

# Independent

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## Murad unveiled Sindh DBC Project at COP-29

BAKU (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, speaking at COP-29 on Nature's Carbon Solution, emphasised the transformative Delta Blue Carbon (DBC) project in the Indus Delta, Sindh.

"We have [Sindh] a 230-kilometre coastline and its 667,000 hectares of wetland ecosystems in mitigating and adapting to climate change."

He said this while speaking at COP-29, titled "Nature's Carbon Solution: The Delta Blue Carbon Story - Tech Zero: Navigating the Digital Frontier in Coastal Climate Solutions, organised by the Sindh Forest Department, in collaboration with the Delta Blue Carbon Project, hosted a landmark event.

The Chief Minister addressed the degradation of mangrove forests caused by past policy failures, deforestation, and reduced freshwater inflow. He detailed the Sindh government's ongoing efforts to restore these ecosystems since the 1980s.

The Chief Minister was the keynote speaker, presenting the transformative Delta Blue Carbon

(DBC) project in the Indus Delta, Sindh. He emphasised the critical role of Sindh's 230-kilometre coastline and its 667,000 hectares of wetland ecosystems in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Discussing the degradation of mangrove forests due to past policy failures, deforestation, and reduced freshwater inflow, the chief minister detailed his government's concerted efforts to restore these ecosystems since the 1980s.

The DBC Phase-1 Project, initiated in 2013 and implemented in 2015, emerged as a pioneering public-private partnership between the Sindh Forest and Wildlife Department and Indus Delta Capital (IDC) Limited. This project has become a beacon for blue carbon conservation and restoration, receiving global recognition with Triple Gold Level Validation for its climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and community development benefits.

Murad Shah celebrated the project's achievements in enhancing Pakistan's resilience to climate change, improving coastal ecosystems,

and fostering sustainable livelihoods. He called for international recognition of such projects and stressed the importance of transparent consultation with project proponents in utilising carbon credits under national commitments.

During a dynamic panel discussion, Ms. Mandy Rambharos, CEO of VERRA, lauded the DBC project for its groundbreaking work in restoring mangroves and creating sustainable livelihoods in the Indus Delta. She emphasised the role of public-private partnerships and innovative technologies in addressing climate challenges, calling the project a model for effective climate action.

The event further highlighted the need to incentivise local communities through initiatives like Mangrove Stewardship Agreements, ensuring sustainable restoration and conservation of blue carbon habitats.

The event concluded with group discussions, where the chief minister underscored Sindh's leadership in climate adaptation and mitigation.



BAKU: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah speaks at a UNICEF-hosted event during COP29.

## Condemns terrorist attack in Kalat Terrorists will not be allowed to disrupt peace of Balochistan says President Zardari

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has strongly condemned a terrorist attack on check post in Kalat.

The president expressed deep sorrow and grief over the martyrdom of brave soldiers in the terrorist attack.

Terrorist elements are enemies of the nation, aiming to sabotage the journey of progress, he said adding that the people of Balochistan reject terrorist elements.

The president stressed that the terrorists will not be allowed to disrupt the peace of Balochistan.

He also prayed for the swift recovery of the injured in the incident.

Offering his heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyrs, the president prayed for their patience and strength.

The Prime Minister directed to provide the best medical facilities to the injured.

He paid tribute to the security forces for killing six terrorists and arresting four after injuring them during the gun battle.

Shehbaz Sharif said the elements spreading chaos and unrest in Balochistan are enemies of the people and the development of the province.

He, however, said such nefarious tactics cannot shake the government's resolve for the development and prosperity of Balochistan.

The Prime Minister expressed the nation's resolve to foil the nefarious designs of terrorists.

He reiterated that the war against terrorism will continue till eradication of this menace from the country.

## CM Murad terms growing traffic accidents disappointing

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday said that the traffic accidents were increasing, which was disappointing.

He said this, in his message on the occasion of the International Day of Road Traffic Victims, human life is very precious, so be more careful while driving. He said that minor children should not be allowed to drive and it was the primary responsibility of parents to stop them. The CM said that the death of one responsible family member affected the whole household. He said that obeying traffic laws was our responsibility.

He also directed for spreading of awareness of the traffic rules implementation.

## Governor Tessori says: Traffic victims Day makes us realize significance of responsible driving

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Sunday said that the World Day of 'Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims' made us realize the importance of responsible driving.

"We have to take measures to be safe from accidents by highlighting the importance of road safety," he said.

The Governor Tessori said that many lives were being lost daily due to road accidents.

He stressed the need for ensuring traffic rules to avoid such incidents.

He said that negligence, carelessness and failure to take precautions while driving could prove to be fatal.

Kamran Khan Tessori said that obeying traffic rules was mandatory for everyone. He said that timely repair of roads could also control increasing accidents. He urged the parents to strictly forbid their minor children from driving vehicles.

## PM greets Mir Attaullah Lango on becoming BHCBA President

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday felicitated Mir Attaullah Lango on being elected as President of

welfare of the lawyers' community.

He lauded the commitment of the Bar Association to serving the Balochistan lawyers' inter-



the Balochistan High Court Bar Association.

In a statement issued by the PM Office, he also congratulated other newly elected office bearers of the Bar.

The prime minister emphasized that the success of the Balochistan High Court Bar Association election will promote the

ests, upholding the Constitution and promoting the rule of law in the province.

PM Shehbaz expressed the hope that the newly elected team would work tirelessly to strengthen the legal profession and play a significant role in advancing justice and democracy in the country.

## Pakistan, Netherlands agree to boost bilateral relations, cricket collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with Netherlands Ambassador Henny De Vries on Sunday to discuss enhancing cooperation in various sectors, including the promotion of cricket between the two nations.

During the meeting, both sides agreed to organize a bilateral cricket series next year. The Netherlands also expressed willingness to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to support cricket development.



Ambassador Henny De Vries confirmed that the Netherlands cricket team will visit Pakistan next year and play matches with the Pakistan "A" team.

Highlighting the broader relationship, Minister Naqvi emphasized the need for sustainable measures to strengthen bilateral ties. He assured full support for promoting cricket in the Netherlands, reflecting a shared commitment to fostering sports diplomacy.

## NDMA dispatches 19th shipment, 17 tons of aid to Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) dispatched its 19th shipment of aid on Sunday to Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria, carrying 17 tons of essential supplies such as tents, food, milk, clothing, and hygiene kits in collaboration with the Al-Khidmat Foundation.

The aid supplies, including rice buckets, powdered milk, canned food, family packs, sleeping bags, and medical support kits, were dispatched on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif via a chartered flight from Jinnah International Airport in Karachi to Damascus, Syria.

The send-off ceremony held at Jinnah International Airport was attended by MPA, Ali Khursheedi, Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti, senior officials from NDMA, and Al-Khidmat Foundation.

Ali Khursheedi emphasized the urgent need to provide relief to the war-affected population, considering the ongoing conflict and the needs of the affected communities.

He reaffirmed the Government of Pakistan's commitment to supporting the brothers and sisters in distress and stressed the importance of collaboration between welfare organizations and the Pakistani public in strengthening these efforts.

This 19th consignment was dispatched for the people of Syria and refugees from Lebanon, before this, the Government of Pakistan sent 12 aid consignments to Palestine and 6 shipments to Lebanon, with a total volume of 1722 tons. The Government of Pakistan continues to send relief supplies based on the needs of the war-affected populations of Lebanon and Palestine.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing under trainee officers of National Institute of Management.

## PTI using US lobbying firms for letters against Pakistan: Sharjeel

KARACHI (INP): Reacting to congressmen's letter to US President Joe Biden for his role in releasing PTI founder Imran Khan, Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has said the aim of the letter is to damage the cause of Pakistan.

