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Committee formed for first Cloud Policy 2023 of Balochistan: Caretaker Balochistan cabinet approves magistrate powers for EPA under Environmental Protection Act

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Balochistan cabinet has approved to confer the powers of magistrate to the concerned Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Section 1 of clause Section 32 of the Balochistan Environmental Protection Act 2012.

The interim cabinet also approved to release funds for the Paeds oncology established with co-operation of Indus Hospital in the Sheikh Zayed Hospital Quetta.

The cabinet was agreed upon to extend as-

sistance to all projects of public nature at the government level. In addition to this, the treachery care hospitals would also be improved all over the province further. The decisions were made during the meeting of interim cabinet of Balochistan met with the Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki in the chair on Monday. It was second meeting of the interim provincial cabinet chaired by Mr. Domki.

The cabinet decided to form a committee regarding first ever cloud policy 2023 of Balochistan by the department of Science and

Information Technology. The committee would present the policy in the next cabinet meeting for approval after thorough consideration.

Moreover, the cabinet also approved the amended policy of the establishment of the Project Directors, Project staff and Project management unit under the department of Planning and Development Department. The cabinet also decided to improve the solid waste management system in Quetta.

Similarly, it was decided to present the pending rules of all departments

for approval after being vetted from the concerned forums. Addressing the cabinet meeting, the caretaker Chief Minister mentioned that certain important decisions were made about the pending matters of different departments as well as those related to the public interests and administrative affairs.

He pledged that whatever time we have would be utilized for the public welfare. e said that the basic objective behind approval of the important decisions is a step forward towards good governance in the province.



LONDON: A delegation of prominent British Pakistani businessmen call on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.



RAWALPINDI: Moderator and President Bishops (Church of Pakistan and Bishop of Raiwind) Dr. Azad Marshall along with 13 members' delegation of Christian Community called on the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir at General Headquarters

Expresses deep respect for Christian community COAS calls for promoting greater interfaith harmony in society

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir Monday expressed deep respect for Christian community and stressed upon the need for promoting greater interfaith harmony in society in order to follow Quaid's true vision of a united and progressive Pakistan.

Moderator and President Bishops (Church of Pakistan and Bishop of Raiwind) Dr. Azad Marshall along with 13 members' delegation of Christian Community called on the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) here at General Headquarters, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, religious and inter-faith harmony were discussed. The COAS lauded the contributions of Pakistani

Christian Community in national development, including promotion of quality education, healthcare and philanthropic services and outstanding role played by them for the defence of the motherland.

The Army Chief emphasised, "Islam is a religion of peace and there is no space for intolerance and extremism in Islam and society. No one can be allowed to take law in his own hands in a civilised society". The Christian Community members acknowledged Pakistan Army's efforts in combating terrorism and providing secure environment to the minorities in the country.

They appreciated Army Chief's gesture as an inspiration for Pakistani minorities to take greater and more active part in nation building and in restoring their faith in a cohesive and tolerant society.

Journalist Imran Riaz recovered, reaches home

SIALKOT (Online): Journalist Imran Riaz Khan has been recovered and has reached his home.

District police have affixed post about recovery and return to his home on their twitter, face book, instagram tek tok page.

Imran Riaz was arrested after violent demonstrations across the country on May 9 following the arrest of Imran Khan, chairman PTI.

Imran Riaz Khan was flying to Muscat from Sialkot international airport when FIA arrested him and handed over him to police.

Following his arrest he was taken to police station cant and then Sialkot jail.

Father of Imran Riaz Khan filed application in Lahore High Court (LHC) that his son was kidnapped. The kidnapping case of Imran Riaz Khan was registered in civil lines police station under the report of his father.

Solangi participates in SCO's Television Festival 2023 in China

NANJING (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday participated in the Television Festival 2023, organized by Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Nanjing, China.

On the occasion, Murtaza Solangi met Chinese Minister for National Radio and TV Cao Shumin and thanked her for organizing the festival.

During the meeting, both ministers expressed the resolve to enhance cooperation in the areas of television and radio.

They vowed to promote innovation in media technology and exchange of journalist delegations.

Murtaza Solangi called for initiating the Chinese Hour programme on Pakistan Television (PTV).

He also stressed for promoting the activities of Chinese media in Pakistan.



QUETTA: Regional Director National University of Modern Languages Quetta Campus Lt. General (Retd) Nisar Ahmed meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

For stabilizing country's system: Financial discipline, transparency & accountability must: Governor Kakar

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has bringing discipline in financial affairs, transparency and accountability in the administrative matters in all national institutions is very necessary for stabilizing the system of country.

The Governor said that the expeditious development of technology and especially its impacts on the accounting and auditing has increased the trend of innovation a lot.

Therefore, it is very necessary to benefit from the modern technology.

These views were expressed by the Governor

while speaking to the Accountant General Balochistan, Hasan Saqlain, who called on him here at the Governor House on Monday.

Speaking to him, the Governor urged the AG and his team to create easiness for all the in service and retired employees regarding their salaries and pensions.

He also asked them to expand their performance and services at the district level.

In this regard, the present government has improved the administrative and financial discipline, he mentioned adding that more steps are required to ensure good governance.

NAB submits 15 more references in AC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has submitted fifteen more references to the accountability court after examining the legal details. The Registrar of the Accountability Court and NAB Prosecutor appeared in the court of Judge Muhammad Bashir and informed the court about the legal aspects of the references.

Caretaker CM reaches Gwadar: GoB starts implementation on roadmap of expediting work on dev. projects

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Government of Balochistan has started implementation on the roadmap of executing the ongoing development projects and expediting speed of work on them in Gwadar.

To review this, the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki reached the port city on Monday.

The Commissioner Makran Division, Saeed Ahmed Umrani, Director General Gwadar Development Authority, Mubeen ur Rehman Qambrani and Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Aurangzeb Badini welcomed the Chief Minister upon his arrival at the Gwadar airport.

Khawar Maneka arrested while trying to escape to Dubai

Independent Report

LAHORE (Online): Immigration has arrested Khawar Maneka from Airport.

He was going to Dubai by Emirates Airline.

According to sources, Khawar Maneka was stopped at Allama Iqbal International Airport because his name was included in Exit Control List.

A case is registered against Khawar Maneka by Anti-Corruption.

On the other hand, according to spokesperson of Anti-Corruption Establishment Punjab, Khawar Maneka has been arrested on the charge of illegal construction on government land. An inquiry is being made on the reference of Deputy Commissioner against Khawar Farid Maneka.

Overseas Pakistanis need to avail investment opportunities in Pakistan: PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday invited the overseas Pakistanis to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the government for investment in Pakistan.

