

# Independent

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## India a terrorist state, committing worst atrocities against Kashmiris: Kakar

**"On this day, I make it clear that that India should not have any such illusions. We believe in peace and are showing maximum patience and tolerance, but any misadventure in this regard will be forcefully responded"**

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday said that India was a terrorist state, which had been committing the worst atrocities and brutalities against the innocent people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir for decades.

The world was, however, silently watching the Indian state terrorism against the Kashmiris, he regretted while addressing the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day.

The prime minister said for last many years, India was presenting a false

narrative and trying to weaken the indigenous movement of the Kashmiris for freedom by wrongly labeling them as terrorists.

There was a clear difference between terrorism and the people's struggle for independence, he added.

PM Kakar said that the Indian leadership was also claiming that Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir were part of their country. "On this day, I make it clear that that India should not have any such illusions. We believe in peace and are showing maximum patience and tolerance, but any misadventure in this regard will be forcefully responded."

He reaffirmed that Pakistan did not want any conflict in the region, however, it was fully capable of strongly retaliating any attack on its soil. India, he said, had for many times tested Pakistan's capacity, and if still had any desire in that regard then "we are fully ready to show our might".

He said if India was a true democracy then it should give the people of Kashmir their just right to self-determination, besides restoring all the basic human rights in the IIOJK. PM Kakar said India must also stop the gross violations of human rights in the region along with releasing all the political prisoners.



RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visiting the front lines along Line of Control (LOC) in Sarian Sector.

## Nawaz Sharif pressuring administration, elections must be fair: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has addressed various issues ahead of the upcoming general elections and accused former prime minister Nawaz Sharif of pressuring the administration to influence the decision. In an interview with VOA Urdu, he emphasized his party's focus on contesting the polls independently, warned against alleged political pressure, and stressed the need for fair and transparent elections.

Bilawal reiterated that the PPP was not forming alliances with other parties and will fight the elections based on its own manifesto.

"I am contesting the elections and trying to ensure that the People's Party wins and forms a government," he told the news outlet.

He accused former prime minister Nawaz Sharif of the PML-N of

pressuring the administration, warning him against any interference in the electoral process. He expressed confidence that the administration will resist such pressure.

"Despite Nawaz Sharif's pressure, the administration will not take any such step," the PPP chief hoped. While avoiding direct comment on the military's role, Bilawal emphasized the need for politicians to take responsibility in reducing its influence in politics. "I did not talk about the role of the establishment in any way," he stressed.

He also expressed concern over the arrest of political workers and advocated for fair and peaceful elections. He urged politicians to maintain respect and avoid hostility. "Pakistan's democracy needs more effort," he insisted, adding that politicians should work within the realm of politics.

## Solangi says: Media helpline launched for quick redressal of journalist's complaints

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister of Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Monday that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MOIB) has launched a media helpline to redress complaints of both local and foreign journalists during elections.

Addressing the launching ceremony of the media helpline, he said, in the present era of digital media it was imperative to upgrade and improve working.

The media-complaint application will be accessible through any browser, Murtaza Solangi remarked.

He said the application was launched for the convenience of local and international journalists and media persons covering the general election 2024.

## Any aggression to be responded with full military might: COAS

**Pakistan Army well versed with full threat spectrum and perpetually ready to respond effectively; Gen Asim Munir lauds operational readiness of troops.**

RAWALPINDI (APP): Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir has reaffirmed that any aggression or violation of the territorial sovereignty of Pakistan will be responded with full national resolve and military might.

He was addressing the troops deployed on the front lines along the Line of Control in the Sarian sector near Muzaffarabad today.

The Army Chief said the Pakistan Army is well-versed in the full threat spectrum and is perpetually ready to respond effectively. He mentioned that Indian state-sponsored terrorism in Pakistan has now extended to the heinous targeting of individual Pakistani citizens

on our soil. Such a callous disregard for international law and norms of the international system is becoming a routine occurrence, and India is now being openly called out by many countries worldwide, exposing its sham credentials.

General Syed Asim Munir said Pakistan would continue to expose all such attempts and ensure the security of its citizens.

During the occasion, the Army Chief was briefed about the latest situation along the Line of Control. He appreciated the operational readiness, high morale, and effective response of troops to Indian ceasefire violations.



MUZAFFARABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar attends Special Session of AJK Legislative Assembly.

## Visit Muzaffarabad Monument PM, COAS pay tribute to sacrifices of martyrs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Ch. Anwar ul Haq and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Monday visited the Muzaffarabad Jammu and Kashmir Monument to lay wreaths and pay rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of the martyrs.

According to an Inter-Services Public Relations

(ISPR) news release, the leadership acknowledged that the fortitude, resilience and unwavering faith of the Kashmiris in the face of unabated brutality of Indian occupation forces in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) had been exemplary.

They observed that brewing humanitarian and security crises in the IIOJK seriously threatened regional peace and stability.

## Original CNIC mandatory for casting vote: ECP

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday advised people to bring their Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) to cast a vote on Election Day.

The ECP in a message said no person would be allowed to cast his vote at the polling station without having original CNIC.

No other document including a copy of CNIC, passport and driving license would be acceptable for casting a vote.

The commission further said anyone having an expired CNIC can cast his/her vote.

## PM summons important meeting of cabinet today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaar ul Haq Kakar has summoned important meeting of federal cabinet today (Tuesday).

According to sources overall economic situation of the country and security situation will come under consideration.

The overall performance of care taker government will be reviewed in the meeting.

Rich tributes will be paid to the federal ministers for their outstanding performance.

A host of matters including privatization of first women bank will come under discussion in the meeting.



KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing the election rally.

## 10 policemen martyred in terrorist attack on DI Khan police station

**Six policemen were also injured when terrorists targeted the police station in Tehsil Daraban**

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): At least 10 policemen were martyred and six others got injured as a group of unidentified militants attacked Chaudhwan police station here in Daraban tehsil in the wee hours on Monday.

According to the police spokesman, the terrorists employing heavy weapons attacked the Chaudhwan police station at around 03:00 a.m.

The police retaliated and an exchange of gunfire continued for around two and a half hours. However, the attackers managed to escape the scene.

In the attack, 10 policemen were martyred and nine others got injured. The martyrs included

Muhammad Aslam, Ghulam Farid, Muhammad Javed, Muhammad Idrees, Muhammad Imran, Safdar, ASI Kausar, Ehtram Syed, Rafi Ullah and Hameed ul Haq while the injured policemen included Ahmad Hasan, Akbar Zaman, Inayat Ullah, Shehrah Khan, Ibrahim and Naqeeb Khan.

The injured were immediately shifted to District Headquarters hospital Dera Ismail Khan. RPO Nasir Mehmood Satti and DPO Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani along with a heavy contingent of police and security forces reached the site and launched a search operation to arrest the perpetrators.

## Kashmir Solidarity Day: Protests, calls for freedom echo across Pakistan, AJK

ISLAMABAD (INP): On Kashmir Solidarity Day, being observed on February 5, the passion for Kashmiri self-determination burned bright across Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Large-scale demonstrations, symbolic gestures, and passionate speeches marked the day, highlighting the ongoing struggle and demanding international intervention.

