government. They have documented horrendous incidents of communal violence, such as the outbreak in Nuh district in Haryana, where state retaliation against Muslim residents, including illegal property demolitions and detentions, lynching, raping and mob killing. In Manipur, inter-community violence led to deaths, displacement, and destruction of property. There are countless incidents of violence and discrimination against religious minorities, including Muslims and Christians, with some states implementing "anti-conversion" laws and others engaging in actions like property demolitions without legal authorization. The Universal Periodic Review process by the United Nations Human Rights Council has raised serious concerns over regression in human rights under the Modi government, with increased attacks and discrimination against religious minorities and marginalized communities like Dalits and Adivasis.

The state sponsored majoritarianism in India has created wide spread discontentment amongst the populace belonging to minority groups which has given rise to over twenty five separatist and insurgency movements including the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN), Bru National Liberation Front (BNLF), Mizo National Front (MNF), Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), Hizbul Mujahideen, Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), Kamtapur Liberation Organization (KLO), Bodoland People's Front (BPF) and

Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF).

Belligerent and hegemonic India does not enjoy good relations with any country of the region. It has border disputes with China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), which resulted in increased tensions and military buildups from both sides. The India-Nepal dispute, reignited by India's road construction in a region has become politically charged, fueling nationalist sentiments in Nepal. During Doklam Standoff (2017) Bhutan and India armies came face to face when India started building hydro electric projects to divert water which was a lifeline for Bhutan. India was ward off only when China sided Bhutan. Maldives has been wary of India involvement in its internal affairs specially India's effort to change the Islamic character of Maldives has resulted in downgrading the relations.

Earlier, Indian hegemonic designs were confined to the region, but now emboldened by its economic upsurge and becoming darling of the USA as a counterbalancing force to China, it has enlarged its criminal ambit globally. Several countries are raising allegations about its involvement in extraterritorial activities. Canada has accused India of being involved in the killing of Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar. This was followed by the United States implicating India in the assassination of another Sikh leader, a development significant enough to influence President Joe Biden's decision to cancel a planned visit to India as the chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations. In the aftermath, India invited French President Emmanuel Macron to fill this role, a decision that was soon overshadowed by controversy when India revoked the visa of a long-serving French journalist. Adding to these

diplomatic challenges, Pakistan has recently accused India of being behind the killing of Pakistani citizens on the basis of tangible evidence of India's involvement. These incidents point to a growing concern about India's foreign policy and its actions on the international stage, reflecting a shift from regional to broader global implications. China, as a global power, presents a contrasting approach in its regional and international relations compared to India. With its status as a nuclear power, the world's second-largest economy, significant military capabilities, achievements in space exploration, and industrial prowess, China has adopted a strategy of collaboration and support with its neighbors. The country is heavily investing in infrastructure projects across the region, including the construction of roads, highways, ports, bridges, and airports followed by deeper cooperation in space exploration, research and development, education and health, mining and agriculture and industrialization. This investment is part of a broader strategy to enhance regional connectivity and economic development. Furthermore, China has shown a willingness to provide financial support to neighboring countries in times of need, often extending generous loans and financial aid. These efforts have fostered strong relationships with most of its neighbors. China's approach reflects its ambition to position itself as a benevolent and cooperative regional leader, contrasting with perceptions of India's criminal, unethical, hegemonic and belligerent state sponsored policies.

China's global investment strategy, particularly under its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), encompasses a vast and diverse range of development

projects across various regions. In Pakistan, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) represents a significant commitment with an investment of \$65 billion. The strategic partnership with Iran, valued at approximately \$400 billion over 25 years, spans numerous sectors, reflecting China's deep economic involvement in the Middle East. In Afghanistan, China focuses on infrastructure and mining with an initial investment of \$7 billion. The relationship with the Maldives has been strengthened in 2024 with an investment portfolio of \$1.57 Billion. China's investment in Sri Lanka, including the Hambantota Port development, amounts to \$4.5 billion. In Africa, Chinese investments range from \$126 billion to \$273 billion, emphasizing its substantial economic presence on the continent. The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region sees China's involvement reach \$6.7 billion in investments with a significant trade volume. In Central Asia, Chinese investments lie between \$35 billion and \$60 billion, highlighting strategic interests in this region. Europe experienced a massive range of investments from \$1 trillion to \$3 trillion, covering various economic activities, while Latin America saw investments between \$150 billion and \$250 billion, indicating China's expanding global influence and diverse economic partnerships. These extensive investments reflect China's ambition to enhance global connectivity, create win-win situations, increase the capacity, capability and resource base of its partner and bring about prosperity across the board without bringing regime changes and meddling into the internal affairs of its partners, without having any desired to use its investment to force the partners to take decisions which serve its vested interests.

