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Pakistan ready to work with US, all partners for prosperous future, says Caretaker PM

Says peace, stability-a key prerequisite for economic prosperity of Pakistan, region

NEW YORK (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday said that Pakistan desired to have peaceful relations with all countries in the region and beyond as peace and stability in its neighbourhood was an essential prerequisite for economic prosperity and social sector development. "We do not wish to join any camp politics as Pakistan has successfully maintained good relations with both the US and China in the past, and would continue to do so. Rather than seeing these relationships as a zero-sum game, we believe that both relationships can coexist and flourish simultaneously," he said while speaking at a session titled "Pak-US Partnership: A Sheet Anchor for Peace, Security & Prosperity", organized by the think-tank "Council on Foreign Relations".

He said the world's security challenges had grown increasingly complex. "We are witnessing shared threats and challenges that transcend borders such as military conflicts, terrorism, climate change, food insecurity, rising number of refugees, growing economic divide between the rich and the poor, and the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. These grave issues continue to affect billions of lives worldwide and undermine global peace and security."

The shared challenges, he added, provided a new and urgent impetus for Pakistan and the United States to strengthen their partnership in pursuit of mutually agreed and mutually beneficial solutions.

The prime minister said both the countries had prospered whenever they had worked together.



LIANYUNGANG: Federal Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti shaking hands with Wang Xiao Hong, Chinese State Councilor and Minister for Public Security in Lianyungang.

Pakistan, China express strong resolve to enhance mutual cooperation for dev., security

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and China have reiterated their strong resolve to further enhance the existing excellent cooperation between the two countries. This was expressed in a bilateral meeting between caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti and his Chinese counterpart Wang Xiao Hong, Member of the Secretariat of CPC Central Committee, State Councilor and Minister for Public Security in Lianyungang City on the occasion of Global Public Security Cooperation Forum 2023 here Thursday.

Federal Interior Minister, while responding to welcome remarks by the host minister, thanked the Chinese government for their warm welcome and hospitality to Pakistan's delegation. Bugti further said that China was a time tested and all weather strategic friend and expressed profound appreciation on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan for the unwavering and unconditional support of the government and the people of China for Pakistan during all challenges.



QUETTA: Provincial General Secretary PML-N and former Speaker Balochistan Assembly Jamal Shah Kakar meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

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This and similar other views were expressed by the Governor while speaking to different delegations from Loralai, Turbat, Mastung, Ziarat, Dolani and Murgha Faqirzai who called on him at the Governor House on Thursday.

Speaking to the delegation, Governor said that the dream of developed province cannot be materialized without making all departments and their branches fully functional in all districts of the province.



NEW YORK: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a meeting with Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in New York.

PM apprises IMF chief of govt's measures to revive, stabilise economy

NEW YORK (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar held a meeting with International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva and apprised her of various measures taken by the Government of Pakistan to stabilize and revive the country's economy.

The meeting was held on Wednesday on the sidelines of 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The prime minister expressed gratitude for the IMF's approval of a US\$ 3 billion Stand-By Agreement (SBA) to support Pakistan's economy.

He affirmed that the initiatives taken by the government aimed to create a stable and conducive environment for sustainable economic growth and investment. Additionally, a strong focus had been placed on protecting the vulnerable segments of society.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva appreciated Pakistan's concerted efforts in implementing policies and reforms to revive the economy.

Those who were in attendance at the meeting were included caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries, Prince Ahmed Ali, Secretary Health, Asfandiyar Kakar, DIG Police, Pervez Khan Umrani, Deputy Commissioner Ziarat, Muhammad Ramzan Palal, Project Director Ziarat Package, Nisar Ahmed Kakar, Project Director Ziarat-Sanjavi road, Asmatullah Kakar and officers of communications department, police and other local administrative officers.

The caretaker Chief Minister, who also happens to be the Chairman of Ziarat Development Package, was disappointed over speed of work on the package.

He directed to submit weekly report on progress of the Master Plan project and Ziarat Development Package in the CM's secretariat. He also directed to improve the infrastructure for provision of basic facilities in the tourism places of Ziarat. In addition to this, the law and order situation should also be improved further and administration should make a positive headway for creating environment of brotherhood among the local tribes, adding he directed further.

Disappointed over pace of work: CM directs to start work on Master Plan of Ziarat Dev. Package without any delay

Independent Report

QUETTA: While expressing dissatisfaction over pace of work on the Ziarat Development Package, the caretaker Chief Minister has directed the concerned authorities to start work on the Master Plan of Development Package without any delay after acquiring land at the earliest.

The caretaker Chief Minister was chairing a meeting on the development projects and law and order situation in Ziarat on Thursday.

President urges world to take notice of Indian involvement in Sikh leader's murder

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has strongly condemned the involvement of India in the murder of Canadian Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar and urged the world to take serious note of the state-sponsored killing on the Canadian soil.

The President in a statement said that it had been the policy of India to persecute and eliminate the leadership of minority groups in India and outside world.

He said the brutal murder of the Sikh leader exposed the real face of India that has been intolerant towards the minority groups.

The President said that India had unleashed a reign of terror against the Muslims in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and other minority communities for decades. He regretted that the silence and the inaction of the world over the atrocities being committed by India in the IIOJK and the persecution of minorities and demoralization of their places of worship emboldened India to carry out such operations on foreign soil.

Zohaib Mohsin transferred: Jawad Tariq posted as SSP Operation Quetta

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QUETTA: The SSP Gwadar, Muhammad Jawad Tariq (PSP/BS-19) has been transferred and posted as the SSP Operations Quetta with immediate effect.

This was announced in an official notification issued here by the Central Police Office Quetta on Thursday.

According to the notification, SSP Operations Quetta, Captain (Retd) Zohaib Mohsin has been transferred and posted as the SSP Gwadar.

Elimination of extremism, prejudices cornerstone of Pakistan ideology: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jinnah elaborated on the rights of minorities in his speech of August 11, 1947. He said that Islam also taught kindness to humanity, irrespective of their caste and creed. Solangi said that anti-peace forces wanted to weaken the power of Pakistan by targeting minorities as diversity was Pakistan's strength.

All the people of the state of Pakistan enjoyed equal rights, Murtaza Solangi said adding that the promotion and protection of minorities rights on the principle of equality was a major weapon against extremism.

He said that time had come to eliminate all types of prejudices from the society as it was one aspect of the ideology of creation of Pakistan. The minister said that 22 years ago in 2001, the United Nations announced to celebrate the International Day of Peace on September 21 every year.

8 terrorists killed during IBOs in Bannu, North Waziristan

RAWALPINDI (APP): Eight terrorists were killed and five others, including their facilitators, apprehended in intelligence based operations in Bannu and North Waziristan districts today.