In Muzaffarabad, the capital of Azad Kashmir, a grand ceremony unfolded at Azadi Chowk. Participants waved flags, chanted slogans, and formed a chain of human hands connecting them to their brethren across the Line of Control. A special session of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Assembly was also held, with speeches reiterating support for the Kashmiri cause.

Meanwhile, thousands marched on Constitution Avenue in Islamabad, led by Foreign Ministry officials. Children, politicians, and citizens alike joined the rally, paying homage to Kashmiri martyrs and chanting "Kashmir Banega Pakistan." Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmed also participated, delivering a strong message against the Indian occupation. Hurriyat leader Mehmood Ahmed Sagar addressed the media in Islamabad, highlighting the sacrifices made by Kashmiris.

## Kashmir Solidarity Day: Leaders Rally for Rights and Education

KARACHI (APP): Muhammad Younus Dhaga, the Caretaker Sindh Minister for Revenue, emphasized the significance of Kashmir Solidarity Day, portraying it as an ongoing mission stemming from the partition of the sub-continent.

Despite being a struggle spanning 76 years, he underscored that no level of brutality or disregard for justice could diminish the Kashmiris' right to self-

termination.

These sentiments were conveyed during his address at the "5th February Solidarity Day Kashmir Walk" event, organized by Commissioner Karachi Division, Muhammad Saleem Rajput. Dhaga rejected any notion that the Indian government's revocation of Kashmir's special status would weaken the Kashmiris' resolve or dampen Pakistan's support for their cause.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi launched Media Helpline app at Press Information Department.

## PEC Sindh finalizes arrangements for 26.9 mln voters to elect 191 legislators

KARACHI (INP): The Provincial Election Commission (PEC) Sindh has finalized all arrangements to hold fair, free and transparent elections on 61 National as well as 130 Provincial Assemblies general seats in the province.

Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh Sharifullah and Joint Election Commissioner Nazir Abbas stated this while addressing a joint press conference here at the PEC of-

ice on Monday.

Sharifullah was of the view that apart from 61 general seats of the National Assembly and 130 of the Provincial Assembly, polls will be held on 14 reserved seats of women in the National Assembly 29 reserved seats of women and 9 seats of minorities in the Sindh Assembly. As many as 26,994,769 registered voters will exercise their right of franchise for which 19,008 polling stations have been set up.

## Nawaz asks Murree constituents to vote wisely for a new dawn

MURREE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif and party chief organizer Maryam Nawaz on Monday pledged to redevelop the country after coming to power.



During the power show in Murree just days before the general elections, Nawaz reiterated that the cost of essentials was much less when he was the prime minister than the present prices. He said he rid the people of the menace of loadshedding.

During his last stint in power, Nawaz claimed that the economy was flourishing and businesses were thriving.

He urged the people to vote responsibly as "vote can change the destiny of their generations."

## CJP, other judges to remain at principal seat of Islamabad in backdrop of election

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and some other judges will remain at Islamabad principal seat in the perspective of general election taking place on February 08.

They will hear different cases. Three benches will hear cases on principal seat of Islamabad during the week which has commenced from Monday.

SC presided over by CJP Qazi Faez Isa will hear the cases for one day on February 07. Three benches will hear the cases on February 6, 7 and 9. One bench will be presided over by Justice Sardar Tariq Mansood second by justice Muneeb Akhtar and third by Justice Yahya Afridi. The cases include criminal, civil, banking, family, NAB and others. The cause list of the cases has been issued.



RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC), General Sahir Shamsahad Mirza unveiled the Fatah-II Multiple Launch Rocket System (MRLS), at World Defense Show (WDS) 2024 in Riyadh.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Economic rhetoric

On Thursday, voters will elect a new government tasked with managing one of the country's worst-ever economic crises: growth shrank, inflation soared to record highs, the rupee weakened rapidly, and foreign reserves dwindled in the last two years. However, the 'economic programmes' articulated by the three major contenders for power — the PML-N, PTI and PPP — in their respective election manifestos show that none has an actionable short-to long-term strategy to tackle the daunting economic challenges.

More crucially, no party talks of how they intend to accomplish the immediate task of approaching the IMF for another larger and longer funding programme — critical to economic revival — once the current \$3bn facility expires in mid-April, to avoid the prospect of default. Rather than giving the party's roadmap for achieving macroeconomic and other targets in their manifestos, and outlining economic objectives, priorities and policy intentions, each party has made frivolous promises instead. For example, the PML-N, whose leadership likes to harp on the party's 'development narrative' and building a network of motorways and roads, has pledged to create 10m jobs, enhance wages to match inflation and cut electricity bills by 20-30pc. How? They don't explain.

Likewise, the PPP has promised to double salaries, and provide free electricity up to 300 units and subsidies to alleviate the impact of inflation on voters, as well as generate employment opportunities for young labour market entrants.

Though the PTI has avoided populist commitments, its economic plan, like those of the PML-N and PPP, is also heavy on rhetoric, hardly giving concrete strategies to achieve the macroeconomic goals its manifesto defines. Elections are the best time for political parties to send their message to the voters and rally support around their socioeconomic priorities. However, in Pakistan, parties usually avoid providing quantitative, evidence-based policy targets with a detailed overview of how and when they intend to implement their economic promises. A PIDE study of past election manifestos of the major parties shows that these documents did not contain concrete plans and largely comprised empty promises, with no homework done vis-à-vis future goals. While the PML-N is seeking votes for its promise of delivering 'speedy development', PTI is staking its claims on the basis of its 'economic performance' during the Covid pandemic, and PPP on its social welfare agenda. That means these parties do not have any ready economic policy blueprints to work on if voted into power.

Both the PML-N and PTI may have given some abstract macroeconomic, export and other targets and priorities in their new manifestos, but do not offer any specifics or practical strategies to achieve these goals if elected to power. Little wonder these parties are unable to consistently pursue their economic policies even through a single budget cycle.

### Anti-colonial ally?

Huma Yusuf

Many will recognise the name of the great Russian poet, Alexander Pushkin. Fewer people will know that he is partially of African origin, and that his heritage is routinely touted by Moscow as proof that it is not a European-style imperial power. We may not know this detail, but it is widely appreciated across the Global South, particularly in Africa, where Russia is increasingly valued as an ally helping to balance the excesses of the Global North.

The sense in the Global South that Russia is an anti-colonial ally (despite its imperial past, and its colonising aims in Ukraine) is apparent in the recent documentary *Inside Wagner: The Rise of Russia's Notorious Mercenaries*. The film shows how the narrative that Russia is anti-West, and so pro-Global South is becoming entrenched, driven further by Russian propaganda, including the production of slick action films glorifying Wagner and the co-option of African social media influencers. Russian mercenaries' violent tactics and human rights abuses are reframed as sacrifices in the name of stability, particularly in places like Central African Republic, and swept aside in favour of finally standing up to European (and by extension Western) colonial powers.