Talking to the media, the PPP leader said PTI men in the US were using lobbying firms to write letters against the interests of Pakistan. "Now it has become

clear that Imran Khan is the strategic asset to Israel. Why does PTI not invite the role of the Americans' in resolving Kashmir dispute and stopping Indian atrocities in Held Kashmir?"

"The PTI has given a protest call on November 24 just out of frustration. The letter is actually the act of Goldsmith. The PTI has the sole purpose how to get the PTI leader freed," the PPP leader said.

## PTI founder appoint three official spokespersons

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan on Sunday appointed three official spokespersons.

According to a notification issued by the PTI, Barrister Gohar Khan, Salman Akram Raja, and Omar Ayub have been designated as the focal persons for PTI's incarcerated leader.

This decision aims to clear any ambiguities regarding information related to the PTI founder, ensuring that all communications will now be handled through these spokespersons, as per the notification.

In a related development, at least three PTI leaders were arrested in Mirpur, Azad Kashmir, for violating an ordinance that bans political activities without seeking permission.

## Shikarpur katcha dacoit Fareed Teghani killed in police, Rangers' operation

SHIKARPUR (INP): A notorious dacoit from the Shikarpur katcha region of Sindh, Fareed Teghani, was killed while his accomplice, Malan Mazari Teghani, was apprehended in an injured condition during a joint operation conducted by the police and Pakistan Rangers in Garhi Tegho. According to the senior superintendent of police (SSP) a group of dacoits launched an attack on a police checkpoint.

SSP added that the killed dacoit was implicated in murders, kidnapping for ransom, and a range of other criminal offenses along the National Highway. According to the SSP, dacoit Fareed Teghani lured multiple individuals into kidnapping through a honey trap and subsequently demanded ransom. The suspects recorded videos of the abducted victims and later shared them on social media to solicit ransom. He stated that the operation would persist until all criminals in the Kacha area are eradicated. Previously, the Punjab police claimed to have Shahid Lund, the ring-leader of Kacha area's (riverine area) notorious Lund gang, in an encounter.



ISLAMABAD: Spanish Senate parliamentary delegation meeting with National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.

## NA speaker calls for stronger Pak-Spain parliamentary diplomacy through PFGs

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq Sunday emphasized strengthening parliamentary diplomacy to foster closer ties between Pakistan and Spain and advocated for the effective use of Parliamentary Friendship Groups (PFGs) to enhance inter-parliamentary relations.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a high-level Spanish parliamentary delegation comprised of Spanish Senators Vicente Azpitarte Perez, Ms. Natalia Ucero, Antononio Gutierrez Limones, Luis de la Peña and Ambassador of Spain in Pakistan Jose Antonio de Ory.

He said, "Enhancing Parliament to Parliament contacts are pivotal for strengthening ties between both nations."

The discussion focused on enhancing bilateral trade, investment, and co-

operation in areas such as agriculture, technology, education, and IT."

Speaker stated that Pakistan and Spain share cordial ties rooted in unanimity of views on various regional and international issues. Pakistan and Spain have enduring and strong ties.

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq lauded the Spanish government and parliament for their principled support of the Palestinian cause. NA Speaker expressed grief over the loss of precious lives and property due to the devastating floods in Spain.

He said, "Both, Pakistan and Spain, contribute the least to climate change, yet face most of its impact."

He also expressed gratitude to the Spanish government and Spanish people for supporting Pakistan during severe floods in 2022.

## Aafia release: Citizens throng to GPO Sadder for sending postcards to US President

KARACHI (INP): Citizens of megacity Karachi in a large number reached to GPO Sadder to send postcards for the release of Dr Aafia Siddiqui to the US president on the appeal of Dr Fowzia Siddiqui.

Dr Fowzia Siddiqui the previous day in a video message had appealed the citizens of Karachi to write letters regarding clemency petition number C-310439, appealing to release Aafia Siddiqui on humanitarian grounds.

**Libya boat wreck: FIA arrests key human trafficker in Gujrat**

KARACHI (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Gujranwala zone has arrested a notorious human trafficker wanted in connection with the Libya boat tragedy.

As per details, the accused identified as Yasir Mehmood was on the Red Book's most-wanted list and had over five cases registered against him in Composite Circle Gujrat in 2023.

Mehmood allegedly extorted millions of rupees from victims, promising to smuggle them to Europe. He would illegally transport people to Libya via Egypt and Dubai, where they were kept in inhumane conditions in safe houses.

## Successful discovery of 11.7 standard million cubic feet per day gas production in Shahbandar District Sajawal

**Sindh Energy holding company and other companies in the Shahbandar joint venture deserve congratulations for the discovery of large gas reserves: Nasir Shah**

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Sindh Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah while giving good news to the people of Pakistan, especially Sindh, has said that 11.7 million cubic feet standard million cubic feet per day

(SEHCL), a company of the Sindh Department of Energy involved in the joint venture for this major discovery of gas and liquid, and the operator of this joint venture in the largest shareholder in this joint venture Pakistan Petroleum



(MMCFD) gas production has been successfully discovered in Shahbandar district of Sajawal by Shahbandar Joint Venture and Energy department of Sindh is a big success this will help to overcome energy shortages and also save valuable foreign exchange. Syed Nasir Shah has said that 198 barrels of hydrocarbons will be obtained in liquid form along with huge amount of gas from the 2475 meter deep well in Shah Bandar.

Minister Energy said that Sindh Energy Holding Company Limited

Company Limited (PPL) and other companies including Government Holding Private Limited (GHPL) and Mari Petroleum Company Limited (MPCL) deserve congratulations.

Syed Nasir Shah said that under the leadership of President of Pakistan Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah all the departments of the Sindh government are engaged in the struggle for the welfare of the people of the province.



KARACHI: View of site after fire broke out incident at fiber workshop as fire brigade officials are busy in extinguishing fire and rescue operation, at Lasipara located on Moenabad area of Malir in Karachi.



Daily Voice of Masses Independent

IMF's concern

On Friday, the IMF team wrapped up its weeklong unscheduled talks on the Fund's ongoing \$7bn programme with the Pakistani authorities without making a customary end-of-mission statement, thus leaving most people in the dark about the outcome of the discussions. Some media reports have conjectured that the lender might comment on its findings soon. However, although we do not have all the details, it is clear from the information provided to journalists during the course of the talks that the Fund is seriously "concerned" over delays in the materialisation of foreign loans of \$2.5bn, including a Saudi oil facility of \$1.2bn, and the shortfall of Rs190bn in the tax collection target for the July-October period. The slow progress on the National Fiscal Pact, signed by the provinces and the centre, and delays in the privatisation of SOEs seem to have emerged as other areas of concern for the Fund, as the provinces have yet to align their farm and property tax rates with the federal tax regime.

It looks like the government is falling short of meeting several critical structural benchmark targets. Nonetheless, it still has some time to meet or, at least, move closer to, the targets as the first 'formal biannual review' of the bailout loan is expected to take place towards the end of February or early March. Dependent on a successful programme performance review is the disbursement of the next \$1bn tranche and, more critically, the market's confidence in the economy. The fact that fiscal deviations and delays in implementing other targets had alarmed the lender, compelling it to dispatch an early mission to protect the programme from derailment, indicates that the Fund would like to keep Islamabad on a tight leash. In spite of the strict implementation of the last short-term IMF SBA loan, Pakistan's track record has not inspired much confidence in the country's commitment to undertaking reforms. As they say, 'once bitten, twice shy' — multilateral and bilateral lenders are no longer in a mood to ignore the dilly-dallying on critical targets. The prime minister and his finance team have repeatedly pledged to make the current IMF bailout the country's last. But that appears to be more of political rhetoric than a plan, given the way they have allowed powerful lobbies — retailers, real estate businesses and others — to influence the government's economic decisions.

