

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

Vol. XIII No. 275 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Saturday September 23, 2023, Rabi-ul-Awwal 06, 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

PM Kakar calls for countering all terrorists including Hindutva inspired extremists

Says Kashmir key to India-Pakistan peace, urges UN resolutions' implementation; underscores preservation of UN Charter of equality for global peace; Vows to ensure rapid economic recovery by mobilizing FDI, expanding domestic revenues; Pakistan shares women's rights concerns about Afghanistan, advocates humanitarian aid: Pakistan to continue working to strengthen multilateral institutions

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Friday called on the UN Security Council (UNSC) to secure the implementation of its resolutions on Kashmir, which, he said, was the key to peace between Pakistan and India.

"India has evaded implementation of the Security Council's resolutions which call for the 'final disposition' of Jammu and Kashmir to be decided by its people through UN-supervised plebiscite," he told the UN General Assembly in its iconic hall with several world leaders, top diplomats and officials in the audience.

In his maiden address to the 193-member Assembly's high-level session, PM Kakar also focused on a range of issues, including the cross-border terrorist attacks

against Pakistan by Afghanistan-based TTP; the Palestine tragedy; the threat posed by far-right groups like Hindutva-inspired extremists; Islamophobia; global economic crises stemming from Covid, conflict and climate change; Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Pakistan's efforts to recover from its economic challenges, and the UNSC reform.

"Development depends on peace," the prime minister said, adding, "Pakistan desires peaceful and productive relations with all our neighbours, including India."

protests; resorted to extrajudicial killings of innocent Kashmiris in fake "encounters" and so-called "cordon and search operations"; and imposed collective punishments, destroying entire villages.

"Access to occupied Kashmir, demanded by the UN High Commission for Human Rights and over a dozen Special Rapporteurs, has been denied by New Delhi," he told delegates from around the world.

In this regard, the prime minister called for the reinforcement of the UN Military Observer Group for India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), stressing that global powers should convince New Delhi to accept Pakistan's offer of mutual restraint on strategic and conventional weapons.

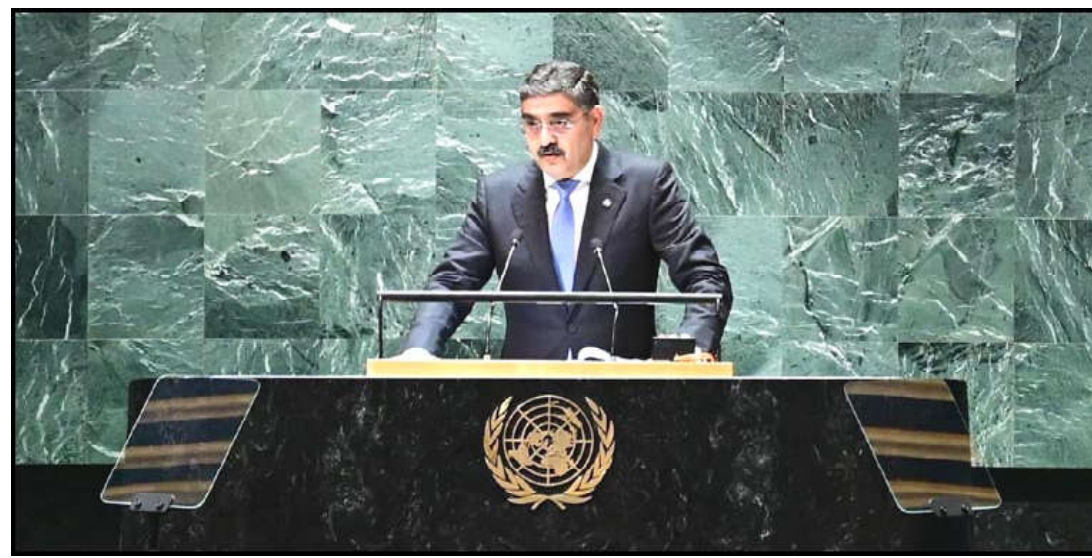
Pakistan, he said, shared the concerns of in-

ternational community with respect to Afghanistan, its first priority being to prevent and counter all terrorism from and within that neighbouring country.

"Yet," the prime minister said, "we advocate continued humanitarian assistance to a destitute Afghan population in which Afghan girls and women are the most vulnerable; as well as revival of the Afghan economy and implementation of the connectivity projects with Central Asia."

"Pakistan condemns the cross-border terrorist attacks against Pakistan by the TTP, Da'esh and other groups operating from Afghanistan," the prime minister said.

adding, "We have sought Kabul's support and cooperation to prevent these attacks. However, we are also taking neces-



sary measures to end this externally encouraged terrorism."

He told the international community that Pakistan's government was committed to rapid economic recovery -- stabi-

lize its foreign exchange reserves and currency; expand domestic revenues and mobilize significant domestic and external investment.

To that end, he said, Pakistan had established a

Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to expedite investment decisions, with 28 projects identified in priority sectors -- agriculture, mining, energy and IT -- for implementation in collabora-

tion with the country's partners. The second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he said, had been initiated covering railway, infrastructure and manufacturing projects.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of General Staff of the Saudi armed forces, General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili along with members of his delegation meeting with President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr

Pakistan, EU express satisfaction at their bilateral relationship

NEW YORK (APP): Pakistan and the European Union has expressed satisfaction at their bilateral relationship and resolved to maintain its positive trajectory.

The understanding to this effect reached during a meeting between Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani and European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President, Josep Borrell, at the sidelines of the 78th Session of the United Na-

tions General Assembly in New York.

During the meeting, they agreed to enhance cooperation in migration and mobility, climate change, trade and investment and development of the country. Meanwhile, the Foreign Minister also held meeting with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov.

They discussed bilateral cooperation and reviewed progress made during 5th round of Bilateral Political Consultations held in Islamabad in June this year.

Naval Chief attends Int'l Seapower Symposium in USA

ISLAMABAD (PR): Twenty fifth International Seapower Symposium-2023 (ISS-25) was held at US Naval War College Newport in Rhode Island. The event involved panel discussions on issues related to common maritime challenges and opportunities to enhance international maritime security cooperation.

A Large number of Heads of World Navies or their senior representatives attended ISS-25.

During ISS, Naval Chief Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi held bi-

lateral meetings and interactions with senior International Naval dignitaries from Spain, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Netherlands, and Saudi Arabia.