## Commerce News

### FBR Chairman praises Customs Dept KP for increasing tax revenue

PESHAWAR (APP): Chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Malik Amjad Zubair Tiwana here Friday highly praised Pakistan Customs Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for increasing tax revenue besides countering illegal trade and contraband goods. Addressing as a chief guest in a function organized by Pakistan Customs Peshawar in connection with International Customs Day, Chairman FBR said the theme of this year of the International Customs Day was "customs engaging traditional and new partners with

purpose". Malik Amjad Tiwana said that the International Day of customs was a testament to the essential role customs plays in fostering global trade, ensuring financial security and upholding legitimate economic trade in the world.

This year's theme highlighted the important role of partnership within the customs community, emphasizing collaborative efforts for the progress of international trade and ensuring enhanced cooperation in the global customs arena. Malik Amjad said

that technological advancement has created extra challenges such as the menace of money laundering and great responsibilities rest on Pakistan Customs officials to utilize technology effectively for countering all kinds of smuggling and illicit trade besides promoting better service delivery and increasing tax revenue for Govt kitty.

He thanked Pakistan Customs Peshawar for organizing an impressive function in connection with International Customs Day. The smartly turned-out contingent presented a

salute to Chairman FBR Malik Amjad Tiwana who also paid a visit to Yagdar Shuhada at Customs House Peshawar where he laid a floral wreath.

Chief Collector Customs Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Saeed Akram said that during the first half year of the current financial year, the KP Customs Department has collected Rs21569 million of customs duty against a collection of Rs13,423 million during the corresponding period of the last fiscal year. "This is 60per cent increase in revenue collection year over year."



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman and others cutting cake on the eve of new Chinese year organized by Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



LAHORE: US Consul General Kristin Hawkins in a group photograph during signing ceremony between Jullundur (Pvt) Ltd, Pakistan and Agmor Inc. USA.

### Kristin oversees seed technology agreement

LAHORE (APP): The United States Consul General to Lahore Kristin K. Hawkins on Friday oversaw agriculture seed technology distributorship signing ceremony between a Pakistani firm Jullundur and US based Agmor at a local hotel on Friday.

Under the agreement, Agmor Inc. USA will sell organic seeds to Jullundur (pvt) Ltd. Agmor Inc. is a Montana based company which deals in the manufacturing and export of organic fertiliser products with the brand

name 'NEB'. The distribution and First Purchase Agreement was signed between Kyle Robert of Agmor and Usman Bashir of Jullundur (Pvt).

Speaking on the occasion, US Consul General Kristin Hawkins welcomed the agreement, adding that the collaboration is a testament to long-standing commitment of the US government to help Pakistan fight climate change and challenges to food security.

### Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity reported at the Port where four ships namely, Cosco America, MSC Adu-V, Sea Elegant and Nord Anthem carrying Containers, Chemicals and Coal, berthed at Container Terminal, Engro Terminal and Bulk Cargo Terminal, respectively on Thursday.

Meanwhile a Bulk Cargo carrier 'Pacific Merit' is also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim to unload Coal today morning.

### Weekly inflation falls by 0.14 pc

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed a decrease of 0.14 per cent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on January 25, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 318.55 points as compared to 319.00 points during the past week.

As compared to the corresponding week of last

year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 43.79 per cent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs. 17,732, decreased by 0.33 per cent and went up to 313.09 points from last week's 314.12 points. The SPI for consumption groups from Rs. 17,732-22,888, Rs. 22,889-29,517; Rs. 29,518-44,175 and above Rs. 44,175.

### NESPAK achieves UN 2030 SDGs

LAHORE (APP): NESPAK, a leading global consultancy firm, has taken a significant step towards achieving the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by securing five projects and signing two Long Term Agreements (LTAs) with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

It was stated by Zargham Eshaq Khan, Managing Director NESPAK, in a press statement issued here on Friday. The LTAs,

awarded to NESPAK, span across the Asia Region and Pacific/Oceania Region, leading to the firm's presence in its 40<sup>th</sup> country, Papua New Guinea. In a groundbreaking move, NESPAK has actively pursued projects contributing to the UN's SDGs both within Pakistan and globally.

The comprehensive LTAs with UNOPS cover a wide spectrum of initiatives aimed at sustainable development, with a particular focus on infrastructure.

### OGRA urged to ensure safety standards as petrol pumps, storage facilities

LAHORE (APP): The Oil Marketing Association of Pakistan (OMAP) has asked Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) to ensure safety standards and regulations compliance at petrol pumps and storage facilities. In a letter written to OGRA Chairman Masroor Khan, OMAP Chairman Tariq Wazir Ali requested him to treat the matter as a top priority and should implement it across the board as being a matter

of prime concern. He said, "First and foremost, safety is of paramount importance in our industry, and ensuring compliance with rigorous safety standards is crucial to protecting both our employees and the communities in which we operate. We commend OGRA's efforts in establishing and enforcing safety regulations, but we believe there is still room for improvement to further enhance safety measures

across the industry. One area of concern is the safety of petrol pumps, which serve as critical points of interaction between consumers and petroleum products. We urge OGRA to conduct regular inspections of petrol pumps to ensure compliance with safety protocols, including proper maintenance of equipment, adequate fire safety measures, and employee training in handling emergency situations.

