

# Independent

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## Bilawal accuses PML-N of not upholding political agreements

**PPP chairman upset over government's failure to adhere to agreements, particularly during constitutional reforms; says I withdrew my name from JCP in protest as govt did not fulfil promise**

KARACHI (Agencies): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed frustration with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), accusing the party of violating agreements and failing to provide PPP with respect in the federal government.

Addressing the media at Bilawal House in Karachi on Thursday, Bilawal stated that the issue was not about personal grievances but about honour and political integrity.

"Politics is about respect, not resentment. If the judiciary had representation from rural Sindh, we

would have demanded equality," he remarked, referring to Pakistan's Supreme Court.

Bilawal highlighted the government's failure to adhere to agreements, particularly during constitutional reforms, citing discrepancies in policy implementation.

"During the constitutional reform process, the government made promises but then backtracked, adopting different approaches for Sindh compared to the rest of the country," he added.

The PPP leader also criticised the lack of consultation in key governance

decisions, particularly the approval of projects like the canals under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

"We had agreed on consultation, but instead, decisions were made without proper dialogue," Bilawal said, expressing disappointment at the government's actions.

Statement on Killing of Chinese Nationals

When asked about the recent killing of Chinese nationals in Pakistan, Bilawal condemned the act, aligning with the Chinese ambassador's statement that the murders were "unacceptable."



**RAWALPINDI:** Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M) and Federal Minister PD&SI Ahsan Iqbal carrying coffin of Major Muhammad Haseeb Shaheed who embraced martyrdom while defending the motherland in Harnai district.

## Nation stands in solidarity with armed forces in fight against Fitna al Khawarij: COAS

**Sacrifice being made by the valiant officers and soldiers exemplify the unwavering dedication towards defending the country against the menace of terrorism**

RAWALPINDI (PR): The funeral prayer for Major Muhammad Haseeb Shaheed (aged 28, resident of District Rawalpindi), who embraced martyrdom while defending the motherland in Harnai district, Balochistan, was held at Chaklala Garrison, Rawalpindi.

General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff, Mr Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister PD&SI along with senior military and civil officials, officers, soldiers, and family members of the Shaheed, attended the ceremony.

The Chief of Army Staff expressed that the sacrifice being made by the valiant officers and soldiers exemplify the unwavering dedication towards defending the country against the menace of terrorism. He highlighted that the nation stands in solidarity with the Armed Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies in the fight against Fitna al Khawarij and all those who hold their reins.



**KARACHI:** Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanging views with Bakheet Ateeq Al Romaiti, Consul General of UAE during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.



**KARACHI:** Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari visited various departments including media cell, monitoring room and news section, at Bilawal House in Karachi.

## Commissioner says: Govt strives to resolve issued faced by industrialists

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi has said that the government is making vibrant efforts on priority to resolve the issues being confronted by industrial areas in Karachi.

He said this while visiting Korangi Industrial areas along with officials of the Korangi Association of Trade and Industries (KATI) and addressing the industrialists representatives at the association's office here on Thursday.

The Commissioner Karachi said that he will visit all the industrial areas in the city to review their issues and take steps to resolve them.

He said that the development of industrial areas and resolution of issues are among the government's priorities and appropriate steps will be taken in consultation with the industrialists to resolve their issues.

## Feedback from stakeholders key to develop effective system: CJJ

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi on Thursday said that feedback from all stakeholders would be essential to developing a responsive and effective system. As a part of commitment to strengthen service delivery and broaden access to justice, the Chief Justice convened a meeting at the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by the academia from Pakistan's leading universities and prominent development experts and advocates including Dr. Ali Cheema, Vice Chancellor of Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS); Dr. Aftab, Rector, FAST University; Prof. Dr. Fazal Khalid, Rector, Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology (GIKI).

## PM appeals nation to observe Namaz-e-Istisqa

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday appealed to the nation to offer Namaz-e-Istisqa (prayers for rain) and pray to Allah Almighty for His mercy in the form of rain.

The prime minister said that the federal and provincial governments should arrange Namaz-e-Istisqa in the mosques across the country.

He especially urged the scholars and religious leaders to play their role in organizing Namaz-e-Istisqa.

In a statement issued by the PM Office Press Wing, the prime minister emphasized that rainfall will improve the environment and can significantly help in mitigating the diseases.

The prime minister stressed that in the current situation, there was an urgent need for Baran-e-Rehmat (rain).

He called for seeking special prayers from Allah Almighty so that the human life may be relieved from the hardships.

## UAE eyeing investments in Sindh's desalination, transport, construction

KARACHI (INP): A spokesman for the chief minister Sindh Thursday said that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was interested in investing in a desalination plant in the port city of Karachi as well as in transport and construction projects.