Amjad Khan Niazi briefed the participants on Maritime Perspective of Pakistan with special focus on its contributions to regional maritime security.

He said Pakistan Navy's initiative of Regional Maritime Security Patrol, which is aimed to shoulder international obligations for safe and secure maritime environment in the region.

After his release, Mirwaiz was allowed to lead Friday prayers in Srinagar, the principal city of the disputed territory.

Mirwaiz, aged 50, was visibly emotional as he addressed the congregation from the pulpit of a historic mosque in Srinagar. His return to public life was met with tears of joy from numerous supporters who had awaited his release.

During his years of confinement, Mirwaiz played a pivotal role in orchestrating protests against Indian governance in the contested region.

His arrest coincided with India's decision to strip Kashmir of its statehood, separate constitution, and longstanding land and job protections.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi along with Admiral Lisa M. Franchetti, US Chief of Naval Operation during the 25th International Seapower Symposium held in USA.

COAS, Saudi Chief of General Staff discuss bilateral ties

RAWALPINDI (APP): A high powered military delegation led by Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces of Saudi Arabia, General Fayyadh Bin Hamed Al Ruwaili, called on Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir in Rawalpindi on Friday.

During the meeting, both sides deliberated upon various areas of mutual interest, bilateral cooperation including defence and security matters.

Earlier, the Saudi military delegation also called on Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Sahir Shamshad Mirza at Joint Staff Headquarters.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq released after 4-year house arrest Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: Top Hurriyat leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has been released from his four-year-long house arrest in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

This significant development follows his detention in 2019 when India revoked Kashmir's special status, plunging the region into political turmoil.

After his release, Mirwaiz was allowed to lead Friday prayers in Srinagar, the principal city of the disputed territory.

Mirwaiz, aged 50, was visibly emotional as he addressed the congregation from the pulpit of a historic mosque in Srinagar. His return to public life was met with tears of joy from numerous supporters who had awaited his release.

During his years of confinement, Mirwaiz played a pivotal role in orchestrating protests against Indian governance in the contested region.

His arrest coincided with India's decision to strip Kashmir of its statehood, separate constitution, and longstanding land and job protections.

No change in Nawaz's return plan: Shehbaz

LONDON (INP): Former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday claimed that there was 'no change' in the return plan of his brother and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif as the latter is set to land in Pakistan on October 21.

Shehbaz Sharif rushed back to London merely hours after he returned to the country from the UK, a development that gave way to rumours regarding a possible change in travel plans of Nawaz Sharif.

The former premier left London earlier in the week after spending several weeks here, but upon reaching Lahore, made a sudden plan to return in order to meet with his elder brother, party supremo Nawaz Sharif.

Media reports said that a consultation meeting was

held in London which was attended by PML-N bigwigs including Maryam Nawaz, Ishaq Dar, Abid Sher Ali, Mian Javed Latif, Talal Chaudhry, Burjees Tahir, and Sheikh Rohail Asghar.

Speaking on the occasion, the PML-N supremo said that Pakistan -- a prospering nation -- was brought to the brink of destruction under a conspiracy in 2017.

"Qamar Bajwa, Faiz Hameed, Saqib Nisar and Azmat Saeed are criminals of 22-crore people", he alleged. "The country will not be able to move forward until the characters involved in the conspiracy are brought to justice," he said.

Meanwhile, Shehbaz Sharif -- while talking to journalists -- said that he returned to London on directions of Nawaz Sharif.

Stefan Dercon along with Jane Marriott called on Dr Shamshad



ISLAMABAD (APP): Stefan Dercon, Professor of Economic Policy at Economics Department of Oxford University and former Chief Economist DFID along with the British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott called on Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs Dr Shamshad Akhtar.

During the meeting, the Finance Minister shared policy actions to enhance Pakistan's economic resilience in the face of global challenges, with a focus on sustainable development and inclusive growth, according to a press release issued here Friday. Dercon

affirmed its continued commitment to support Pakistan's economic development and applauded the country's efforts in actively pursuing a reform agenda to enhance economic stability. The British High Commissioner Jane Marriott commended the longstanding relationship between the United Kingdom and Pakistan and pledged to explore avenues for increased economic cooperation and investment between the two countries. The Finance Minister appreciated the collaboration and expressed gratitude for the support provided by the World Bank and the United Kingdom.

India, Pakistan attend meeting in Vienna on water dispute

VIENNA, Austria (INP): The officials from Pakistan and India joined proceedings at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in Vienna to settle the row over Pakistan's objection to the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects of India.

The meeting was convened by a neutral expert appointed by the World Bank on New Delhi's request under the aegis of the Indus Waters Treaty on Wednesday and Thursday.

The Court of Arbitration, constituted by the World Bank in The Hague, in July this year rejected New Delhi's objections and concluded that it had the competence to adjudicate Pakistan's objection to the Kishenganga and Ratle HEPs of India.

All political parties to be provided level-playing field for elections: Solangi

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi Friday reiterated the caretaker government's commitment for providing a level-playing field to all registered political parties during the general elections.

Addressing a news conference alongside Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, the minister assured impartial treatment to any political group during the election campaign.

Solangi said the caretaker government's tenure was extended a little bit due to the approval of fresh census results by the Council of Common Interest.

He pointed to Article 51 (5) of the Constitution, stating that elections would be held in line with the recently approved census after delimitation of the constituencies.

The minister disclosed that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was actively engaged in the delimitation process and announced that preliminary results of the process would

be announced on November 27, with the final results set for release on November 30.

In accordance with the Election Act, he said the ECP would have to give 54 days to political parties for their election campaign.

Solangi welcomed the announcement by the ECP that elections would take place in the first week of January, which ended propaganda against the caretaker government.

As regards the criticisms of Fawad Hassan Fawad, who served in the civil service for over 35 years, the minister highlighted that Fawad had worked with various governments.

He stressed that civil servants had no power over choosing their assignments, and that unfounded criticism of someone who had been unjustly imprisoned was unfair.

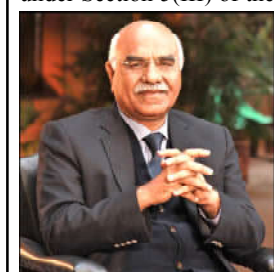


Caretaker Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi addressing the Press Conference at Governor House Karachi. Governor Sindh, Kamran Khan Tessori also present.