### Gold rates up by Rs.400

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.400 and was sold at Rs.214,200 on Friday in the local market compared to its rates of Rs.213,800 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat also increased by Rs.342 to Rs.183,642 from Rs.183,300 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat declined to Rs168,338 from Rs.168,024 respectively, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

### SECP proposes anti harassment measures for listed companies

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a bid to promote safety and respect in the workplace, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued draft amendments to the Listed Companies (Code of Corporate Governance) Regulations, 2019 for public consultation. The proposed amendments require the board of directors of listed

companies to implement robust anti-harassment policies that align with the protection against harassment of women at the Workplace Act, 2010, and relevant provincial laws, said a news release issued here on Friday. These policies will uphold the rights and well-being of all employees, fostering a more inclusive and equitable work environment.



## Communication to foster global understanding: Governor

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that in the realm of media, communication plays a pivotal role in shaping societies and fostering global understanding.

He gave this message at the concluding ceremony of the 2nd International Media and Communication Conference organised by Punjab University Department of Communication and Media Research and University of Management and Technology.

On this occasion, Chairman PHEC Prof Dr. Shahid Munir, PU VC Prof Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Rector UMT Dr. Asif Raza, Leads University VC Dr.

Nadeem Ahmad Bhatti, DG PEMRA Ikram Barkat, Director School of Communication Studies Prof Dr. Nosheena Saleem, Dean School of Media and Communication Studies, UMT Dr. Anjum Zia, researchers, eminent journalists, alumnus, faculty members and a large number of students were present.

Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that intersection of academia and media is crucial for nurturing critical thinking and fostering innovation and he believes the insights gained here will pave the way for a more informed and interconnected world.

He stated that the conference has been a

testament to our commitment to exploring the dynamic landscape of media in the 21st century.

He said the diverse perspectives shared by esteemed speakers from around the world have undoubtedly contributed to a wealth of knowledge that will guide our future endeavors. He said the recommendations and discussions from this conference will serve as a roadmap for enhancing media communication practices, promoting ethical journalism, and addressing the evolving challenges in this digital age.

Dr. Shahid Munir said that the transformative power of technology



**PESHAWAR:** Group photo after the meeting of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali with the representative delegation of Young Doctors Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at Governor House.

## Governor urges doctors to work with dedication, assure cooperation to solve problems

**PESHAWAR (APP):** Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali Friday reiterated his commitment to address the problems of young doctors urging them to serve the ailing community with utmost dedication and professionalism.

He was talking to a 15-member delegation of the Young Doctors Association that called on

him at Governor House. The delegation included Dr. Faisal Barakzai, Dr. Adnan, Dr. Karamat and Dr. Mudassar Khan. The delegation apprised the governor about their issues including depriving them of training and inadequate facilities of induction in Post Graduate Medical Institute. The governor listened to their concerns patiently and assured them of cooperation and

assistance. He said that the significance of doctors could not be undermined owing to their profession adding their problems would be addressed promptly with the help of the provincial government.

He also urged doctors to work compassionately to help out ailing community and treat them politely abiding by the principles of their profession.

## Jamal chairs Iqbal Academy governing body meeting

**LAHORE (APP):** Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah hoped on Friday that the guidance and recommendations of the Iqbal Academy governing body members would help the academy pursue its mission of promoting Iqbal's works and messages among the young generation.

Presiding over a meeting of the Iqbal Academy Pakistan governing body here at Aiwan-e-Iqbal, he said that it was due to efforts of scholars that the tradition of

understanding of Iqbal's works was progressing in a good way, adding that all concerned want to see Iqbal Academy, a national institution for promotion of Iqbal's thoughts, more strong and active and in this regard it would be provided all kinds of support so that it could play its role in a better way.

The governing body members offered Faheha on the demise of renowned scholar, former member governing body Prof Dr. Rafiuddin Hashmi and paid him tribute over his services regarding Iqbal Studies.



**RAWALPINDI:** SAPM Jawad Sohrab Malik lays foundation stone of new academic block of OPF School.

## LHC stops planting of palm trees along highways, motorways

**LAHORE (APP):** The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday stopped planting of palm trees along highways and motorways.

Justice Shahid Karim passed the orders while hearing petitions, filed by Haroon Farooq and others against ineffective measures for controlling smog.

During the proceedings, the Environment Protection Department (EPD) director general appeared before the court and submitted that palm trees were ineffective barriers against pollution, adding that they did not prove successful on Islamabad motorways and highways.

The court questioned the bizarre renovation of

underpasses in the city, criticising the unconventional lighting that malfunctioned on the first day. The court also stressed the urgency for water conservation and observed that there were predictions about water scarcity by 2026-2027, envisioning a future where water tankers become a common sight in Lahore.

The court addressed the provincial law officer and asked what steps had been taken by the Water and Sanitation Agency for installing water meters.