The announcement came after a meeting between Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and the UAE Consul General in Karachi, Bakht Atiq Al Rimithiki, on the occasion of the National Day of the Emirates.

The UAE is one of Pakistan's largest trading partners and a major source of foreign investment, valued at over \$10 billion in the last 20 years, according to the UAE ministry of foreign affairs. The UAE-Pakistan trade volume rose to \$7.9 billion in 2023, up 12 percent from 2022.

"Discussions were also held on the investment of UAE companies in various projects in Karachi," the CM's office said. "UAE companies are interested in investing in Karachi's desalination plant, transport and road and bridge construction sectors."

The spokesman said CM Murad was also arranging meetings between the provincial investment department and relevant officers of the UAE.

In May this year, Prime Minister Shehbaz said the UAE had committed \$10 billion to invest in promising economic sectors in Pakistan.

Earlier this month, Pakistan signed four MoUs with the AD Ports Group, a major investor in Pakistan, to explore opportunities in the maritime, air and rail sectors as well as in logistics and digital services.

With UAE partner Kaeel Terminals, AD Ports Group is already developing, operating, and managing container, bulk, and general cargo operations at the Port of Karachi, Pakistan's major port, where it has agreed to invest almost \$400 million over 15 years.

The joint venture has agreed to invest \$75 million over the next two years in superstructure and equipment, followed by \$100 million within five years to increase efficiency and capacity by 75 percent.



**KARACHI:** Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori cutting cake on eve of 555th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak.

## PAC of Sindh Assembly for framing a futuristic Master Plan for Karachi

KARACHI (APP): The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Sindh Assembly, taking notice of legal deficiencies in the Master Plan Authority of Mega City Karachi, on Thursday, directed to initiate process for drafting the Act and constituting Board of Governors to make the authority functional.

"The Master Plan Authority has been notified, but where is the Master Plan?" the Chairman Public Accounts Committee Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, while chairing a meeting of the committee here at Sindh Assembly Building, questioned and directed to develop a futuristic master plan for Karachi.

The PAC meeting was scheduled to review the audit issues of The Master Plan Authority of Karachi for the audit years 2019 and 2020, said a statement issued here adding that, the committee member Qasim Siraj Soomro, Additional Chief Secretary Local Government Khalid Haider Shah, Director Master Plan Authority, DG Audit Sindh and other relevant officers attended the meeting.

It was revealed in the meeting that the Master Plan Authority (MPA) was established in 2019 to make a master plan for the metropolis but despite the passage of five years, no act of the authority has been drafted nor a board of governors has been formed.

## Govt working to address traffic problems of Metropolis: Sharjeel

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon on Thursday said that the Sindh government was actively working to address Karachi's traffic problems. Illegal bus stands that had been operating in the city for the past 40 years were dismantled, with all bus stands now relocated outside the city to the Bus Terminal. For the first time, a free shuttle service has been introduced to transport passengers to the terminal.

Work is progressing on the new Red Line and Yellow Line BRT projects to enhance travel options for millions of citizens in Karachi. By the end of December 2024, the Green Line service will also be transferred to the Government of Sindh.

Addressing a press conference here at the Directorate of Electronic and Social Media, Sindh Senior Minister for Information, Transport, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon announced that the Excise Department is currently conducting a campaign to check unregistered and tax-defaulting vehicles across Sindh.

In November alone till to date, the department inspected 22,103 vehicles. Among them, 115 were found to be unregistered, while 1,304 were tax defaulters and were subsequently taken into custody. Documents of 1,472 vehicles were seized.

A total of 10065000 rupees in tax was collected from the tax-defaulter vehicles, along with fines amounting to 873000 rupees, resulting in a total collection of 10938000 rupees.



**KARACHI:** Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Excise Taxation and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon addresses to media persons during press conference, in Karachi.

## CS for launching crackdown against illegal lifting of sand, gravel

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Government on Thursday decided to launch a crackdown against the illegal lifting of sand and gravel (Reti, Bajri).

The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by Sindh Chief Secretary Asif Haider Shah here, regarding the prevention of illegal mining across the province.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Karachi, Additional IG Karachi, Secretary Mines and Minerals, Deputy Commissioner and SSP Malir and other officers.

The chief secretary directed the SSP Malir to take strict action against those involved in the illegal sand and gravel business.

The chief secretary stated that special courts will be established to stop illegal mining. The meeting was told that illegal mining would be declared a cognizable offense under the Mines and Minerals Governance Act-2021.

Asif Haider Shah said that changes will also be made in the rules of the Mines Department to prevent illegal mining.

Chief Secretary Sindh asked the Secretary Mines and Minerals to prepare a draft in this regard.