Why is this relevant to Pakistan? In some ways, we are an outlier. Russia features less in our public discourse, particularly after former prime minister Imran Khan's awkwardly timed visit to Moscow on the eve of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Khan's populism was plugged into these emergent global narratives, and he briefly flirted with pro-Putin positioning as an extension of his anti-US

stance. However, that flirtation was quickly replaced by military pragmatism and pro-Ukrainian messaging, particularly in the run-up to the IMF deal.

Islamabad of late has tried to better balance its ties with Moscow, with celebrations of 75 years of diplomatic engagement last October, and promises to boost trade ties and security cooperation.

But the potential for a serious bilateral relationship is complicated, particularly with the Middle East developments. Pakistan has never been a foreign policy priority for Russia, with most engagement from Moscow being perfunctory. Russia's growing proximity with Iran is another twist: Tehran is allegedly supplying Moscow drones for the Ukraine conflict; Moscow has responded with a pivot towards Palestine in the context of the Israel-Palestine war. This pivot is largely driven by domestic political considerations. As Fiona Hill points out in an interview with Brookings, Moscow is worried that Gaza's fate will stir memories of violent Russian interventions in Chechnya, and pro-Palestinian positioning is considered a way to appease Russia's Muslim population. Still, this also facilitates Moscow's affinity with Tehran. While Russia's pro-Palestine positioning will win it more fans across the Global South, its pro-Tehran, anti-US stance will leave it in murky political waters given the post-conflict scenario shaping up in the Middle East. Given plans for a two-state solution to be tabled in exchange for Saudi recognition of Israel — and all the security guarantees that would entail — the current Muslim unity over Palestine's plight

could fragment along the lines of US/ Saudi vs Russia/ Iran.

Where will Pakistan find itself? While Islamabad's diplomatic balancing act will continue, pro-Russian sentiment is unlikely to become a major feature of public discourse. Indeed, in Moscow's calculations, ours is a geopolitical space already dominated by Russia-friendly Beijing, and so not worth the effort to shape through overtures and propaganda. But that does not mean that Pak-is-tan is completely disengaged from broader Global South narratives.

Pro-Russian narratives in the Global South are in fact anti-colonial and pro-justice. And anti-colonial sentiment will express itself in various ways in an increasingly stressed and resource-scarce world — as demands for climate justice, labour rights, inclusive technology, equitable service delivery and more. Indeed, as authoritarianism creeps, civil resistance will soar. And as I wrote recently, Pakistan is not immune to these trends.

Even during a carefully engineered election cycle, our powers that be have been distracted by civil movements, which they have sought to address through both soft and hard approaches. Wheat subsidies are being deployed to calm tensions in Gilgit-Baltistan, while a security crackdown is intensified in Balochistan. The game of whack-a-mole to manage protest (whether in the form of social and political movements or violent uprisings) will continue in the post-poll settlement as well, and may intensify in response to the political orchestration of this week. As such, Pakistan is firmly in step with the Global South. -- Courtesy Dawn

### Living longer

ArifAzad

Education is a strong determinant of higher remunerations in the course of a lifetime and generally, higher education levels result in increased incomes. For instance, a university graduate is likely to earn more than a college graduate. These higher earnings levels create better health outcomes in terms of longer lifespans, healthy lifestyles and enough funds to spend on health maintenance and improvement activities.

However, the link between the years of schooling, adult mortality and longevity has been under-researched. This under-examined connection has been somewhat established recently, and estimates for years of schooling and gains in lifespan were produced in a recent global meta-analysis and systematic review. The Centre for Global Health Inequalities-Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (Chain-IHEME) issued a global meta-analysis and systematic review that estimates the magnitude of education on mortality risks and lifespans. The study covers 70 locations in 59 countries in 10 languages, including the UK, US, Brazil and China. The findings of the study are far-reaching in terms of policy implications and resources. It goes beyond previous studies on the subject as it is not restricted by time, location and language.

While previous studies on educational inequalities focused on high-income countries, this study includes varied economic contexts and regions and produces estimates of adult mortality in the age group 18 to 70 years. The importance of this analysis lies in its identification of under-examined benefits of education by systematically identifying and quantifying the impact of number of years of education on adult mortality risk at a global level.

Broadly, the review shows that the number of years spent in education have a relationship with longevity and mortality. In this way, education exercises not only protective effects on adult mortality but also serves a longevity-boosting function.

According to the study, every two years spent at school or university reduces the risk of mortality by two per cent. For 18 years of education, the mortality risk declines by a whopping 34pc, while completing secondary education cuts the risk by an impressive 25pc. Therefore, you can add more years to your life with a longer stay at school.

Conversely, those missing out on school years or dropping out of school find themselves deprived of health benefits. The report claims that adults not receiving any education face higher risks of ill-health throughout their lives — the effects are comparable to consuming five or more alcoholic drinks daily or smoking 10 cigarettes per day for a decade. It also demonstrates that mortality risk is moderated by health behaviour. Higher education, in turn, shapes access to better healthcare and wholesome lifestyles.

Pakistan has one of the highest number of out-of-school children in the world; the dropout rate is elevated as are school absences. These factors have a direct impact on the number of years spent in education and the cumulative effect on mortality risk and healthy lifespans. In Pakistan, education has, so far, been narrowly con-

ceived. Its impact on mortality risk reduction has not been considered in public health strategies. Therefore, pouring more and dedicated money into education and making concerted efforts to keep children in school and beyond can result in better health outcomes for population health, which, in turn, saves governmental and individual expenditure on health, especially in poor households.

Policymakers and politicians should see both education and health as intimately connected and focus on improving educational outcomes and retaining as large a number of youngsters as possible from school to university — the best investment in health and education.

A strategy that combines education and health will see not only prosperity but also improved health for the nation in the long term. Our younger generations are affected more by education inequalities that plague our education system. Therefore, enhanced schooling policies and increased resources towards education can act as proactive investment in health, which reduces disparities in learning and well-being.

Education is an essential component of the Sustainable Development Goals, which target inclusive and quality education for everyone, gender equality and reduction of inequalities within and between countries. Pakistan has been lagging behind on SDG targets. Dedicating sustained and stipulated funds to education with an 'education-health' lens as the bedrock of investment and policies can turn the tide on low educational attainment and associated low health outcomes. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### AGPR conducts study on loans to employees on direction of President

ISLAMABAD (APP): Auditor General identifies violations of rules in granting of loans to govt employees, recommends to improve existing mechanism on the direction of the President. In response to the concerns raised by President Dr Arif Alvi over the violations of merit and criteria for granting loans to government employees, the Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP) has identified weaknesses and violations of rules in the existing system of granting long term Advances (House Building and Conveyance

advances) to Federal Government employees by conducting a special study that suggests recommendations for improving the system.