Shahzad Sharjeel

The Trump victory in the recent US election has brought the subject of immigration under even greater focus. Along with forced displacements caused by wars, disasters and calamities, economic migrants in search of better livelihoods are defining politics worldwide. The UK tried sending immigrants to Rwanda under an agreement with the latter, but the scheme came to naught. Among other reasons, while Paul Kagame keeps getting elected to lead Rwanda and ensures consistency in policies, the British are becoming used to having more prime ministers in five years than most countries have in a decade or more. The scheme has thankfully failed, and with Labour having taken the reins at 10 Downing Street, it is not likely to be revived anytime soon. The good thing is that Rwanda gets to keep the money Britain paid them to get them to agree to this machination.

People like me could not understand the idea initially because we missed a significant point: we kept looking at it from a human rights lens, whereas the proponents of shipping would-be immigrants to the far-off corner of Africa looked at it from a legal perspective. Entering a country illegally or overstaying a legal permit is a crime.

What complicates the issue is that these lawbreakers do not usually try to evade the law. On the contrary, they announce their real motive for breaching the law as soon as they land on British soil and petition for asylum. In other words, those in favour of sending the aspiring immigrants to Rwanda see it just like another penal colony of yore, and the deportees as 'criminals'.

Black Water

Prof Thomas Sowell noted, "Immigration laws are the only laws discussed in terms of how to help people who break them."

Of course, the evolution of international law and how countries conduct their business in modern times would not allow them to dump shiploads of people on some island and wash their hands off them as was done in the past. Australia and the Andaman Islands, more commonly known as 'Kala Pani' (Black Water), are earlier examples of penal colonies.

Angola, the southern African country, is hardly ever mentioned in the same breath as other penal colonies. The Portuguese used it as one as far back as the 16th century. Unlike Australia, which received a mixed bag of lawbreakers from Britain, Angola only got the most hardened and dangerous convicts, and who turned to slave trading after serving their sentences.

Angola's woes refused to go away with time. While the out-bound human trafficking may have abated, as late as 2006, China transported shiploads of convicts to Angola as labourers and asked them to stay after serving their sentences as it did not want them back. Despite being a very densely forested country, it has no wild animals. You read it right, except for a dozen or so giant sable antelopes, the country's national symbol, this beautiful African country has no wild animals left in a reserve park. Wondering what happened? Well, they were either blown to pieces by landmines or eaten, because international politics and the resultant long civil wars did not allow any economy to take root, and people had to eat. So how come Australia grew

into a prosperous country and joined the league of other developed, primarily white, nations despite its humble antecedents? Why does Kala Pani only evoke a dreaded reminder of the subcontinent's plunder by the colonialists?

The Chinese are doing wonders worldwide, from mining rare earth to copper, running telecoms to building mammoth infrastructure; why haven't these 'pioneers' in Angola transformed Luanda and Huambo into a Sydney or a Perth? Well, one very pessimistic and deeply disturbing answer may be that it is geographic entities and the new arrivals who prospered in Australia, not the Aboriginal population. The native people and fauna of Angola continue to face extinction through landmines made in the US. It is anybody's guess where the AK-47s used during the bloody civil wars are made.

We have had quite a seamless transition from Kala Pani to Blackwater; only the seams are bursting now with organically grown and invasive species of predators. Residues of the Afghan wars have included not just heroin and Kalashnikovs but also landmines in erstwhile Fata; Blackwater, and other private contractors running spy ops; and fourth-rate informants and clerics enjoying state hospitality as high-value assets and guests.

Things need to change for the better and change fast, lest we become the first-ever example in the world where the natives feel as if they're condemned to a penal colony. We already have the dubious honour of being the only instance in human history where the majority ceded from a minority. Let us not create any more negative records. - Courtesy Dawn

Et tu, Maryam?

Muna Khan

How much should we know about Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's health? As a public official, should her health be up for the media's scrutiny? The media dictates so; the understanding is that politicians all over the world lose their right to privacy once they step into public office. Their health becomes an important story, especially if it threatens to impact their job.

But the Sharif family's health has received more scrutiny than others; from the brother's cosmetic surgeries to the most despicable manner in which Kulsoom Nawaz's illness was mocked as 'drama' on TV. So-called journalists said she was at a London clinic getting Botox when she was being treated for cancer in 2017. Someone also tried to break into her hospital room. Maryam Nawaz is routinely mocked for plastic surgery in the rudest of manners by the rudest of them all, Ali Amin Gandapur. Misogyny may as well be declared a national pastime. Notice how they use 'naani' as a pejorative for her. Women are wishing for Maryam to disappear, proving the feminist writer bell hooks (who uses lowercase letters to write her name) was right when she said "patriarchy has no gender".

People in power have a duty to be transparent about their health, and the media has to report to the public if leaders are not being truthful.

A part of the reason there was so much media attention on Joe Biden's visible cognitive decline was because it impacted his performance. I think people will look back at this time and ask why he was allowed to continue. There are plenty of leaders who hid their illnesses and I understand that

they did so because they did not want to be seen as weak. History shows how leaders' poor health led to poor decision-making. And when they told the truth, like Norway's prime minister Kjell Bondevik did when he admitted to having depression and taking a month off work, it was greatly respected. And helped fight stigma about depression.

Maryam Nawaz is under scrutiny for a few reasons, some of which are due to misogyny, her unpopularity and, I'm sorry to say, her high-end designer wear. Initially I thought it was petty, but when I saw her draped in fur in London, I imitated the slap-on-forehead emoji we all use. To be clear, I am not policing her clothing choices. I'm questioning the messaging it sends at a time when thousands are sick in Punjab due to the smog.

She has every right to seek medical treatment wherever she likes, especially when her mother was diagnosed with throat cancer in 2017. Much like Imran Khan wants to be examined by his doctors, she too wants treatment from her doctors. This system is so flawed that people across the political divide do not trust hospitals because everyone fears being poisoned. The irony is that every party has played a role in creating this poisonous environment.

But I digress. Ms Nawaz's health does not explain why senior minister Mariyum Aurangzeb travelled with her at this critical juncture. Or why the chief minister flew on a special air force plane, as reported in the media. This fuels the perception that the party doesn't take its responsibilities seriously. While she was in Geneva, Punjab's Minister of Information

Azma Bukhari posted pictures from her umrah trip on Instagram. There are news reports the provincial chief secretary is away too.

This is a valid question. Instead, a lot of the media and YouTube-verse has focused on inane issues like Mariyum Aurangzeb carrying Maryam Nawaz's purse in Geneva or calculating the cost of the fur the chief minister wore. Then there was the reporting on the father and daughter meeting abusive attacks in London. As a side note, abusing opponents should be de-clared a national sport. We know which team will always win.

Surely, we can do better journalism. That means asking tough questions about Maryam's plans to tackle the smog crisis, beyond the sloganeering we've seen so far. We should be spared the breakdown of the elder Sharif's platelet count that dominated the airwaves a few years ago. If her health is an impediment to doing her job, someone else must be deputized to do it. Report, do not speculate, do not sensationalise.

At the time of writing, Ms Aurangzeb had returned and announced that the smog in Punjab had "now" turned into a health crisis. The media should "now" go into overdrive and report on the actions being taken to fix this problem. This includes reporting on what is causing the toxic pollutants and what the responsible parties are doing to mitigate the crisis. In this age of connectivity, you can't fool people for political gain. There is a serious trust deficit between political leaders and the public and only transparency can mend it. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

ADB launches major initiative to build resilience to melting glaciers

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Sunday launched a new regional program, Glaciers to Farms that will promote sustainable water use and food security in Central Asia, the South Caucasus, and Pakistan amid the catastrophic impacts of accelerated glacial melt due to climate change.