The chief secretary said that under the new law, the police and district administration will be delegated additional powers by the Mines Department.

Asif Haider Shah said that protecting the province's valuable natural resources was our prime responsibility.



**KARACHI:** Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab casting his vote at a polling station during Local Bodies Election, at Gizri area in Karachi.

## Sindh Ombudsman directs steps for clearance of dues of LG employees

KARACHI (APP): Provincial Ombudsman Sindh Mohammad Sohail Rajput, Thursday, directed the officials concerned to prepare a consensus summary draft regarding clearance of dues of local government employees for the approval by the Sindh Cabinet.

The Sindh Ombudsman passed the directives during the hearing of the case related to the payment of outstanding dues of retired employees of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation and Town Municipal Corporations, said a statement issued here.

Additional Chief Secretary Syed Khalid Haider Shah, Secretary Ombudsman Sindh Mansoor Abbas Rizvi, Special Secretary Local Government Ayesha Mir, DG Ombudsman Sindh Asad Ali Khan, Registrar Masood Ishrat, Municipal Commissioner KMC Afzal Zaidi, Deputy Secretary Finance Asif Rajput and other relevant officers attended the hearing.

The Provincial Ombudsman, during the hearing, said that he was well aware of the weak financial situation of the provincial government.

## Property dispute claims lives of nine in Bannu, Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): In a tragic incident, at least five individuals were killed over an ongoing property dispute between two rival groups here in the Chamkani area, confirmed the police.

The district police said that the rivalry had been brewing for a long time, and tensions escalated on Thursday, leading to the deadly exchange of gunfire.

In a separate but similar incident, four people were killed during an armed clash between two rival groups over a property dispute in Landhi Jalandhar area in district Bannu.



**KARACHI:** Additional Inspector General (AIG), Javed Alam Odho talking to media persons after review security arrangements during the Local Bodies Election, at Polling Station located on Gizri area in Karachi.

## Customs foils smuggling bid of Iranian diesel

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Customs on Wednesday claimed to have seized a large quantity of smuggled Iranian diesel from boats in the Arabian Sea.

According to a news release, the Collector Customs Enforcement Karachi on tip off foiled the attempt to smuggle Iranian diesel through 2 boats in the open sea in the Arabian Sea and captured 15504 liters of smuggled Iranian diesel boats namely Al-Wahidi and Al-Moin have been taken into custody and confiscated. The total value of seized diesel and boats is Rs. 17.8 million.



## Governor KP for constitution of special committee to address merged districts issues

PESHAWAR (APP): General Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday said that constitution of a special committee has been requested to the Prime Minister of Pakistan to address the issues and grievances of the merged tribal districts.

This initiative aims to alleviate the sentiments of discontent that have emerged following the integration of these areas into the provincial framework, the Governor said during a meeting with a delegation from the Mamozai National Alliance of Orakzai District, led by President Muhammad Zaman and

Secretary Muhammad Hanif. The delegation visited the Governor House to discuss various concerns with Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, including the plight of temporary displaced persons (TDPs), compensation for the destruction caused by military operations, and other pressing issues. Former Federal Minister Sajid Hussain Tori was also present during the meeting.

Governor Kundi emphasized that the solution to the province's unrest and challenges lied in the hands of its own people. He said, "Only we, the residents of this region, can correct our situation.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi called on by Mamozai Qaumi Ittehad representative delegation at Governor House.

## CM Maryam denies cancer diagnosis; confirms parathyroid condition instead

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has addressed recent rumours about her health, categorically denying claims that she has cancer.

In a social media statement, she clarified, "There are vlogs and rumours circulating on social media suggesting I have cancer, but I want to make it clear that I do not have cancer. I am dealing with a parathyroid condition."

The clarification comes amid widespread speculation, particularly from vloggers and YouTubers, who claimed that the CM was suffering

from a fatal illness. They also pointed to a family history of cancer, referencing her mother, who tragically passed away due to the disease.

CM Maryam Nawaz's statement aims to dispel these rumours and provide an accurate update on her health.

Expressing her thoughts in London, CM Maryam said: "The country has always witnessed the prosperity during the Nawaz Sharif-led government.

The PML-N is having a track record of steering the country towards stability." She said, "I had

## CM KPK inaugurates School of Paramedical Sciences & Technology Park in Haripur

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, visited the P a k - A u s t r i a Fachhochschule Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology in Haripur on Thursday, where he formally inaugurated the newly established School of Paramedical Sciences and the Technology Park. Opposition Leader in the National Assembly, Umar Ayub Khan, provincial ministers Meena Khan Afridi and Arshad Ayub, and other officials accompanied the Chief Minister.

The School of Paramedical Sciences, established at a cost of Rs283 million with the support of the provincial government, currently offers 38 bachelor's, 18 master's, and 8 PhD programs in various health education fields.