To which, a member of the Judicial Water and Environment Commission stated that a one-year timeline had been given for installing water meters.



**LAHORE:** Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah presiding over the Governing Body meeting of Iqbal Academy Pakistan at Aiwan-e-Iqbal.

## Judges not caring how the case is running: Aleema

**RAWALPINDI (Online):** Aleema Khan sister of PTI founder has said it is worrisome situation that judges are not caring how the case is running.

Judge Dilawar awarded illegal sentence to PTI founder. We say to Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa that our appeal be heard, she said this while talking to media men outside Adiala jail here Friday.

She went on to say that judges are not caring case is running how. It

seems as if they have been given date that they have to announce decision at such and such date. Judge Dilawar awarded sentence to PTI founder illegally. PTI founder was arrested on August 15 illegally. Election Commission has disqualified PTI founder. What punishment was awarded by Judge Dilawar was suspended by high court judge Aamir Farooq.

She went on to say it was also joke that judgment was not suspended.

## 46 children died of pneumonia in three hospitals in city so far

**PESHAWAR (APP):** With the increase in the severity of the cold, the infection is becoming viral, and so far, 46 children have died of pneumonia in three major hospitals in the city.

Hospital officials told mediamen here on Friday that pneumonia was affecting children with low immunity, and a total of 46 children died of pneumonia in three hospitals in the city, including 20 patients each in Lady Reading and Khyber Teaching Hospitals and six in Hayatabad Medical Complex.

The hospital's officials said that more than 700 children affected by pneumonia are being brought to OPD on a daily basis, and more than capacity children are being treated at Lady Reading Hospital.

"Most of the affected children belong to adjoining areas," the officials confirmed.

## Punjab to introduce first social welfare policy: Minister

**Independent Report**  
**LAHORE:** Caretaker Punjab Health and Social Welfare Minister Prof Dr. Javed Akram revealed on Friday that the provincial government would introduce its first social welfare policy.

Addressing a dialogue on the policy draft at LUMS here on Friday, he highlighted the significance of the initiative for enhancing departmental services and performance. The minister, attending as the special guest, emphasised the

policy's potential for welfare of people. Secretary Social Welfare and Baitul-Mal Zahoor Hussain outlined plans for seeking cabinet approval post-consultation. DG Social Welfare and Baitul-Mal Mudassar Riaz Malik underscored the policy's alignment with Pakistan's Constitution, existing laws, and international agreements. Stakeholder, including Amin Bait ul Mal Jubir Ghani, participated in a comprehensive presentation.

## Killers get death penalty on two counts

**FAISALABAD (APP):** A sessions court handed down death penalty on two counts to each of five convicts for killing former president District Bar Association and his driver.

According to the prosecution, five accused including Suleman, Sajjad, Abdullah, Naem and Hasan Ali shot dead former President District Bar Naveed Mukhtar Ghumman and his driver Binyamin over an old enmity on January 10, last year.

Batala Colony police registered a case and submitted challan in the court.

# International News

## Gaza's Health Ministry blames Israeli troops for deadly shooting as crowd waited for aid

**Monitoring Desk**  
**RAFAH:** Gaza's Health Ministry and witnesses said Israeli troops opened fire as a crowd of Palestinians gathered for humanitarian aid in Gaza City on Thursday, killing at least 20 and wounding dozens.

The Israeli military said it was looking into the reports. The Associated Press could not independently confirm the details of what happened.

Witnesses and health officials said the shooting took place at a roundabout on Gaza City's southern edge, where a large crowd had gathered for distribution of food. Footage posted online and confirmed to have been taken on the main road near the roundabout showed hundreds of people fleeing,

some carrying boxes of aid, as fire rang out in the background. Men loaded wounded Palestinians onto horse and donkey carts that took off charging down the avenue. At Shifa Hospital, where casualties were treated, Mohammad al-Reafi lay on the floor, his bloodied leg bandaged, as medics worked on other wounded around them. He said Israeli troops fired into the crowd.

"We were going to get flour... young people were martyred and other young people were injured," he said. Health Ministry spokesperson Ashraf al-Qidra said 20 people were killed and 150 others wounded by the shooting.

A number of aid agencies distribute food and

other supplies in Gaza. It was not immediately known which one was operating in the area at the time of the incident. The UN refugee agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, and the UN World Food Program both said they were not involved.

Israeli troops and tanks pushed into Gaza City shortly after the ground invasion began in October and have been battling Palestinian militants there for nearly two months. The military says it has largely dismantled Hamas in northern Gaza but is still facing pockets of resistance, and large swaths of Gaza City and surrounding areas have been reduced to rubble by Israeli bombardment.



**Injured people receive treatment in Gaza City's Al-Shifa hospital, following a reported Israeli strike, that according to Gaza's Health Ministry, killed at least 20 and wounded more than 150 as they waited for humanitarian aid.**

## China-US talks: Taiwan reports Chinese 'combat patrols'

**Monitoring Desk**  
**TAIPEI:** Taiwan's defence ministry said it detected 23 Chinese air force planes operating around Taiwan and carrying out "joint combat readiness patrols" with Chinese warships on Friday, ahead of high-level China-US talks in Thailand.