President appoints Dr Amjad Saqib as Chairman BISP

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi has approved the appointment of Dr. Amjad Saqib as the Chairman of Benazir Income Support Program.

The President approved the appointment under Section 5(III) of the



Benazir Income Support Program Act, 2010.

NAB submits record of references against Nawaz, Asif Zardari

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Friday submitted the record of several references to accountability court against former prime ministers including Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Yousaf Raza Gilani, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and ex-president Asif Ali Zardari.

The investigation officer of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) submitted record of 14 more references this day in light of the orders of top court. The bureau had shared a list of 80 references out of which record of 44 had been submitted so far.

Ambassador of Ethiopia, Chairman Senate discuss strengthening bilateral ties

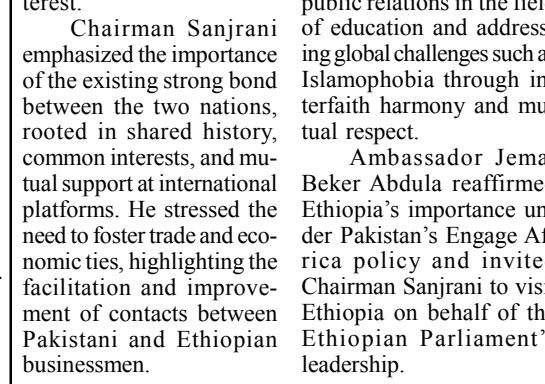
ISLAMABAD (Online): Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan, Jamal Beker Abdula called on Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani here at the Parliament House today.

The meeting focused on reinforcing the longstanding and friendly relationship between Pakistan and Ethiopia, concentrating on enhancing trade, parliamentary cooperation, and matters of mutual interest.

Chairman Sanjrani emphasized the importance of the existing strong bond between the two nations, rooted in shared history, common interests, and mutual support at international platforms. He stressed the need to foster trade and economic ties, highlighting the facilitation and improvement of contacts between Pakistani and Ethiopian businessmen.

In the discussion, both sides accentuated the augmentation of bilateral trade volume and applauded the resumption of flights between Pakistan and Ethiopia. Chairman Sanjrani Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani lauded the initiative, stating that it would enhance connectivity not only within Africa but also with Pakistan. He further stressed the significance of increasing cooperation and public relations in the field of education and addressing global challenges such as Islamophobia through interfaith harmony and mutual respect.

Ambassador Jamal Beker Abdula reaffirmed Ethiopia's importance under Pakistan's Engage Africa policy and invited Chairman Sanjrani to visit Ethiopia on behalf of the Ethiopian Parliament's leadership.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Ambassador of Ethiopia during meeting held at Parliament House in Islamabad.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Lawless city

A grim milestone has just been passed in Karachi. The recent death of a teenage robbery victim brings the number of people killed in street crime incidents in the city between January and September 2023 to 100. To put things in perspective, the total number of people to have died in incidents of terrorism across Sindh during the first six months of the current year is 19. This once again underscores the unsettling fact that Karachi is a deadly city for its people, where armed killers have complete freedom to take citizens' lives. From posh neighbourhoods to teeming slums, no area of this forsaken metropolis is safe. Muggers strike whenever they can and are ready to kill their victims at the slightest resistance. Figures compiled by the Citizens-Police Liaison Committee illustrate just how large the epidemic of street crime is. According to the CPLC, over the past nine months, some 60,000 incidents of street crime have taken place in Karachi. The figure for all of 2022 was 85,000. Police say between 50 to 60 gangs are active in this deadly business, while mobile-snatching and motorbike-lifting top the list of crimes.

Various factors are fuelling high street crime rates, including inflation, joblessness, and the lure of easy money. People often resist parting with their hard-earned cash or valuables, with the result that they end up paying with their lives. However, addressing the underlying factors behind crime is a long-term project; the immediate need is to quell the deadly wave of killings. Here, the Sindh government has failed miserably. The PPP, which has been ruling the province since 2008, has much to answer for where law and order goes. The caretaker government can only do so much, and it is hoped that the next elected government that takes power in Sindh has solid proposals to beat crime. Otherwise, precious lives will continue to be snuffed out by trigger-happy criminals.

Double standards



Javid Husain

The US-led West does not tire of telling the rest of the world to abide by the so-called rules-based world order. But while doing so, Western countries conveniently omit explaining that this order was established in the aftermath of World War II primarily for legitimising and maintaining their own global hegemony. The architecture of the political, security and economic institutions established under the UN or under the Bretton Woods system to regulate the post-World War II international security and economic system was, in the ultimate analysis, aimed at securing this overarching goal of the West. This is particularly true about the UN Security Council as well as the IMF and World Bank where no decision can be taken without the approval of the US and its Western allies.

Before World War II, there were numerous examples of Western countries blatantly flouting recognised principles of international law, or interpreting them to suit their convenience. This was particularly true during the colonial era, which witnessed the cruel subjugation of the people of occupied lands and the ruthless exploitation of their resources.

Even the establishment of the post-World War II global order did not prevent predatory Western nations from violating the recognised rules of interstate conduct to impose their will on the weaker nations. The invasion of Egypt by Great Britain and

France in 1956 in league with Israel, and the US invasion of Iraq in 2003 were clear examples of the violation of the UN Charter.

In the sphere of international economic, commercial, and financial exchanges, the US-led West has exploited its powerful positions in such institutions as the IMF and World Bank to impose its own choices and preferences on economically weaker nations. It is also ironic that the US, which used to champion the cause of free trade, has now started imposing economic and technological sanctions against China to slow down the latter's economic and technological progress, especially in such fields as semiconductors, AI, and quantum computing. But this is nothing new. As pointed out by Kishore Mahbubani in his book, 'Has China won?', in the face of the tough competition given by the Japanese automakers to their American counterparts, "President Ronald Reagan had to twist the arms of the Japanese to agree to a voluntary export restraint."

The double standards of the Western countries are also exposed by their positions on such subjects as the situation in Hong Kong, Palestine, occupied Kashmir and Taiwan. When Hong Kong was being governed by the UK, Western concerns about democratic values in the territory were non-existent even though colonial rule is the very anti-thesis of a truly representative form of government. But this issue became a major source of concern for the West once Hong Kong reverted to Chinese sovereignty. Since Israel is a virtual Western outpost in the Middle East, its excesses against the national rights of the Palestinian people in viola-

Going strong at 160



Zubeida Mustafa

Earlier this year, the St Joseph's Convent School, Karachi, celebrated 160 years of its glorious existence. Those of us who had some kind of connection with this institution — mainly as students — felt a proud sense of ownership for our alma mater on this august occasion. I don't think any other girls' school in Pakistan can claim equal longevity combined with excellence.