President Dr Arif Alvi, in a letter to AGP, had urged the need to evaluate the current system of granting loans to government employees to ensure transparency, merit and fair play. He had raised concerns over the non-observance of criteria as two separate lists, called the "regular list" and the "out of turn list/priority", were being maintained for granting loans. He observed

that there seemed to be no criteria as to when, why and how an employee was to be moved from "regular list" to "out of turn" (priority) list. This issue had come to light during hearing of representations, filed by different government officers/organizations, wherein incidents of preferential treatment and violations of merit were reported as loans were extended to some of the government employees in violation of General Financial Rules (GFR) and the approved criteria of 07-12-2015. In his letter to the

AGP, the President had also observed that the Principal Accounting Officers (PAOs) of various ministries send lists of employees to AGPR based on their discretion. These out-of-turn loans to employees on the basis of priority were causing grievances and litigation.

In response to President's letter, AGP conducted a special study on the long-term advances to Federal Government employees that found violations and discrepancies due to non-observance of the existing rules and procedures.



Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani speaking at the roundtable discussion on "Shared Prosperity, Economic Resilience, and Investments" at the Third EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum in Brussels.



ISLAMABAD: Women wearing traditional Kashmiri dresses as looks warm shawls on a stall at Lok Virsa Museum in the Federal Capital.

### Pak mobile industry thriving despite dire economic indicators

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan battles its prevailing dire economic indicators, it seems that the country's mobile industry has managed to thrive despite rampant inflation and the declining purchasing power of the people.

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority's (PTA) annual report has revealed that local mobile phone manufacturers produced a whopping 84.4 million devices in the last five years.

As per the report, 25 million of these were smartphone devices that were manufactured between January 2019 and September 2023.

Furthermore, the regulatory authority said that 33 local and foreign companies locally established manufacturing plants under the Mobile Device Manufacturing (MDM) Regulations introduced in 2021 — with these companies, operating both as standalone entities and through joint ventures, obtained a 10-year MDM

authorisation.

The country also has initiated the export of locally manufactured handsets, with 120,000 SEEGO brand mobiles labelled as "Manufactured in Pakistan" exported to the African market in December 2022.

The Device Identification Registration and Blocking System (DIRBS), introduced by the PTA, has provided a level playing field for foreign investments in the mobile device manufacturing industry in Pakistan.

### CM distributes allotment letters among landless farmers of Cholistan

Independent Report LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi distributed allotment letters for 12.5 acres of land to 26,000 landless farmers in Bahawalpur. The allocation of land to Cholistan farmers is poised to uplift the impoverished community and pave the way for prosperity.

Under this transformative initiative, each farmer has been granted a lease for 12.5 acres of land for a period of five years. This momentous decision addresses the long-standing grievance of the

underprivileged farmers spanning three districts in south Punjab, namely Rahim Yar Khan, Bahawalnagar, and Bahawalpur, according to a handout issued here Monday.

The occasion holds immense importance for the Bahawalpur division, commemorating a historic day for the Cholistanis. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed heartfelt congratulations to the landless farmers of Bahawalpur, Rahim Yar Khan, and Bahawalnagar for securing their rightful allotment.

### Pakistan's exports to China up by 46pc in 7 months

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's export of goods and services to China witnessed an increase of 46 percent during the seven months (July to January). According to sources, the overall exports to China were recorded at US \$1.7214 billion during July-January (2023-24) against exports of US \$1.18 billion during July-January

(2022-23). On the other hand, the imports from China into the country during July-January were recorded at US \$7.71 billion against US \$7.66 billion last year, sources added. On January, Pakistan's export of goods and services to China witnessed an increase of 39.44 per cent during the first five months.

### PTA committed to ensuring safe online environment for country's youth: Chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Chairman, Major General Hafeez ur Rehman, has said that the PTA is committed to ensuring a safe online environment, particularly for the country's youth and children.

In a message on the occasion of "Safer Internet Day", to be celebrated on February 6, he said, "PTA

recognizes the critical role that the internet plays in our lives. We are steadfast in our commitment to ensuring a safe online environment, particularly for our youth and children." The chairman asserted that it is the collective responsibility of all to create a secure and protective digital space, allowing Pakistani users to continue their online activities in a safer environment. He further

mentioned that PTA has collaborated with Meta, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), TikTok, and other organizations to pursue the cause of promoting a safer online environment in Pakistan.

"Our efforts for the cause have been recognized, and PTA received the SAMENA Council international LEAD award under the category of "Enabling Child & Youth Safety Online," the

### Tokyo shares open higher after US rallies

TOKYO (AFP/APP): Tokyo stocks opened higher Monday, driven up by the strength of US tech shares that pushed Wall Street indices to new records.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index climbed 0.69 percent, or 248.99 points, to 36,407.01, while the broader Topix index added 0.61 percent, or 15.61 points, to 2,555.29.

The dollar stood at 148.40 yen, compared with 148.30 yen on Friday in New York.

### Pakistanis drank tea worth over \$336m in six months!

Monitoring Desk LAHORE: Tea imports into the country witnessed an increase of 5.53% during the first half of the current fiscal year compared to last year's corresponding period, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) data showed. The tea imports into the country increased up to \$336.423 million during July-December (2023-24) compared to the imports of \$318.798 million in July-December (2022-23),

according to PBS data. In terms of quantity, the imports surged by 9.12% as the country imported 139,751 metric tonnes of tea during the period under review compared to the imports of 128,068 metric tonnes.

Meanwhile, on a year-on-year basis, the tea imports during December 2023 decreased by 16.80% to \$58.869 million from last December's \$70.759 million.

## PM Kakar says: Entire nation stands with Kashmiris to support their right to self-determination

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday said the entire Pakistani nation stood shoulder to shoulder with its Kashmiri brothers and sisters to support their struggle for the right to self-determination. "Pakistan will continue to provide moral, political and diplomatic support to its Kashmiri brothers and sisters until they realise their right to self-determination as per the UNSC resolutions", the prime minister said during his visit to Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir on the

occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day. Talking to the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haque and Speaker Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar here, PM Kakar said the final and just solution of the Kashmir issue was possible only under the free and impartial referendum according to the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). He said the Indian atrocities in Jammu and Kashmir under the illegal rule of India were

not hidden from anyone and the silence of the international community on Indian atrocities on innocent Kashmiris was alarming and reprehensible. The speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir welcomed the prime minister's visit to Muzaffarabad. They said the PM Kakar's visit to Muzaffarabad on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day had sent a clear message to India that the hearts of Pakistani and Kashmiri brothers and sisters beat together.



MUZAFFARABAD: Students hold placards showing solidarity with the people of Kashmir, during protest rally to mark the Kashmir Solidarity Day.

## KP Governor says: India breaks all records of atrocities, human rights violations in IIOJK

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here Monday said that India has broken all records of oppression and brutalities after illegally invaded the Occupied Kashmir and demanded international community take notice of it. He also demanded dignity and respect for the people of the held valley. Addressing the Kashmir Solidarity Day rally, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor said that hundreds

of thousands of Kashmiris were martyred, children orphaned and women were sexually abused at IIOJK. He said that India's involvement in state terrorism and human rights abuses were serious threats to the world and regional peace. Paying rich tributes to sacrifices, bravery and courage of the oppressed Kashmiris of IIOJK for right of self-determination, the Governor said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government.