The removal of import restrictions and efforts to restore the business community's confidence are expected to further boost external accounts, he added. PM Kakar spoke about Pakistan's investment-friendly approach, mentioning incentives and ease-of-business reforms. He introduced the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to streamline investment in key sectors through a single-window platform.

This initiative aims at enhancing ease of doing business, removing bureaucratic hurdles, and creating a long-term investment roadmap. Moreover, Prime Minister Kakar also shared the government's resolve and commitment to privatize loss-making state-owned enterprises.

During a meeting with a delegation of prominent British Pakistani businessmen which called on him in London, the prime minister invited the diaspora businessmen to invest, especially in Special Economic Zones, to contribute to Pakistan's economic recovery. The prime minister highlighted positive economic indicators resulting from reforms pursued by the interim government, including a strengthening Pak. Rupee, reduced inflation, and expected economic growth.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over meeting of Provincial Cabinet

PM's speech at GA is reflection of aspiration of Pakistani people: Jan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The interim cabinet of Balochistan has fully endorsed the stance taken by the caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session recently regarding state terrorism of India in the Occupied Kashmir.

The cabinet described the stance adopted by the PM Kakar at United Nations as very positive, and as such the cabinet and people of Balochistan are standing by that stance of PM.

This and similar other views were expressed by the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai while addressing a hurriedly called press conference soon after the cabinet meeting at the CM's secretariat on Monday.

The caretaker Minister Information said that India

IHC orders to shift chairman PTI from Attock jail to Adiala jail

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice (CJ) Islamabad High Court (IHC) has remarked chairman PTI is under trial prisoner and under trial prisoners are kept in Adiala Jail and why then Chairman PTI has been kept in Attock jail. The CJ IHC remarked chairman PTI be shifted to Adiala jail. Former Prime Minister (PM) should not be kept deprived of facilities under victimization.

The CJ IHC while ordering to provide all facilities under jail manual in jail to chairman PTI arrested in cipher case has remarked the status of conviction of chairman PTI has changed. He is under trial prisoner after suspension of his sentence who are kept in Adiala jail.

that the tendency for getting date will not run now. The number of pending cases in court is too much high. There should be notice on one date and arguments on next date here. In other courts it happens so that date is given for presenting any document. When some case comes in SC its all documents are complete.

The CJ further remarked give the arguments in one language. Improve your Urdu or English.

The court while giving this order adjourned the hearing of the case.



QUETTA: Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai talking with mediemen

WB playing important role in socio-economic dev. of Pakistan: Chief secretary

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has stated that the World Bank is an important partner out of major development partners of Pakistan. The government values the decade long ongoing assistance a lot which is playing an important role in the socio-economic development of the country.

The Chief Secretary also appreciated the continuous support and resolve of the World Bank for the flood affected areas of the province besides ongoing development projects in

Balochistan. The Chief Secretary was speaking to the country director of World Bank, Najy Benhassine, who called on him along with his team here on Monday.

During the course of meeting, the development projects between Pakistan and World Bank were discussed.

In addition to this, matters regarding construction of houses for the flood affected people in the province, water supply projects in Quetta city, Balochistan human capital project and assistance for promotion of other activities were also discussed. Moreover, there was consensus on continuing cooperation in development of Human Resources, educational and professional training, employment, water, agriculture, irrigation and livestock sectors.

Also present in the meeting were secretary Irrigation, Hafiz Abdul Majid, secretary Health, Asfandyar kakar, secretary Population welfare, Abdullah Khan, Secretary Education, Abdul Rauf Baloch, secretary Public Health Engineering, Saleh Muhammad Baloch and secretary Planning Asghar Harifal.



QUETTA: Country director of World Bank, Najy Benhassine meeting with Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Caretaker PM's landmark address at 78th UNGA

The caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar's address at the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Friday last was really remarkable and landmark. In his address, the PM called for countering all forms of terrorism, including "Hindutva extremists". Urging the chair, Kakar emphasized that "Mr. President, we must counter all terrorists without discrimination including the rising threat by far-right and fascist groups such as Hindutva-inspired extremists threatening genocide against India's Muslims and Christians alike." He also urged opposition against the root causes of terrorism which according to him included poverty, injustice, foreign occupation and distinguishing genuine freedom struggles from terrorism. "Pakistan proposes the creation of a committee of the general assembly to oversee the balanced implementation of all four pillars of the global counter-terrorism strategy."

Earlier the PM Kakar had also warned that the "disgusting reality behind Hindu nationalism politics could ensnare the world in 'fires of war'". His comments come amid the backdrop of an unprecedented flareup of tensions between India and Canada where the latter has accused the former of killing a Sikh separatist leader on Canadian soil.

During an interview on the sidelines of UNGA, PM Kakar said: "We will raise [the issue] at different forums, not because we want to do any propaganda against India, but because of the disgusting reality hidden behind Hindutva's political agenda in which fascism and chauvinism are very deeply rooted, it is such a dangerous phenomenon that it can ensnare the whole region and the rest of the world in the fires of war." He went on to say, "We will continue playing our role in highlighting that major issue... we will talk about it wherever we get the opportunity."

The premier said Hindutva politics had affected the region, particularly Balochistan, adding that Pakistan had evidence to support its claims, which included the confession of high-ranking Indian military officer Kulbhushan Jadhav.

"We have been suffering this face and side of India but the problem is that this is hitting Western capitals now," PM Kakar said. Pakistan would not mock Western countries for not paying heed to the warnings but would instead play a role in ensuring that the danger [of Hindutva] was understood and action was taken to stop it.

The prime minister said the slain Sikh separatist leader was "innocent" and a "martyr", adding that the murder of an innocent person was a "major crime". At the outset of his UNGA address, the premier said world leaders had gathered today at a "tense and pivotal moment in history", referring to the Russia-Ukraine war and tensions between other global powers. "We see the rise of old and new military and political blocs... geopolitics is resurging when geoeconomics should have primacy."

He emphasized that the world could not afford another cold war as there were far greater challenges confronting humans that demanded global cooperation and collective action. Many countries of the global south have barely managed to stave off defaults, poverty and hunger have grown, reversing development gains of three decades. The premier lamented that last year's "epic floods" had submerged one-third of the country, killed 1,700 people, displaced over eight million people, destroyed vital infrastructure, destroyed vital infrastructure and caused over \$30 billion in damage to the economy.



Adeel Wahid

The business model of law firms in Pakistan is oppressive. It is exploitative and unfair, and not meant to attract individuals with talent, integrity and ambition.