I attended the alumni event held recently which became a poignant journey down memory lane. I have a double connection with SJC. Both my daughters also studied there and it was a pleasure meeting their teachers — Nilofar Minhas and Faiza Kazi — to whom I will be eternally grateful for providing my girls that extra love and support the children of working mothers need. This link, as well my own childhood school experience, makes SJC special to me.

Though SJC's sturdy stone Italian architecture and its playgrounds stretching over a vast expanse made a profound impression on my mind when I came here first as a child, an institution needs more than brick and mortar to establish its greatness. It needs teachers of substance who impart knowledge, moral strength and integrity to their students. For SJC, this came from the nuns clad in their white habit. They were the builders of the SJC value system.

Times have changed, as has the apparel of the nuns, the academic environs of the school and the political status of the

country where the founders — a batch of five Belgian nuns from the Daughters of the Cross Institute, Liege — landed. It was Kurrachee that played host to them and where the SJC was founded in 1862. What has remained unchanged is the tradition of "relentless service to humanity", "sustained educational pursuits", "arduous struggles", "modest courtesy" and a "sense of duty". Above all, the aim of education as spelt out by the founders has been further strengthened. In a nutshell, it seeks to develop the full potential of every student while inculcating in them the judgement to distinguish between right and wrong and fostering the desire to become lifelong learners.

The magnitude of the school's achievements as expressed by the principal (now designated as the head of St Joseph's College) is enormous. Sister Elizabeth Niamet, succinctly described the role of SJC as the pioneer of quality education for the girl child. It turned out "refined and headstrong young ladies who have shown amazing aptitudes in various fields". Today, Josephines — thousands of them — are spread all over the world. There are 2,200 students on the school rolls. In 1862, there were 10.

I marvel at the nuns and staff at St Joseph's. I admire their dedication to the cause of education — a thankless task in a country where neither state nor society really values a child's education or considers it important for human development and the country's own progress. Had this been the case, the largest non-Muslim community, that is, the Christians, would have received more appreciation for its services — not just in the education but also the health sector.

Worse is the failure of the state to give protection to Christians, and

also other non-Muslim communities, when they have the same right to life and liberty as anyone else under the Constitution. In fact, Islam, which we claim underpins Pakistan's political-legal structure, enjoins treating non-Muslims with compassion and giving due respect to their beliefs. Had that principle been followed, would Jaranwala have taken place? It is shameful that the Pakistani state could not, in spite of its military might, prevent this heinous incident from occurring.

More importantly, this failure is not restricted to a single incident. Our trajectory is replete with similarly shameful crimes committed against the Christian community. Remember Shanti Nagar (1997), Sangla Hill (2005), Gojra (2009), Joseph Colony (2013), the Peshawar church attack (2013) and the attack on Quetta churches (2017)? Even Muslim religious leaders in the country have not stood up in defence of those they should protect; they have not exhorted their followers to be respectful of other religious communities. The Christian community has suffered discrimination in all walks of life and the possibility of unverified blasphemy accusations against them continues to hang over their heads like the sword of Damocles. One has to recall the Aasiya Bibi case. The poor woman was on death row for years before she was acquitted and smuggled out of Pakistan to another country, even before the judgement was made public. In spite of this hatred displayed by those who hold extremist and bigoted views, the community, in light of their religious beliefs, continues to demonstrate the values of forgiveness, compassion and kindness. This should offer some food for thought to a section of the Muslim community that prefers obscurantism. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce Industries & Production Dr. Gohar Ejaz is being presented with memento during his visit to Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industries KCCL.

Minister says: Work on Pak-Iran gas pipeline initiated

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy, Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali said on Friday that work on Pak-Iran gas pipeline has been initiated. He was talking to the media after inaugurating Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) first Model Customer Service Centre here at its Regional Office on Gurumang Road. The minister said that 20 per cent natural gas has been decreased as compared to last year, while the government would try to manage gas load-shedding in winter; however, he added the government could not provide gas on

cheaper rates, after purchasing at higher rates. People would have to use the natural fuel wisely, he added. Muhammad Ali, responding to a query about Russian oil, said that only one cargo had arrived on trial basis, but the problem was to refine it. Only the Pakistan Oil Refinery was refining 46,000 tons of oil monthly, while demand was many times higher. The government was trying to engage private refineries to meet the demand, he added. The government is working on importing more Russian oil, resolving the refinery issues, and making efforts to provide

maximum relief to people. The minister said that taxpayers are feeding only 9 per cent of GDP of Pakistan, which is one of the lowest in the world; people would get relief only if tax collection improves. As many as 14 counters have been set up at the Model Customer Service Centre, which included applications for new connection, change of ownership, re-connection, business development counter, billing counter, violation checking counter, billing office counter, accounts/treasury counter, business development process counter.

PASSCO declared public body under RTI Act, 2017

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) has ruled that Pakistan Agriculture Storage and Service Corporation (PASSCO) is a public body under the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017. According to the press release, this decision emphasizes the dedication to transparency and the fundamental right of citizens to access essential information. The ruling

comes in response to an appeal titled "Naem Sadiq Vs Pakistan Agriculture Storage and Service Corporation," which led to the Commission issuing a comprehensive judgment. The Commission's order clarifies that PASSCO, even though it holds the status of a corporate commercial entity as a Public Limited Company with 75% of its capital held by commercial banks and 25%

SECP notifies amendments to NBFC Rules 2003

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), with the approval of the federal government, has notified amendments to the Non-Banking Finance Companies (Establishment and Regulations) Rules, 2003. The amendments, which have been introduced after a comprehensive stakeholder consultation process.

APPA urges Governor State Bank to timely conduct biometrics

ISLAMABAD (APP): All Pakistan Pensioners Association (APPA) General Secretary Aurangzeb Tanuli Friday appealed to the Governor State Bank of Pakistan to oblige the management of all banks to conduct timely biometrics of all pensioners in March and September as per the policy.