## Gas leakage leaves 2 dead in Havelian

ABBOTTABAD (INP): Two more people on Monday lost their lives in a gas leakage incident in Haavalian village, during the current season death tolls caused by the gas leakage crossed 12.

According to the Rescue 1122 sources, dead persons were identified as Yasar and Mehtab, hailed from the village Tatrila an area of Rajoi Police Station.

Responding to the incident, the rescue medical team shifted the bodies of Yasar and Mehtab to Type-D Hospital Havelian.

Despite the issuance of guidelines for the use of gas heaters during the winter season by Rescue 1122, district administration, and Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL), it is disheartening that people continue to neglect these guidelines, leading to the loss of precious human lives.

This was the fifth incident of gas leakage in the district of Abbottabad where 12 people lost their lives.



LAHORE: Governor of Punjab Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman addressing during ceremony in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day at Al-Hamra Hall, in Provincial Capital.

## Pakistan always keeps Kashmir issue alive at global forums: Governor

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said on Monday that Pakistan has always played its role in keeping the issue of Kashmir alive at all forums of the world including the United Nations Organization (UNO) and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). He was addressing the ceremony in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day organized by Punjab

Department of Information and Culture here at Al-Hamra Arts Council where Secretary Information Danyal Saleem Gilani, Director General Public Relations Punjab, Rubina Afzal, Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Mushtaq Mehmood and a large number of people from different walks of life were present. The Governor said that today Pakistanis and millions of Kashmiris living around the world, are

observing Kashmir Solidarity Day against India's invasion and illegal occupation of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. He added that the purpose of observing this day is to draw the attention of the international community towards the Indian usurpation and oppression of the occupied state of Jammu and Kashmir so that the oppressed Kashmiris get their right to self-determination.

## Children-plants WHO's 'Own a Tree' initiative fosters strong bond of attachment

PESHAWAR (APP): The unique idea of involving school children in the promotion of green cover by launching an 'Own a Tree' plantation programme has shown an encouraging response of fostering a strong bond of attachment between minors and the plants planted with their nameplates.

The plantation drive was carried out by the World Health Organization (WHO) with the

cooperation of the Health Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by involving school children in planting saplings within the premises of four Basic Health Units (BHUs) in Charsadda district. "The activity was held on April 7, 2023, in connection with the observance of World Health Day (WHD) April which also marks the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948."

**Kashmir Solidarity Exhibition starts in Bahawalpur**  
BAHAWALPUR (APP): A three-day Kashmir Solidarity Exhibition has started at the art gallery of Bahawalpur Arts Council here. President, Board of Management, Bahawalpur Arts Council, Prof-Dr. Aslam Adeb along with Director, Bahawalpur Arts Council, Sajjad Hussain inaugurated the Kashmir Solidarity Exhibition at the Arts Council premises. It was a pictorial exhibition displaying pictures and photos of Kashmiris who were victimized by Indian forces.

## CM Punjab inaugurates upgraded BVH, safe city project in Bahawalpur

**Independent Report**  
BAHAWALPUR: Caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab Mohsin Naqvi arrived in Bahawalpur on Sunday for the inauguration of the OPD, Surgical Ward Upgradation Project at Victoria Hospital.

He also inaugurated the Safe City project in Bahawalpur. He inaugurated the upgraded building of the Civil Lines Police Station. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi also virtually inaugurated other model police stations of Bahawalpur. He visited the wards of Bahawal Victoria Hospital. He also inspected the Medical Emergency, Plastic Surgery, and ENT wards. He talked

to the patients, doctors, and paramedical staff. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi said, "This is your hospital, take care of this lovely building."

Talking to the media he said that Bahawal Victoria Hospital was built in 1906, and renovating the old building was a difficult task. The team of the Department of Buildings and Communications is credited with upgrading the historical building of Bahawal Victoria Hospital beautifully.

If a new hospital is built, it will not be as upgraded as Bahawal Victoria Hospital. The old building of the hospital has been completely renovated.



MUZAFFARABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar being presented guard of honor upon his arrival at AJK Legislative Assembly.

## Two more children succumb to pneumonia in Punjab

LAHORE (INP): Pneumonia claimed two more lives of children during the past 24 hours in Punjab.

According to the Punjab Health Department, a total of 605 new cases of pneumonia were reported during the last 24 hours.

The health authorities said Lahore logged 177 fresh cases of pneumonia during the last 24 hours.

Punjab has reported 318 pneumonia-related deaths, while over 20,872 cases have been

reported in the province whereas Lahore only reported 58 deaths and 4,050 cases.

Health experts attribute the rapid increase in cases and deaths in Punjab to the environmental pollution caused by smog during the winter season.

Pneumonia is an infection in the lungs, often caused by viruses. It can manifest after symptoms of a cold or flu and can range from mild to severe. Typically, pneumonia is more common in children aged five or younger.

# International News

## 127 more Palestinians killed as fighting rages in Gaza

GAZA (INP): Battles raged in Gaza's south Sunday ahead of another visit to the region by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in a bid to secure a new truce as the Israel-Hamas war approaches its fifth month.

Blinken set off Sunday on what is his fifth Mideast trip since the October 7 attack by Hamas that set off the crisis.

He is expected to begin his trip on Monday in Saudi Arabia before visits to Israel, Egypt and Qatar.

The health ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza said at least 127 people were killed in Israeli strikes in the previous 24 hours in the territory.

The Hamas government media office said a kin-

dergarten where families were sheltering was hit in the southern border city of Rafah, which is teeming with Palestinians displaced by the war.

"There is no safe place in the Gaza Strip, from north to south," displaced man Mohammed Kloub told foreign media in Rafah, which according to UN figures now hosts more than half of Gaza's population.

Israel has warned its ground forces could advance on Rafah as part of its campaign to eliminate Hamas. Israel's army said its forces had raided a Hamas training facility in Khan Yunis where militants prepared for the October 7 attack.

compound contained models of Israeli military bases, armoured vehicles, as well as entry points to kibbutzim, the army said in a statement.

During the raid, the army "neutralised" several militants, it said.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society said that at the nearby Al-Amal hospital there were "alarming signs (of) a humanitarian disaster... after 14 days of continuous siege".

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the army had "destroyed 17 of 24 (Hamas) battalions. Most of the remaining battalions are in the southern Strip and in Rafah, and we will deal with them."



Palestinian children wait to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen amid shortages of food supplies, as the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas continues, in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip.

## 2 killed in Bangladesh as fighting rages on Myanmar border: police

**Monitoring Desk**  
DHAKA: At least two people were killed in Bangladesh on Monday after mortar shells fired from Myanmar during clashes there landed in a village across the border, police said.

Parts of Myanmar near the 270-kilometre border with Bangladesh have seen frequent clashes since November when rebel Arakan Army fighters ended a ceasefire that had largely held since a 2021

coup. "The two were killed at around 2:15pm (0815 GMT) in the firing at Jalpaitoli village," local police chief Abdul Mannan told AFP.