China, which views Taiwan as its own territory, has over the past four years regularly sent warplanes and warships into the skies and waters around the island as

it seeks to assert sovereignty claims that the Taipei government rejects. Taiwan's defence ministry said that starting around 4 p.m. (0800 GMT) on Friday it had detected 23 Chinese aircraft including Su-30 fighters and drones operating off northern and central Taiwan and to the island's southwest.

Thirteen of those aircraft crossed the Taiwan Strait's median line, or areas close by, working with Chinese warships.

## India fetes France's Macron at annual military parade

**Monitoring Desk**  
**NEW DELHI:** President Emmanuel Macron was guest of honour Thursday for India's pomp-filled annual military parade, in a state visit aimed at bolstering France's strategic ties with the world's fifth-largest economy.

The annual Republic Day event in the heart of New Delhi is a highly choreographed spectacle featuring tank columns, fighter jet fly-pasts, acrobatic motorbike stunts and mounted camel units. This year it coincides with a two-day diplomatic tour that reflects a growing partnership between India and France, after Macron hosted Prime Minister Narendra Modi at last year's Bastille Day celebrations in Paris. Macron has pushed for greater French involvement in the Asia-Pacific at a time when Washington and its Western allies are courting India as a military and economic counterweight to China.



**Judges at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) rule on emergency measures against Israel following accusations by South Africa that the Israeli military operation in Gaza is a state-led genocide, in The Hague, Netherlands.**

## Ukraine invites China's Xi to 'peace summit'

**Monitoring Desk**  
**KYIV:** Ukraine has invited Chinese President Xi Jinping to participate in a planned "peace summit" of world leaders in Switzerland, a top diplomatic adviser to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, as Russia's invasion approaches its second anniversary.

China has close ties with Russia and has refrained from criticising its invasion of Ukraine but has also said the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries must be respected and has offered to help mediate the conflict.

"We are definitely inviting China to participate in the summit, at the highest level, at the level of the President of the People's Republic of China," the adviser, Ihor Zhovkva, told Reuters in an interview this week.

"China's participation will be very important to us. We are working with the Chinese side. We involve our partners in the world so that they convey to the Chinese side how important it is to participate in such a summit."

## US assails Israeli attack on UN facility in Gaza

**Monitoring Desk**  
**WASHINGTON:** The United States has condemned the Israeli assault on a UN facility in Khan Yunis, emphasising the protection of civilians and the need to respect the sanctity of UN facilities.

"You've heard me say it before, you've heard [Secretary of State Antony Blinken] say it before [...] civilians must be protected, and the protected nature of UN facilities must be respected."

## Japanese craft makes successful, pin-point Moon landing

**Monitoring Desk**  
**TOKYO:** Japan's "Moon Sniper" craft made a pin-point lunar landing despite last-minute engine problems, the space agency said on Thursday as it released the first images from the mission. A photo taken by a mini-rover showed the boxy yellow lander sitting intact at a slight angle on the rocky grey surface, lunar slopes rising in the distance.

The unmanned Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) — dubbed the "Moon Sniper" for its precision technology.

## King Charles admitted to London hospital for prostate treatment

**Monitoring Desk**  
**LONDON:** Britain's King Charles went into hospital on Friday to have planned treatment to address an enlarged prostate, Buckingham Palace said, joining his daughter-in-law Kate who is recovering from surgery.

The king was pictured arriving with his wife Queen Camilla at the private London Clinic in west London, where Kate, the Princess of Wales, is also having treatment after undergoing abdominal surgery last week.

A royal source said Charles had visited Kate

## Trump opens up lead over Biden in rematch many Americans don't want

**Monitoring Desk**  
**WASHINGTON:** Donald Trump leads Democratic President Joe Biden by six percentage points in a Reuters/Ipsos poll that showed Americans are unhappy about an election rematch that came into sharper focus this week.

The nationwide poll of 1,250 US adults showed Trump leading Biden 40% to 34% with the rest unsure or planning to vote for someone else or no one. The poll had a margin of error of three percentage points.

That represented a gain for Trump after a

## Canada to re-start Turkey arms exports

**Monitoring Desk**  
**ISTANBUL:** Canada and Turkey have reached a deal to restart Canadian exports of drone parts in exchange for more transparency on where they are used, and it would take effect after Ankara completes its ratification of Sweden's NATO bid, two sources told Reuters.

After 20 months of delay, Turkey moved swiftly this week to endorse Sweden's membership in the Western military alliance, including a parliamentary vote and presidential sign-off, leaving Hungary as the sole ally yet to ratify it.

Turkey is expected to send the final documents to Washington as soon as Friday, which would clear the way for Canada to immediately lift the export controls that it adopted in 2020, the two sources said, requesting anonymity.

