

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
اس میں ہاگ سے روایت ہے کہ نبی کریم ﷺ فرماتے تھے کہ قسمت کے دن کا فر کو لایا جائے گا اور اس سے پوچھا جائے گا کہ تمہارا کیا خیال ہے کہ اگر تمیں ہجر کرتے ہو تو پاس سونہو تو کیا سب کو اپنی نجات کے لیے ذریعہ بنو گے؟ دو گے؟ دو گے؟ تو اس وقت اس سے کہا جائے گا کہ تم سے اس سے بہت آسان چیز کا (مطلبہ کیا جاتا تھا۔) (بخاری ص 538)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Kashmiris expressed strong disapproval, resentment towards India; Mushaal

Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) Mushaal Hussain Mulick stated that Kashmiris across the Line of Control (LoC) marked Indian Republic Day on Friday as a Black Day, expressing their strong disapproval and resentment towards India. (Report on Page 8)



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

Gaza's Health Ministry and witnesses said Israeli troops opened fire as a crowd of Palestinians gathered for humanitarian aid in Gaza City on Thursday, killing at least 20 and wounding dozens. The Israeli military said it was looking into the reports. The Associated Press could not independently confirm the details of what happened. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Black Day

ISLAMABAD: Activists of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) hold a banner during protest as they observe Indian Republic Day as Black Day during an anti-Indian protest in front of Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Federal Capital, to show their solidarity with people of Indian-administered Kashmir.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Kashmiris observe Black Day on India's 'Republic Day'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Kashmiris across the Line of Control and world over observed Indian Republic Day, on January 26, as Black Day to protest against continued denial by India of their right to self-determination in accordance with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions.

In Indian Illegally Occupied Kashmir (IIOJK), the day was marked by complete strike whereas protest rallies and demonstrations were held in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan and world-over. The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) had given call for observing the Black Day and was supported by other freedom-loving organizations and leaders.

In IIOJK, the Indian authorities had turned the whole territory into military garrison and had intensified checking and frisking in Srinagar city and other parts of the valley. In Islamabad, the APHC (AJK Chapter) staged a protest in front of the Indian High Commission. The protest was also joined by heads and leaders of various political parties of AJK. Speaking on the occasion, the speakers said India had no right to celebrate its Republic Day in IIOJK, which it had occupied against Kashmiris' will. APHC-AJK Conventor, Mehmood Ahmed Saghar, while speaking on the occasion said India had been using brutal tactics to suppress the Kashmiris' freedom sentiment but miserably failed in its nefarious designs. The protesters were holding black flags and banners and placards with slogans against India and in favour of Kashmir's freedom from Indian occupation.

Protest rallies were also carried out in Muzaffarabad and other cities of Azad Jammu and Kashmir to mark the day as Black Day. The protesters demanded the world community to break the criminal silence and play its role in stopping Indian state terrorism in IIOJK

Feb 8 election to bring political stability: PM

City Desk

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

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

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

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

in the taxation system to take the economy forward.

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

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

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



The previous governments worked to control negative aspects of the social media and in future a "national firewall" through use of technology would be created to subdue the negative tendencies, he noted.

He said May 9 was an attack on the concept of the State of Pakistan and from the very start he was very critical of the elements involved in

the incidents.

However, the whole of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf could not be kept away from Pakistani politics, he said, adding only some specific people of the PTI were involved in the incidents of May 9.

He clarified that his government did not target any political party. He remarked that undermining social order created anarchy which was not acceptable in any society.

"Social order is the guarantor of political order," he added.

PM Kakar said the political parties needed to democratise themselves and decrease influence of individuals.

The Supreme Court's decision on the intra-party elections of PTI was a welcome step and would increase the opportunities for

politicians from the middle class to make a mark on the political landscape, he opined.

He said veteran politician Maulana Fazlur Rehman undertook a private visit to Afghanistan and the State of Pakistan was not involved in it, however, the Foreign Office did brief him on the situation in the neighbouring country.