One of the major criticisms of the legal profession is that it is ironically manned with many who unreservedly resort to any means, even unfair, to get things done. To ensure that they hold on to their clients, lawyers may provide services of bribing court staff, stenographers and sometimes allegedly even the judges, too. And not all bribes are considered the bad kind; some are expressly asked to be paid by the litigants themselves. The snail's pace at which the judiciary can be brought to function requires, at times, greasing palms only to get things moving.

There are many reasons why the lawyers in Pakistan are the way they are: dismal legal education, tribalism and politicisation of bar associations, and unprofessional and unethical practices normalised through their pervasive use over the years. Most ironically, however, it is not a profession that the aspiring and diligent high school students in Pakistan usually have their ambitions set on. Most of the time, the upright ones just want to steer clear.

Structurally, the challenges are many. To begin with, employment opportunities in law are few, the graduates many. Pakistan's economy is primarily informal, not governed by established principles and rules. Second, the judicial system

Fair play

is badly broken and is highly unpredictable. The better option for litigants often is to opt out of the ordeal of an unwieldy system. Third, the state and moneyed interests, as apparent from recent events, do not consider themselves bound by any rules. The result: there is just as much that the law and lawyers can do in Pakistan.

And then there is this entrenched status quo of lawyers, guarding their monopoly with ever watchful eyes. The 'face value' already exists, the stays come easy, with no incentive to pay even below-minimum wages to fresh graduate lawyers. It should come as no surprise that in a society where many lawyers are seen as having few qualms about employing unjust means to obtain relief for their clients, the lofty notions of fairness do not dictate the manner in which the new entrants in the profession are treated. The results in the courtroom are not necessarily procured on the basis of the cogency of arguments or the strength of evidence. If they were, even for the most part, there might have been a need for people with aptitude and talent. But, it seems there is no such need.

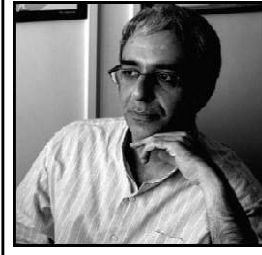
Even without any such need, there are some brilliant lawyers in Pakistan. And most of them deservingly do get to the top. But when they do, the bookkeeping instincts of many kick in. Upending the status quo might not fit in their calculus. And very little is allowed to trickle down, and by design.

Meanwhile, results from the courts, in many instances, can be attained on the basis of other considerations. In a class-conscious society, from the perspective of an employer, it can potentially be more rewarding to hire gradu-

ates who went to the right school and, even more importantly, who have relatives in the right positions, since that may be a firmer guarantor of ensuring a ready stream of clients and favourable orders. This cohort also comes with the added advantage of not being solely dependent on the meagre stipend initially handed out.

And who cares if any hardworking, ambitious and talented potential lawyers, not from those right schools and backgrounds, are compelled to choose other careers. Who advised them to do law anyways? The industry monopolised by some, with no meagre contribution from judges, requires a reset. And in such a reset, there is guidance to be sought not from any wisdom produced by the legal minds in Pakistan. It may be better to look outside, and askance, towards the culture that pervades the world of venture capital, contained in Sebastian Mallaby's *The Power Law: Venture Capital and Making of the New Future*. While the dynamics of Silicon Valley are completely distinct, there is still inspiration to be sought in its original story, which prominently features Arthur Rock and his key insight, that the most opportune investment is in the "intellectual book value" where the emphasis has to be "on the people who you hope will capitalise on their intellect". As Arthur Rock would put it, it is all about "backing the right people".

Arthur Rock, "a self-made loner", also famously said, that "I never wanted to be the richest corpse in the cemetery", and that too, in a world curated to make money, and not justice. -- Courtesy Dawn



Zarrar Khuhro

India is having its moment in the sun; the economy is booming, it has landed on the South Pole of the moon and New Delhi just hosted the G20, which was a massive coming-out party for Modi. Earlier, Modi had the red carpet rolled out for him in Washington where the administration fawned over a man who, up until fairly recently, was barred from entering the US due to his complicity in the Gujarat massacres in which over 1,000 people, mostly Muslims, were killed and countless women raped, often in front of their families.

However, times change, and India's burgeoning economy and its value as a hedge against China meant that Modi must be courted and the performative pearl-clutching over the usual Western obsessions with human rights and such was to be dispensed with. That's not a complaint; that's realpolitik.

But the thing with having your moment in the sun is that it can go to your head; as Washington was finalising the menu and selecting silverware, an Indian intelligence operation was underway in America's ally Canada. There, a pro-independence Sikh leader and Canadian citizen Hardeep Singh Nijjar, was gunned down outside a gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia on June 18.

Some months later, and conveniently right after the G20 summit had concluded its speeches and photo-ops, came Justin Trudeau's bombshell where he accused India's intelligence agencies of

being behind the attack. What followed were furious, tit-for-tat expulsions and exchanges, with the accused mastermind, Pavan Kumar Rai, being compelled to leave Canada. India, in its typical style of accusing others of what it itself is guilty of, warned its citizens to "exercise caution" when visiting Canada due to "growing anti-India activities and politically condoned hate crimes and criminal violence" there. After this spectacular example of a pot calling the kettle black — most hate crimes in Canada are committed against Jews, Muslims and Catholics, in that order — India then suspended the processing of visas for Canadians, which is terrible news for the millions of Canadians presumably queuing up to visit India. Diplomatic presence is also being cut back by both countries.

Meanwhile, India is reacting with typical narrow-minded nationalist bravado, with its media thumping its chest over the 'muscular new India' and pointing out the examples of Gen Suleimani and Osama bin Laden while also fervently denying the accusation. Indian social media, in its usual toxic manner, is heaping abuse upon Canada and Trudeau for 'sheltering terrorists' while celebrating the fact that along with yoga, assassination is also one of India's exports. This sells well in the domestic Indian market, where the populace has been fed a daily diet of hate and religious supremacy which often translates into state-condoned violence against Muslims and other minorities.

Seemingly secure in its Western alliance, India has taken the world's silence as a signal that it can get away with murder abroad, as it has within its own borders and in the region. Unsurprisingly, no one is questioning the possible fallout for fear of

being labelled traitors. So in that scenario, any indications of India projecting its power is appreciated, and certainly the more robust the Indian diplomatic offensive is, the better it'll play in the upcoming Indian polls, especially with the INDIA alliance trying to take the BJP down a peg. For Canada, taking a soft line would be suicidal; home to many diasporas and dissidents due to its liberal immigration policies, allowing an India-ordered assassination to take place without a reaction would mean there would be no stopping other countries with equal or greater capabilities from doing the same. What if, for example, China were to start eliminating Tibetan, Uighur or Falun Gong activists in Canada? So, as India escalates, Canada has started to drip out information and as per a report in the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Ottawa is in possession of intercepted communications by Indian officials regarding the murder, along with intelligence provided by another member of the Five Eyes network, of which Canada is a part. They have receipts, and will show them in due course.