The agreement was reached in early January after months of talks, said one person familiar with the process. A second person familiar with the plan said the sides agreed it would take effect after Sweden's ratification was complete.

Turkey's foreign ministry declined to comment. Canadian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Charlotte MacLeod told Reuters that while the export controls currently remained in place, Ottawa aimed to resolve the issue with Turkey given its status as a NATO ally.



**Ecuadorian authorities place drug packages in a container, as part of the more than 20 tons of seized drugs to be destroyed at an undisclosed location, in Ecuador.**



# 'Pak effectively highlighting Ram temple issue at every global forum': Munir Akram

ISLAMABAD (APP): Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, Ambassador Munir Akram Friday strongly condemned the recent consecration of 'Ram Temple' on the demolished Babri Mosque's site and expressed commitment for effectively highlighting the gross rights violations in IOJK and temple issue at every global forum.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) countries were supporting the efforts for preserving universally recognized and regionally important sacred sites, meet-

ings with high level UN representatives were also being conducting to highlight the issue. The ambassador said that Pakistan urged the top official for the U.N. Alliance of Civilizations to play their active role for the protection of Islamic sites in India.

The OIC Ambassadors had also acknowledged the importance of the issue, he said, adding, we were writing letters to seek urgent intervention for the protection of religious sites in India. He further said "We are also demanding action plan over protection of religious sites," adding, Indian friendly countries also needed to mobilize more diplomatic efforts to control Hindua-like policies in India.

He said UN officials were encouraging Pakistan efforts for raising Kashmir cause at world forums, adding, the right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination had been acknowledged.

Replying a question, he regretted that for past few years, the people of Kashmir had suffered gross human rights violations, persecution, and incarcerations, adding, freedom of expression had been muzzled and journalists were being hounded and imprisoned.

All of these actions

violated international law and relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions of Kashmir, he added.

The ambassador said that Kashmir issue should be resolved properly through peaceful means, in accordance with the UN Charter, the relevant Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements.

It was important for the international community to speak about these human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir, because its silence would only embolden India to continue its policy of violating the human rights, he added.



MUZAFFRABAD: Students of school and college hold placards during protest as they observe Indian Republic Day as Black Day during an anti-Indian protest in the city, to show their solidarity with people of Indian-administered Kashmir.



KARACHI: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Minority Affairs, Social Protection and President Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, Muhammad Ahmed Shah addressing during first Arts Council Academies Convocation 2024 organized by Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi.

## Mayor Karachi inaugurates laying of water supply pipeline

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the city is the home of all of us, we have to adopt this city, holding each other's hand will run this city, let's make the inter-Karachi alliance for the betterment of the city.

He said this while addressing after inaugurating the laying down of new water supply pipeline from Banaras Chowk to Frontier Gausiya Water Pumping Station in Metroville on Friday.

He said that with the laying of the new water supply line from Banaras Chowk to Ghousia Pumping Station enough drinking water will be provided to Rabbani Mohalla, B&C Line Sewari Baba, Ghausiya Mohalla, Pahari are, Muslim Town, Lal Bus, Subhani Mohalla and other areas.

On this occasion, UC Chairman Idris Khan Shamzai, Asad Aman, Mumtaz and other local leaders of PPP were also present.

## PTI's Senator Saifullah Abro joins PPP

KARACHI (INP): PTI Senator Saifullah Abro called on Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and expressed his trust in his leadership.

On the occasion, Senator Saifullah announced to withdraw from the election race in NA-194 constituency and promised to support candidate of Pakistan People's Party.

Abro was elected as senator on PTI's technocrat seat from Larkana for March 2022 to March 2027 term.

## SPL is a welcome initiative: Aseefa

KARACHI (APP): Former President Asif Ali Zardari's daughter Aseefa Bhutto Zardari has said that Sindh Premier League (SPL) will not only convey the potential possessed by the youngsters of Sindh to the nation, but also the entire world.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the SPL here as a chief guest on Friday night, she said that the Sindh Premier League is a welcome initiative in the province.

The youth of Sindh were capable of reaching new heights in all walks of life. The nation will elect the right people this time around.

Aseefa said that Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto taught the nation that Pakistan belongs to everyone.

Through him, we learned that sports unify the masses, and cricket runs in the blood of every Pakistani. There is no shortage of talent in Sindh. If only the same sportsman spirit was witnessed in politics as well, the country could have truly prospered.

She said that the Sindh government was taking these initiatives for the people of Sindh.

## "Sindh Industrialization and Facilitation Committee" constituted to facilitate investors

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Government has constituted 26 member "Sindh Industrialization and Facilitation Committee" for effective coordination, proper guidance and facilitation to the local and international investors for the industrialisation of Sindh.

The committee is headed by the provincial Minister Industries and Commerce and consisting of 25 other members including Additional Chief Secretaries, Secretaries of Industries and Commerce, Investment, Energy, Labour and Human Resources, Director Industries and Commerce, MD SITE, MD SSIC, Pro VC NED University, Executive Director IBA Karachi and representatives of relevant organizations, will resolve issues and grievances being faced by the industrialists and Business community.