He said the citizens of neighbouring, countries including Afghanistan had to observe immigration laws of Pakistan as was done all over the world.

He said Iran's attack on Pakistani soil was absolutely wrong and Pakistan responded appropriately to the aggression. "We were shocked by the attack of Iran. We were not expecting this."

Both sides had agreed to the need for de-escalation, he added.

Pakistan 'seeks' rollover of \$2bln loan from China

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has 'sought' rollover of \$2 billion loan from China, as the term for safe deposit is expiring on March 23.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a letter penned to his Chinese counterpart, requested a rollover of a \$2bln loan for a year.

Pakistan has formally requested China to rollover its loan, which is expiring on March 23, on the same terms and conditions, the sources said.

They further said Pakistan's finance ministry is in contact with the Chinese officials for timely loan rollover. Islamabad is confident of getting the rollover facility from China.

Kakar's letter also appreciated the steps of the Chinese government in helping Pakistan ease the burden of foreign payments.

It is to be noted that Pakistan acquired safe deposits of \$4 billion from China to address the balance of payments issue.

On January 17, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) rolled over \$2 billion for one year to Pakistan.

The development came after Islamabad 'requested' the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the rollover of \$2 billion loan, which was getting mature in the current month of January.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar penned a letter to the UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan, seeking rollover of the loan.



PTA revenue surges to Rs 850b; access to cellular services reaches 90pc: PM told

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) Major General (Retd) Hafeezur Rehman on Friday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here.

In the meeting, the PTA chairman presented to the prime minister the annual report 2023 of the Authority.

The prime minister was informed that the PTA's revenue increased by 17 percent to Rs 850 billion comparing the last year while the access to cellular services in the country had reached 90 percent.

The PTA chief said that the number of cellular consumers had touched 192 million and high-speed broadband users reached 130 million during 2023.

ICJ directs Israel to prevent 'acts of genocide' in Gaza, fails to order ceasefire

Agencies

THE HAGUE: The International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Friday ordered Israel to prevent acts of genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza and do more to help civilians, although it stopped short of ordering a ceasefire as requested by South Africa.

South Africa brought the case to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) earlier this month, asking it to grant emergency measures to halt the fighting, which has killed more than 26,000 Palestinians.

It accused Israel of state-led genocide in its offensive, began after Palestinian group Hamas stormed into Israel killing 1,200 and kidnapping more than 240. Israel sought to have the case thrown out.

In Friday's ruling, the judges said Israel must take all measures within its power to prevent its troops from committing genocide, punish and must take steps to improve the humanitarian situation. Israel must take "immediate and effective measures to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance to address the adverse conditions of life faced by Palestinians," the court said.

While the ICJ did not order a ceasefire, it said it would not throw out the genocide case, ruling that the Palestinians appeared to be a protected group under the 1948 Genocide Convention. It did not decide the merits of the genocide allegations.

Over two days of hearings earlier this month in the gilded hall of the Peace Palace, where the ICJ sits, lawyers from both sides battled it over the interpretation of this Convention.

South Africa urged the court to order Israel to "immediately suspend" its military operations in Gaza and allow humanitarian aid to reach the civilians there.

Israel has called South Africa's allegations false and "grossly distorted," and said it makes the utmost efforts to avoid civilian casualties.

The question now is whether the court's rulings will be obeyed.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has already hinted Israel would not abide by any ruling saying "no one will stop us," not even a verdict in The Hague. But experts believe that aside from the significant symbolic impact of the ruling, there could be tangible consequences on the ground.

"It makes it much harder for other states to continue to support Israel in the face of a neutral third party finding there is a risk of genocide," said Juliette McIntyre, international law expert from the University of South Australia.

"States may withdraw military or other support for Israel in order to avoid this," she added.

At least 26,083 Palestinians, around 70 percent of them women, young children and adolescents, have been killed in the Gaza Strip in Israeli bombardments and ground offensive since then, according to the Hamas government's health ministry.