Additionally, it provides diploma courses in 20 different disciplines. The Technology Park, developed at a cost of Rs992 million, was also inaugurated during the visit.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Minister announced a Rs300 million grant for the School of Paramedical Sciences.



ABBOTTABAD: Motorway Officials putting flowers on grave of Sub-Inspector Shabbir Ahmed, Who died during duty on Hazara Motorway.

## Transparency ensured in medical universities' finances: Kh Salman

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique emphasised his commitment to transparency in the financial affairs of medical universities while presiding over a syndicate meeting at Rawalpindi Medical University on Thursday.

The meeting reviewed the agenda items presented by the concerned officers.

Khawaja Salman Rafique said that Rawalpindi Medical University had been directed to organise a meeting of allied health professionals soon, underlining the government's focus on advancing quality research in Punjab's medical universities. He added that the Punjab government is committed to providing quality education in government medical universities and directed improvements in sanitation arrangements in public hospitals.

During the meeting, the syndicate approved the introduction of a Social Sciences curriculum in Medicine at Rawalpindi Medical University, along with various Ph.D. programs.

## KP govt fully alert to deal with smog: Saif

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Advisor for Information, Muhammad Ali Saif on Thursday stated that smog had not yet reached the dangerous level in the provincial capital, however the provincial government was fully ready to take precautionary measures to deal with any emergency situation.

In a statement issued here, he said that the Chief Minister Ali Amin was closely monitoring the situation and had

## Delegation of Indonesian Embassy visits GCWUS

SIALKOT (APP): A delegation of the Indonesian Embassy on Thursday visited the Government College Women University Sialkot (GCWUS). Ferry Junigwan Mardiansyah, Heryanto, and Andi Irawan Shamir were included in the delegation. According to the GCWUS, the delegation was welcomed by Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Zarrin Fatima Rizvi, Additional Director ORIC Dr Muhammad Umair Ashraf and Controller Examinations Malik Gulshan Aslam.

issued necessary directives to all the line departments to remain high alert.

Saif also noted that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was providing daily reports, and the current air quality index (AQI) in Peshawar stood at an average of 112, which was satisfactory.

He urged the public to avoid misinformation regarding AQI statistics and reiterated that there was nothing to be worried about.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider Khan participating in a public awareness event organized by the Internal Society of Internal Medicine regarding World Diabetes Day at Governor House Lahore.

## Lahore police fully alert for security of Sikh pilgrims

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Police have made elaborate arrangements for comprehensive security for Sikh pilgrims visiting Pakistan. In a statement issued on Thursday, CCPO Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana reiterated the police's commitment to safeguarding Sikh pilgrims, who traveled from around the world to perform religious observances. He emphasized that a robust security plan has been put in place specifically to protect these visitors during their stay.

Kamyana highlighted

## 14 buried, search for 11 missing persons continues

ASTOR (APP): The 14 victims of the tragic coaster accident were laid to rest in their native areas, with a large number of people attending the funerals on Thursday.

According to Deputy Commissioner Astor, Muhammad Tariq said that a massive search operation is underway to locate the 11 missing persons, with the help of rescue 1122 Gilgit, Diamar, and Astor, along with dozens of local volunteers, scouring the area. He announced that the number of search teams would be increased.

# International News

## Iran tells UN nuclear chief it won't negotiate under 'intimidation'

TEHRAN: Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Thursday that Iran will not negotiate under "intimidation" as he held crunch talks with the UN nuclear chief weeks before US President-elect Donald Trump takes office.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Rafael Grossi said achieving "results" in nuclear talks with Iran was vital to avoid a new conflict in the region already inflamed by Israel's operations against Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

His visit comes just days after Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said Iran was "more exposed than ever to strikes on its nuclear facilities" giving Israel "the opportunity to achieve our most important goal".

Grossi said Iranian nuclear installations "should not be attacked"

but Trump is expected to give Israel a far freer rein after he takes office in January. The IAEA chief described his meeting with Araghchi as "indispensable" in a post on X.

Araghchi was Iran's chief negotiator in talks that led to a landmark 2015 nuclear deal with major powers, abandoned three years later by Trump.

Araghchi posted that their meeting was "important & straightforward". He said Iran was "willing to negotiate" based on the "national interest" and "inalienable rights," but was not "ready to negotiate under pressure and intimidation".

"We agreed to proceed with courage and goodwill. Iran has never left the negotiating table on its peaceful nuclear programme," he said. Grossi also met the head of Iran's atomic energy organisation, Mohammad



Iran's head of the Atomic Energy Organisation Mohammad Eslami and the United Nations nuclear chief Rafael Grossi hold a joint press conference in Tehran.