This places the West in a tight spot, having to balance between India and their old ally Canada. So far, the responses have been muted amid diplomatic calls for the investigation to be completed, but among analysts, think tanks and influential media outlets, the mood seems to be changing amid a realisation that the Indian alliance carries unexpected costs, among which is giving New Delhi the impression that it can do as it likes, and can use the same tactics and policies it uses in the subcontinent, in their own countries as well. While realpolitik will eventually prevail, the mask is well and truly off. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

UK investors show keen interest in Pakistan's capital market

LONDON (APP): The investors of the United Kingdom's capital and financial market in a meeting with Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday expressed their keen interest in exploring investment opportunities in Pakistan. The leaders of the notable investment firms who met the prime minister in London included Fidelity International Limited (FIL), Wellington Management, Ashmore, Jefferies International,

Redwheel Capital, Switex Industrial SA, Oxford Capital, GuarantCo, JP Morgan, Kalrock Capital, and UBL. UK Prime Minister Kakar informed the delegation about Pakistan's current economic landscape, highlighting government measures for external account improvement. He said that recent administrative actions strengthened the Pakistani rupee against the US dollar, fostering optimism for stability. He said positive indicators, including

inflows from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and friendly nations, contributed to reduced inflation, stabilized reserves, and revival of industrial growth. The prime minister spoke about the potential for foreign direct investment in Pakistan's key sectors and the positive impact of the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) with the IMF, exceeding expectations and stabilizing the economy and currency. Prime Minister Kakar also highlighted economic

improvements such as reduced inflation with expected sustained decline, and upcoming growth in agriculture and industry. He mentioned improved trade after removal of restrictions on imports and fiscal measures for monetary support and medium-term inflation targets. The prime minister highlighted Pakistan's pro-investment efforts, introducing the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). This initiative, led by the prime minister himself.



LONDON: Senior leaders of London's capital and financial market cell on the caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.



ISLAMABAD: VC PIDE Dr. Nameem ul Haque along with academia from PIDE called the caretaker Commerce Minister Dr. Goher Ejaz at the Commerce Ministry.

Minister for strong regulatory system to control price hike

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for National Food Security & Research Dr. Kausar Abdulla Malik on Monday underscored the need for a unified supply chain coupled with a strong regulatory framework to discourage artificial hikes in the prices of food items in the country.

He chaired a meeting of the Agriculture Policy Institute and was also briefed by Director General Abdul Karim on the function of the Institute and its ongoing projects, said a press release. The minister was informed that the API analyzed the impact of important agricultural policies on groups such as consumers, processors, and exporters and advises on policy adjustments needed for greater efficiency and equity in the country.

OGRA reacts to reports of speculations about fuel prices

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Monday reacted to the speculations about fuel prices.

OGRA spokesperson said speculations about increase or decrease in fuel prices should be avoided as the rate of petroleum products is fixed in line with the international market and exchange rate.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan discuss transport, trade cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Communications for Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar, and Azerbaijani Ambassador to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov discussed issues of mutual interests and strengthened bilateral ties. The ambassador during a meeting with the minister said the relationship between Pakistan and Azerbaijan is unparalleled in every aspect.

The envoy said, following the commencement of direct flights between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, both countries aim to connect through railways and road networks. The ambassador said the primary goal is to boost economic cooperation and facilitate the movement of goods and people. "We are keen on promoting economic cooperation," Ambassador Farhadov said. He further said, "We envision Pakistan becoming a part of international transport

networks, connecting with all regional countries." He also highlighted the potential for Pakistani trade to gain access to Europe and Russia through Azerbaijan. The ambassador said, that to achieve this, the private sector will play a crucial role in promoting trade and economic growth. Shahid Ashraf Tarar expressed his commitment to the idea, said, "I have instructed the Chairman of Railways to work on connecting rail routes with Azerbaijan."

FPCCI calls for enhanced cooperation with China in agriculture: Irfan Iqbal

INDEPENDENT REPORT KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has called for enhanced cooperation between Pakistan and China on the occasion of Anhui - Pakistan International Agricultural Cooperation and Development Forum in China. Agricultural development and modernization of Pakistan should take prominence in CPEC as Pakistan is facing

existential threats vis-à-vis food security for its 240 million populace, he added. Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh added that creation of modern transportation and logistics infrastructure to facilitate the efficient movement of agricultural products; along with technology transfer from China can improve crop yields; modernize irrigation methods and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

Precision agriculture "one-window solution: to develop climate resilient agriculture"

ISLAMABAD (Online): "Precision Agriculture is the one-window solution to declining agricultural productivity, exacerbating food insecurity and can aid in developing resilience to recurrent climate disasters" remarked Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI. He was speaking at an Industry Consultation event "National Precision Agriculture Blueprint Study: Needs Assessment and

Pathways" jointly organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute and NASTAP here today. He added that the rising population is exerting profound pressure on the country's natural resources and the mounting per capita burden on agricultural land can be addressed by embarking on the contemporary digital revolution. This digital revolution has modified the

workflow expanding it from data analysis to increasing efficiency in resource consumption like water and aid decision making by digitalizing the management of the entire process. "Pakistan is already a water scarce country and the digitalization of inputs like water allows efficient application and quality management as well as greenhouse gas automation to reduce the footprint of

the sector", he added. He urged for the synchronization of the four pillars of agriculture i.e., academia, industry, private sector, and development partners. The reformation of academic curricula and developing specialized courses in consultation with industry and private sector, eradicating the bureaucratic delays in project development and implementation and

reappropriation of agricultural subsidies to climate smart subsidies can mobilize financial resources needed. Further addressing the financing gap, he said that Special Investment Financial Council will promote corporate farming based on digitalization of agriculture to transform low-productivity lands but will also increase access to financial and technological services to small farmers.