China firmly opposes double standards on counter-terrorism: Wang Wenbin

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: China firmly opposes double standards on counter-terrorism and stands ready to step up cooperation with other countries and jointly combat all forms of terrorism, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Friday.

Spokesperson Wang Wenbin made the remarks at a daily press briefing in response to a question regarding evidences of Indian support to terrorist forces in some areas of Pakistan such as Balochistan province.

He said that terrorism was the common enemy of mankind, adding "China firmly opposes double standards on counter-terrorism. Such practices will only backfire." "China stands ready to step up cooperation with other countries and jointly combat all forms of terrorism," he added.

Ambassadors of Iran, Pakistan exchange greetings on return

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani and Iranian diplomats on Friday greeted each other on the return of their countries' ambassadors to the respective embassies.

Additional Foreign Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs Rahim Hayat Qureshi in a post on X expressed his delight on the return of the Iranian ambassador to Pakistan.

He said, "Excellency Iranian ambassador we here in Pakistan are delighted with your arrival back at your second home. Our fraternal relations will go from strength to strength. Grateful for the constructive role played by the two governments and their diplomats." Iran's ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghadam in a post on X expressed pleasure on the return of Pakistan's ambassador to Tehran Muhammad Mudassar he said, "Pleased to hear that ambassador Mudassar arrived in his second home in Tehran. I am on my way back to Islamabad. My special appreciation goes to the governments of Iran and Pakistan and diplomats Seyed Rasoul Mousavi and Rahim Hayat for their deft and tactical diplomacy."

Ambassador Mudassar in his post said, "In conformity with the sincere & good wishes of Pakistan's leadership, I am en route to Tehran. Ever more determined to work for a more robust, stronger & peace-loving Pakistan. Strong Pakistan & Iran are critical for the region & to promote historic people-to-people ties. Time to turn a new leaf."



Election Campaign 2024

Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto address to the public gathering in Multan

Asim Tanveer/
Arshad Raza Zaidi

MULTAN: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing a mammoth public gathering of the Party in Multan expressed his gratitude to the Jiyalas of Multan for coming out in huge numbers and proving that the city supports the PPP.

Chairman Bilawal said that the Jiyalas of Multan have supported the party through adversities. From February 8, there will be a new beginning and the tough times will come to an end. Pakistan is currently facing unprecedented challenges, and inflation, poverty and unemployment are on the rise. Simultaneously, terrorists are again conspiring against the country and trying to render the sacrifices of our policemen and soldiers redundant. There is also a societal crisis in our nation. Traditional politicians

have changed politics to a means of exacting revenge and settling personal scores. This has divided entire societies, institutions and families. The PPP resolves to bury the politics of hatred and division. The Party will unify the country and combat the challenges faced by the people, including the economic quagmire and the security situation. The PPP will form a modern, powerful and progressive Pakistan.

Chairman Bilawal said that he is the sole politician who has been touring the country for many months, ranging from KP to Balochistan. The PPP is the only party that is looking towards the people and believes that they are the source of power. With the votes of the people, the people will form a government that serves them. The rest of the political parties do not care for the problems faced by the country, but coming to power for the fourth time. They are burning



the country, harming the economy but are pleased just because they get to sit on the seat of the PM for the fourth time. Chairman Bilawal said that he is not contesting the election by resorting to violence or hate.

The PPP resolves to not only increase wages, but double them within five years. The Party also resolves to provide 300 units of electricity free-of-cost to the

deserving citizens of the country through solar power. The PPP aims to construct three million houses for the people all over the country, and give ownership to the women of the households. The Jiyalas should convey to the people that the PPP government is resolving to regularise temporary houses while giving ownership to the women. Addressing the women of Waseb, Chair-

man Bilawal said that he wishes to serve the women of the nation as a son. The PPP plans to not only expand the revolutionary Benazir Income Support Programme but also provide interest-free loans to the women of the country so that they can gain financial independence and contribute to the economy of the country. Addressing the farmers and labourers of South Punjab,

Chairman Bilawal said that he is aiming to provide the 'Benazir Kissan Card' and the 'Benazir Mazdoor Card', to provide crop insurance and financial assistance to all small farmers, and social security to labourers after February 8. For the youth, the PPP aspires to initiate the 'Youth Card' so that unemployment can be dealt with and the youngsters are equipped with all the neces-

sary skills they need, along with financial assistance.