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General elections to be held in last week of January 2024: ECP

Says initial list for the delimitation of constituencies will be published on September 27; seeks DCs help in election preparations; Election date announcement a positive development: Solangi; PDM parties welcome announcement of election date; PTI to move top court

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has decided to conduct the general elections in the last week of January 2024, following the completion of delimitation processes. In a statement, an ECP spokesperson mentioned that the commission will publish the definitive list of constituencies on November 30. Subsequently, the general election schedule, spanning 54 days, will be announced in preparation for the elections.

In a Thursday meeting, Nov 6 cut-off date suggested by President Arif Alvi by more than two months. In a statement, the election commission said that it reviewed work on delimiting constituencies and decided that the initial list for the delimitation of constituencies would be published on September 27.

INP adds The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday announced that general elections would be held in the last week of January 2024. The timeframe that was announced by the ECP lacks a specific date for the elections. It also exceeds the Nov 6 cut-off date suggested by President Arif Alvi by more than two months. In a statement, the election commission said that it reviewed work on delimiting constituencies and decided that the initial list for the delimitation of constituencies would be published on September 27.

After hearing objections and suggestions regarding the exercise, the final list would be issued on November 30, the commission said. It said that polls would be held in the last week of January following the completion of a 54-day election campaign programme.

PM updates Guterres on India's human rights violations in IIOJK

NEW YORK (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar met the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and briefed him on India's ongoing human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

In a meeting held on the sidelines of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, the Prime Minister highlighted India's illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019, where it had abolished the status of Kashmir.

Kakar called for the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

The prime minister thanked the Secretary-General for his unwavering support during last year's floods and for co-hosting the Geneva Conference on Pakistan's Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework (4RF).

Recognizing the grave threat of climate change, the prime minister stressed the importance of the fulfillment of climate finance commitments by developed nations.



ZIARAT: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over a meeting regarding Ziarat Development Package and law and order situation

Federal govt. to be approached for removing complaints about low gas pressure in Ziarat & Quetta

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QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that there are complaints about low gas pressure in Ziarat and Quetta and as such the federal government would be approached to remove these complaints.

The caretaker Chief Minister was speaking to the media persons during his visit in Ziarat on Thursday.

He said that medicines have not been provided in the public sector hospitals of the province for last two years. The matter is being probed, while the medicines would be provided in all district headquarter hospitals and rural health centers of the province in next 8-10 days, the caretaker Chief Minister maintained.

Referring his visit to Ziarat, the caretaker Chief Minister said that the basic objective behind the visit is to review the development projects under Ziarat Development Package and visit the Quaid-e-Azam Residency. He said that there was extraordinary delay in the development projects, but still we have asked the concerned quarters strictly to start work on the Ziarat development package and Master plan without any further delay.

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QUETTA: Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai talking with mediemen. DGPR Kamran Asad is also present

Balochistan Digital Youth Program eing launched, says Jan Achakzai

Independent Reporter

QUETTA: The caretaker provincial Minister for Information, Jan Muhammad Achakzai has announced that the Balochistan Digital Youth Programme is being launched in the province with the aim to provide opportunities of livelihood to youth through internet.

This was announced by the Information Minister while addressing press conference at the Directorate General Public Relations on Thursday. Also present on the occasion was Director General Public Relations, Kamran Asad.

The Minister Information maintained that the plan of establishing digital labs in different areas of the province is under consideration. The Chinese embassy would extend assistance in establishing digital lab in Quetta, he maintained.

Moreover, 100 to 150 youngsters would be imparted training under the digital youth programme in every district of the province for Chinese government would provide grant.

He also informed that the embassies of friendly countries have expressed willingness for investment in the IT sector in Balochistan.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

What next?

A crack of the whip was all that was needed. The dollar, which had lately been racing to a new high each day, has now reversed course thanks to an army-sanctioned operation against hoarders and black marketeers.

Local media reports that confidence in the rupee has strengthened and that now there are more sellers than buyers in the market.

Meanwhile, social media has been flush with accounts of unscrupulous elements being arrested with breathtaking stashes of foreign currencies, which have subsequently been confiscated by the state.

It remains difficult to sift truth from fiction, however: after all, the state has not shared how this crackdown was planned and executed, who was targeted, and precisely what role the suspects arrested so far played in manipulating the exchange rate.

While the sharp improvement in exchange rates cannot be denied, the citizenry also deserves to know how and why the market was rigged in the first place.

One wonders that if administrative measures were all that were needed to arrest the rupee's sorry slide, why were they not taken sooner? Why did the finance minister in the PDM government not consider this option as he struggled and failed for months to keep the exchange rate in check?

After all, the cost to the country of rounding up a few dozen big fish involved in the currency market racket would have been far lower compared to the lasting cost of creating distortions in the economy by placing artificial and unsustainable controls on the exchange rate.

The same question can also be extended to ask why the civil administration was never utilised during the PDM era to control market manipulation in other segments of the economy either. Why were the country's regulatory authorities not mobilised to safeguard the interests of common citizens pleading for support under record inflation?

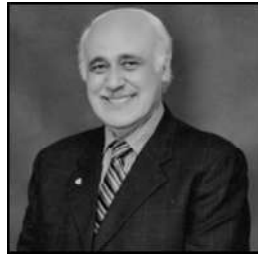
It seems that when economic historians sit down to reflect on the PDM era, they will find themselves hard-pressed to say anything charitable about the competence of the people at the helm during one of the country's worst crisis periods.

That is not to say that the current lot offers much hope. The country is presently managed by a caretaker set-up, but its ministers' promises seem to betray a wider mandate. Yet they seem to be in very little hurry to take the 'difficult decisions' that are supposed to justify them overstaying their welcome.

Successful though it may be, a crackdown against currency dealers can only create limited breathing space. The situation demands that an empowered government, elected by the people, take over post-haste so that responsible decisions can be taken to protect the public's interest.

Alas, this more permanent solution seems to be unacceptable to the wise souls managing Pakistan's affairs these days.

Sworn in, not at



F.S. Aijazuddin

It was a first in Pakistan. Begum Sarina Isa stood next to her husband Qazi Faez Isa while he was being sworn in as the 29th chief justice of Pakistan on Sept 17 by President Arif Alvi. It was a small step for her gender. It was a giant leap backwards for President Alvi.

In 2019, President Alvi, on the orders of his PML leader prime minister Imran Khan, had filed a presidential reference against Justice Isa, citing misconduct and non-disclosure of assets abroad held by his wife.

At first glance, the image of a couple standing side by side might have appeared a reenactment of the practice in the American White House, where wives stand next to their husbands while they are being sworn in as president.

Begum Isa's presence next to her husband had another deeper significance. They stood avenged, their joint snub to judicial persecution.