Supported by the Green Climate Fund's (GCF) Project Preparation Facility, ADB will conduct risk assessments of glacial melt in Azerbaijan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan—forming the scientific and technical basis for the Glacier to Farms program, according to ADB press release received here.

With temperatures in the region projected to rise by up to 6 degrees Celsius by 2100, the loss of glacial mass threatens the fragile balance of ecosystems, jeopardizing water supply for agriculture and hydropower, and risking the livelihoods of more than 380 million people.

COP29 President and Azerbaijan Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources Mukhtar Babayev; Kazakhstan Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources Yerlan Nyssanbayev; Kyrgyz Republic Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision Meder Mashiev; Tajikistan Committee on Environmental Protection Chairman Bahodur Sheralizoda; and Uzbekistan Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection, and Climate Change Aziz Abdulkhokimov signed a declaration of support for preserving glaciers with ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa and GCF Chief Investment Officer Henry Gonzalez.

"As melting glaciers change waterflows, disrupt lives, and destroy ecosystems, we must act now," said Asakawa.

"As Asia and the Pacific's climate bank, we are pleased to be joined by key partners to launch this program to drive international collaboration and deliver results where they matter most—on the ground, in communities at risk," he added.

Glaciers to Farms envisages mobilizing up to \$3.5 billion from ADB,

GCF, governments, development partners, and the private sector, subject to the participating institutions' board approvals.

In addition to water and agriculture investments, the program will support vulnerable communities threatened by glacial melt, particularly in fragile mountain regions.

"The GCF recognizes the regional Glaciers to Farms program as a vital initiative to enhance climate resilience and promote sustainable development," said Gonzalez.

"Recognizing the profound vulnerability of mountain communities and ecosystems, this program is instrumental in safeguarding our precious water resources and empowering those most at risk. This program embodies the essential collaboration and innovative strategies needed to address the severe challenges posed by climate change. Together, we can build a resilient and sustainable future for all—especially for the vulnerable populations who depend on our mountain landscapes."



CHINA: Ambassador of Pakistan to China H.E. Mr. Khalil Hashmi speaking at a Seminar on the High Quality Development of offshore Wind Power Supply Chain at Fuzhou, Fujian Province in China.

Governor inaugurates five newly installed TBS, gas expansion projects in DIK

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday inaugurated the gas expansion and low-pressure elimination projects in Dera Ismail Khan.

Addressing the ceremony held in this regard, the governor said all out efforts would be made to reduce gas load shedding and low-pressure issues in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to facilitate and extend relief

to the people of the province.

He lamented that the province produced gas but faced the highest level of gas load shedding. He directed the officials of the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) officials to ensure minimal gas load shedding during the winter season.

He said that to prevent low pressure and load shedding in Dera Ismail Khan, five new TBS

(Town Border Stations) were being installed, and the existing TBS would also be upgraded to ensure that residents face no difficulties during the winter.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) government had initiated several major projects for the development of Dera Ismail Khan, including the Dera Ismail Khan International Airport.

Saleem Memon for fulfilling promise of establishing Hajj office, vaccination facility in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD (APP): The President, Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry (HCSTSI), Muhammad Saleem Memon, has strongly urged the Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, to fulfill the promise of establishing a dedicated Hajj Office and vaccination facility in Hyderabad for Hajj 2025.

According to a press release issued here on Sunday, HCSTSI President further stated that the HCSTSI had actively highlighted this issue during the last Hajj season by sending letters to the fed-

eral government and relevant ministries.

In April 2024, a detailed letter was addressed to Federal Minister Chaudhry Salik Hussain, other concerned ministries, and Hyderabad's elected representatives, including MNAs and MPs, outlining the severe challenges faced by Hajj pilgrims.

The letter proposed establishing a permanent Hajj office and providing vaccination facilities in Hyderabad to cater the needs for pilgrims to travel to Karachi. In response, a commitment was made to set up these facilities for Hajj 2025.



ISLAMABAD: Visitors taking keen interest in artificial jewelry on stall during the 10-Day 'Folk Festival (Lok Mela) 2024' at Lok Virsa in the Federal Capital.

Terminating PPAs – A panacea to release consumers from IPPs clutches

ISLAMABAD (APP): Switching towards Competitive Trading Bilateral Contracts Market (CTBCM) regime, liberalization and privatization of power sector will have longstanding effects on power tariff, paving way for relief to consumers and contribute to overall economic growth of the country.

Since high-power tariff had been hampering our economic growth and piling up huge circular debt, the initiative of premature termination of power purchase agreements (PPAs) with

dozens of independent power producers (IPPs) will also help resolve these grave issues.

Mounting debt load, rising power prices and an astonishing Rs 1,411,669 million capacity payment made to IPPs during fiscals 2022-23 and 2023-24 made the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's government to come out with solutions to stem out this menace and lessen burden on consumers and national kitty.

The government set up a Task Force to implement structural reforms with Minister for Power Sardar Awais

Ahmad Khan Leghari as its Chairman, PM's Special Assistant on power Muhammad Ali as co-Chairman and Lt Gen Zafar Iqbal as National Coordinator also including in it representatives from various regulatory bodies.

Initially, after detailed deliberations with IPPs, Awais Leghari announced premature termination of PPAs with five oldest IPPs to save Rs 411 billion with an impact of around 71 paisa per unit on average electricity tariff. "Contracts with Saba, Lalpur, Atlas and Roush having accumulative generation capacity of

2,463 Megawatt (MWs), set up under 1994 power policy were terminated through "mutual agreement."

Leghari said, process of reviewing contracts with other IPPs and state-owned power plants would further reduce tariffs by Rs 8-10 per unit. "Termination agreement with five IPPs was one of the several measures to reduce tariffs. We also desire to convert existing clause of 'take or pay' for IPPs established under 2002 power policy, to 'take and pay.'" He also mentioned to reducing tariffs by Rs3.5 per unit through agreements with

local IPPs, Rs3.75 per unit by re-profiling debt of Chinese IPPs, Rs0.75 per unit through surcharges, Rs0.72 per unit by closing five IPPs and Rs0.16 per unit reduction by removing television fee from electricity bills.

Special Assistant to PM, Muhammad Ali also hoped an agreement with bagasse based power plants for tariff cuts and revise PPAs with 18 other IPPs within next four to six months. "Negotiations had been completed with bagasse-based IPPs for de-linking their international coal-based pricing indexed to US dollar.



TANDOJAM: Chairman IPO-Pakistan, Ambassador (R) Farukh Amil & Dr.Fateh Muhammad Marri,Vice Chancellor, Sindh Agriculture University with panelists after a productive seminar on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge & IP.



## Governor KP says: Several development initiatives afoot for Paharpur's uplift

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday said that a number of development initiatives were being taken for the socio-economic development of Paharpur Tehsil.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of traders and notables from Paharpur Tehsil.

The delegation included the Chairman of the Paharpur Traders' Association, Noman Niazi, Haji Muhammad Iqbal, Haji Bagh Ali, Chaudhry Nazir Ahmed, and prominent political and social figure Junaid Tariq Qureshi, who briefed the governor on issues being faced by the area.

He said that the results of the ongoing upgradation project of the

Paharpur Grid Station will soon be visible, contributing significantly to the area's development. Moreover, he added that an interchange would be established at Paharpur-Paniala under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which will not only provide convenience to the local population but also serve as a milestone for the region's economic development.

Similarly, he said that a passport counter would be set up at the NADRA office in Paharpur and residents would not have to travel to Dera Ismail Khan for passport-related services. The governor also said that effective measures were being taken to equip the area's youth with quality education and enable them

to pursue higher studies in their own region.

As part of it, efforts were underway to establish a campus of Gomal University in Paharpur and the Higher Education Commission would be contacted in this regard.