Chairman PPP said that if the people do not waste their vote by opting for independent candidates, and decide that they will stop the lion in its path, then the country will prosper. The country should stamp the symbol of the arrow to hunt the lion and establish a government of the people. Chairman PPP said that when given the opportunity, the CM Punjab will be from South Punjab while he himself serves the people as their PM.

In the Senate elections, the PPP had resolved to make Yousaf Raza Gillani a senator. This was received with speculation but the PPP achieved its aim. The PPP also made the no-confidence successful. On February 8, the people have to make the PPP triumphant so that it can serve them. no-confidence successful. On February 8, the people have to make the PPP triumphant so that it can serve them.

Wonderful

ISLAMABAD: Motorists on their way at Jinnah Avenue in evening hours in the Federal Capital.

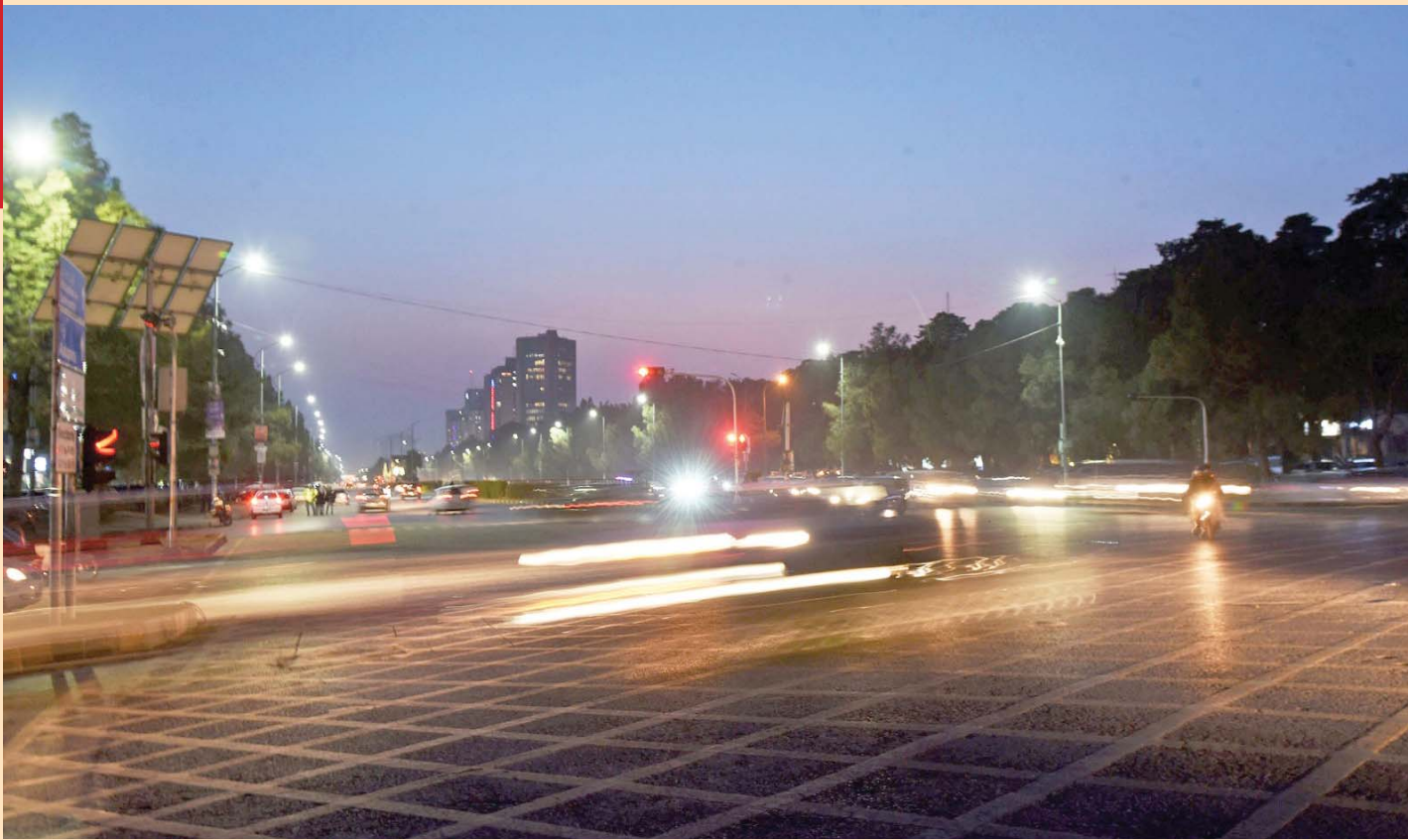


Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Chaudhary Razzaq launches food package for 1055 poor, destitute families

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: With the efforts of Chief Administrator Zakat and Ushar Chaudhary Mohammad Razzaq, with the support of Hamza Foundation and Danish Muslim Aid, distributed food packages to the poor, destitute, disabled, widowed, destitute, and deserving families throughout Azad Kashmir. Started work. In this regard, with the support of the local Zakat Committee, the list of beneficiaries has been completed and referred to the Foundation. Based on which, a total of 258 beneficiaries in Neelum district, including 120 women and 80 men, in Hattian district, a total of 200 beneficiaries, including 95 men and 105 women, in Muzaffarabad district, a total of 400 families, including 300 women and 100 men, in Haveli district, 120



women and 80 men out of 200 families are eligible. The distribution of the food package has been completed and the goods include 20 kg of flour, 15 kg of basmati rice, 5 kg of sugar, 5 kg of green leafy vegetables, 5 kg of dal, 5 kg of turmeric, chili and kulcha. Till this time, the work of distribution of food package in 1055 families has been

completed and efforts are going on to get food package in more deserving families across Azad Kashmir. Due to drought in Azad Kashmir, the people, especially the poor, are suffering from severe financial problems. Because the production of agricultural commodities has ended due to climate change and it has become impossible for poor people