In June 2020, seven judges of a 10-judge bench of Justice Isa's peers had quashed that presidential reference against him. However, in an unbecoming move, the bench ordered the Federal Board of Rev-e-nue "to conduct an inquiry into the judge's family members' foreign assets and submit a report to the Supreme Judicial Council".

Appearing in person before the same lordships who are now CJP's Isa's colleagues, she told them that the presidential reference had caused her to be "killed a thousand times". In 2022, a contrite Imran Khan admitted that the filing of a presidential reference was a 'mistake'. (Ironically, the accused is now CJP, and his accuser a convict in Attock jail.)

On March 30, 2023, the PDM Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif ordered the withdrawal of the curative review reference against Justice Isa. He said the Isa family had been "harassed and defamed under the guise of a presidential reference".

The former chief justice, Umar Ata Bandial, served for 22 months. In one early hearing, soon after taking over, he quoted a paragraph from this column, published on Feb 17, 2022. The paragraph anticipated that "his priority in office will be to reduce the backlog of pending cases inherited from his predecessors. In 2001, there were 13,000, 20,000 in 2011, rising to 53,000 in 2022". When he left office, the number had risen alarmingly to 56,544.

CJP Isa will have an even shorter tenure. He has only 13 months left before his retirement on Oct 25, 2024. Will he have time to heal the fractured Supreme Court, or will his stewardship, like his swearing-in, be remembered more for its symbolism than its substance?

The chief justice has appointed a woman Jazela Aslam — another first — as registrar, the key portal for admission of cases for hearing before the Supreme Court.

His first day as chief justice proved another first. He arrived without an armed escort. (His predecessors were always accompanied by a phalanx of guards, even when one of them inspected the former Lahore Lunatic Asylum.)

He then convened a full 15-member bench to hear a set of petitions challenging the contentious Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023 — a sad example of the 'bitter' constitutional litigation CJP Bandial complained had impacted adversely the Supreme Court's performance.

The proceedings were televised live — another first. Justice was being seen to be done. It is a novel form of Pakistani soap opera. But such exposure carries consequences. Schisms in the bench soon became apparent. The chief justice had all too often to remind his colleagues that they were paid by the public to adjudicate swiftly and fairly. Each day spent on word-fencing would add 200 new cases to the backlog.

Parliamentary proceedings have been televised for years. They have, however, gradually degenerated from hyperactivity to grandstanding into farce, and now tedium.

CJP Isa will also have to contend with a political patellar reflex, the knee-jerk reaction of every political party to seek redress directly from the Supreme Court, instead of addressing each other.

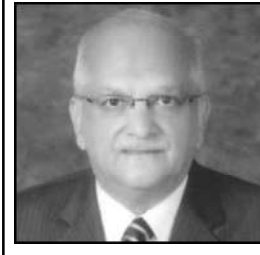
He should not expect anything from the present interim government — a forlorn hope of wannabes — "without pride of ancestry or hope of posterity" (Ignatius Donnelly).

It appears determined to have its constitutional tenure of 90 days extended, if necessary by judicial dispensation.

How soon after his return will the ECP announce the date of the next general elections? Does it really matter, when the result is already in the ballot box?

Incidentally, Agatha Christie conceived her mystery novels backwards. She knew their denouement before she started writing. -- Courtesy Dawn

ILO's advice



Parvez Rahim

The Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) was constituted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to review compliance with two of its conventions ratified by Pakistan in the initial years. These are the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No 87) and Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No 98).

The CEACR, hereafter referred to as the committee, has carried out a detailed analysis of all provisions of the federal Industrial Relations Act, 2012 (IRA) besides the review of four Acts, promulgated by the respective provinces. The committee endorses 29 changes to the Act so it conforms with the ILO's constitution. Provisions of the federal and the provincial laws are mostly based on the Industrial Relations Ordinance, 1969, generally accepted in Pakistan by employers' and workers' federations.

If the tripartite constituents in Pakistan agree to some of the committee's recommendations, basic amendments will have to be brought into existing provisions of the IRAs. Five recommendations are as follows:

a) The committee recommends deleting section 8 (2) (b) of the Act of 2012: "A trade union ... shall not be entitled to registration ... where there are two or more registered trade unions in the establishment ... unless it has as its members not less than one-fifth of the total number of workmen employed in such establishment..."

When the first PPP government nationalised most industries in 1971, there were hardly one or two unions in each establishment. Some even imposed curbs on union activities, and they existed only in name. However, the situation took a drastic turn after nationalisation. There was a mushroom growth of unions in the state enterprise in Lahore, where I worked. In a few months, it had 17 registered unions, each with some eight to 10 office-bearers who would stop work on the pretext of raising issues with the management. Consequently, out of a workforce of around 2,500 workers, over 150 became non-productive. If the management took disciplinary steps, they responded with accusations of unfair labour practices. A similar situation prevailed in other state enterprises where productivity began to decline rapidly, becoming the government's reason to restrict unnecessary proliferation of unions by law.

Now the ILO committee states "it is important for workers to be able to change trade unions or to establish a new union for reasons of independence, effectiveness, or ideological choice".

b) The committee has recommended that the distinction between the Collective Bargaining Union (and minority unions) should be limited. The term 'minority unions' does not refer to unions with members from ethnic or religious minorities, but unions other than the CBA. Besides, rights given to CBA under the law, the committee wants to grant the right to call a strike to other unions in an establishment. Presently, the CBA can go on strike only when there is a failure in the settlement of an industrial dispute. If this right is given to other unions, it will imply that the sword of strike will hang over an employer's head at all times, despite a peace settlement with CBA.

c) The committee believes that the current rule — any strike can be prohibited by the government after 30 days — is not aligned with freedom of association. The decision to suspend or prohibit industrial action should not lie with the government but with an independent body. If the latter is nominated by the government, it's advisable for the law to remain as it is for expeditious decision-making.

d) The committee recommends that federal and provincial legislation be amended to protect workers from penal sanctions. Present acts provide punishments of fine, imprisonment and dismissal for those supporting illegal strike or a go-slow, and for violations of the NIRC. I believe peaceful protests should not face punishment.

e) The committee has recommended collective bargaining rights to existing trade unions with less than one-third of the total number of employees, jointly or separately, at least on behalf of members. As the representative union, CBA should not have less than one-third of the total workforce in the establishment. The ILO has given Pakistan until February 2026 to report on the recommendations of their committee. The government has indicated to the ILO that these will be reviewed by the tripartite constituents, comprising government officials, employers and workers. As all critical provisions of the IRA, 2012, are to be reviewed on the basis of the committee's recommendations, this laborious task must be undertaken urgently to meet the ILO's deadline. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

PM encourages world's leading mining firm to invest in Pakistan

NEW YORK (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq on Thursday highlighting the SIFC as a one-window platform to facilitate the investors, encouraged Rio Tinto Group — a global leader in mining and minerals — to invest in Pakistan. The prime minister, in a meeting with CEO of Rio Tinto Group Jakob Stausholm highlighted the country's vast untapped mineral reserves, valued at over \$6 trillion, which included substantial deposits of gold, copper, and rare earth metals. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The prime minister

outlined Pakistan's robust economic vision, emphasizing the government's commitment to sustainable growth through efficiency enhancement, reduced business costs, regulatory improvements, increased productivity, and higher investments.