## Human Rights Watch accuses Israel of war crimes in Gaza Strip

NEW YORK: Human Rights Watch said in a report released Thursday that Israel has committed war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip, including massive forced displacements that amount to ethnic cleansing.

A new report released by the New York-based rights group said people have been killed while evacuating under Israeli orders and in Israeli-designated humanitarian zones, where hundreds of thousands are crammed into squalid tent camps.

The report said the

widespread, deliberate demolition of homes and civilian infrastructure in Gaza—some of them to carve a new road bisecting the territory and establish a buffer zone along Israel's border—was likely to "permanently displace" many Palestinians.

"Such actions of the Israeli authorities amount to ethnic cleansing," Human Rights Watch said.

The Israeli military did not immediately comment on the report. Israel's blistering campaign in Gaza has killed over 43,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children.

## Six Israeli troops killed, deadly strikes in Lebanon

JERUSALEM: Israel suffered one of the deadliest days of its ground offensive against Hezbollah in Lebanon on Wednesday when six of its soldiers were killed in combat near the border.

The soldiers "fell during combat in southern Lebanon", the army said in a statement. Their deaths mean 47 Israeli troops have been killed in combat with Hezbollah since September 30, when Israel sent

ground forces into Lebanon.

The army's announcement came after new Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said there would be no easing up in the war against Hezbollah. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on social media platform X shared an image of the "Golani" Brigade symbol—the unit the soldiers killed belonged to—a green olive tree against a yellow background, with a broken heart emoji.

## Palestinians say north Gaza destruction is widespread as rights group warns some may never return

CAIRO: Palestinians displaced from northern Gaza said Israeli forces had inflicted widespread destruction on their home districts in their latest six-week-old offensive and a rights group raised concerns Israel might put some areas permanently off-limits.

Jabalia, one of the largest of Gaza's eight historic refugee camps, as well as the towns of Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun and nearby villages, were among the first targets of Israel's ground offensive in October 2023 after Hamas militants attacked Israel.

Tanks have gone in several more times in what Israel says are necessary operations against militants there who still

## Biden, Xi arrive in Peru ahead of face-to-face at Asia-Pacific summit

LIMA: US President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping arrive Thursday in Lima for an Asia-Pacific summit overshadowed by the prospect of a world embroiled in trade wars under Donald Trump.

Saturday's face-to-face will likely be the last meeting between the sitting leaders of the world's largest economies before Biden heads the reins back to Trump, who has signaled a confrontational approach to Beijing for his second term in the White House. Biden and Xi will likely "take stock of efforts to responsibly manage competition," a senior US administration official told reporters Wednesday ahead of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.

APEC, created in 1989 with the goal of regional trade liberalization, brings together 21 economies that jointly represent about 60 percent of world GDP and over 40 percent

## French weapons system found in Sudan is likely violation of UN arms embargo, says Amnesty

CAIRO: Armored vehicles manufactured by the United Arab Emirates and equipped with French defense systems have been captured by the Sudanese army during the civil war in Sudan, Amnesty International says. The rights group said in a report on Thursday it had identified the UAE-made armored personnel carriers (APCs) in various parts of Sudan, including the Darfur region, where they were used by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in its fight with the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF).

It added that the presence of the military vehicles on the battlefield "likely constitutes a violation" of a United Nations arms embargo that prohibits the transfer of weapons to

## Sara Sharif's father admits beating her to death with a cricket bat

LONDON: In a dramatic turn of events at the Old Bailey, Urfan Sharif confessed to the murder of his 10-year-old daughter, Sara Sharif, admitting in court that he "takes full responsibility" for her tragic death.

Sharif detailed the brutal treatment he inflicted upon the girl, acknowledging he beat her with a cricket bat and metal pole, leading to her death on Aug 8, 2023, days before her body was discovered in their Surrey home.

The confession came during cross-examination by Caroline Carberry KC, who asked him bluntly if he had killed her by beating. "Yes, she died because of me," Sharif responded.

## Gilani calls for increased collaboration between Pak, Spain in diverse sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani Thursday called for increased collaboration between Pakistan and Spain in diverse sectors as the two countries share commonalities and both have a shared vision for peace and sustainable development.

The Chairman Senate expressed these views in a meeting with 4-member parliamentary delegation of the Spanish Senate said a news release. Welcoming the delegation, the Chairman Senate termed the relations between Pakistan and Spain as historic, however, he observed that there is still a huge scope for further deepening the mutual collaboration in diverse sectors.

The Chairman Senate recognized the longstanding diplomatic ties between Pakistan and Spain, rooted in mutual respect and shared values and emphasized that this visit marks a valuable opportunity to further deepen these bonds and explore avenues for productive collaboration.