The governor also informed that a breakthrough had been achieved about Kloorkot-Karri Khaisor Road and the Chashma Right Bank Canal project. He said those initiatives would benefit the local population, no opportunists and elements with vested interest would be allowed to obstruct the progress of the area.

Meanwhile, the governor also paid a visit to the house of late PPP worker Muhammad Akhtar at Paharpur and sympathized with the bereaved family members.



**MUREEDKAY: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain expressing solidarity with brides during mass wedding ceremony of needy families.**

## SAAR organizes inspiring event under Rawdari Fellowship Programme

HYDERABAD (APP): In an inspiring event organized under the Rawdari Fellowship Programme, sponsored by APCEIU and organized by the SAAR Organization here at Hyderabad Press Club other day.

Around 20 participants from diverse religious groups and all genders experienced an engaging education attended the event.

The session was led by senior journalist Murtaza Siyal, who serves as a senior editor, member of the Press Club and Jai Prakash Moorani, a member of the governing party,

editor at Daily Ibrat.

During their visit, the participants were enlightened by discussions on the ethics of journalism and the historical evolution of revolutionary essays in modern newspapers.

Jai Prakash highlighted the non-discriminatory principles that guide journalistic ethics. Sharing his editorial journey, he noted his pride in publishing essays by senior Scholars on significant religious occasions such as Shab-e-Mairaj and Haj, ensuring inclusive narratives across faiths.

Journalist Murtaza

Siyal, provided a detailed perspective on the art of essay writing, emphasizing critical points for aspiring writers and the editorial process for refining submissions.

Both passionately discussed the role of journalism in promoting unbiased, well informed narratives and offered their mentorship to Rawdari fellows on their writing journey.

The Press Club's rich history was also shared with participants, offering them a glimpse into the legacy of free press and its role in societal transformation.

## JSMU hosts MMIDSP meet: tackles 45% rise in pediatric typhoid, 25% surge in diphtheria

KARACHI (INP): The Pathology department of Jinnah Sindh Medical University (JSMU), in collaboration with Continuing Medical Education (CME) and the Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Society of Pakistan (MMIDSP), recently organized the first MMIDSP Sindh Regional Research Meet at JSMU. The event focused on the theme of "Frontiers of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology."

Dr. Kausar Jabeen, a leading expert on emerging infectious diseases, highlighted the rise of threats such as a 30% increase in Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever cases over the past 5 years, as well as outbreaks of polio, dengue, and Chikungunya in Pakistan. She emphasized the urgent need for improved disease surveillance, rapid diagnosis

and coordinated public health response to effectively manage these growing threats to public health security.

Dr. Naseem Salahuddin, a renowned tuberculosis researcher and infectious disease consultant, reported that new MDR-TB drug regimens achieved over 80% cure rates, a significant improvement over the 50-60% cure rates typically seen with existing treatments. The new regimens also reduced treatment duration from 24 months to just 9-12 months, which could greatly improve patient adherence and outcomes.

While Pakistan has seen a 90% reduction in polio cases since 2014, Dr. Ali Faisal, Pediatrician at AKU noted the country still faces challenges reaching remote communities.

## 16 dead, 1397 injured in 1328 RTCs in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least sixteen persons were killed and 1397 injured in 1328 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 600 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 797 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals.

Furthermore, the analysis showed those 771 drivers, 49 underage drivers, 134 pedestrians, and 508 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 269 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 302 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by Multan 89 in with 95 victims.

## Azma Bokhari says: IMF acknowledged Punjab govt.'s progress towards achieving targeted surplus

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has rebutted the contents of a news item published under the headline "Provinces face new targets under fiscal pact", in an English language daily on November 17, asserting that the news report falsely refers to the government of Punjab's investment in a UAE-based fund.

Contradicting the erroneous impression created in the news, the Information Minister said that the government of Punjab has not invested in any UAE-based fund. "Since there is no such investment in a UAE-based fund, this was never discussed in the meeting of the IMF with the

functionaries of the government of Punjab. Furthermore, the news item wrongly insinuates IMF's alarm over the previously incorrectly reported 1<sup>st</sup> quarter deficit of Punjab," she mentioned.

Azma Bokhari said that the IMF agreed that the Punjab government had a surplus of approximately Rs 40 billion at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter and as such the Ministry of Finance, government of Pakistan corrected its data and uploaded revised fiscal operations reflecting the Punjab government's surplus. "Lastly, the news item also misreports that Punjab fell short of its surplus target of Rs. 150 billion at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.



**KARACHI: Participants of the protest rally under Awami Tehreek Ladies Wing are raising slogans for their demands at the Karachi Press Club.**

## Over 7,300 candidates appear in KU entry test for academic session 2025

KARACHI (INP): As many as 7,365 candidates appeared in the entry test held for the morning session in BS, B.Ed (H), and B.E., programs, Doctor of Pharmacy (morning and evening program), and Doctor of Physical Therapy of the University of Karachi on Sunday.

The entry test was conducted for the academic year 2025 in the departments of Applied Chemistry and Chemical Technology, Applied Physics, Biotechnology, Business Administration (BBA), B.E. Chemical Engineering, Commerce, Computer Sci-

ence—(BSCS) and (BSSE) — Split 2+2 Chinese, Criminology, Education, Environmental Studies, Food Science and Technology, Human Nutrition and Dietetics, International Relations, Mass Communication, Public Administration, Petroleum Technology, Special Education, Sports Business Management and B. Ed (H) Teacher Education, and Doctor of Physical Therapy (five-year program) and Doctor of Pharmacy (five-year program) in morning and evening shifts. The written test was held for 1,527 allocated seats in these departments.

The KU in charge of the Directorate Admissions Committee Dr Saima Akhter informed that the University of Karachi had received 7,585 online admission forms for the entry test-based degree program of which 7,365 candidates appeared in the 177 examination rooms established in 22 examination centers across the campus were arranged for these candidates.

She said that the 100-minute entry test started at 11:00 a.m. and concluded at 12:40 p.m. The initial list of the successful candidates will be uploaded by November 22, 2024, on the admission portal ([www.uokadmission.edu.pk](http://www.uokadmission.edu.pk)).

KU has conducted the entry test through its own assessment and testing service (KUATS).

Meanwhile, the acting KU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Shaista Tabassum, Registrar Professor Dr Abdul Waheed, Director Evening Professor Dr Imran Ahmed Siddiqui, Professor Dr Anila Amber Malik, Dr Saima Akhter, Campus Security Advisor Dr Salman Zubair, Senior Medical Officer Dr Wafa Altaf and others were present on this

occasion and monitored the admission test proceedings.

The staff of the KU Medical Centre along with ambulances were also present during the test proceeding. The Watch and Ward and Directorate of Admissions staff were also present for the guidance of students and separate waiting areas near the examination classrooms were established for the parents and guardians of the candidates. The KU Transport Unit facilitates candidates, parents, and guardians by providing a shuttles service from each entry point.

## International News

### Israel carries out wave of air strikes on Beirut

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: Israel launched a wave of air strikes on Hezbollah bastions in Beirut and south Lebanon, a day after Lebanese government officials said they were studying a US truce proposal. Since Tuesday, Israel has carried out several air raids on the city's southern suburbs, a stronghold of Hezbollah. AFP TV video showed three plumes of smoke rising over buildings in the area on Saturday morning, and another around midday.

Shortly before the morning attack, Israeli military spokesman Avichay Adraee posted on X a call for residents of the Haret Hreik suburb to evacuate.

"You are close to facilities and interests belonging to Hezbollah, against which the Israeli military will be acting with force in the near future," the post said in Arabic, identifying specific buildings and telling residents to move at least 500 metres away. A similar

warning was also issued before the midday strike.