He underscored the role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), which acted as a single-window platform, simplifying procedures and fostering an investor-friendly environment.

He emphasized the significance of the mining sector as a priority for FDI, leveraging Pakistan's abundant natural resources, including

copper, gold, lead, zinc, and rare earth minerals. He also underscored that the Government of Pakistan's objective was to keep the people of Pakistan's interest foremost while having win-win cooperation with companies like Rio Tinto.

The prime minister extended an invitation to Rio Tinto Group's CEO and their team to visit Pakistan and explore investment opportunities further. CEO of Rio Tinto Group thanked the prime minister for the invitation and assured that his team would liaise with the relevant authorities to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan's mineral and mining sector.



Regional Director, International Finance Corporation (IFC) for the Middle East, Pakistan and Afghanistan, Khawaja Aftab Ahmed called on Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed.

Commerce minister engages leading retailers to boost exports

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Industries and Production, Dr. Gohar Ejaz on Thursday engaged in productive dialogue with leading retailers to strengthen Pakistan's retail sector to boost exports.

The minister chaired a meeting with prominent retailers from across Pakistan to discuss strategies aimed at enhancing the retail market conditions and improving the nation's exports, said a

press release issued here. The collaborative effort between the government and retailers reflects a shared commitment to achieve economic growth and prosperity. During the meeting, the retailers expressed their strong desire to contribute to Pakistan's export industry.

They emphasized the role they can play in expanding the nation's reach in global markets. Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz affirmed the government's dedication to curbing smuggling activities and ensuring that trade operates through legitimate channels.

He stated, "We believe in you and we appreciate the vital role you play in the economy. The government is committed to providing the best opportunities for retailers to export their goods and expand their domestic market presence."

Natural disasters in Morocco & Libya PTCL Group extends a compassionate hand to Pakistani affected

ISLAMABAD (APP): The initiative aims to connect families in Pakistan with their loved ones in these crisis-stricken countries to help them find strength and solace during these tough times. As these two countries are home to a considerable Pakistani diaspora that has been affected by these calamities,

Morocco and Libya. The initiative aims to connect families in Pakistan with their loved ones in these crisis-stricken countries to help them find strength and solace during these tough times. As these two countries are home to a considerable Pakistani diaspora that has been affected by these calamities,

Govt to set up 5,000 joint E-working centers for freelancers: Dr. Umar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications Dr. Umar Saif has said that steps are being taken to attract global investors in the proposed venture capital for startups.

The minister said he will also visit Saudi Arabia soon while the government is going to set up 5,000 joint e-working centers for freelancers.

Dr. Umar Saif said that interest-free loans to establish the joint E-Working Centers and to facilitate freelancers, resulting in millions of

employment opportunities in the country. He said that there was a positive discussion with the Caretaker Finance Minister Dr. Shamshad Akhtar on a 5-point agenda related to the IT Sector.

The issue of dollar retention to the IT industry was discussed in detail and will give good news in this regard soon. This move will not only transfer overseas IT accounts to Pakistan and restore investor confidence, but also accelerate the flow of dollars in the country and increase the volume of IT exports immediately.



CEO of Rio Tinto Group Jakob Stausholm calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in New York.

OGRA strongly rejects misinformation campaign

ISLAMABAD (APP): Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Thursday strongly denied the false propaganda circulating on social and national media, evidently aimed at maligning the organization and diverting attention from its actions against illegal and malicious activities of illegal smuggling of Iranian oil and use of flare gas.

In an official statement, a spokesperson emphasized that OGRA maintained a profound dedication to its core mission, which involved transparently regulating and overseeing Pakistan's oil and gas sector with the highest standards of

integrity and diligence. The OGRA remains unwavering in efforts to ensure safety, compliance and fairness for all stakeholders and the nation. He urged the public and media to seek accurate information and refrain from spreading harmful misinformation that could damage the reputation of an institution dedicated to safeguarding Pakistan's energy consumers and promoting a responsible oil and gas sector.

The OGRA spokesperson expressed concern that a few self-proclaimed troublemakers are misleading the public with disinformation.



QUETTA: Brigadier Azhar Munir of DHA Quetta addressing during his visit to Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Ambassador Mitsuhiro says: Japan keen to develop trade ties with Pakistan

SIALKOT (INP): Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Mitsuhiro Wada has said that his country is keen to boost trade ties and enhance trade volume with Pakistan. He said this while addressing a meeting of Sialkot exporters held at Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) here on Thursday. The meeting was attended by SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik, Senior Vice President (SVP) Wahub Jahangir, Vice President Amer Majeed Sheikh, and delegations of

various leading firms from Japan and Sialkot business community. The Japanese ambassador stressed the need for making all-out sincere efforts to strengthen mutual trade ties between Pakistan and Japan. He said that Sialkot is famous for its production of soccer balls and others. The ambassador said that both nations had been supportive to each other and last year the two countries celebrated the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations.

PSX stays bullish, gains 107 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Tuesday and gained 107.28 points, showing growth of 0.23 percent, closing at 45,910.47 points against 45,803.19 points the previous trading day.

A total of 117,145,448 shares were traded during the day as compared to 103,494,874 shares, whereas the trading value of shares was recorded at Rs 4.110 billion against Rs 3.296 billion on the last trading day.

India destabilizing region to establish its hegemony: SAPM

FAISALABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights & Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick condemned on Thursday India's destabilizing activities in the region through state-sponsored terrorism, aimed at establishing its own hegemony.

Speaking to the media after participating in a Mehfil-e-Milad at Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) on Thursday, she asserted that India was engaged in disseminating venomous propaganda against Pakistan. This was occurring despite India's own involvement in recent terrorist activities, as

revealed in Canada, where RAW officials were reported to have been involved in the killing of a Khalistan movement activist.

Mushaal went on to highlight India's support for extremist organizations like the RSS, which she claimed was also collaborating with the Indian government and RAW in developing nuclear weapons. She stated that the RSS and RAW had an extensive global network and were allegedly involved in the harassment of Kashmiris and Sikhs not only in Pakistan but also in Australia and Europe.