Police said a Bangladeshi woman, named 48-year-old Hosne Ara, and an unnamed ethnic Rohingya man had been killed.

"They were sitting in the kitchen... when a mortar hit the place," Ara's daughter-in-law said, too distraught to give her name.

## Philippines ready to use 'forces' to quell any secession attempt- official

MANILA (Internews): The Philippine government is ready to use "authority and forces" against attempts to divide the nation, a security official said Sunday, after former President Rodrigo Duterte threatened to separate some southern islands from the rest of the archipelago. Duterte has called for the independence of his hometown Mindanao from the Philippines as his alliance with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr disintegrated this week over disagreements around efforts to amend the constitution.

Ano said calls for secession could reverse the gains of the government's peace deal with former separatist groups. Violence and conflict had plagued Mindanao for decades as the government battled insurgents and extremists, which has discouraged investments and left many villages in poverty. The region's largest rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), had signed a peace agreement with the Philippine government in 2014.



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is welcomed upon arriving at King Khalid International Airport, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

## US intends further strikes on Iran-backed groups

WASHINGTON (INP): The United States intends to launch further strikes at Iran-backed groups in the Middle East, the White House national security adviser said on Sunday, after hitting Tehran-aligned factions in Iraq, Syria and Yemen over the last two days.

The United States and Britain unleashed attacks against 36 Houthi targets in Yemen, a day after the U.S. military hit Tehran-backed groups in Iraq and Syria in retaliation for a deadly attack on U.S. troops in Jordan.

"We intend to take additional strikes, and additional action, to continue to send a clear message that the United States will respond when our forces are attacked, when our people are killed," White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan told NBC's "Meet the Press" program on Sunday.

The strikes are the latest blows in a conflict that has spread into the Middle East since Oct. 7, when the Iran-backed Palestinian militant group Hamas stormed Israel from the Gaza Strip, igniting war.

## Turkey completes new homes in area hit by devastating earthquake

ANKARA (Internews): Turkey on Saturday handed over keys to newly-completed homes to some of those left homeless after last year's devastating earthquake, one year after the country's deadliest disaster in its modern history.

Powerful quakes on Feb. 6, 2023 in southern Turkey killed more than 50,000 people in 11 provinces and left millions homeless.

## Russian cosmonaut sets record for most time in space

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko on Sunday set a world record for total time spent in space, surpassing his compatriot Gennady Padalka who logged more than 878 days in orbit, Russia's space corporation said.

At 0830 GMT Kononenko broke the record, Roscosmos said. Kononenko is expected to reach a total of 1,000 days in space on June 5 and by late September he will have clocked 1,110 days.

## Maldives vows to boost defences after telling Indian troops to leave

**Monitoring Desk**

MALE: The small but strategically placed Maldives will strengthen its military to defend its vast maritime territory, the new president vowed on Monday after ordering Indian troops to withdraw from the archipelago.

Mohamed Muizzu said in his first address to parliament he would turn the modest Maldivian National Defence Force (MNDF) into a modern military capable of patrolling its seas, which straddle key global shipping lanes.

The pro-China leader reiterated that India will begin withdrawing its troops operating three maritime reconnaissance aircraft from March 10 and complete the process within two months.

New Delhi considers the Indian Ocean archi-

pelago to be within its sphere of influence.

However, the Maldives has shifted into the orbit of China — its largest external creditor — with September's election of Muizzu, who demanded the Indian troops leave.

"I believe that the modern military capability to defend the country by road, sea and air should be strengthened in the Maldives," Muizzu said. "We have started to do that now." He said the MNDF will soon be able to conduct surveillance of the country's 900,000 square kilometre (347,000 square mile) Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around the clock. The Maldives accused India's coastguard last week of entering the north of its EEZ and intimidating three Maldivian fishing vessels.

## 'Unprecedented catastrophe' in Chile as wildfires kill 51

**Monitoring Desk**

VIA MAR: Chileans on Sunday feared a rise in the death toll from wildfires blazing across the South American country that have already killed at least 51 people, leaving bodies in the street and homes gutted.

Authorities warned of "complicated" conditions as they battled fires in the coastal tourist region of Valparaiso amid an intense summer heat wave, with temperatures soaring to 40 degrees Celsius over the weekend.

Dense gray smoke blanketed the city of Vina del Mar on the country's central coast Saturday, forcing residents to flee.

The fires are being driven by a summer heatwave and drought affecting the southern part of South America caused by the El Nino weather phenomenon, as scientists warn that a warming planet has increased the

risk of natural disasters such as intense heat and fires.

The rising temperatures threaten to engulf more of South America, as brigades in Argentina have been fighting a fire that has consumed more than 3,000 hectares in Los Alerces National Park, famed for its beauty and biodiversity, since January 25.

Rosana Avendano, a 63-year-old kitchen assistant, was away from home when the fire began to sweep through the El Olivar neighbourhood, where she lives with her husband.

"It was terrible because I couldn't get (to my house). The fire came here... we lost everything," Avendano said.

"My husband was lying down and began to feel the heat of the fire coming and he ran away." She feared the worst for hours, but eventually was able to contact her spouse.

## OIC reiterates call for just, peaceful settlement of Kashmir issue as per UNSC resolutions

JEDDAH (APP): The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Monday reiterated its call for a just and peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

OIC Secretary-General Hissain Brahim Taha said this while addressing a photo exhibition held in the OIC premises to highlight gross human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Taha also expressed the OIC's pleasure in hosting the event organized by the Permanent Mission of

the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the OIC on the occasion of "Kashmir Solidarity Day".

He reiterated the call for the full implementation of the relevant UN resolutions, which emphasized the right to self-determination for the people of Kashmir.

The secretary-general recalled that during the 49th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in March last year in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Council urged India to reverse all illegal and unilateral measures taken on or after 5th August 2019; stop the gross, systematic and widespread human rights

abuses in the Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir; and allow unrestricted access to UN Special Procedures, international media and independent observers to visit the occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Hissain Taha also recalled the visit undertaken by his Special Representative for Jammu and Kashmir, Ambassador Yousef Aidoobe to the Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

He also reiterated the message that the OIC remained fully committed to working with all relevant stakeholders to find a peaceful and just solution that respects the rights and aspirations of the deserving people of Kashmir.



JEDDAH: The OIC Secretary General, H.E. Hissain Brahim Taha graced the Kashmir Solidarity Day event as a 'Chief Guest', organized by the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to OIC at the OIC Secretariat.

## Bilawal vows to change Karachi's fortune in five years if PPP elected

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday stated that if the people of Karachi elected PPP candidates from at least 20 National Assembly seats, the city's landscape will change within five years.

The Pakistan's financial capital 22 and 47 national and provincial assembly seats, respectively.

As part of his electoral campaign, Bilawal addressed the public in various areas of Karachi today, delivering speeches in the form of rallies.

Speaking at a gathering in Keamari's PT Ground, he expressed his vision for the city, emphasizing the potential changes that could occur if the people choose PPP representatives.

"If the people of

Karachi elect my representatives, then like local government, the provincial government will also be in our hands, and with your votes, even the federal government will be in our hands," Bilawal declared during his speech.