An Israeli strike on neighbouring Syria earlier this week killed two leaders from Islamic Jihad, a Palestinian group which has fought alongside Hamas in Gaza, a source told AFP.

Since September 23, Israel has escalated its bombing of targets in Lebanon, later sending in ground troops after almost a year of limited, cross-border exchanges of fire with Hezbollah fighters. AFP TV footage showed fresh strikes on the southern suburbs of Beirut on Saturday, following calls from the Israeli army for residents to evacuate.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said Israel carried out three air raids in the morning, later reporting another attack in the neighbourhood of Chiyah. It also reported a strike on the southern city of Tyre, in a neighbourhood near UNESCO-listed ancient ruins.

Elsewhere in south Lebanon, the health ministry

said Israeli strikes killed two rescuers affiliated with Hezbollah and its ally Amal. Hezbollah claimed several rocket attacks on northern Israel, targeting military sites including a naval base in the Haifa area.

Lebanese authorities say that more than 3,440 people have been killed since Israel launched its offensive. In a rare claim of responsibility for a strike on Syria, Israel said it targeted the Islamic Jihad group on Thursday. A source from the group told AFP on Saturday that Abdel Aziz Minawi, a member of Islamic Jihad's political bureau, and the group's foreign relations chief Rasmi Abu Issa were killed in the strike on Qudsaya, in the Damascus area. Islamic Jihad still holds several Israeli prisoners taken during the October 7 attack on southern Israel. Earlier this week, the group released two video clips of Sasha Trupanov, a 29-year-old Russian-Israeli prisoner.



**U.S. President Joe Biden meets with China's President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the APEC Summit in Lima, Peru.**

### China ready to work with Trump team, Xi tells Biden in Peru

**Monitoring Desk**  
LIMA: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday vowed to work with the incoming US administration of President-elect Donald Trump as he held his final talks with outgoing President Joe Biden on key conflicts from cyber crime to trade, Taiwan and Russia.

Biden met Xi for about two hours at a hotel where the Chinese leader was staying, on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Lima, Peru, for their first talks in seven months.

"China's goal of a stable, healthy and sustainable China-U.S. relationship remains unchanged," following the election, Xi said, acknowledging "ups and downs" between the countries.

"China is ready to

work with the new U.S. administration to maintain communication, expand cooperation and manage differences."

Biden told Xi that the two leaders haven't always agreed but their discussions have been "frank" and "candid."

The talks come two months before Trump assumes office. He has vowed to adopt blanket 60% tariffs on U.S. imports of Chinese goods as part of a package of "America First" trade measures.

Beijing opposes those steps. The Republican president-elect also plans to hire several hawkish voices on China in senior roles, including U.S. Senator Marco Rubio as secretary of state and Representative Mike Waltz as national security adviser.

### Russia targets Ukraine's power grid in 'massive' missile strike, officials say

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Blasts rang out across Ukraine's capital Kyiv and other cities early on Sunday, as Russia staged its biggest missile attack since August and targeted power facilities with the winter setting in, officials said.

Ukrainians have been bracing for a major attack on the hobbled power system for weeks, fearing crippling damage to the grid that would cause long blackouts and build psychological pressure at a critical moment in the war Russia

launched in February 2022.

"Another massive attack on the power system is under way.

The enemy is attacking electricity generation and transmission facilities throughout Ukraine," Ukrainian Energy Minister German Galushchenko wrote on Facebook.

Air defences could be heard engaging drones over the capital in the night, and a series of powerful blasts rang out across the city centre as the missile attack was under way in the morning.

### Russia cuts gas supplies to Austria

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russian gas giant Gazprom (GAZPMM), continued to pump steady volumes of gas to Europe via Ukraine on Saturday, but supplies to Austrian energy company OMV were halted hours after Vienna said Russia had given notice it would cut off flows.

Russia, which before the Ukraine war was the biggest single supplier of natural gas to Europe, has lost almost all of its European customers as the EU tried to reduce its dependence and the Nord Stream gas pipeline to Germany was blown up in 2022.

### Trump attends UFC championship fight in New York, taking a break from Cabinet picks

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: President-elect Donald Trump walked out to a roaring standing ovation just ahead of the start of the UFC pay-per-view card at Madison Square Garden, combining two things close to his heart: fierce battles inside the octagon and New York City.

Trump was accompanied by UFC President Dana White and the pair headed to their caged seats to Kid Rock's "American Bad Ass."

UFC aired a video package of Trump's road to reclaiming the White House, calling it, "The great comeback in American History," while fans stood and applauded. Trump, wearing a suit and red tie, pumped his fist toward the crowd when the video ended.

The president-elect also had his clenched fists pumping back and forth and briefly danced to the Village People's "YMCA" just outside the cage. He later again thrust his fist skyward as "Takin' Care of

Business" played.

Elon Musk, picked by Trump to lead a new Department of Government Efficiency, and House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., joined the president-elect and White at the Garden, as did Robert Kennedy Jr., Trump's choice to lead the Department of Health and Human Services in his incoming administration.

Trump was flanked on his front-row seat by White on his right and Musk on his left and politely applauded the fight winners. Besieged by photographers and nearby fans, Trump stood to pose for pictures with White, Musk and other associates in breaks between fights. Trump even had a brief conversation with country singer Jelly Roll after the pair shook hands. What to know about Trump's second term: Staffing the administration: Here are the people Trump has picked for key positions so far. Plus, a look at recess appointments and how could Trump use them to fill his Cabinet.

### Pope Francis suggests international study into possible genocide in Gaza

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Russia unleashed its largest wave of airstrikes on Ukraine in almost three months on Sunday, firing 120 missiles and 90 drones in a sweeping attack that killed at least seven people and caused "severe damage" to the power system, officials said.

Ukrainians have been bracing for weeks for an attack on the hobbled energy system, fearing crippling damage that would cause long blackouts as winter sets in and ramp up psychological pressure at a critical moment in the war launched by Russia in February 2022. The strikes, which prompted emergency power cuts in numerous regions, came after this month's US presidential election victory of Donald Trump, whose pledge to end the war without saying

how has raised the prospect of a looming push to hold negotiations.

"Russia launched one of the largest air attacks: drones and missiles against peaceful cities, sleeping civilians, critical infrastructure," Foreign Minister Andrii Sybha wrote on X.

Air defences could be heard engaging drones over the capital in the night, and a series of powerful blasts rang out across the city centre as the missile attack was under way in the morning.

Kyiv's air force said the military had destroyed 104 out of 120 missiles fired and 42 out of 90 drones launched by Russia.

Russia's defence ministry said it had launched a massive strike on energy facilities that supply Ukraine's military-industrial complex.

### Germany's Scholz defends call to Putin ahead of snap elections

**Monitoring Desk**  
BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said his conversation with Vladimir Putin had given no indication of a shift in the Russian President's thinking on the war in Ukraine, but defended his much-criticised decision to phone the Kremlin.

Scholz's hour-long call with Putin, their first direct communication in almost two years, comes three months before snap elections in which the wildly unpopular chancellor faces a stiff challenge from populists of left and right who are demanding a resumption of diplomacy. Critics, including Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, said the call was a breach of Western solidarity for the sake of domestic political advantage.

### Iran denies report on UN envoy's meeting with Musk

**Monitoring Desk**  
TEHRAN: Iran's foreign ministry spokesman on Saturday "categorically" denied The New York Times report on Tehran's ambassador to the United Nations meeting with US tech billionaire Elon Musk, state media reported.

In an interview with state news agency IRNA, spokesman Esmail Baghaei was reported as "categorically denying claims made in some

American media about a meeting between Elon Musk and Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations in New York, expressed surprise at its wide coverage by the American media."