However, she welcomed Canada's strong response to the killing of a Sikh leader, asserting that

this incident had exposed India's darker side, as well as the malicious intentions of the Modi government. Mushaal claimed that the Indian government was not only supporting terrorists but also promoting terrorism to suppress the movements for Khalistan and Kashmir freedom.

She emphasised that Kashmiris had been struggling for their right to self-determination for the past 75 years, while India continued to use force to deny them their fundamental and constitutional rights. She expressed regret over the silence of the world's human rights advocates on the pressing issue, describing it as deeply unfortunate.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali in a group photo with Dir Bala Public Jirga during meeting at Governor House.

Punjab Govt upgrades 20 high schools to model status in Bhakkar

BHAKKAR (INP): The Punjab government has upgraded twenty government High Schools in Bhakkar district to model schools and entrusted their special ownership to the deputy commissioner.

According to media reports, the deputy commissioner, Dr. Noor Muhammad Awan, recently paid a special visit to Government Secondary School Kotla Jam and Government Model Secondary School Kahwar Kalan to review the performance of the

teachers, education system, cleanliness, discipline, students' uniforms, school washrooms, and computer lab.

Dr. Awan said that all available resources are being utilized to raise the quality of education in the 20 model schools across the district and make them prominent.

He also distributed hundreds of free saplings to school students to promote plantation and urged them to plant these saplings in their homes and take care of them.

Police foil counterfeit currency smuggling attempt

PESHAWAR (INP): In a successful operation, Police have foiled an attempt to smuggle counterfeit currency, resulting in the arrest of a suspect found in possession of Rs. 296,000 worth of fake Pakistani currency notes.

Acting on secret information provided by SHO Jamrud, Shamsad Khan, the vigilant team at the Karkhano Market checkpoint intercepted and detained the suspicious individual, identified as Sikandar, son of Saeed, hailing from Abbottabad.

A thorough search of the suspect revealed the discovery of counterfeit currency notes in his possession.

Punjab Governor says: Goals of economic dev can be achieved only by creating harmony with IT

LAHORE: A delegation of entrepreneurs associated with the IT sector met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, the delegation informed the Governor Punjab about the problems faced by the IT industry. Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the goals of economic development can be achieved only by creating harmony with information technology and innovation. He said that IT education equips the youth with the skills to earn money through on line jobs. Governor Punjab said that he has formed a consortium on IT in universities. He added that

as Chancellor, he has directed the universities to organize IT trainings for students in collaboration with Punjab Information Technology Board. Governor Punjab said that it is very important to give information technology and vocational training to the youth. He said that a large number of vocational courses were started between 2013 and 2018. Governor Punjab said that IT and vocational training create employment opportunities. On this occasion, the delegation told the Governor of Punjab that IT exports can be increased significantly with the support of the government. The delegation also informed the Punjab Governor about the various problems faced by the IT industry.

Fatima murder case: ATC grants 5-day physical remand of accused

KHAIRPUR (INP): An anti-terrorism court on Thursday granted five days physical remand of accused Asad Shah and co-accused, Imtiaz Meerasi in the murder case of child maid Fatima Phurro.

The investigation officer produced accused Asad Shah and his facilitator Imtiaz Meerasi before the court of Badar Qazi today. The investigation officer pleaded for 15 days' physical remand of the

accused. However, the ATC judge approved a five-day remand of the accused in the murder case.

The police on Wednesday released four accused including, SHO Ameer Chang, Dr Fatah Memon and Dr Ali Hasan Watan. In the murder case of Fatima Phurro who died in the Haveli of Ranipur. The investigating officer claimed that the suspects were set free as they were not named in the FIR.

Two dead, seven injured as pick up overturns on M2

PINDI BHATTIAN (INP): Two passengers were killed while seven others wounded after a pick up they were travelling in turned side down on Motorway 2 near Pindi Bhattian on Thursday, rescuers and police said.

The ill-fated vehicle was heading to Sargodha from Lahore at the time of the incident.

Irshad commends PDMA performance

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Justice (R) Irshad Qaiser, the Provincial Minister for Rehabilitation and Resettlement, Social Welfare, Special Education, Women Empowerment, and Prisons in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, paid a visit to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) headquarters. During this visit, Director General PDMA, Jannat Gul Afridi, provided a comprehensive briefing to the caretaker provincial minister regarding the various divisions and the performance of PDMA. Several PDMA directors and officers were also in attendance. In his briefing, DGP

PDMA Jannat Gul Afridi mentioned that PDMA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa annual prepares Monsoon Contingency Plans, Heat Wave Plans, and Winter Contingency Plans in collaboration with stakeholders. These plans classify sensitive districts and ensure that relief materials are pre-positioned in these areas.

Furthermore, during the briefing, it was highlighted that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa faced significant losses due to floods in 2022. However, due to improved strategies and systems, over four lakh people were successfully relocated to safe areas.

Charsi Tikka owner arrested for 'molesting' foreign tourists

PESHAWAR (INP): The owner of one of the most famous eateries in Pakistan, Charsi Tikka, Nisar Charsi has been arrested by police for molesting foreign tourists.

Several videos of Nisar Charsi, the owner of the famous Peshawar-based eatery 'Charsi Tikka' in Namak Mandi Food Street, went viral on social media in which he was misbehaving with women tourists from foreign countries.



KARACHI: Patients are sitting after operation during the three-day free eye medical camp organized by Pakistan Insaan Dost Party, at Saddar Regal Chowk in Karachi.



KARACHI: Members of Islami Jamiat Tulba are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use and petroleum products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills, held at Shaheen Complex in Karachi.

International News

South Korean leader warns Russia against weapons collaboration with the North

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: South Korea's president sounded a warning to fellow world leaders Wednesday about the recent communication and possible cooperation between North Korea and Russia, saying any action by a permanent U.N. Security Council member to circumvent international norms would be dangerous and "paradoxical."

Speaking before the U.N. General Assembly, Yoon Suk Yeol invoked North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's visit last week to Russia, which is one of the five permanent members of the council, the

U.N.'s most powerful body.

Kim met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Russia's far east. The two said they may cooperate on defense issues but gave no specifics, which left South Korea and its allies — including the United States — uneasy.

"It is paradoxical that a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, entrusted as the ultimate guardian of world peace, would wage war by invading another sovereign nation and receive arms and ammunition from a regime that blatantly violates Security Council

resolutions," Yoon told fellow leaders on the second day of the U.N. General Assembly's annual gathering of leaders. He had been expected to raise the issue.

Yoon said that if North Korea "acquires the information and technology necessary" to enhance its weapons of mass destruction in exchange for giving conventional weapons to Russia, that would also be unacceptable to the South. "Such a deal between Russia and the DPRK will be a direct provocation threatening the peace and security of not only Ukraine but also the Republic of Korea."