He recalled his visit to Spain in 2010 as Prime Minister and said that productive dialogue with Spanish and EU officials regarding Pakistan's textile industry, led to the EU's special trade package to boost Pa-



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani exchanging views with members of the Parliamentary delegation of senate affairs committee of the kingdom of Spain at Parliament House.

## Pakistan unveils first climate finance strategy to mobilise funds for national climate action

BAKU (APP): Pakistan launched on Thursday its first National Climate Finance Strategy (NCFS) to address the escalating challenges posed by global heating by mobilising financial resources for climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, focusing on scaling up climate-related investments, attracting international finance and strengthening domestic financial systems.

Pakistan's Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and Pakistani Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam jointly launched

we estimate at \$348 billion by 2030 for our climate-resilient and low-carbon development goals.

Ranked among the top 10 most climate-vulnerable countries, Pakistan experienced a \$30 billion loss in the 2022 floods, directly affecting 33 million people.

"Our NCFS primarily seeks to plug this gap by establishing a climate finance framework aligned with a whole-of-economy approach, aiming to climate-proof investments and allocate resources to our most vulnerable sectors and communities," Romina Khurshid Alam remarked.

She highlighted that Pakistan's climate resilience vision 2050 encompasses resilient infrastructure and agriculture, climate-smart cities, and ecosystems that provide diversified livelihoods.

The NCFS is a well-thought-out roadmap that focuses on climate-proofing policies, clarifying institutional roles, and enhancing our climate finance systems. Its three-pronged approach—whole-of-government alignment, diversified domestic resources, and innovative funding mechanisms—will be instrumental in unlocking climate finance at scale.

## FO refutes reports of sending security team by China for protection of its citizens in Pak

"We would not allow any effort to derail Pakistan-China strategic partnership," FO spokesperson asserts

ISLAMABAD (Online): Foreign Office (FO) while refuting the reports of sending security team by China for the protection of its citizens has said such reports are part of propaganda to harm the friendship between the two countries.

"fool proof security arrangements are being made for the safety of Chinese nationals. Dialogue continue to occur on the safety of Chinese nationals. The old standing relations between US and Pakistan are based on non interference in each other affairs, this was said by Foreign Office Spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch during her weekly press briefing here Thursday.

Pakistan will protect Chinese nationals and institutions at every cost, she added.

Foreign Office Spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch said this is an established fact that the terror groups receive support from India. She recalled that Pakistan arrested an Indian Naval Officer a few years back who was the mastermind of support for espionage and terror activities in Balochistan.

The spokesperson urged the Afghan authorities to take action against the terror groups and do not allow the use of their soil against Pakistan or any other neighboring country. She said Afghanistan should take Pakistan's repeated requests seriously and not test the patience of Pakistani people.

Responding to a question, the spokesperson said Pakistan will continue to work with China for the safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in the country.



HYDERABAD: Police personals guide an old vote during Local bodies by-election in Hyderabad.

## Secretary Health reviews readiness for EPI's big Catch-Up activity

KARACHI (APP): Secretary Health Sindh Rehan Iqbal Baloch along with Program Director of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) Dr Muhammad Naem, Additional Director EPI Dr Sohail Raza Shaikh and Irshad Sodhar, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Coordinator, convened a crucial meeting with District Health Officers (DHOs) of Sindh and key partners to discuss the upcoming Big Catch-Up vaccination campaign. This significant initiative will extend the eligible vaccination age group from 2 years to 5 years.

The meeting focused on the readiness and preparation for the big catch-up activity, emphasizing the importance of reaching children who have missed vaccinations over the past five years, particularly those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as zero-dose children who have never received any vaccination.

Secretary Health Rehan Iqbal Baloch underscored the need for comprehensive preparations, urging the EPI team and DHOs to engage field vaccinators and Lady Health Workers (LHWs) effectively.

## Pakistan, Russia call for enhanced coordination among regional countries for peaceful Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Russia on Thursday called for enhanced coordination among the regional countries for a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan.

The Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation on Afghanistan, Ambassador Zahir Kabulov paid a day long visit to Pakistan.

He called on Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch and later had detailed discussions with Additional Secretary (Afghanistan and West Asia), Ambassador Ahmad Naseem Warraich.

The two sides exchanged views on relations with Afghanistan and called for enhanced coordination among the regional countries for a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan. They also agreed to remain engaged towards this end.



LARKANA: Residents of Karma Bagh are block road and burn tires as they are holding protest demonstration against the un-rest law and order situation city, at SSP Chowk in Larkana.

## 13 Major Road Construction Projects inaugurated in Ghotki

SUKKUR (APP): The Sindh Government has inaugurated 13 key road construction projects in Ghotki district, with the official opening ceremony led by Minister of Agriculture Sindh, Sardar Muhammad Bux Mahar.