Punjab CM inaugurates road built from plastic waste in Lahore

Independent Report
LAHORE: In a record-breaking development for Punjab, Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated the first-ever plastic road in the province today. The historic inauguration took place on Zafar Ali Plastic Road, stretching from Gymkhana Mall Road to Jail Road. Chief Minister Naqvi meticulously examined the quality and construction of this innovative road, accompanied by a detailed briefing on its utility by the Secretary of Communication and Works and esteemed professors from the University of Engineering and Technology Lahore. Commending the

technical expertise and invaluable support provided by UET professors in the creation of this plastic road, Chief Minister Naqvi expressed his appreciation. Addressing the media, he underscored the success of this pioneering venture and revealed plans to expand its scope. Following a thorough one-month review of the existing plastic road, further expansions are on the horizon, including the transformation of Mall Road into a plastic road. One of the key advantages of a plastic road lies in its resilience against rainwater, ensuring a lifespan of a minimum of 10 years. Unlike

conventional roads, these innovative constructions are not susceptible to rain-induced damage. Moreover, the financial outlay for constructing a plastic road has been significantly reduced, with this project amounting to Rs 2 crore as opposed to the standard Rs 6 crore for a regular road. A crucial environmental benefit is that the plastic used in these roads is sourced from recycled materials, effectively repurposing plastic waste that would otherwise contribute to environmental pollution. This eco-friendly approach to road construction not only minimizes costs but also serves as a sustainable solution.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman addressing the ceremony on the eve of Mehfil-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) at Governor House.

Life of Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) beacon of light for entire mankind: Baligh

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended a ceremony on the theme of "Building Islamic Society in the Light of teachings of Prophet Muhammad SAW" at Governor House Lahore today.

Muhammad (PBUH) as a mercy for all mankind.

Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman while addressing the ceremony said that the Uswa Hasana of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is a source of salvation and guidance for us. He said that Allah sent the Holy Prophet

Love for Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) is an integral part of our faith, he added. Governor Punjab said that when the Arabs were passing through the age of ignorance, he gave them the message of Allah and enlightened them with the teachings of Islam.

He said that the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) set an example of the highest character and forgiveness by forgiving his worst enemies on the occasion of the conquest of Makkah.

Court orders to release 12 year-old girl on bail

PESHAWAR (INP): Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Monday ordered to release 12-year-old girl on bail. The 12-year-old girl is facing murder charges. She is accused of killing a man named Gohar Ali while cutting fodder in Buner, five months ago. The girl's bail plea was filed in the PHC as she is underage. The court was pleaded to release the 12-year-old on bail, which was accepted. It is to be noted that both the parties had registered cases against each other after the incident. Separately in 2021, a judicial magistrate granted bail to six teenage suspects held for allegedly harassing female students.

PFA unearths unit producing fabricated milk

Independent Report
LAHORE: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has lodged a First Information Report (FIR) against Mujahid Zubair Dairy on account of adulteration in the nearest police station during a raid in Roshan Bhela, Kasur. PFA Director General Raja Jahangir Anwar said that acting on the tip of, a dairy safety team of PFA Kasur raided a fake milk production unit and caught the adulteration mafia red-handed producing fabricated milk with hazardous chemicals and other ingredients. He said that the raiding team took milk samples on the spot and found contamination of vegetable oil, whey powder, polluted water and chemicals. The raiding team discarded a huge

quantity of substandard milk, 50kg powder and 48kg ghee besides confiscating a vehicle, 11 drums, mixing machines and other goods during the raid, he added.

PFA DG appreciated the raiding team for taking timely action against enemies of public health and ruined their unholy ambitions. He said that adulterated milk was to be supplied to different local milk shops in Lahore.

He further said that the use of substandard adulterated milk poses a threat to users' health and causes severe problems like stomach, intestine, food poisoning and gastrointestinal complications. Raja Jahangir said that the Punjab Food Authority is bringing an international-style policy for the supply of pure milk.



LARKANA: Heirs of Lutuf Magsi are holding protest demonstration for demanding recovery of Lutuf Magsi, who was missing four days ago in the limits of Hyderi Police Station, at SSP Chowk in Larkana.

Provincial ministers lead strategic meeting to address anti-smog

Independent Report
LAHORE: An essential meeting convened at the Civil Secretariat, presided over by Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer, meticulously assessed the closure and descaling of factories in relation to anti-smog efforts. In attendance were Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Provincial Minister Bilal Afzal, along with the Secretary and DG of the Environment Protection Department, DG of Industries, and pertinent officials. Notably, the

meeting also saw the presence of Patron-in-Chief of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Sheikhupura, Manzoor Malik, alongside industrialists Mardan Ali, Amjad Khan, and others. Emphasizing the government's duty to furnish a clean environment for its citizens, Provincial Minister of Industry and Commerce SM Tanveer articulated the need for formulating Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to mitigate environmental pollution, thereby enhancing transparency in governance.

Theatre play "Social Pagal" & "The Father" presented

KARACHI (Online): On the 16th day of the ongoing Pakistan Theatre Festival in Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, the Theatre plays "Social Pagal" and "The Father" were presented in Urdu language, the writer and director of Theatre Social Pagal, was Shah Fahad, in the cast of the play. Sarmad Aftab, Sherbanu Rahmani, Gulshan Majeed, Hassan Raza, Mishal Chaudhry, Zain Qazi, Haris Ahmad Khan and Mohammad Ghazi Abid, etc. Drama takes viewers through the journey of six psychopaths who confront their demons in prison as they are confined to an obscure realm where life imprisonment is considered the cure for their insanity, a battle of wits ensues and theatre play "The Father" is written by Florian Zeller and directed by Zeeshan Haider. The cast of the drama included Ghulam Mohiuddin, Abdul Rehman, Alina Gulzar, Saima, Zobi and Owais.

Nawabzada Nasarullah 20th anniversary on Sep 26

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): The 20th anniversary of the great politician known as father of democracy, Nawabzada Nasarullah Khan will be marked on September 26 (Tuesday). Nawabzada Nasarullah's relentless 70-year-long struggle for the supremacy of the constitution, parliament, and democracy remains an enduring legacy. Distinguished religious scholar Moulana Syed Kafeel Ahmed Shah Bukhari will grace the occasion. He will address the audiences, comprising political and social

leaders, along with representatives from various sectors of society. The 20th-anniversary ceremony is set to take place at 5 pm at Marhaba Marriage Hall in his hometown, Khangarh. Moulana Syed Kafeel Ahmad Shah Bukhari, the grandson of Moulana Shah Ahmad Noorani Bukhari, will deliver an insightful speech, shedding light on the importance of democracy and unity in the nation. This event stands as a symbol of unity, bringing together leaders from different political parties across Pakistan.

Crackdown intensifies as cases of vision loss surge in Punjab

LAHORE (INP): The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) on Monday launched a crackdown against medicine distributors amid the rising cases of vision loss due to the use of substandard injections in Punjab, says in media reports. Initially, it was reported that the eyesight of over 400 diabetes patients was affected in Punjab after which the provincial caretaker government imposed a two-week ban on Avastin's sales.



HYDERABAD: Security officials are standing high alert to avoid untoward incident during the Shiite procession of Chup-Lazia on the occasion of 8th Rabi-ul-Awwal every year to commemorate the death of Hazrat Imam Hasan al-Askari (R.A), in Hyderabad.