The committee will resolve issues as per applicable rules and government policy. The committee will also make effective coordination, and provide proper guidance to local and international investors.

## NDMA organizes two-day workshop on Resilient Urban Planning

KARACHI (APP): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has conducted a two-day workshop on "Resilient Urban Planning in Climate Extremes" at Karachi NDMA's National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), in collaboration with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Sindh and UN-HABITAT.

The two-day workshop on comprehensive "Resilient Urban Planning in Climate Extremes" was held from January 23-24, a news release said.

## Kashmiris observed India's Republic Day as Black Day

SRINAGAR (INP): Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) and across the world observed India's Republic Day as a Black Day amid complete strike in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) in protest against India's persistent denial of their right to self-determination.

According to Kashmir Media Service, call for the observance of the Black Day was given by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and other Hurriyat organizations.

In the occupied territory, a complete strike was observed, while anti-India demonstrations and rallies planned in Azad Kashmir, Pakistan, and various world capitals.

Jailed APHC Chairman Masarrat Aalam Butt and incarcerated senior leader Shabbir Ahmed Shah, both detained in India's Tihar jail, reiterated the call for a Black Day in every corner of the territory.

APHC leaders and affiliated parties condemned India for a reign of terror, including widespread repression, frequent cordon and search operations, random arrests, and restrictions on businesses and social activities. They called upon the people to boycott all Indian celebrations, sending a clear message that Kashmiris reject Indian illegal occupation and are determined to secure their right to self-determination.

## SMIU's CEC meeting held to review arrangements of 2nd GRC-24

KARACHI (APP): A meeting of the Central Executive Committee (CEC) for the 2nd SMIU Global Research Congress-2024 (GRC-2024) was held on Friday at the Sindh Madressatul Islam University (SMIU) under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Zahid Ali Channar, Dean and Convener of the GRC.

In the meeting, the arrangements of the 2nd SMIU GRC-2024, which is being held on February 28th & 29th at SMIU, were reviewed in detail. The CEC was informed that so far six national and six international research scholars have confirmed to participate in the 2nd SMIU GRC and six international conferences, which are being organized by different faculties of SMIU during the GRC.

It was also informed the Faculty of Information Technology has received about 12 research papers from different scholars, similarly Faculty of Education has received 100 research papers, the Faculty of Social Sciences 30, the Faculty of Management, Business Administration and Commerce 40 and Faculty of Language and Culture and Faculty of Sciences has received about 12 research papers respectively. In the meeting, different committees were also formed to complete the preparations of the Congress. The Convener of the CEC Prof. Dr. Zahid Ali Channar while speaking in the meeting said the 2nd SMIU GRC-24 would be a mega event of the country in terms of promoting research culture and research practices in higher education institutions.

## DC Matiari chairs meeting stressed to strictly follow code of conduct

HYDERABAD (APP): The Deputy Commissioner, and District Returning Officer Matiari Lal Dino Mangi chaired a meeting of electoral candidates for provincial and national assemblies on Friday to discuss the code of conduct for the upcoming general elections.

During the meeting, Mangi emphasized that all candidates participating in the elections are equal, and administrative officers will fulfill their duties impartially for fair and transparent elections. He said strict action will be taken if any government employee is found involved in election work, and the maintenance of law and order will be ensured by the police, rangers and the armed forces.

Speaking on the occasion, the District Monitoring Officer Nour Ahmed Khahro stated that the electoral code of conduct would be strictly enforced, and those found violating it would face action under the Election Act.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Senior Deputy Convener, Mustafa Kamal and Sarwat Ejaz Qadri, Chief of Sunni Tehreek are addressing a press conference, at Qadri House in Karachi.

## Stakeholders lauds commitment to community resilience through 'Build-back-better'

KARACHI (APP): The Community Resilience Activity-North (CRA-North), in collaboration with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) of Sindh and Balochistan, organized a successful three-day Community Resilience (Flood Recovery) Workshop here from January 24-26.

The workshop aimed to enhance coordination and cooperation between CRA-North and government stakeholders, with the shared objective of supporting flood-affected communities to 'Build-Back-Better', a news release said.

During the workshop, stakeholders received updates on the current progress of CRA-North activities under Flood Resilience Programming, fostering a shared understanding of model communities and scaling up flood response initiatives.

Speaking at the workshop, Director General PDMA Balochistan, Jahanzaib Khan Ghoreza, said, "I wish to see the same standard of zeal and zest among the public and other private organizations, as I witnessed today in IOM ranks and files towards nurturing community resilience against disasters. I am confident that IOM work in this regard would magnetise others to deliver concerted outcomes."

Speaking at the workshop, Director General PDMA Balochistan, Jahanzaib Khan Ghoreza, said,

## Environment Protection Agency visits sugar mills in Nawabshah

HYDERABAD (APP): Environment Protection Agency Shaheed Benazirabad's team visited various sugar mills in the district to implement the SEPA law.