to live. Due to this, the Zakat Department is trying to reduce their difficulties by providing financial assistance and food packages to the poor at this time with the cooperation of NGOs. Taking all possible steps for The poor and needy are an important part of our society. Service to suffering humanity is true welfare.

Federal Govt returned 1-5 billion rupees fund issued for compensation of SW demolished houses

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Revealed in official documents that the federal government has returned the one and a half billion fund released for the compensation of the houses destroyed as a result of the operation Rah-e-Nijat in Upper South Waziristan.

On June 8, 2023, the federal government released 3 billion rupees for the compensation of the houses destroyed by Operation Rah-e-Nijat in Upper South Waziristan, and to distribute among the merchants/traders of Miran-shah Bazar, which were destroyed as a result of Operation Zarb-e-Azab in North



Waziristan.

In North Waziristan, one and a half billion rupees have reached the Deputy Commissioner's account in October 2023 and the process of distribution is going on.

Sources said, while the South Waziristan Upper fund was transferred to the development account instead of the current account due to the negligence of the authorities and officials. Maulana Jamaluddin,

the former member of the National Assembly of South Waziristan, also met caretaker Prime Minister Anwar Ul Haq Kakar to transfer the funds to the current account and the Prime Minister had also issued instructions for immediate transfer of funds.

The decision was taken by the Ministry of Planning and Development on December 18 that since the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government did not use the said funds on time and there are no rules for transferring funds from the development account to the current account, so the funds were withdrawn.

The Ministry of Planning and Development has decided

that until the 107 billion rupees issued for the rehabilitation of the victims and affectees in the tribal districts during the last 6 years, losses of operations and improvement of security is not audited and till then funds will not be released for the compensation of houses in South Waziristan.