International News

Azerbaijani and Turkish leaders hold talks, eye land corridor via Armenia

Monitoring Desk
BAKU: Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev hosted talks on Monday with his Turkish counterpart Tayyip Erdogan at which he hinted at the prospect of creating a land corridor between their two countries via Armenia, which opposes the idea.

Erdogan pointedly flew into Azerbaijan's autonomous Nakhchivan enclave, a strip of territory nestled between Armenia, Iran and Turkey that Ankara and Baku want to link up with rump Azerbaijan by carving out a land corridor that would run through southern Armenia.

Aliyev in 2021 threatened to create such a corridor - that would create a

contiguous land bridge between close allies Turkey and Azerbaijan and deprive Armenia of a land border with Iran - "whether Armenia likes it or not."

The symbolic choice of location for Monday's talks, less than a week after Azerbaijani forces swept into Nagorno-Karabakh to retake control of the breakaway region, is likely to worry the authorities in Armenia, who have in the past rejected such a land corridor while being theoretically open to restoring severed road and rail links.

At a joint news conference at which neither man took any questions, President Aliyev lamented that Soviet-era authorities had deemed part of what he

said should have been territory belonging to the Azerbaijani Soviet republic as land belonging to the Armenian Soviet republic.

"The land link between the main part of Azerbaijan and Nakhchivan (the enclave) was thus cut off," complained Aliyev. An influential telegram channel linked to Karabakh Armenians called "Re-public of Artsakh" said Aliyev's words looked ominous.

"The new target of Azerbaijan and Turkey is Syunik (a province in southern Armenia through which such a corridor would pass). They are already openly declaring it. Active preparations for war are underway," it said.



Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev attend a welcoming ceremony in Nakhchivan, Azerbaijan.

Ukraine targets a key Crimean city a day after striking Russia's Black Sea Fleet headquarters

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine launched another missile attack on Sevastopol on the occupied Crimean Peninsula, a Russian-installed official said, a day after an attack on the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet that left a serviceman missing and the main building smoldering.

Sevastopol was put under an air raid alert for about an hour after debris from intercepted missiles fell near a pier. Gov. Mikhail Razvozhayev wrote on the messaging app Telegram. He later added that another

missile fragment fell in a park in northern Sevastopol, parts of which had to be cordoned off. Ferry traffic in the area was also halted and later resumed.

Loud blasts were also heard near Vilne in northern Crimea, followed by rising clouds of smoke, according to a pro-Ukraine Telegram news channel that reports on developments on the peninsula. Crimea, illegally annexed by Russia in 2014, has been a frequent target for Ukrainian forces since

Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Ukraine's intelligence chief, Kyrylo Budanov, told Voice of America on Saturday that at least nine people were killed and 16 others wounded as a result of Kyiv's attack on the Black Sea Fleet on Friday. He claimed that Alexander Romanchuk, a Russian general commanding forces along the key southeastern front line, was "in a very serious condition" following the attack.

EU commissioner calls for more balanced trade with China & warns that Ukraine could divide them

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: The European Union's trade commissioner called for a more balanced economic relationship with China on Monday, noting an EU trade deficit of nearly 400 billion euros (\$425 billion), while also warning that China's position on the war in Ukraine could endanger its relationship with Europe.

Valdis Dombrovskis, in a speech at China's prestigious Tsinghua University, said that the EU and China face significant political and economic headwinds that could cause them to drift apart.

"The strongest, yet

not the only, headwind is Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and how China positions itself on this issue," he said.

Dombrovskis spoke before high-level economic and trade talks with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng. EU leaders have expressed concern about the bloc's growing trade deficit with China, which reached 396 billion euros last year. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen recently announced an investigation into Chinese subsidies to electric vehicle makers, saying a flood of cheaper Chinese cars is distorting the European market.



Migrants walk along razor wire looking for a place to cross the Rio Grande river, near the US-Mexico border.

Canadian Sikh group urges followers to protest outside Indian embassies

Monitoring Desk
OTOWA: A Canadian Sikh group has called on its members to protest outside the Indian diplomatic missions of main Canadian cities on Monday, a week after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau raised the prospect of New Delhi's involvement in the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in British Columbia. Trudeau said last week Canada was pursuing "credible allegations" that Indian government agents may be linked to the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who was shot dead outside a Sikh

temple on June 18 in Surrey, a Vancouver suburb with a high Sikh population.

India swiftly denied any role in the killing and described the allegations as "absurd". The accusations have sparked tensions between the two countries, with each nation expelling diplomats, and New Delhi suspending visas for Canadians. Jatinder Singh Grewal, a director for Sikh for Justice in Canada, told Reuters on Sunday that his organisation will lead the demonstrations outside the Indian embassies and consulates in Toronto.

Alligator killed after Florida woman's body found in jaws

Monitoring Desk
MIAMI: An alligator was killed as it was removed from a creek in the US state of Florida along with a 41-year-old woman's body, officials said on Saturday. Police said they had responded to a report of a body seen in the creek in Largo, Florida, and that the 13-foot, 8.5-inch (4-metre) male alligator was "humanely killed" on Friday.

Officers identified the body on Saturday, but said "the manner and cause of death is pending," and that the investigation was ongoing.

Witness Jamarcus Bullard told US media that he saw a big alligator and a body in the creek, and ran to a nearby fire station to report it. "I threw a rock at the gator, just to see if it was like really a gator," Bullard told WFLA-TV, an NBC News affiliate, on Friday. "It pulled the body, like it was holding on to the lower part of the torso, and just pulled it under the water." Bullard said the alligator put up a strong fight against authorities.

Iran says it defused 30 bombs in Tehran, detained 28 people, Tasnim reports

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Authorities in Iran have neutralised 30 bombs meant to go off simultaneously in Tehran and detained 28 terrorists linked to Islamic State, Iran's Tasnim news agency reported on Sunday, citing the intelligence ministry.

"Some of the members are of Islamic State (IS) and the perpetrators have a history of being affiliated with Takfiri groups in Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Kurdistan re-

gion of Iraq," Iran's intelligence ministry added in a statement.

The militant group has claimed several attacks in Iran, including deadly twin bombings in 2017 that targeted Iran's parliament and the tomb of the Islamic Republic's founder, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

More recently, IS claimed responsibility for an attack on a Shia shrine last October, where 15 people were killed in the southwestern city of Shiraz.

Italian PM admits she hoped to do 'better' on migration

Monitoring Desk
ROME: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has admitted she had hoped to do "better" on controlling irregular migration, which has surged since her far-right party won historic elections a year ago. "Clearly we hoped for better on immigration, where we worked so hard," she said in an interview marking the win, broadcast late on Saturday on the TG1 channel. "The results are not what we hoped to see. It is certainly a very complex problem.