In a statement here, the Association General Secretary said it was not possible for pensioners to submit biometrics along with life and no marriage certificate together, which

was against the policy. Tanuli said blocking the pension account of a pensioner on this basis was illegal and this issue should be resolved immediately so that the problems of the pensioners could be resolved.

The general secretary pointed out the important issue and said that there were clear orders from the State Bank and the Finance Minister that all pensioners were required to get their biometrics done in March and September every year.

LESCO receives Rs 61.31m on 10th day of recovery campaign

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO), in collaboration with Tehsildars (Recovery), has recovered Rs 61.31 million from 1,126 chronic defaulters in all its circles on the tenth day of its recovery campaign.

A spokesman told the media here on Friday that Chief Engineer O&M (T&G) Zafar Iqbal, with the support of Tehsildar City Mujahid Zia and Tehsildar Shalimar Noreez Humayun, recovered

outstanding dues of Rs 4.29 million from 129 defaulters in Northern Circle and Rs 35.62 million from 117 defaulters in Eastern Circle, respectively. Similarly, LESCO Manager (Material Disposal) Engineer Anwar Waitoo, along with Tehsildar Model Town Rana Arsal and Tehsildar Cantt Sajjad Qureshi, recovered Rs 3.75 million from 129 defaulters in Central Circle and Rs 1.64 million from 68 defaulters in South Circle.

Finance Minister suggests listing of govt debt securities at PSX

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue on Friday said that the securities market can play a vital role in the development of debt market through the listing of Government debt securities on Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX).

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the Centralized Gateway Portal, Dr Akhtar said that the issuance securities through public auctions at PSX will facilitate retail participation, provide greater transparency, channelize savings and promote debt market in Pakistan, said a press release issued by SECP here. The SECP, PSX and other stakeholders need to extend

concerted efforts to enable efficient implementation of these reforms.

The Minister formally inaugurated the Centralized Gateway Portal, a unique financial initiative simultaneously onboard investors and customers in the securities market, the NBFC sector, and the insurance industry.

The CGP also offers standardized, one-time KYC requirements across different asset classes. The SECP Chairman, Akif Saeed and Badiuddin Akber, Chief Executive Officer at CDC also spoke to the launching ceremony. She highlighted that one of the key issues undermining the growth of capital markets is the lack of liquidity which is

directly attributable to the small number of investors. She believes that the Centralized Gateway Portal can provide the impetus for the much-needed growth of our investor base.

Dr Shamshad appreciated that the CGP provide immense opportunities to investors and great convenience to market intermediaries by removing duplications and streamlining the customer onboarding process.

She appreciated SECP for its efforts and constructive reforms for facilitating investors' onboarding, with having the potential of transforming the landscape of Pakistan's capital markets.

Rupee gains Rs1.01 against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Friday witnessed the 14th consecutive recovery session as it gained Rs 1.01 against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs291.76 against the previous day's closing of Rs292.77.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 292.1 and Rs 295 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by Rs1.37 to close at Rs 310.61 against the last day's closing of Rs 311.98, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen came down by 01 paisa to close at Rs1.96, whereas a decrease of Rs2.31 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 357.92 as compared to the last closing of Rs 360.23.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal declined by 28 and 27 paisa to close at Rs79.43 and Rs77.78 respectively.



LAHORE: Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan Dr Reza Amiri Moghaddam attends the session of Chamber of Commerce and Industry at LCCI in Provincial Capital.

SBP launches 'Diamond' category of Sohni Dharti Remittance Program

KARACHI (APP): In a bid to further encourage remittances through formal channels, the State Bank of Pakistan, Friday, launched a new 'Diamond' category of the Sohni Dharti Remittance Program (SDRP) that offers enhanced points and additional benefits to remitters.

The category will be effective from September 22, 2023, in addition to existing three- Green, Gold and Platinum- categories of SDRP that is a point-based loyalty program in which

remitters accumulate reward points by sending remittances through formal channels, said a statement issued here. Former Finance Minister Ishaq Dar in his budget speech for FY24 had announced the addition of Diamond category with enhanced reward points and provision of other benefits like arms license of non-prohibited bore, preferential treatment at Pakistan embassies and airports and gratis passport to the Diamond Category holders.

Guru Nanak's life teaches world to live with peace & prosperity. Khalil George

KARTARPUR (Online): There is an urgent need to follow the teachings of Guru Nanak Devji. Guru Nanak's life teaches us how to live with peace and prosperity. These views were expressed by the Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George during his visit to Kartarpur on the occasion of Guru Nanak Devji's death anniversary.

The Federal Minister visited the shrine of Guru Nanak Devji, Guru Nanak Ji, the founder of Sikhism, always taught peace and harmony to the world. In today's violent society, there is an urgent need to

create relationships of mutual respect and love among all communities. Which he always taught in his teachings. We all have to work for peace in our personal and public life.

The Caretaker Federal Minister further said that today's leaders who are involved in petty power politics and self-interest need to pay attention to the message of peace. We need leaders who can be role models for our youth.

Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George commended the Kot Lakhpat jail administration during his visit to jail on Friday.



FAISALABAD: Religious Scholar Allah Wasaya addressing during the 16th Khatme Nabuwat conference along the Satyana road in city.

PPP for specific date for general elections in country

DI KHAN (INP): Central Information Secretary of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Faisal Karim Kundi has underlined the need for the Election Commission to announce a cut-off date for general elections to put a permanent end to the uncertainty surrounding the electoral process in the country.

He expressed these views while talking to the media at Kundi Model Farm here Friday.

He said that the formal announcement of election schedule and its date was a part of the constitutional procedure, but the ECP had neither given any schedule for the election nor announced its date. Merely announcing

the month of January for the election is not enough, he added.

Faisal Karim Kundi said that the People's Party had always adopted a principled position that elections should be held in accordance with the Constitution and this crucial requirement should be fulfilled by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

He said that the party had also expressed its willingness about the election to be held in 60 days and while respecting the wishes and consultation of the coalition parties, we agreed to hold the election within 90 days.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori presiding over a meeting of Ulema at Governor House.

AJK PM for quality cell phone service, improved network coverage in remote areas

MIRPUR (INP): Vice President Telenor Pakistan, Raza Zulfiqar Naqvi was called on by AJK Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq at Jammu and Kashmir House here Friday and discussed the issues of mutual interest with special reference to the cellular phone services operated by the Telenor company in the State.

Speaking on the occasion, Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq said that Telenor should improve its

service quality to the satisfaction of its customers in AJK.