The ongoing projects include the Mathelo to Momal Ji Mari Road, Garhi Chakar to Jarwar Road, among others. Minister Sardar Muhammad Bux Mahar on Thursday emphasized that the Sindh Government is committed to providing maximum development initiatives to benefit the people.

He underscored the importance of completing these projects on time while ensuring high-quality standards. He warned that strict action would be taken if substandard materials were found to be used. The minister further stated that the purpose of constructing roads in Ghotki's urban and surrounding areas is to alleviate the difficulties faced by residents.

He highlighted that the Sindh Government is dedicated to public welfare and is working to improve infrastructure to ease everyday challenges. Following the directives of the party leadership, the minister urged elected representatives to focus on road construction and resolving issues within their constituencies.

## Polling for LG by-elections underway amid strict security measures in Sindh

KARACHI (APP): The polling was started on all 33 vacant seats of Union Committee/Council Chairmen, vice Chairmen, General Councilors and member District Council across Sindh including 10 seats in Karachi on Thursday (Nov 14).

Polling was underway and will continue till 5 pm for which Election Commission and the provincial government adopted strict security measures.

All the deputy commissioners have already announced local holidays in the Union Committees/Councils where polls are being held.

Police have ensured strict security arrangements to maintain law and order as several polling stations had already been classified as highly sensitive and sensitive by the Election Commission of Pakistan.

In Karachi, several polling stations in TMCs of Malir, Model Council, Saddar and Liaquatnagar were classified as highly sensitive and sensitive where a large number of police personnel was deployed to maintain a secure environment during the polling process.



KARACHI: A female voter casting her vote in Local Government Bye-Elections being held across the province on different vacant seats of local bodies.

## Diabetes awareness walk hosted to mark World Diabetes Day

KARACHI (APP): President of the Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA), Dr. Atif Hafeez on Thursday highlighted the rise in diabetes cases in Pakistan, and said that 26.7 percent of the population, which is 33 million people in the country are now affected by the disease.

Speaking at a diabetes awareness walk organized by TMC Gulshan, he noted that in the year 2000, only 500,000 cases were reported, marking a drastic increase over two decades.

Dr. Hafeez also raised concern about the rising number of young patients aged between 25 and 30 years, which he said is higher than global averages.

Addressing representatives and employees of TMC Gulshan, he called for a shift away from the culture of offering sweets at celebrations, which contributes to unhealthy dietary habits.

He also suggested that advertisements for energy and cold drinks should be banned, similar to tobacco advertising restrictions, as these drinks pose significant health risks.

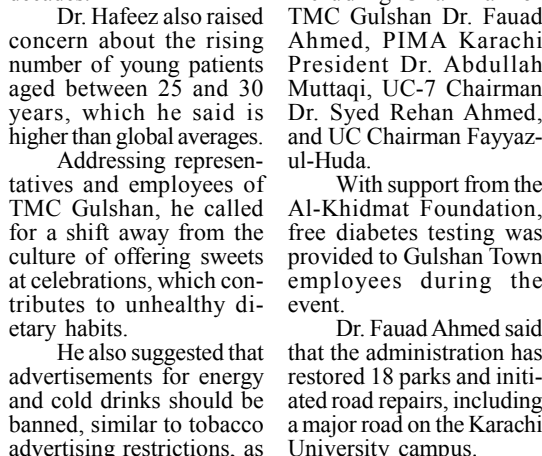
Dr. Hafeez emphasized the importance of morning walks and healthy activities, recommending that parks and green spaces be promoted for public use.

"Currently, people face challenges even during their morning walks, as they encounter stray dogs, and safety concerns with thieves at night," he highlighted the need for safer public spaces.

The event was attended by notable figures, including Chairman of TMC Gulshan Dr. Fauad Ahmed, PIMA Karachi President Dr. Abdullah Muttuqi, UC-7 Chairman Dr. Syed Rehan Ahmed, and UC Chairman Fayyaz-ul-Huda.

With support from the Al-Khidmat Foundation, free diabetes testing was provided to Gulshan Town employees during the event.

Dr. Fauad Ahmed said that the administration has restored 18 parks and initiated road repairs, including a major road on the Karachi University campus.



KARACHI: Vehicles and motorcyclecyclists go through traffic on a Super Highway as heavy fog reduces visibility, in Karachi.

## DC visits various polling station to review election process

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner/District Returning Officer Shaheed Benazirabad Shehryar Gul Memon visited various polling stations to review the election process during the ongoing municipal elections for the vacant seats of Tehsil Nawabshah and Skrand.