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau holds a press conference on the sidelines of the UNGA in New York, U.S.

Saudis, Houthis hold talks to end Yemen war

Monitoring Desk RIYADH: Saudi Arabia and the Iran-backed Houthis rebels put a positive spin on historic but inconclusive talks in Riyadh on Wednesday as diplomatic efforts increased to end Yemen's bitter war.

The five days of talks were "positive", Saudi officials and a senior Houthi said, after the rebel delegation ended the first public visit to the Saudi capital since hostilities broke out between the two sides. Underlining the change in atmosphere, the delegation included Hosain Homood

Ala'zi, who in 2017 appeared on a Saudi list of wanted Houthis with a \$5 million reward for information leading to his arrest.

Riyadh mobilised an international military coalition against the Houthis in March 2015, months after the northern fighters with links to Tehran had seized the capital and threatened to overrun the country bordering southern Saudi Arabia.

Hundreds of thousands have died in the fighting or from its impacts, including famine, and millions have been displaced in what the United Nations calls one

of the world's worst humanitarian crises. As the Houthis left, the top diplomats of the United States, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — a key coalition member, and influential in Yemen's government-held south — met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in his meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan and the UAE's Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed, welcomed the Riyadh talks "aimed at achieving a roadmap to end the conflict."

Canada's Trudeau wants India to cooperate in murder probe, won't release evidence

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Thursday called on India to cooperate with an investigation into the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in British Columbia and said Canada would not release its evidence.

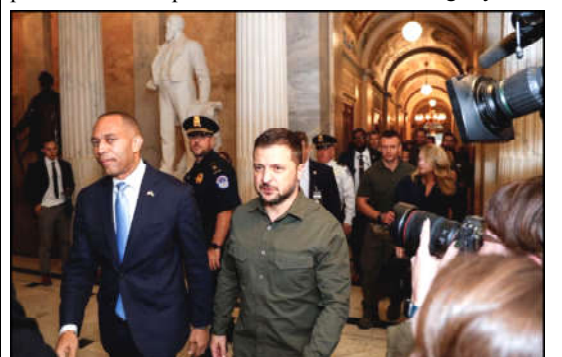
Trudeau said on Monday that Ottawa had credible allegations linking Indian government agents to the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June, prompting an angry reaction from New Delhi. Nijjar, 45, was a Canadian citizen.

"We're not looking to provoke or cause problems.

But we are unequivocal around the importance of the rule of law and unequivocal about the importance of protecting Canadians," Trudeau told a news conference in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

"That's why we call upon the government of India to work with us to establish processes to discover and to uncover the truth of the matter."

Trudeau sidestepped several questions about when Canada might release the evidence it had, saying merely that the decision to share the allegations had not been made lightly.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is escorted by Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives Hakeem Jeffries as he arrives to meet privately with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) and other congressional leaders on a visit to the U.S. Capitol in Washington.



Syria's President Bashar al-Assad and his wife Asma are welcomed upon their arrival at Hangzhou airport.

Syrian President Bashar Assad is in China on his first visit since the beginning of war in Syria

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: Syrian President Bashar Assad arrived in China on Thursday on his first visit to the country since the start of Syria's 12-year conflict, one in which Beijing has been one of his main backers.

China's Foreign Ministry said Assad would join other foreign leaders attending the opening ceremony of the Asian Games, an international sports event beginning Saturday in the eastern city of Hangzhou. China has been ex-

panding its reach in the Middle East after mediating a deal in March between Saudi Arabia and Iran, and it continues to support Assad in the Syrian conflict, which has killed half a million people and left large parts of the nation in ruins.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said Assad's visit would "further deepen political mutual trust and cooperation in various fields between the two countries and push bilateral relations to a new level."

Mexican president eyes Washington meeting with Biden in November

Monitoring Desk MEXICO CITY: Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said on Thursday he had proposed a visit to Washington in November to meet with U.S. President Joe Biden, and had also invited Biden to visit Mexico.

Speaking at a regular government press conference, Lopez Obrador said that he planned to discuss migration, drug trafficking, violence and trade with his U.S. counterpart.

He said he had proposed Washington because he was no longer going to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in San Francisco in November, citing Mexico's lack of diplomatic relations with Peru, the APEC forum's next chair.

India stops new visas for Canadians, asks Ottawa to downsize missions

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: India on Thursday suspended new visas for Canadians and asked Ottawa to reduce its diplomatic presence in the country, sharply escalating a spat triggered by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's accusations linking New Delhi to a Sikh separatist's murder. The Indian foreign ministry said Canada has not shared any specific information in connection with the allegations Trudeau made and that New Delhi was willing to look at it if provided.

A blanket suspension of new visas by India for a Western country is unheard of and marks the lowest point of India-Canada relations. The announcement came hours after Canada's high commission in India said it would temporarily "adjust" staff presence in the country after some diplomats received threats on social media platforms.

But Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said Ottawa had been asked to reduce numbers.

Poland is done sending arms to Ukraine, Polish leader says as trade dispute escalates

Monitoring Desk WARSAW: Poland's prime minister said his country is no longer sending arms to Ukraine, a comment that appeared aimed at pressuring Kyiv and put Poland's status as a major source of military equipment in doubt as a trade dispute between the neighboring states escalates. Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said in an interview late.

Italy PM Meloni's party irks bad loan investors with new proposal

Monitoring Desk ROME: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's party has filed a new proposal to protect borrowers if they fall behind in repaying their bank debt, another move that investors said stoked risks for the country's 307 billion euro (\$328 bln) bad loan market.

Italian lawmakers upset bad loan investors last month by proposing to give borrowers the right to repay their original loan at the discounted price at which the creditor bank

sold it, plus a 20% premium. To dispel concerns, Meloni said on Sept. 7 that there were no measures "on the launch pad" for non-performing loans.

However, lawmakers from Meloni's Brothers of Italy party have now put forward to parliament another rule that would make it easier to apply their initial proposal.

"The latest amendment aims to help borrowers buy back loans," Senator Renato Ancorotti, one of the promoters of the measure, told Reuters.



NEW YORK: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a meeting with Vice-President of China Han Zheng at the sidelines of UNGA Summit in New York

PM lauds China's unflinching support to Pak socio-economic development

NEW YORK (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has appreciated China's unflinching support to Pakistan's territorial integrity, sovereignty and socio-economic development.

The Prime Minister and Vice-President of China Han Zheng met at the sidelines of UNGA Summit in New York on Thursday.

The Prime Minister noted that China's firm opposition to holding any G20 meeting in the disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir reflected China's principled stance for upholding international law and UN resolutions.

The conversation was marked by traditional warmth and cordiality that has been the hallmark of Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

During the meeting, the two leaders exchanged views on the entire gamut of bilateral relationship including CPEC and bilateral economic and financial co-operation.