He said that the company should take immediate measures to improve the network coverage in remote areas.

He said that the world had now become a global village and cellular companies had played an important role in this regard.

The PM said that the Easy Paisa facility offered by Telenor was also very

important for the benefit of the people. He also stressed the need for providing the Easy Paisa facility to get the Zakat money delivered to the people of Azad Kashmir.

The PM said that the cellular companies, which have been earning huge revenue from Azad Kashmir, should also spend money on CSR projects for the citizens of Azad Kashmir.

Raza Zulfiqar Naqvi gave a detailed briefing to

the prime minister regarding the service-quality of Telenor network in Azad Kashmir and the provision of facilities offered to the customers by the company.

He said that Telenor, being one of the largest mobile networks, has been providing quality service to its customers living in remote areas. He said that Telenor has installed 450 towers in Azad Kashmir to provide quality services to customers.

CM visits Ningxia Medical University

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Ningxia Medical University in Yangchuan capital of Ningxia province of China where he was briefed about the education and research facilities by the vice chancellor at senior faculty members.

During the visit, the CM visited different sections including research and development facilities and held meetings with faculty members as well as the Pakistani students enrolled in the university, said a handout issued here on Friday.

The CM appreciated the innovative approach with regard to medical

education, saying that innovation is need of the hour.

A wonderful work was being done with regard to medical research and the Punjab government would also raise the standard of medical education in the province in partnership with Ningxia Medical University, he added. Visiting China is not a routine visit but the bilateral cooperation would be exploited to better serve the people, he said.

Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Pakistan embassy officials and senior officials of the Ningxia government were also present.



LAHORE: Pakistan Messiah Millat Party Chairman Aslam Pervez Sabotra addressing press conference along with others at press club in Provincial Capital.

Crackdown against counterfeit drugs leads to significant seizures

PESHAWAR: The Director General of Drugs and Pharmacy Services, Dr. Abbas, has announced a significant crackdown on counterfeit and fraudulent medicines in the province. This operation has led to substantial seizures and actions taken against those responsible.

Dr. Abbas disclosed that, based on confidential information, the Drug Control Peshawar successfully intercepted a large quantity of counterfeit drugs being transported via Daewoo Cargo. These illegal medications were

enroute from Karachi to Peshawar through Daewoo cargo services. The seized contraband includes a staggering 37,000 counterfeit tablets and medicines, supposedly procured by the Sindh government. Investigations are underway to trace the origin of these fake drugs within Peshawar. In the Namak Mandi area, numerous drug supplier stores underwent rigorous inspections. During these checks, samples of suspected fraudulent drugs were collected and sent to the drug lab for thorough analysis.

I do not feel good due to Jail food, Parvez Elahi

LAHORE (Online): Former Punjab Chief Minister Parvez Elahi said that Jail food is being given which is not good for health. Earlier there was a doctor's facility but now they have created problems in it too.

While talking informally to journalists in Anti-terrorism Court (ATC), former Chief Minister said that Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif are both brothers who are responsible for high cost of electricity. Today, middle class has also affected due to inflation. The system has stopped due to not holding general elections.

Minister vows action on human rights issues

PESHAWAR: A meeting was convened at the office of Mr. Syed Arshad Husain Shah, the caretaker minister for Law, Parliamentary Affairs, and Human Rights in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the state of human rights in the province and the necessary measures needed to enhance and fortify the human rights framework within the region. Present at the meeting were representatives from the Directorate General of Law and Human Rights.

During the meeting, the Minister was given a detailed presentation on the current

human rights situation in the province and the difficulties faced by the Directorate General in carrying out its human rights-related responsibilities. The team emphasized the urgent need to establish regional divisions within the Directorate General to ensure the protection of fundamental rights at the local level. The Minister assured that this matter would be promptly addressed with the relevant authorities. Furthermore, the Minister stated his intention to convene a meeting with the Police and Revenue departments as soon as possible to enhance coordination between departments when investigating human rights violations.

Railways to shut down Shalimar Express

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Railways has decided to shut down Shalimar Express once again due to financial crunch.

According to media reports, the railway's administration was facing a loss of about Rs2 million daily. The Shalimar Express plies between Lahore to Karachi.

In May 2023, the Pakistan Railways had revived the high-speed Shalimar Express passenger train after eight months. To enhance the facilities for the high-speed train, its 19 coaches had been reconditioned at Mughalpura Workshop.

International News

Leaders of Syria and China announce strategic partnership as part of Asian Games diplomacy

BEIJING: China and Syria announced the formation of a strategic partnership on Friday as Chinese leader Xi Jinping kicked off a series of diplomatic meetings ahead of the upcoming Asian Games. Xi met Syrian President Bashar Assad in the southern Chinese city of Hangzhou, which is hosting the 15-day sports competition.

"In the face of the unstable and uncertain international situation, China is willing to work with Syria to firmly support each other ... and jointly safeguard international fairness and justice," Xi said in a video clip posted online by

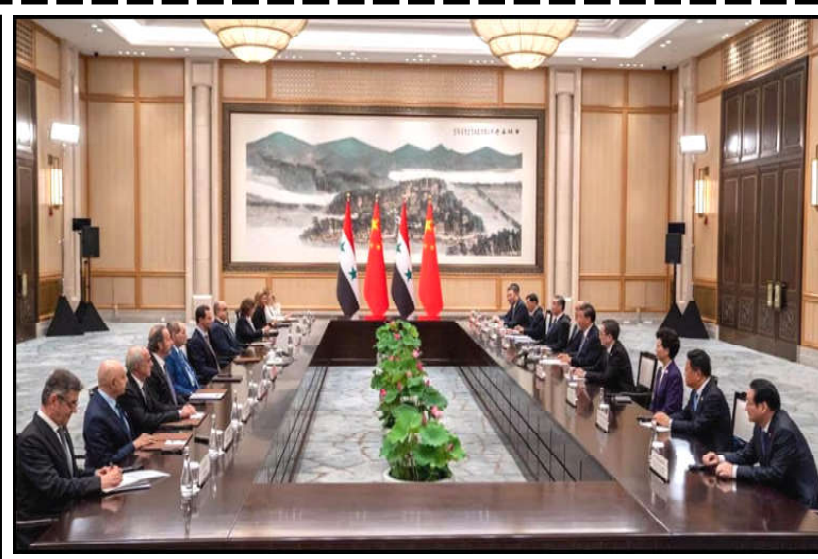
state broadcaster CCTV. Assad's visit parallels in some ways that of Russian President Vladimir Putin last year for the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympics. Both leaders are virtual pariahs in the West but welcomed by China as it tries to expand its global influence and promote an alternative to the U.S.-led international order.