The Times reported on Friday that Musk, who is a close ally of President-elect Donald Trump, met earlier this week with Iran's ambassador to the UN, Amir Sa'ed Iravani. It cited anonymous Iranian

### India's successful test of hypersonic missile puts it among elite group

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: India successfully tested a domestically developed long-range hypersonic missile, it claimed on Sunday, attaining a key milestone in military development that puts it in a small group of nations possessing the advanced technology. The global push for hypersonic weapons figures in the efforts of some countries, such as India, which is striving to develop advanced long-range missiles.



## AI Summit declares East Jerusalem a red line, reaffirms two-state solution as key to Mid East peace

ISLAMABAD (APP): Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman, deputizing for King Salman bin Abdulaziz on Sunday condemned Israel's actions in Palestine, describing them as 'genocide' impacting over 150,000 individuals, including women and children.

Inaugurating the Extraordinary Arab and Islamic Summit recently held in Riyadh, he decried violations of Al-Aqsa Mosque's sanctity, impediments to humanitarian aid, and Israeli military actions in Lebanon, reaffirming Saudi Arabia's support for Lebanon's sovereignty and stability.

The crown prince urged global action to halt aggression and reiterated the Kingdom's commitment to a two-state solution, calling for an independent Palestinian state along 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. He also highlighted Saudi efforts to mobilize international cooperation through the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan emphasized that a two-state solution is the only viable

path to lasting peace in the Middle East. Speaking after the summit, he highlighted Arab and Islamic unity in addressing the escalating crisis in Palestine.

Prince Faisal called for immediate de-escalation, an end to Israeli violations, the easing of humanitarian aid restrictions, and international pressure on Israel to halt aggressive measures, including withholding Palestinian tax revenues.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Secretary-General, Husein Ibrahim Taha condemned Israeli violence in Palestine and Lebanon as 'atrocities and genocide' during the summit.

He criticized attacks on UNRWA and warned of escalating risks of an all-out war, calling Israel's actions a 'blatant violation' of international law and UN resolutions.

Taha urged immediate global action, emphasizing the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2735 for a ceasefire and humanitarian aid access in Gaza.

He also called for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories and the empowerment of Palestinian governance in Gaza, essential steps for stability.

On Lebanon, Taha urged adherence to Resolution 1701, advocating a halt to hostilities and protection of the country's sovereignty. He reaffirmed the OIC's demand for international intervention to safeguard Palestinian and Lebanese rights and ensure humanitarian aid, stressing the summit's unified call for peaceful resolutions to the crises.

Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit accused Israel of pursuing a strategy to dismantle Palestinian society in Gaza through forced or voluntary displacement, warning this approach aims to erase the prospects of a future independent Palestinian state.

Speaking at the summit, he said Israel's actions undermine coexistence and obstruct peace efforts based on justice. He stressed the region's unwavering demand for an independent Palestinian state along the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

He also condemned ongoing Israeli bombings in Lebanon, which have claimed civilian lives, displaced over a million people, and worsened the country's existing crises.



DOHA: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja addressing virtually a Conference titled 'Digitalization and Women in Politics'.

## Govt's timely efforts put economy back on track, says Finance Minister

ISLAMABAD (INP): Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb says the economy has been showing signs of improvement lately due to the sincere efforts of the incumbent government.

Addressing a press conference in the capital on Sunday, the finance minister said inflation had come at the single digit - seven percent - from 38 percent as the PM himself had been spearheading the efforts in this regard.

The finance minister said the international financial institutions had shown trust in the country's ability to handle the economic crisis.

He mentioned that the IMF staff was also astonished at the success of the Pakistan's economy -

which became stable in just 14 months adding the board was well aware of the government's ability to steer the country out of crisis.

The minister highlighted the cooperation by the chief ministers of four provinces adding that the government could achieve the best possible outcome by working as a whole.

As for the private sector, he said all the segments of society have to come at the forefront to create the best possible opportunities. Lastly, he also mentioned the climate change phenomenon which has been taking a heavy toll on the country.

"It is not only the charter of economy but also the charter of environment," he said.

## Pak-Syria direct flight to start from today: Ramez

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic in Pakistan, Dr. Ramez Alraee on Sunday said that the direct flight between Pakistan and Syria will start from today, November 18<sup>th</sup> and the first flight will land in Lahore tomorrow morning.

Earlier, Syrian Air Line had started its flight operations from Karachi since 2019 and tomorrow this will be the first flight of Syrian Airline to Lahore, for which the Foreign Affairs Ministries and Embassies of both countries have made great efforts.

Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic in Pakistan, Dr. Ramez Alraee told APP here.

The Ambassador said that tomorrow morning at 6:30 am, the first direct flight of Syrian Airline first flight will land in Lahore, which will promote bilateral relations between the two countries.

He said that at this time, this direct flight will promote economic and trade relations between the two countries, and as the connections between the people of both countries will be established.

The ambassador said that with the start of flight operations, where the business communities of both countries will be facilitated, tourism will also increase and mutual economic and trade relations will be promoted.

## Belarus President to visit Pakistan on Nov 25

ISLAMABAD (INP): Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko is set to visit Pakistan on November 25.

The visit is aimed at strengthening bilateral ties and exploring new avenues of cooperation in diverse fields between both countries.

During the visit Pakistan-Belarus Trade Roadmap will be signed, the source said.

During stay in Pakistan, President Lukashenko is scheduled to meet President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and military leadership.

Expanding collaboration in modern farming techniques and equipment, enhancing trade ties and boosting bilateral commerce, security and defence relationship will also come under discussion between both sides. Pakistan has expressed keen interest in cooperation in the tractor manufacturing sector, highlighting Belarus's expertise in agricultural machinery.

## Hyderabad Gymkhana to celebrate evening with Amber Mahek on Nov 24

HYDERABAD (APP): Hyderabad Gymkhana would celebrate an evening with Queen of Melody Amber Mahek on 24th November 2024 (Sunday) at 7 pm.

Convener Entertainment Committee Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah informed here on Sunday that the Management of Hyderabad Gymkhana keeping its tradition to host musical concerts has decided to host an event to tribute an eminent Singer followed by an Award ceremony.

According to the details, earlier due to lack of pedestrian bridge on Abul Hasan Isfahani Road from Maskan Chowranghi towards Paradise bakery, ac-

## Education central route to development: Khalid Maqbool

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has said, education is the sole path to Development of the country.

He expressed these words while addressing as chief guest at the convocation of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Sindh Chapter, held in Karachi on Sunday.

The minister emphasized that education is not only a necessity of the times but also the first commandment of our religion.

He warned that if we fail to align ourselves with the demands of the present era and do not strive to change ourselves, external forces will impose their changes upon us.

Federal Minister for Education and Vice-Chancellor AIOU has distributed

degrees to passed out students and the students with outstanding performance were awarded gold medals.

Congratulating the graduates, the Federal Minister emphasized that their success is a testament to their dedication, hard work, and the quality education provided by Allama Iqbal Open University, along with the efforts and competence of its teachers.

He remarked that the fast-changing world has transformed everything, and those who fail to adapt are left behind, as even divine intervention does not aid those unwilling to change themselves. Highlighting Pakistan's youth as both an opportunity and a challenge, he noted that 65% of the country's population comprises young people, equating to approximately 180 million youth.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori presenting shield to Director Foreign Service Academy Nosheen Imtiaz at Governor House.

## Chaotic situation of country driving public toward revolution: Haleem

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Sindh President Haleem Adil Sheikh has embarked on a public outreach campaign, traveling in a caravan to various cities including Karachi, Thatta, Sujawal, Badin, Tando Muhammad Khan, Hyderabad, and Jamshoro.