In his remarks, Vice-President Han Zheng said that Pakistan-China friendship is unique and has withstood the vicissitude of time due to deep fraternal ties between the peoples of two nations.

He said as a close neighbor and iron-brother, Pakistan occupies a special position in China's neighbourhood diplomacy and that China would continue its efforts for safeguarding Pakistan's core interests and for the economic development and prosperity of the people of Pakistan. Expressing satisfaction at the steady development of CPEC projects in Pakistan, the two sides agreed on the centrality of CPEC for Pakistan's socio-economic development and expressed their firm commitment to continue working together for realizing its shared objectives.

The two leaders also expressed satisfaction at the celebratory events held in both countries to mark the 10th anniversary of CPEC.

Govt started implementation on 100-day plan of action for promotion of education: Domki

Caretaker CM directs to release funds for making lab of DHQ Hospital fully functional

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the interim provincial government has started implementation on the 100-day plan of action for promotion of education in the province.

He was speaking on occasion of the visit of Government Degree Boys and Girls Colleges, Ziarat on Thursday.

The Principal of College, Professor Naeqebullah Kakar briefed the caretaker Chief Minister about the functioning of college.

He said that the

classes for girls and boys are conducted in the same building. The classes for girls are conducted in evening while classes for boys students are conducted in the morning, the Principal informed.

He also informed that 529 students including 346 male and 183 female are enrolled in the college.

The caretaker Chief Minister on the occasion directed Secretary Education to provide academic staff and basic facilities in the college.

He also directed to ensure recruitment of lecturers of all subjects in the

colleges. Moreover, he also directed the Secretary Colleges to submit him a report within a month by ensuring provision of basic facilities in the colleges in interior province. Meanwhile the caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has directed the concerned authorities to release funds for making the machinery of laboratory of District Headquarter Hospital (DHQ) functional.

He also assured that the issue of shortage of medicines in DHQ Hospital Ziarat would be resolved soon.

Inefficient SOEs inflict Rs500b loss to national kitty in 2022: Shamshad

ISLAMABAD (INP): Owing to inefficiencies and mismanagement, the deficient State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) incurred overall losses of around Rs500 billion to the national exchequer during last year (2022), Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Dr Shamshad Akhtar said on Thursday.

Addressing a press conference, the minister said there were also profit-making enterprises, which earned an aggregate profit of Rs330 billion out of which Rs185 billion was made by oil and gas companies. In past, the minister said, the governments had established a range of SOEs with good objectives and these promoted economic development besides providing essential public services.

She said, these enterprises spanned over energy, telecommunications, transportation, trade, marketing and financial sector. However, she added, these entities suffered due to lack of autonomy, external interference, weak management, limited accountability, inappropriate boards, which she said resulted in financial losses and decline in quality of services. "There has been massive drain in public resources."

However, the minister added, when privatized, the banking industry was one of the biggest success stories in Pakistan.



ZIARAT: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki talking with students during his visit of Government College Ziarat.

Caretaker gov empowered under law to expedite privatization process: Fawad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Privatization Fawad Hassan Fawad, out rightly rejecting any special agenda, said on Thursday that the caretaker government was fully empowered under law to expedite the process for privatization of loss-making state-owned

addition was made to the privatization list, which was updated by the last successive elected governments.

He said the previous elected government had made necessary amendments in the relevant law empowering the caretakers to carry forward the

privatization process of SOEs, which was initiated by the last government but their transactions were not yet finalized. The minister said that a time-frame was duly fixed to carry out the privatization of each loss-making entity that could not be skipped.

He, however, dispelled the impression that he had been given a special task to shut down the operations of a certain organization.

He said that the Privatization Commission was taking steps to reduce the losses of certain SOEs, which were a burden on the national exchequer.

Fawad said when he took over the office, it was told that the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was facing financial crisis and needed funds to fully restore its flight operations, which were provided within 48 hours.



enterprises (SOEs), initiated way back in 2001-02.

Addressing a news conference along with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi, he clarified that no

privatization process. Fawad reaffirmed that whatever authority the caretaker government was exercising, was within the ambit of law, as it was only completing the



ISLAMABAD: Chief of General Staff Saudi Armed Forces, General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili meeting with Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu at Air Headquarters.

Saudi Chief of General Staff lauds exceptional progress of PAF thru indigenization

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of General Staff Saudi Armed Forces, General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili on Thursday called on Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu here at Air Headquarters.

Leading a high level delegation, the Saudi Chief of General Staff expressed his admiration for the exceptional progress made by the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), particularly in the area of indigenization and lauded the professionalism of PAF personnel during the meeting whereas the delegation also underscored discussion on several key areas of mutual interest, defence co-operation and geo-strategic situation, a PAF news release said.

On his arrival, a

smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili the guard of honour. Later, the visiting dignitary was introduced to the Principal Staff Officers. During the meeting, the Chief of the Air Staff shared his pragmatic policy decisions aimed at modernizing PAF through the smart acquisition of niche technologies with a special focus on artificial intelligence, cyberspace, and electronic warfare, in addition to the upgradation of infrastructure and revitalization of operational and training domains. The Air Chief highlighted that Saudi Arabia being the center of the Muslim world and a significant strategic partner, has longstanding religious, cultural,

SC dismisses appeal pertaining to refund of income tax under tribal areas' special status

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Thursday dismissed an appeal in a case pertaining to income tax refund under the special status of tribal areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

A three-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa heard the case. During the course of proceedings, Riaz Hussain, the petitioner's counsel, adopted the stance that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and the Customs Department had issued notifications related to tax refunds for tribal people.

The CJ questioned whether the petitioner wanted issuance of separate notifications for the tribal areas vis-à-vis all laws of Pakistan.

Ahmed Ali says: Agriculture Dept backbone of our provincial economy

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Caretaker Minister of Industry and Commerce, Excise and Taxation and Energy, Prince Ahmed Ali Ahmadzai on Thursday said that the agriculture sector is the backbone of our provincial economy which could not be ignored under any circumstances.

As 70 percent of the population's livelihood is related to this sector, steps are being taken under comprehensive planning for its improvement, he said.

He said that due to

drought and load shedding of electricity, the difficulties faced by our landlords and farmers while the provincial government is fully aware of this. The Minister said that the provincial government under the leadership of Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki is taking concrete steps for a sustainable solution to this issue in the jurisdiction of the provincial government. Prince Ahmed Ali Ahmadzai said that there is a need to develop the agricultural sector on modern lines to provide manpower.



QUETTA: Caretaker Home Minister Capt. (Retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali in a meeting with Caretaker Education Minister Abdul Qadir.