The Syrian leader will attend the Asian Games opening ceremony on Saturday night along with the king of Cambodia, the crown prince of Kuwait and the prime ministers of Nepal, East Timor and South Korea, China's Foreign Ministry has said.

Xi also met Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah on Friday and said he would work with him to take bilateral relations to a new level, CCTV reported.

Both meetings took place at a state guest house at West Lake, a scenic tourist destination in Hangzhou that has inspired Chinese painters for centuries.

Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni arrived Friday at the airport in Hangzhou. CCTV video posted online showed him walking down the stairs from his plane to the tarmac for a red carpet welcome that included the Asian Games mascots.



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Syria's President Bashar al-Assad and other officials in eastern Hangzhou city, China.

Zelenskyy asks Congress for more Ukraine aid. Vance says he didn't attend 'farce' meeting

WASHINGTON: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday made his second visit to Capitol Hill in another pitch to U.S. lawmakers to continue supporting his embattled nation's war effort against Russia's invasion.

But on the surface, his appearance looks to have done little to change the hearts and minds of lawmakers skeptical of providing additional assistance to Ukraine.

Zelenskyy's stop in Washington, which included a bipartisan meeting with a

group of House lawmakers and an all-senators meeting, noticeably lacked the fanfare he saw when he addressed a joint meeting of Congress last December.

President Joe Biden in August requested lawmakers to approve another \$24 billion in additional aid related to Ukraine.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., who has expressed reluctance to include Ukraine aid in a spending package to fund the government, declined to commit to putting Biden's ask on the House floor on Thursday.

"I think a lot of this

doubt lies on President Biden.

He hasn't made the case to the American public, what is victory? What does it take to be able to win?" McCarthy said. "But I believe when we're looking at where we're going right now, Zelenskyy has answered a lot of questions for me."

Ahead of Zelenskyy's visit, a coalition of 28 GOP lawmakers from the Senate and House signed a letter opposing Biden's request, arguing the White House has not done enough to persuade Congress on the war's progress.

Saudi ties with Israel will betray Palestinians, fears Raisi

UNITED NATIONS: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has accused regional rival Saudi Arabia of betraying the Palestinians by seeking to normalise relations with Israel.

"We believe that a relationship between regional countries and the Zionist regime would be a stab in the back of the Palestinian people and of the resistance of the Palestinians," he said.

"The initiation of a relationship between the Zionist regime and any country in the region, if it is with the aim to bring security for the Zionist regime, will certainly not do so," Raisi told

a news conference on Wednesday as he attended the UN General Assembly. Saudi Arabia and Israel have bonded in part over shared hostility to Iran's clerical state, although Riyadh has moved to ease tensions with Tehran through talks brokered by China. US President Joe Biden is hoping to transform the Middle East — and score an election-year diplomatic victory — by securing recognition of the Jewish state by Saudi Arabia. On Wednesday, Biden met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his wife Olena Zelenska, left, meet with Governor General Mary Simon and her husband Whit Fraser in Ottawa.

Sudan's military leader warns the war in his country could spread beyond its borders

ABUJA: The war in Sudan could spread beyond the northeast African country's borders if it is not stopped, Sudan's army chief told the United Nations General Assembly, while urging world leaders to designate the rival paramilitary force as a terrorist group.

"The nature of this war is now a threat to regional and international peace and security. ... This is like the spark of war, a war that will spill over to other countries in the region," Sudan army chief

Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan told world leaders late Thursday. Sudan plunged into conflict in April when long-simmering tensions escalated between the military, led by Burhan, and the rival Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. They had joined forces in 2021 to seize power in a coup that cast aside Sudan's pro-democracy movement.

The conflict has killed at least 5,000 people and wounded 12,000 others, according to Volker Perthes, the U.N. envoy in the country.

US pledges new aid for Haiti

NEW YORK: The United States on Friday unveiled \$65 million more in help for Haiti's police and urged the U.N. Security Council to formally back the deployment of a multinational security mission to help the Caribbean country battle crippling gang violence.

Speaking at a meeting in New York to address the security situation in Haiti, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the mission, led by Kenya, could deploy "within months." "We really have no time to lose," Blinken said.

Haiti last year asked for help to combat violent gangs that have largely overrun the capital Port-au-Prince. The council could vote as soon as next week, diplomats said, on a U.S.-drafted resolution supporting a multinational police deployment.

While not providing any troops, Blinken said the Biden administration will work with the U.S. Congress to provide \$100 million to back the multinational mission with logistical and financial assistance. This could include intelligence support, airlift, communications and medical support, he said.

Russia says Ukraine missile hits Black Sea navy HQ

MOSCOW: At least one Ukrainian missile struck the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea navy in the Crimean port of Sevastopol on Friday, and a major cyberattack interrupted internet services on the peninsula, Russian-installed officials said. Russia's defence ministry said one serviceman was missing after the attack, revising its earlier statement that the serviceman had been killed. Air defences had downed a total of five missiles, the ministry said.

The Russian-installed governor of Sevastopol, Mikhail Razvozhayev, said the attack had caused a fire and people were being urged to avoid the city centre where the navy building is located, with firefighters working and some roads closed. Razvozhayev said there were no civilian casualties or damage to civilian infrastructure in his report on the incident on the Telegram messaging app. Crimea, which Russia seized and annexed from Ukraine in 2014.

More than 50 arrested in latest Italy raid

MILAN: Over 50 people have been arrested in a new police raid against the 'Ndrangheta mafia in Italy. Carabinieri police said in a statement on Friday.

Deploying more than 400 personnel, the operation, named 'Karpanthos', was led by Prosecutor Nicola Gratteri, one of Italy's best-known anti-Mafia investigators.

Police said 38 people have been jailed, six put under house arrest and eight given orders not to leave their hometowns.

North Korea's Kim sets forth steps to boost Russia ties as US & Seoul warn about weapons deals

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ordered unspecified steps to further develop relations with Russia after his recent visit to the country as his foreign rivals warn that any cooperation on military weapons would be dangerous and bring consequences.