Jasminka Dzumhur, Erik Mose and Pablo de Greiff, members of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, attend a news confer.

Four dead as gunmen battle police in Kosovo monastery siege

Monitoring Desk
MITROVICA: Gunmen in armoured vehicles stormed a village in an ethnic Serbian-majority region of Kosovo on Sunday, battling police and barricading themselves in a monastery in the resurgence of violence in the restive north.

Kosovo police said one officer and three of about 30 attackers died in shootouts around the village of Banjska.

Monks and pilgrims were locked in the Serbian Orthodox monastery's temple as the sieged for hours. Ethnic Albanian guerrilla uprising against repressive Serbian rule.

It was unclear who was behind Sunday's violence, but Kosovo's Prime Minister Albin Kurti and Interior Minister Xhelal Sveclja blamed "Serbia-sponsored criminals".



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed chairing a meeting of National Price Monitoring Committee to review the prices of essential commodities

NPMC Meeting: Planning Minister asks provinces to go after hoarders, profiteers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Monday chaired a meeting of the National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC) to review the prices of essential commodities, directing the quarters concerned to maintain food prices and provide relief to the common man.

The minister emphasized zero-tolerance against hoarders and profiteers, directing the provincial governments to engage their respective Commissions, Deputy Commissioners and Magistrates against the elements involved in hoarders, a news release said.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the Chief Statistician from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), representatives from all provinces, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Ministry of Food

Security & Industries, and other relevant stakeholders. During the meeting, the PBS officials presented the price and inflation data, while representatives from Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan apprised the forum on the current production and supply of wheat, sugar and other essential commodities, which remained satisfactory.

The meeting decided that the PBS would give access to its App to the provinces so that prices could be monitored and controlled effectively.

It also highlighted the importance of minimizing the price difference between wholesale and retail items and directed the relevant stakeholders to reduce this difference to maximize relief for the common man.

EU releases €1 million in humanitarian aid to respond to monsoon floods

ISLAMABAD (APP): The EU has released an additional €1 million in humanitarian aid to respond to the floods that have affected Pakistan in the past weeks, which have directly or indirectly affected some 900,000 people.

The funding will help address the most pressing needs of vulnerable people in the provinces of Balochistan, Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), as the areas hit the hardest, said a news release. Commissioner for Crisis Management, Janecz Lenarcic, said: "One year after the tragic floods that caused tremendous suffering in Pakistan, the EU remains committed to helping those most in need. As a new rain season has again displaced thousands of people in parts of the coun-

PM urges British fashion firm to open buying house in Pakistan

LONDON (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday, highlighting Pakistan's pro-investment policies and facilities, urged the UK-based Boohoo Group to consider opening buying houses in Pakistan.

The prime minister, in a meeting with leading British businessman and co-founder and Executive Chairman of Boohoo Group Abdullah Kamani, emphasised the advantages of investment in Pakistan and extended an invitation to Boohoo Group to send a buying delegation to Pakistan for enhanced collaboration. In the meeting, Kamani expressed keen interest in establishing long-term buying linkages with Pakistan and the ambition to create a comprehensive

supply chain in the country, encompassing organic cotton to apparel production. They also hoped for improved Pakistan-UK air connectivity to facilitate increased imports from Pakistan. Prime Minister Kakar conveyed Pakistan's commitment to facilitating investment and offered support in establishing manufacturing facilities within the country, particularly within Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

The meeting marked a significant step towards enhancing economic cooperation and trade between Pakistan and the firm. Boohoo Group is a prominent British online fashion retailer with annual sales exceeding one billion pounds, with a wide range of popular brands.



Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti in a meeting with Former Federal Minister Mir Changaiz Khan Jamali in Islamabad.

Campaign to start in 6 UCs of Pishin today: Special anti-polio drive begins in Chaman, Kila Abdulla

Independent Report
QUETTA: The special campaign of polio immunization started in districts of Kila Abdulla and Chaman on Monday.

According to the Emergency Operation Center (EOC), the campaign would remain continued for seven days in the targeted areas.

Over 152,000 children below five years of age would be administered the anti-polio vaccine during the campaign for around 700 teams including the mobile ones have been formulated.

The health workers and volunteers would visit the areas and administer the anti-polio vaccine to the children.

The extra-ordinary arrangements including security have been made for the campaign.

Moreover, the special campaign would start in six union councils of Pishin district from today (Tuesday).

Over 20,000 children below five years of age would be administered in these six UCs during the campaign.

DC Jhal Magsi visits to BHU to improve health facilities for people

QUETTA (APP)- Deputy Commissioner Jhal Magsi Ejaz Sarwar on Monday paid a surprise visit to Basic Health Unit (BHU) Fatehpur area of the district to improve health facilities for people.

On this occasion, he reviewed the availability of medicines, malaria kits and other different departments in the said primary health center and checked the attendance of the doctors and other staff.

He also issued instructions to all the staff to ensure their attendance with cleanliness saying that all the doctors and other staff should consider it a sacred duty and be engaged in fulfilling their official duties.

He stressed on all the doctors and other staff that

KPCM approves Rs300,000 for treatment of journalist Zafar Wazir

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan on Monday gave approval three hundred thousand rupees for the treatment of failing journalist Zafar Wazir.

The Interim Chief Minister approved the financial assistance for the medical treatment of the journalist, hailing from Wana, on the request of Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi.

Murtaza Solangi had written a letter to the Chief Minister for the treatment of journalist Zafar Wazir, who has been working with the national media since 2004 and suffering from cardiac issue for some time.

PML-N forms committee for Nawaz's warm welcome

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) to extend warm welcome to the party's supreme returning by next month has constituted a coordination committee, Chief Organizer of PML-N Maryam Nawaz has constituted the party's Punjab, Islamabad, Azad Kashmir and KP women wings' coordination committees for welcome of Nawaz Sharif who has been scheduled to arrive on October 21. As per notification senior party leader Khawaja Saad Rafique has been given responsibility for Rawalpindi division, Malik Ahmed Khan for Gujranwala, Ahsan Iqbal for Sargodha, Khurram Dastagir will head Faisalabad reception committee.

Gwadar delegation lauds China's dev. and modernization efforts

ISLAMABAD (INP): A 10-member delegation from Gwadar recently returned from a visit to China, where they observed the country's development and modernisation efforts.

The group expressed appreciation for China's development and its neighborhood diplomacy approach of building friendly ties.

The delegation emphasised that Pakistan's long-standing friendship with China has support across political affiliations and society.