On the direction of Environment Secretary Agha Wasif Abbas, Sindh Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) Director General Waris Ali Gabol, Regional Incharge of Sepa Shaheed Benazirabad Dr Gul Amir Sambal along with his team visited Bandhi, Sakrand Sugar Mills, Al Noor Sugar Mill and Habib Sugar Mill and check the water and air quality situation and evaluated the air quality in the sugar mills from a SEPA certified laboratory.

## Commissioner chairs meeting regarding immunization

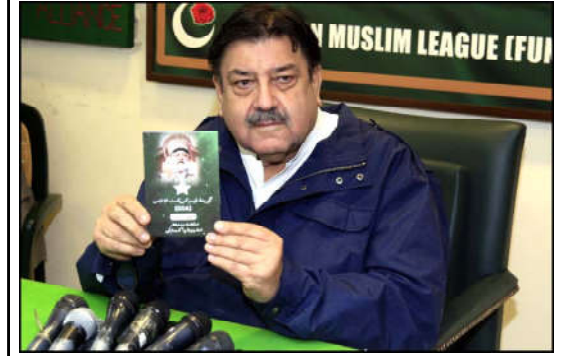
HYDERABAD (APP): Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Division Syed Muhammad Sajjad Haider on Friday presided over a meeting regarding the Divisional Task Force for Immunization in the committee room of the Commissioner's office.

Addressing the meeting, Commissioner said parents should register their children after the birth at their nearest EPI center so that they can be vaccinated against dangerous diseases in time.

He said that to protect the child from fatal diseases, the course of immunization is indispensable for the establishment of a healthy society.

At the government level, effective measures are being taken to protect the health of the people, especially children, but parents also have to protect their children.

Commissioner appealed to the public that they must get their children vaccinated so that they are protected from measles, tuberculosis, whooping cough, pneumonia and many other life-threatening diseases. The commissioner directed all the district health officers to visit the EPI centers established in their districts and take all possible steps to make them more active, and the record in this regard should be maintained properly.



KARACHI: Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) Spokesman, Sardar Abdul Rahim addresses to media persons during press conference, at Functional House in Karachi.

## Akmal Leghari says: Powers should be transferred to UC level for solving the issues

Tanveer Ahmed Soomro MIRPUR MATHELO: Powers should be transferred to the UC level so that the problems are solved. If there are schools, there are no teachers, if there are teachers, then they are not ready to teach. It is felt that people are being kept ignorant under a plan so that they cannot question the elected public representatives.

These views were expressed by Nadir Akmal Khan Leghari, an independent candidate of PS19, while talking to the media during the election campaign. PS19 candidate Nadir Akmal Leghari visited different areas where on arrival the people of the area were greeted by the people of the area was welcomed.

Expressing regret over the current situation of the constituency, he said that corruption is eating this country like a termite, from the construction of roads to the construction of government buildings, everyone is doing corruption, which is causing damage to the country. Clean drinking water is not available to the people in the constituency, due to which the diseases like hepatitis and cancer are increasing.

## Two more kidnapped from Shikarpur

Independent Report SHIKARPUR: The law and order situation of District Shikarpur could not be improved which caused two more villagers kidnapped from their fish farm in the jurisdiction of Lakhi Police Station on Friday in early hours. According to initial reports, two villagers identified as Dur Muhammad Napar and Mushtaq Ahmed Napar were sleeping at their fish farm near to their village Sadullah Napar situated in Taluka Lakhi Ghulam Shah as usually but did not returned to their home which caused the relatives worried and suspected for their missing.

The relatives reached at fish farm where they found their some clothes and foot wears lying there and confirmed for their kidnapping.

The relatives informed the area police about kidnapping of their beloved Dur Muhammad Napar and Mushtaq Ahmed Napar. Police with the help of relatives and villagers while following the footprints started the search of kidnapped villagers and the returned back when the foot prints disappeared at Chak - Rustam road.

The relatives allegedly said that the kidnapping trend could not be stopped which caused they all feel unsafe and the dacoits recently released the one kidnapped person identified as religious scholar Moulana Abdul Hameed Lund.

## PPP Stands with People in Every Challenging Situation: Aajiz

HYDERABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party Sindh spokesperson and candidate for PS 64 Hyderabad, Senator Aajiz Dhamra expressed confidence that opponents would face defeat on February 8. If the 15-year development plans of the People's Party in Sindh are removed, nothing will be left except ruins.

He expressed these views while addressing the corner meetings in different areas of PS 64, after participating in the cake-cutting ceremony on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Ameerul Momineen Hazrat Ali Karam Allah Wajhahu. District information secretary of PPP Ahsaan Abro, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, Asad Peshori, Daniyal Abro, Engineer Sikandar Hayat and others were also present on this occasion.



HYDERABAD: Dr Abdul Majeed Chhutto president All Chhutta Community Sindh-Balochistan speaking to community members at a meeting at local hall bypass.