CM terms Quaid-e-Azam Residence of Ziarat as great asset of people of Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that Quaid-e-Azam Residency of Ziarat is a great asset of people of the province.

He said that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had great affection with Balochistan and its people. He (Quaid) used to run the matters about freedom movement and later affairs of the newly created country (Pakistan) while staying in Ziarat.

The caretaker Chief Minister was speaking on occasion of his visit to the Quaid-e-Azam Residency in Ziarat on Thursday.

He reached Ziarat on his first visit after assuming the office of Chief Minister.

He visited different parts of the Quaid Residency and planted a sapling in its premises. He also wrote his comments on the register.

While speaking on the occasion, Mir Ali Mardan Domki said that Quaid's affection with people of the province was evident from the frequent visits he had paid to the province before and after inception of the country.

He said that Quaid-e-Azam had started paying visit to the province in the middle of 1934. He also said that the demand about reforms in Balochistan was also included in the famous 14 points of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Coordinated efforts always improves internal and external defense: Rizwan

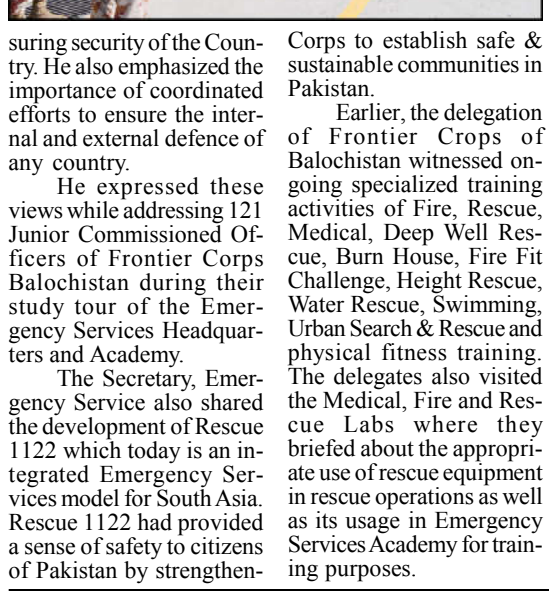
FC Balochistan visits emergency services headquarters and academy

Independent Report
LAHORE: The Secretary, the Emergency Services Department Dr Rizwan Naseer saluted to all forces working on borders and en-

ing emergency response capacity for managing all kinds of complex emergencies and disasters. He also shared the new initiative of raising a Rescue Scout

Corps to establish safe & sustainable communities in Pakistan.

Earlier, the delegation of Frontier Corps of Balochistan witnessed ongoing specialized training activities of Fire, Rescue, Medical, Deep Well Rescue, Burn House, Fire Fit Challenge, Height Rescue, Water Rescue, Swimming, Urban Search & Rescue and physical fitness training. The delegates also visited the Medical, Fire and Rescue Labs where they briefed about the appropriate use of rescue equipment in rescue operations as well as its usage in Emergency Services Academy for training purposes.



Caretaker Information Minister Balochistan appreciates Tech Valley & Google's Initiatives

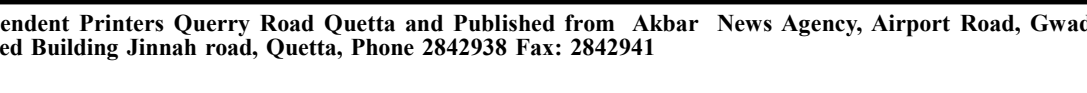
Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Information Minister of Balochistan, Jan Achakzai, engaged in a fruitful meeting with Umar Farooq, the CEO of Tech Valley, a Google for Education and Google Workspace Partner in Pakistan. He appreciated the efforts of Tech Valley and Google in bringing capacity building projects to Balochistan, especially the Google Career Certificates program.

The Google Career Certificates program is a flexible, self-paced online training program that can prepare learners for careers in various high-growth fields, such as IT support, project management, and data analytics. The program is taught by Google experts and includes specialized training, assessments, mentorship sessions, and hands-on practical experience. Mr. Achakzai was particularly impressed with

the fact that the Google Career Certificates program is accessible to everyone, regardless of their background or experience. He believes that the program can play a vital role in empowering the youth of Balochistan and helping them to develop the skills they need to succeed in the digital economy.

In addition to the Google Career Certificates program, Tech Valley is also working to digitize the

Information Department of Balochistan under a pilot program. The integration of Google Workspace, a comprehensive productivity suite, has helped to streamline and modernize departmental operations, enhancing efficiency and facilitating better service delivery to the citizens of Balochistan. Mr. Achakzai commended Tech Valley for its dedication to improving digital literacy and employability in Balochistan.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan being briefed by Senior Member Board of Revenue Abdul Saboor Kakar regarding departmental affairs.

Complain cell set up: Commissioner releases detail of action taken against profiteering, encroachments

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Commissioner Quetta Division has released detail of the action taken against the profiteering, encroachments, illegal crush plants as well as the petrol pumps and vehicles in the division.

According to the detail, different teams of administration conducted inspection of different areas and made 95 arrests on different charges during the period from September 13 to 19, 2023.

Similarly, in all 57 shops were sealed with Rs. 164,000 fine also charged to the shopkeepers on violation of certain code.

Moreover, the administration teams also seized 750 tons of sugar and 1,000 tons of Urea. Meanwhile, a divisional complaint cell has been established for the general public at the commissioner office on Thursday.

The Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Quetta Division, Muhammad Hanif Kibzai has been appointed the Incharge of complaint cell. The general public may submit their complaints about Tehsil/Revenue staff or revenue affairs, DC office, settlement office, sub-registrar office, Regional Transport Authority and other public issues in the complaint cell.



QUETTA: Activists of Pashitunkhwa Mili Awami Party (PKMAP) are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, outside Customs office in Quetta.

Umair visits Zinc & Lead project in Duddar, Kanraj

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Advisor to caretaker Chief Minister for Mines and Minerals Development Department, Sardarzada Umair Muhammad Hassani visited the Zinc and Lead Project in Duddar, Kanraj area of Lasbela on Thursday.

He inspected the MCC Huayee Duddar Mining Company's project site. He on the occasion visited different sections of the Duddar mining.

The Vice President Mr. Luikai briefed the Advisor to Chief Minister about the project. It was informed that SOPs are being implemented regarding health and safety at the project.

Similarly, it was also

informed that the company management is also working for welfare of the community under corporate social sector responsibility on directions of the Lasbela administration.

The Advisor said that Chinese engineers are working as per the capacity of processing designed in the Duddar Zinc and Lead mine project with assistance of the Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation.

He on the occasion vowed to strengthen the China-Pakistan economic social relations further.

Meanwhile, Umair Muhammad Hassani also inspected the Duddar mining command and control operation system.