The group, comprising senior academics, researchers, businessmen and administrative officers, was led by Prof. Dr. Abdul Razzaq Sabir, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Gwadar (UG).

They embarked on a ten-day visit to China on



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

CWDP clears 2 development projects including FIA's operational improvement

ISLAMABAD (APP): Planning Commission (PC) Deputy Chairman Dr. Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan on Monday chaired a meeting of the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) that cleared two development projects worth Rs 2.42 billion. Among others, the meeting was attended by the Chief Economist, Members Planning Commission and representatives from the various ministries, a news release said.

The forum cleared Programme for Flood Response through Reconstruction of Education Facilities in Sindh worth Rs1,566.628m and Operational Improvement of Federal Investigation Agency in AML/CFT, Counter Terrorism Wing & Case Management System worth Rs 858.577m. Under the Programme for Flood Response through Recon-



QUETTA: Country Representative of UNFPAMr. Loi Shabane meeting with caretaker Provincial Minister for PHE Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Khan Jaffar

September 10, upon invitation from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In Beijing, the delegates met with Liu Jinsong, Director General of the Asian Affairs Department of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

Liu noted that since the start of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a decade ago, collaborative efforts have led to major infrastructure projects in Gwadar, including ports, airports, roads, hospitals and a desalination plant, benefitting the local population.

According to a UG statement, Liu affirmed China's commitment to economic progress in Balochistan and Gwadar.

He said China's friendly policy towards

Mauritania conference Ashrafi calls for interfaith dialogue to combat blasphemy & promote peace

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi invited all faith leaders for inter-faith dialogues to remove differences as burgeoning incidents of blasphemy were promoting an environment of hatred in the community of nations.

Addressing the 36th annual International Conference on Secrat in Mauritania the other day, he said to overcome the menace of Islamophobia was not only the responsibility of Muslims proposing that all faith leaders should come forward and devise a combined strategy to meet the disgraceful acts being occurred worldwide from time to time.

The conference, attended by delegates from 65 Islamic countries, included the Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani and Muslim World League Secretary-General Dr. Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa.

Ashrafi who is also the President of International Interfaith Harmony Council categorically stated that the Holy Prophet Muhammad Peace Be upon

Him was not only the blessing for Muslim Ummah but also for the entire world.

He said the solution of Palestine and Kashmir issues was in the unity and solidarity of Muslim Ummah.

He said Pakistan was a nation of various faiths and sects but it was facing extremism and terrorism for a long time.

"The Pakistani nation was against all extremist and terrorist elements and standing by its security institutions and armed forces through thick and thin," he maintained.

Ashrafi said Islam gave the lesson of respect to all celestial books expressing his dismay over the indecent drive against the Muslims sacred sanctities and values.

He said Islamophobia was endangering the peace of the world urging the international human rights watchdogs to legislate against it to maintain peace and tranquility.

He opined that those who desecrated the Holy Quran in Sweden and Denmark and made caricatures of the Holy Prophet Muhammad

Minister directs NRA to observe month of Rabi ul Awal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhvi Monday ordered Chairman National Rahmatul-lil-Alameen Authority to organize month long continuous events to observe holy month of Rabi ul Awwal.

He made these directions while visiting the National Rahmatul-lil-Alameen Authority here.

During the visit, he also met the authority's Chairman Khurshid Ahmad Nadeem.

Madad Ali Sindhvi said the authority's mandate was critical for nation building.

The minister said that the Pakistani nation was facing challenges that could only be addressed by the authority.

He said that intolerance was rampant in our society and the true message of peace and love of Islam needed to be promoted in the country.

Madad said that Islam was a religion of peace, stressing the importance of the vision of Riyasat-e Madina.

The chairman NRA briefed the minister about the on going activities and mandate of authority.

The minister was told that the NRA's mandate was to actualize the concept of Riyasat-e Madina based upon justice, rule of law and welfare society through character building of the nation.

The chairman also informed about the challenges faced by the organization.

Transfer agreement signing of Ex-TARIQ TO FOCI, UK held in London

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Transfer Agreement Signing Ceremony for the ex-Pakistan Navy Ship TARIQ to Falls of Clyde International (FOCI), UK took place at the Pakistan High Commission in London on Monday.

This ship, formerly decommissioned by the Pakistan Navy on August 4, 2023, has been donated by the Government of Pakistan to FOCI for conversion into a floating museum. It will be displayed at the Clyde Maritime Heritage Center in Glasgow, symbolizing the common naval heritage shared by the Royal Navy and the Pakistan Navy, according to a press release received here.

The Transfer Agreement Signing Ceremony was witnessed by Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi NI (M) S Bt, Chief of the Naval Staff of the Pakistan Navy as the Chief Guest, and Admiral Lord Alan West who was the HMS AM-BUSCADE for 18 years.

During his address to the audience, Chief of Naval Staff expressed confidence that the donation of TARIQ to FOCI would further strengthen the bonds of friendship between the UK and Pakistan, with the ship continuing to symbolize the shared maritime history of our respective navies in the years ahead. Speaking on the occasion, Admiral Lord Alan West said "The close relationship between the Navies and Nations of Pakistan and the UK are clearly shown by this historic agreement focused on one ship that fought and represented each country over many years." The history of ex-PNS TARIQ is noteworthy, having served in the Royal Navy as HMS AM-BUSCADE for 18 years.



QUETTA: Senator Prince Agha Umar Ahmedzai meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

QESCO crackdown against electricity pilferers and defaulters continues

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) continues its extensive crackdown against those involved in the electricity pilferage and defaulters all over the province including Quetta.

According to spokesman of QESCO, in all 3504 connections have been involved in the power pilferage in the province, while a total of 338 FIRs have been registered against the power thieves.

Of them, 65 FIRs have been lodged in Quetta city, 89 each in Sibi and Loralai, 65 in Khuzdar, 25 in Pishin and five in Makran division.

The QESCO spokesman informed that 123 persons have been arrested on charges of power pilferage in the province.

The electricity pilferers have been charged fine of Rs. 9 crore 27 lakh all over the province, out of which Rs. 5 crore and 70 lakh have also been recovered.

Similarly, Rs. 378 million have also been recovered from 6422 defaulters of the electricity bills, the spokesman mentioned.

The QESCO teams also removed six transformers on non-payment of the bills in different parts of the province. According to the spokesman, the crackdown would remain continued in future. No one would be spared during the crackdown, therefore, all those involved in power pilferage and those defaulters have been asked to do away with the illegal practice.

Otherwise, they should be ready to face the consequences of power theft and non-payment of the bills and arrears, the QESCO warned.



QUETTA: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Provincial General Secretary and Haq Do Tehreek Chairman, Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman Baloch addresses to media persons during press conference.