According to the official data, 53 thousand families of South Waziristan have not been given compensation for the damaged houses, the total cost of which is 17 billion.

It should be noted that 100% of the people of Upper South Waziristan had become IDPs/TDPs due to the Operation Rah-e-Nijat conducted in 2009.

Alibaba.com Brings E-commerce Expertise to 9th Pakistan Mega Leather Show

PPA

LAHORE: Alibaba.com, a leading platform for global business-to-business (B2B) e-commerce, today announced its participation in the 9th Pakistan Mega Leather Show, 2024, taking place in Lahore from January 26 to 28. This three-day event is an opportunity for local exporters, suppliers, manufacturers and small businesses to broaden their reach in the international market.

Pakistan's leather industry holds significant importance to the country, being the second-largest export-oriented manufacturing sector and ranking third in terms of the country's overall exports. Alibaba.com has been at the forefront of bringing its experience and expertise to the Pakistani market with the goal of unlocking new avenues of growth for local businesses. The platform is committed to providing Pakistani businesses in the leather industry with essential knowledge and tools with which they can effectively initiate their journey in global e-commerce export.

Acquitted man thrashed by police outside court in Sujawal

Kamran Khamiso Khawaja

SUJAWAL: Few officials of Sujawal police mercilessly thrashed a person identified as Naeem Lontgiyo outside the session court after he was acquitted in a case by a local judicial Magistrates Court on Friday. Assistant Sub Inspector Zaffar Zaur, ASI Allah Rakhiyo, ASI Qadir Phnwar, Police Constable and police Constable Sarfaraz attempted to pick him up again with the intention of lodging another false FIR but he resisted following which the unruly police personals started thrashing him. They kept beating him until some local lawyers intercepted non the of the passersby dared to intervene following the fear of police. Rather they filmed a video of the episode and put it on social media. The victim was brought back to the court premises where he received medical treatment. Source revealed that later he filed a petition before the Sessions Court for lodgment of the FIR against police officials involved in the episode.

Blue Fair will be held in February: Mehnaz Amir Sheikh

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: President of Multan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mehnaz Amir sheikh has said that the annual event of Women Chamber of Commerce Blue Fair will be held in February which is an important opportunity for women entrepreneurs of Pakistan to promote their products through this platform. In a statement released to the media, he will be able to introduce Said that we also hope that the annual Blue Fair will be held on February 11.12. They will pray or see, he said, coming from the two-day Blue FairIt will be the best shopping opportunity for Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr as big brands and companies will also have their stalls and products made by women entrepreneurs will be introduced.



Punjab government to support Sindh non-profit in its quest to educate Pujnab children

PPA

LAHORE: The Punjab government will extend its fullest support to a Sindh-based leading education sector non-profit whenever it decides to extend its schooling service to Pujnab for educating children from the deprived and rural areas.

The solemn assurance to this effect was extended by Punjab Health Minister, Prof Dr Javed Akram, as he spoke as the chief guest at a ceremony organised by the non-profit Green Crescent Trust (GCT) on the eve of International Day of Education.

On the occasion, leading Lahore-based businessmen and industrialists lent support to the GCT's charitable drive to enrol a total of 100,000 out-of-school children in Sindh by constructing 250 schools in backward and remote areas of the province.

Dr Akram invited the GCT to extend its charitable work in the education sector to Punjab to enrol out-of-school children in the province. "Punjab government is fully available and will provide whatever support the GCT needs to establish its schools in rural and deprived areas of the province whether in the form of land, funding, or availability of trained teachers," he said.

Dr Shehla Javed Akram, the wife of the Punjab Health Minister who herself excelled as a woman entrepreneur, urged the charities in the education sector to strive hard to educate girls from deserving families to promote the cause of woman empowerment.

GCT CEO, Zahid Saeed, expressed gratitude to the business community for extending uninterrupted support to the campaign of his non-profit to enrol out-of-school children in Sindh