On this occasion Deputy Commissioner and District Returning Officer Shahryar Gul Memon while talking to the media representatives said that with the help of the police, the election on 4 vacant seats of Nawabshah and Skrand were held peacefully without any break.

The election process is going on which will continue till 5:00 p.m. on this occasion Regional Election Commissioner Muhammad Yusuf, District Election Commissioner Muhammad Yusuf Majidano, Assistant Commissioner Nawab Shah Iqbal Ahmad Tanio were also accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner.

## KU declares results of BA (Ext) Part-I, II Annual Examination 2023

KARACHI (APP): The University of Karachi Thursday announced the results of BA (External) Part-I, II, and both parts of the annual examination 2023.

According to the gazette, 408 candidates were registered of which 348 students appeared in the BA Part-I papers and 254 candidates cleared their exams. The overall pass percentage was 72.99 percent.

It shows that 1,344 candidates were registered and 1,196 students appeared in the BA Part-II and both parts exams of which 68 candidates declared passed with the first division, 508 students with the second division, and three candidates managed to pass the exams with the third division.

## Entry test for admissions 2024-25 held at SABS university

HYDERABAD (APP): The Entry Test for admissions 2024-25 at Shaheed Allah Bukh Soomro (SABS) University of Art, Design and Heritage Jamshoro was conducted at the Campus. Candidates from Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu Kashmir and other parts of the country appeared in the test.

There are a total of 200 seats available for the candidates on merit, self-finance, university support program and foreign with 50% quota reserved for Sindh and 50% for other parts of the country. The University offers admission in six departments such as: Fine Art, Architecture and Planning, Communication, Textile, Fashion and Interior Design. 217 female and 33 male candidates appeared in the test.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing a seminar "Awareness about Wildlife" at Governor House.

## 2 soldiers martyred, 3 terrorists killed in Harnai operation: ISPR

Lead vehicle was targeted by an IED, resulting in martyrdom of Major Muhammad Haseeb along with Havildar Noor

RAWALPINDI (APP): Security Forces killed three terrorists in an operation at Harnai District while two security personnel including a Major embraced martyrdom.

"On reported presence of terrorists, planning to target innocent civilians in Harnai District, security forces under Major Muhammad Haseeb were immediately mobilized to sanitize the area," said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

"Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and resultantly three terrorists were sent to hell. However, during the operation, an improvised explosive device exploded on the leading vehicle of security forces, resultantly, Major Muhammad Haseeb (age: 28 years, resident of District Multan), a brave officer, who was leading his troops from the front, along with Havildar Noor Ahmed (age: 38 years, resident of District Barkhan), having fought gallantly, made the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat," it further said.

Security forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan, and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

Meanwhile President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday paid tribute to Pakistan Army's Major Muhammad Haseeb and Havildar Noor Ahmed for embracing martyrdom during an operation against terrorists in district Harnai.



JAMSHORO: Students appearing in entry test of painting for admissions 2024-25 in Shaheed Allah Bukh Soomro (SABS) University of Art, Design and Heritage.

## SMBB Medical University organised awareness seminar on "No Corruption"

LARKANA (APP): SMBB Medical University Larkana organised the awareness seminar with collaboration of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in Chandka Medical College here on Thursday.

Addressing in the awareness seminar, Director General NAB Regional Sukkur Fayaz Ahmad Qureshi said that our religion, society and constitution reject corruption, he added that getting rid of corruption is possible only when we start accountability from ourselves.

Principal Chandka Medical College Prof. Dr. Zameer Ahmed Soomro said that corruption is not only about money, misuse of one's powers is also corruption, corruption is the biggest obstacle in the country's development, educationist Prof. Mukhtar Ahmad Samo said that corruption can be eradicated only through better education and training.

Dean Prof. Dr. Bashir Ahmed Sheikh said that seeing the enthusiasm of the students, I am convinced that our future generation will be free from corruption.

The seminar was also addressed by Dr. Shahid Hussain Soomro, Focal Person of Chandka Medical College, oratory competition, poster competition and essay competition were also organized in the seminar, as a result, Salma Mehmod from Institute of Pharmacy in English Speech, Tabsum Naz from Nursing College in Sindhi and Amina Umrani got a clear advantage in Urdu.

## SBBU Nawabshah hosts two-day expo

HYDERABAD (APP): The second day of the two-days expo at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University (SBBU) Nawabshah concluded successfully on Thursday, wherein Vice Chancellor Engineer Professor Dr. Madad Ali Shah inaugurated the event. Deputy Commissioner Shahryar Gul Memon also visited the expo. Vice Chancellor Engineer Professor Dr. Madad Ali Shah expressed pride in the university's commitment to quality education and empowering students. Deputy Commissioner Shahryar Gul Memon appreciated the expo's role in promoting students' talents and confidence.