"Give 20 [NA] seats to PPP, and then within five years, we will change Karachi. We will form our government at the federal level and work on historic projects in Karachi. This city will be given representation as it deserves."

Bilawal assured that the provincial cabinet of Sindh would grant Karachi its due rights, and together, they would serve the city. He urged the residents of the city to be aware and not vote for those who seek to divide and spread hatred based on religion or language.

## Minister lauds Pakistan Rangers' performance, professionalism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior, Dr Gohar Ijaz on Monday visited the Pakistan Rangers (Punjab) headquarters and appreciated the professionalism and performance of the Rangers.

Director General Pakistan Rangers Punjab Major General Atif bin Akram welcomed the interior minister, who placed the flowers on the martyrs' memorial and recited Fatiha, said a news release issued here.

The interior minister offered a special prayer for the martyrs of Kashmir in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day besides the Rangers Martyrs. He was briefed on the professional affairs of Pakistan Rangers Punjab.

Major General Atif bin Akram said that Pakistan Rangers Punjab will leave no stone unturned in the performance of professional duties. Interior Minister Dr Gohar Ijaz had also written his comments in the guest book.

## Participation of youth vital to strengthen democracy, political system: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday said youth should be engaged in the political system and their energies should be utilized for strengthening democracy in the country.

Speaking during a podcast, he said political parties should be democratic minded to fortify democracy in the country.

Political parties in government should improve their performance to gain political space in the country, he added.

The prime minister said leadership of the political parties should be elected in a democratic manner in order to take democracy forward.

He said the idea of democracy was facing many challenges in Pakistan due to different reasons and weaknesses in the structure of the civil institutions.

He said the Afghan refugees lived in Pakistan for decades, and used the health and education services and the infrastructure of Pakistan and their businessmen earned billions of dollars through the Afghan transit trade.

The prime minister asserted that Pakistan wanted a friendly government in Afghanistan as was the desire of other countries in the region.

## Pakistan naval rescue 9 Indian seamen stranded at sea

ISLAMABAD (PR): Pakistan Navy in coordination with Pakistan Maritime Security Agency saved the lives of 9 Indian seamen at sea. An Ocean Tug SAS-5 registered at St Kitts & Nevis was disabled for last few days near the Indian coast at a piston 167 NM South East of Karachi. The tug suffered a failure of its electric generators and had no electrical supply.

The interior minister offered a special prayer for the martyrs of Kashmir in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day besides the Rangers Martyrs. He was briefed on the professional affairs of Pakistan Rangers Punjab.

Major General Atif bin Akram said that Pakistan Rangers Punjab will leave no stone unturned in the performance of professional duties. Interior Minister Dr Gohar Ijaz had also written his comments in the guest book.

Man dies in car-bike collision

KARACHI (INP): A man died after over speeding car hit a motorcycle here in the metropolis on Sunday.

According to details, a reckless driven car knocked down a motorcycle near Chorangi Bridge in Five-Star area.

As a result of accident, the motorcyclist Syed Naem was critically injured. The car driver fled the scene.

The injured was rushed to local hospital where he succumbed to his wounds during treatment.

The body was handed over to heirs after legal formalities and police after registering a case against the driver at large started raids for his arrest.

## 'Objective of 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' is to highlight sacrifices of Kashmiris'; CEO Water Corporation

KARACHI (APP): The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Water Corporation Engineer Syed Salahuddin Ahmed and COO Engineer Asadullah Khan Monday said the objective of observing 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' was to highlight sacrifices rendered by Kashmiris in their struggle for getting self-determination.

In their message on 'Kashmir Solidarity Day', Water Corporation officers strongly condemned Indian atrocities against innocent people of Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

They said, "February 05, is the day of renewal of pledge to support the struggle of Kashmiris for their freedom and self-determination."

They demanded of the world community and the United Nations to use their influence in getting freedom of the IIOJK.

They said efforts should be made to resolve Kashmir dispute on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions as per the wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

While paying tribute to thousands of Kashmiri martyrs, they said, "Sacrifices of the people of IIOJK will not go in vain and their days are not far when Kashmiris will get freedom from Indian subjugation."

## Notorious robber killed in police encounter

KARACHI (INP): A notorious robber was killed in exchange of fire with police while his accomplice managed to escape here on Monday.

According to details, two robbers were present at Netty Jetty Bridge to commit robbery when police team reached the scene.

Upon sight of police, the robbers started firing and attempted to flee from the scene.

In retaliatory firing of police, a notorious robber wanted by police in dozen of criminal cases was killed which his cohort managed to escape.

The police recovered arms from possession of the killed robber and body was shifted to hospital.

KARACHI: Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab leading a rally on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day at M.A. Jinnah Road.

## PPP, MQM, JI, PML-N, GDA gear up election campaign as polling day nears

KARACHI (APP): All major political, religious parties, alliances and the independent candidates have geared up their election campaigns across Sindh as polling day is to be held this week on February 08.

Pakistan People's Party chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, MQM Pakistan's Convenor Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, PML-N provincial president Bashir Memon, Jamaat-e-Islami leader Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman and Grand Democratic Alliances leadership were holding election rallies in Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur and other districts and towns of the province and asking the voters for casting votes in their favour.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari after completing his election campaigns in Punjab and Balochistan, expedite his electioneering in Sindh where his parties continuously rules since 15 years.

Bhutto-Zardari and his younger sister Aseefa Sindh was leading election rallies in several cities and towns of Sindh to convince their electorate.

PPP Chairman has addressed public meeting in Mirpurkhas on Saturday night where despite rains, the party workers participated in the campaign.

MQM Pakistan's Convenor Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui along with central leadership including former Mayor Karachi Syed Mustafa Kamal and Dr Farooq Sattar addressed many election rallies and public gatherings in Karachi, Hyderabad and Sindh's other urban area where their electorates are in sufficient number. They presented their manifesto for the uplift of urban areas which according to them had been neglected during the last 15 years.

Jamaat-e-Islami, an organized political and religious party, is in the run in Karachi and other areas of Sindh, also held public gatherings addressed by the Central Emir Sirajul Haq and Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman. Sirajul Haq addressed public meetings in Karachi, Hyderabad, and Tando Adam and asked their voters to elect their party candidates.

Pakistan Muslim League (N) provincial president, former Police officer Bashir Memon along with party's leaders also organized public meetings in district Matiari where he is participating in National Assembly seat against PPP's Makhdoom Jamil ur Zaman. While addressing the rally he claimed that PML-N will win several seats from Sindh while allied parties JUI-F, GDA and MQM Pakistan candidates will defeat opponent candidates.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi leading Kashmir Solidarity Day Walk from Foreign Office Gate, Constitution Avenue to D-Chowk in front of Parliament House organized by Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan.

## Solangi says Kashmiris created new history of courage, steadfastness against Indian oppression

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi Monday said that every generation of Kashmir has created a new story of courage, bravery and steadfastness by resisting illegal Indian occupation of their homeland.