Accompanying him were PTI Sindh acting General Secretary Dr. Masroor Sial, PTI Legal Affairs Secretary Advocate Muhammad Ashraf Samoon, PTI leader Chaudhry Anas Nisar, Advocate Daniyal Magasi, and other party members.

During this campaign, Sheikh informed the public about the significance of the upcoming November 24 march, stressing its role in re-

claiming true freedom, restoring a stolen mandate, and highlighting the importance of judicial independence. He urged people to participate in this final call by Imran Khan. The caravan was warmly received by PTI workers and local residents across various cities.

The campaign involved the distribution of pamphlets detailing the objectives of the November 24 march and encouraging public participation. Sheikh, along with PTI leaders, met residents in Karachi, Thatta, Sujawal, Badin, Tando Muhammad Khan, Jamshoro, and Hyderabad districts, emphasizing the importance of joining the movement for their rights and future.



CHINA: Ambassador of Pakistan to China H.E. Mr. Khalil Hashmi had a useful interaction with Ms. Guo Ningning, Party Secretary of Fuzhou, Fujian Province in China.

## PPP stands firm on Sindh's water rights: Spokesperson

Urges innovative solutions for Cholistan's water crisis

SUKKUR (INP): Barrister Arsalan Islam Sheikh, Spokesperson for the Sindh government and Mayor Sukkur, has said that the distribution of water from the Indus River is unacceptable.

The Pakistan Peoples Party and the Sindh government have made it clear that they will not compromise on Sindh's share of water and will not tolerate any manipulation of the water share.

Addressing a press conference at Sukkur's Mayor House on Sunday, Barrister Arsalan Islam Sheikh added that every child in Sindh is aware that whether it's the Kalabagh Dam or the Greater Thal Canal project, Shaheed Mohtarama Benazir Bhutto had taken a principled stance on Sindh's water issue on behalf of the Pakistan People's Party at Kamoon Shaheed protest. The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) remains firm

on its stance regarding the water issue even today. He said that there's a misleading narrative on social media suggesting the party supports the Canals project.

Shaikh made it clear that the people of Cholistan are our people and we want their prosperity, but this is not the way to build canals on Sindh's water.

The spokesperson for the Sindh government has said that the Pakistan Peoples Party will adopt constitutional and democratic methods to fight Sindh's case emphasizing that "dharna" (sit-in protests) is an undemocratic and highlighted that Pakistan's economy has suffered significant losses due to protests and sit-ins. He said that the IRSA Act has a comprehensive mechanism for resolving water disputes between provinces, with procedures outlined in Articles 153 to 155 of the Constitution.

## Pakistan to transport defunct aircraft by road

KARACHI (INP): The Pakistan Airport Authority (PAA) is working to rehabilitate defunct aircraft at Karachi's Jinnah International Airport for training purposes.

As per details, a second defunct plane, an MD-83, will be transported to Hyderabad on Monday night. The 60-ton aircraft will be moved in two sections using German technology-equipped trailers via the National Highway and Ghoro-Thatta route.

The relevant authorities have issued a No-Objection Certificate (NOC) for the transfer. This will be the second aircraft to be relocated to the Aviation Training Institute in Hyderabad, following the successful transfer of another plane via the Super Highway recently. Project Director Munir Alam confirmed that all necessary arrangements are in place for the transfer, which is part of the PAA's efforts to optimize resources and provide training facilities.

## Deprived women prepare to lead major community reforms

KARACHI (INP): In a groundbreaking effort to promote women's empowerment and sustainable community development, the Karachi Water and Sewerage Services Improvement Project (KWSSIP) recently conducted an exposure visit for Women Change Agents from Essa Nagri and Soba Nagar to Orangi Pilot Project (OPP), a pioneering organization known for its grassroots development initiatives.

This visit is part of KWSSIP's broader mission to uplift Karachi's Katchi Abadis by improving water and sanitation infrastructure and fostering community-led solutions. A key aspect of this initiative is empowering women as agents of change to drive lasting transformations in underserved areas. The project is implemented in partnership with the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), which plays a vital role in community mobilization and engagement.

KWSSIP has formed Women Change Agent groups in Essa Nagri and Soba Nagar, equipping local women with the tools to lead community development.



verting the Youth Development Center into the Sindh Youth Club. He also announced initiatives like the Youth Citizen Journalist program, International Exchange programs, Digital Skill Training, and the Youth Emerging Star Program. Additionally, sports events will be organized at the Union Council and District levels.

The minister ex-

pressed these views while speaking to the media during his visit on the final day of the Youth Gala Festival organized by the Sports Department. He further elaborated that the Sindh Youth Club will include facilities such as a library, an e-library, a freelancer nest, a podcast studio, and other sports activities.

He highlighted that the Sports Department is also providing CSS preparation and computer training to the youth. So far, 2,721

young individuals have been trained in various sports, and 2,679 more will be trained. Sardar Muhammad Bux Mahar stated that the department plans to provide training to an additional 4,200 young individuals in sports-related activities.

The minister described the Youth Gala as an opportunity for young people to showcase and develop their talents in different fields.

## Youths must enhance their intellectual abilities through modern technology: Qalandari

HYDERABAD (APP): The Patron of Anjuman Ghulam-e-Qalandar Welfare Sindh Pakistan and renowned author, Syed Ghulam Haider Shah Qalandari, on Sunday underscored the significance of adapting to the rapidly advancing technological world. He emphasized that youths must enhance their intellectual abilities to reap the positive benefits of modern technology. Highlighting the value of scholarly and mystical writings, he stated that such works serve as pathways to a brighter future.

He called for a deeper understanding of the works and biographies of Allah's saints and Sufis, who have consistently advocated for love and empathy. Syed Ghulam Haider Shah Qalandari further elaborated on the organization's focus on social education, academics, research, and the promotion of technology and reading culture.

Addressing a gathering organized by Anjuman Ghulam-e-Qalandar Welfare Sindh near Masoo Bhurgri to commemorate the annual observance of Haji Muhammad Yousuf Shah (RA), Syed Ghulam Haider Shah Qalandari reiterated the Quranic principle

that Allah does not change the condition of a people unless they strive to change themselves.

He urged individuals to prioritize human welfare over mental unrest and materialistic pursuits.

Highlighting the issue of religious extremism and sectarianism, he said these phenomena lead to social challenges, whereas the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and Sufism foster humanity and compassion.

He called for a deeper understanding of the works and biographies of Allah's saints and Sufis, who have consistently advocated for love and empathy. Syed Ghulam Haider Shah Qalandari further elaborated on the organization's focus on social education, academics, research, and the promotion of technology and reading culture.



LARKANA: Foreigner visitor visiting the world famous archaeological site of Mohen-Jo-Daro.

## Suspect wanted in around 100 car lifting incidents arrested after encounter

HYDERABAD (APP): An alleged car lifter involved in around 100 incidents of vehicle lifting and snatching was arrested in injured condition in an encounter by Sakhi Pir police.

The police spokesman Awais Rajput informed here on Sunday that the Sakhi Pir police were engaged in an exchange of fire by suspects trying to steal a car near Sattar Shah graveyard.

Azhar Dayo alias Kalu sustained a gunshot during the encounter and he was subsequently rounded up but his accomplices escaped, he added.

Rajput said Kalu was one of the most wanted car

lifters in the province adding that he recently also lifted vehicles from the jurisdictions of Market and Baldia police stations in Hyderabad.

However, according to him, 70 percent of the vehicles were lifted from Karachi by Kalu and his associates, he claimed.

The spokesman shared the record of 11 FIRs, registered in the police stations from Karachi to Larkana, in which Kalu was booked.

The injured suspect was later shifted to Liaquat University Hospital (LUH) for surgery of his gunshot wound which he sustained in his leg.



KARACHI: On the directives of Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori cheques being.