Delivering his speech at Kashmir Solidarity Day rally here he said the people of Kashmir had been raising their voice against slavery since 1931 during the Dogra rule. Paying tributes

to the sacrifices of the Kashmiri people, he said their fourth generation was waging struggle against Indian oppression and the time was not far when they will get rid of illegal Indian occupation. He said that at the time of partition of the subcontinent, India illegally annexed the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said, "United Nations through its several resolutions had promised to hold a free plebiscite so that they can decide whether they would join Pakistan or India."

## Flag March for security of election 2024 held

KARACHI (INP): District City police Karachi conducted a flag march in different areas regarding the security of Election 2024.

Flag march was conducted in different areas of the district city SDPOs, SHOs, Rangers and SP Lyari Haseeb Javed Somar district city participated in the flag march.

The purpose of the flag march was to review the law and order situation in the area and to check the security arrangements.

## KPT organizes solidarity walk on Kashmir Day

KARACHI (APP): A solidarity walk in support of the oppressed Kashmiris was organized at Nishan-i-Pakistan (Sea View) on Monday as part of Kashmir Day activities by the Karachi Port Trust.

Participants included Chairman KPT Syed Syedain Raza Zaidi, Deputy Commissioner South Karachi, Director Information Mansoor Rajput, senior KPT officers, and students.

## Three-member robber gang busted, arms, bike, cell phones recovered

KARACHI (INP): The police busted a three-member robber gang, recovered arms, ammunition, bike and snatched cell phones from their possession here on Monday.

According to details, Pirabad Police of Karachi conducted crackdown against criminals in its jurisdiction.

During operation, three-member robber gang comprising Shah Faisal s/o Karamat, Usama s/o Fariq Khan and Muhammad Zahoor s/o Sawaid Karim was busted.

## 723249 Registered Votes for Shikarpur will vote

Independent Report SHIKARPUR: There are 723249 Registered Votes of male and female citizens in four Talukas of District Shikarpur who would contest their precious vote for their favourite candidates during Election 2024 on 02 National Assembly Seats and Three for Provisional Assembly Seats on 08th February 2024.

According to reports details there are 383992 Male and 339257 Female in total 723249 registered votes in District Shikarpur where 486 Polling Stations would be made in four Talukas and there are 124 Sensitive Poling Stations and 75 most sensitive Poling Stations were declared by the officials.

## PPP to win upcoming general elections with thumping majority: Chandio

HYDERABAD (INP): Pakistan People Party candidates for NA-223 and PS-71 Haji Rasool Bux Chandio, Haji Taj Muhammad Malah have expressed their hope that the PPP would win the upcoming general elections with a thumping majority and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will be next prime minister of the country.

They expressed these views while addressing a public gathering in village Fareed Khan near Kadhan on Sunday. Rasool Bux Chandio said that gathering of huge crowd was the testimony that candidates nominated by Pakistan Peoples Party would succeed

in general elections.

He said that this village is not an ordinary but a historical village and great personalities were born here and contributed in the field of education. They pledged to provide basic facilities after winning elections.

He lauded the efforts of Mir Khan and said that Mir Khan while organizing a public meeting proved that people love with this family. PS Candidate Haji Taj Muhammad Malah assured area people that their all genuine demands will be fulfilled. On this occasion local leadership of the PPP and large number the party workers were also present.



LARKANA: Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, the daughter of Shaheed Mohatma Benazir Bhutto addressing to party workers convention during Election Campaign at Faridabad.

## SFA signs two agreements with KU's ICCBS

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Food Authority has signed two Memorandum of Agreements (MoAs) with the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi.

Sindh Food Authority signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Halal Certification Testing and Research Services (HCTRS) and the Industrial Analytical Center (IAC), ICCBS, University of Karachi.

These MoAs aim to create a long-term framework of collaboration, co-operation, and development of a strong linkage between SFA and the research centers of the ICCBS for the testing of food products, which is in the interest of both institutions.

SFA Director General Agha Fakhar Hussain and Prof. Dr. Farzana Shaheen, Director of ICCBS, University of Karachi, signed the agreement in a meeting held at the HEJ, Research Institute of Chemistry, University of Karachi.

Among others who attended the ceremony were officials from SFA Prof. Dr. Asad Sayyed, Dr. Naveed Bhutto, Dr. Seema, Danish Arshad, and officials from ICCBS, including Prof. Dr. Abid Ali, Prof. Dr. Syed Ghulam Musharraf, Prof. Dr. Shabana Simjee, Prof. Dr. Asmat Salim, Dr. Imran Malik, Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan, Dr. Shakil Ahmed, Jawaid Riaz, and others.

Speaking on the occasion Director General Sindh Food Authority praised the efforts made by the ICCBS administration to make this agreement possible in the interest of Sindh province. He also praised the industrial support and national services of the International Center (ICCBS).



HYDERABAD: Rangers troops patrolling on the streets of Hyderabad ahead of election 2024.

## Pakistan will never compromise on country's sovereignty, its stance on Kashmir cause: Sherry Rehman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Sherry Rehman, Vice-President of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), on February 5 Kashmir Solidarity Day made it clear that Pakistan will never compromise on its sovereignty and will not allow India anymore to hold Kashmiris hostage for a long time.

Talking to a private news channel, she said that India cannot wipe the eternal love for Pakistan away from Kashmiris' hearts, adding, Modi-led government can not suppress

Kashmiris' legitimate struggle by the dint of force.

There will be no dialogue with India until it reverts its decision of abrogating article 370 and 35-A in Jammu and Kashmir, she said, adding, dialogue must be resumed from the point where it was stopped.

She criticized that Modi-led government agreed to a peaceful talk with Pakistan on every issue but unfortunately they formally denied Pakistan's proposal to hold exclusive talks on the Kashmir issue.



KARACHI: Former President Supreme Court Bar Association Yasin Azad Advocate addressing the seminar in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day organized by Press Club.

## DC leads Kashmir Solidarity rally

HYDERABAD (APP): Like other parts of the country, a massive rally led by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Tariq Qureshi was taken out in Hyderabad to mark solidarity with Kashmiri people. The rally was taken from the Shahbaz Building to the Post Master General Office.

The DC addressing the rally said that Kashmir was a jagular vein of Pakistan, and organizing this rally was not only to express solidarity with innocent Kashmiris but also to protest against serious violations of human rights in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) by the Indian forces.

He urged the international community to play their role in fulfilling the demand of innocent Kashmiris for their right to

self-determination.

He further said that expressions of solidarity would be continued till innocent Kashmiris could achieve their cherished goal of freedom from the Indian occupation.

Additional Commissioner-I Ahsan Qureshi, Additional Deputy Commissioner-I Najeem ur Rehman Jamali, Municipal Commissioner Anis Ahmed Dasti, Additional Deputy Commissioner Mehwish Ejaz Buriro, Assistant Commissioner General REhan Detho, Assistant Commissioner Latifabad Fraz Ahmed Siddiqui, Assistant Commissioner Rural Ahsan Morai, officers of relevant departments, teachers and students of different schools, and representatives of social welfare organizations also participated in the rally.