Experts speculated North Korea and Russia likely discussed banned arms transfer deals and other cooperation measures during Kim's six-day trip last week.

They say the two countries are serious about sharply boosting their ties

while they are engaged in separate confrontations with the West.

During a Politburo meeting on Wednesday, Kim arranged for work to be done on further developing bilateral ties at "a new high level at the practical stage" to consolidate "the success" of his Russia trip, the official Korean Central News Agency said Friday.

Kim underscored the need to expand bilateral cooperation in every field, making a substantial contribution to the promotion of the well-being of the people of the two countries, KCNA said.

Alvi for enhanced Pak-Saudi coop. in economic, defence sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday said Pakistan highly valued its relations with Saudi Arabia and was committed to enhancing bilateral economic, investment and defence ties.

Talking to the visiting Chief of General Staff of the Saudi Armed Forces General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili, who led a delegation here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, he said Pakistan was looking for investment from Saudi Arabia and other countries in diverse fields.

President Alvi mentioned that Pakistan had huge potential in four key sectors including agricul-

ture, information technology, energy and mining.

In this regard, a Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has been set up to serve as a one-window platform to fast-track decision-making and facilitate foreign direct investment.

Expressing satisfaction at the existing level of Pak-Saudi bilateral cooperation, the president said that the high-level exchanges of military leadership of the two countries would further boost defence cooperation. Alvi said he was highly impressed by the vision of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman that led to the

normalisation of relations between the Kingdom and Iran, which he said, was essential to bring peace and prosperity to the region.

He said Saudi Arabia always supported Pakistan at difficult times and emphasized that the brotherly countries enjoyed excellent relations in various fields and had commonality of views on various regional and international issues.

He thanked the Saudi leadership for providing financial support to Pakistan to help it deal with its economic challenges.

The president lauded the role of Saudi Arabia on the platform of the Organization of the Islamic Coop-

eration (OIC) in highlighting the plight of the Muslims in Palestine, Kashmir and Afghanistan. He asked General Fayyadh bin Hamed to convey his warm regards to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoyed close ties in various fields since the beginning and called for further improvement in their bilateral ties. He said the Kingdom's vision 2030 would bring prosperity to the neighbouring countries and to the Islamic world. Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf Bin Saeed Al-Malki attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of General Staff of the Saudi armed forces, General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili along with members of his delegation meeting with President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



Federal Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hasan Fawad held a meeting with Regional Director of International Finance Corporation (IFC) for Middle East, Afghanistan & Pakistan Khawaja Aftab Ahmed.

Saudi govt to enhance facilities for Pak pilgrims during Hajj 2024: Aneeq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Friday said Pakistani pilgrims would be provided additional facilities and improved services during the Hajj 2024.

He announced this after a comprehensive meeting with Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah, Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah, in Riyadh, which was also attended by Pakistan's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Ahmed Farooq and Deputy Chief of Mission, Moazzam Khan, said a statement received here.

According to details, Minister Aneeq held discussions to finalize arrangements for Pakistani pilgrims adding that they

would be provided further enhanced facilities during the upcoming Hajj season.

He said accommodation, meals, and transportation for pilgrims would be improved with a more comfortable and convenient experience. He urged his Saudi counterpart to finalize the flight schedule for Pakistani pilgrims promptly besides making arrangements to accommodate Pakistani pilgrims closer to the holy sites in Makkah and Madinah. He proposed to expand 'Road to Makkah' project at various airports in Pakistan including Karachi and Lahore, in addition to Islamabad.

Minister Aneeq expressed his gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin

Abdulaziz Al Saud, and Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman for their unwavering support in providing the best facilities to pilgrims. He appreciated the Saudi government's efforts to continuously enhance services for pilgrims from Pakistan. Saudi Minister for Hajj and Umrah, Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah, assured of Saudi Arabia's commitment to further cooperation with Pakistan.

He highlighted that the Saudi government was continuously working to improve services for Pakistani pilgrims, and several new initiatives had been taken to ensure their comfort and convenience.

Pakistan looks forward to fulfillment of COP28 climate change commitments: PM

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday said that Pakistan looked forward to the fulfillment of the climate change commitments made at COP28 by the developed world including the provision of over \$100 billion in annual climate finance.

The prime minister, in his address at the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly, said the developed countries had committed to allocate at least half of climate finance for adaptation in developing countries, besides operationalising the Fund

and funding arrangements for Loss and Damage.

He said the developed world had also pledged to accelerate their carbon emission mitigation targets to "keep alive" the goal of restricting global warming to 1.5 degrees centigrade.

The prime minister called for resisting the attempts to selectively provide such funds on the basis of geo-political considerations. He told the world leaders that Pakistan's triple food, fuel and finance challenge was a prime illustration of the impacts of COVID-19, conflicts and climate on developing countries.

CJ Qazi Faez participates in QAU syndicate meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Quaid-e-Azam University convened its Syndicate meeting yesterday, bringing together all members, including the distinguished presence of Chief Justice of Pakistan, Qazi Faez Isa.

The meeting, chaired by University's Vice Chancellor, Dr. Niaz Akhtar, said a press release on Friday. During the meeting, Vice Chancellor Dr. Niaz Akhtar presented a detailed overview of the university's key

achievements and ongoing challenges. Among the challenges discussed were pending issues related to land grabbing, which have been a source of concern for the university. Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa showed deep concern for the longstanding land issues plaguing Quaid-i-Azam University. Recognizing the gravity of the situation, he has instructed to prioritize and expedite the resolution of these land-related challenges.

Sami asks ministries, divisions to expedite work on CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Friday asked all the ministries and divisions to expedite work on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects. The minister said this while chairing a meeting to review the progress made over the CPEC projects, a news release said. The meeting was attended by the Chief Economist of Pakistan and representatives of the various ministries and divisions.

During the meeting, the minister was apprised about the progress of the CPEC projects particularly after the 12th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting held in July 2023. The CPEC agreement was signed between Pakistan and China on July 5, 2013. The representatives of various ministries and divisions gave a detailed briefing on the implementation status of their respective projects in different sectors like Energy, Infrastructure, Information Technology, Gwadar Interna-

tional Airport, Special Economic Zone (SEZs) and other key areas.

Initiatives In the early harvest projects of CPEC, as many as six mega infrastructure projects were completed including the Havelian-Thakot section of KKH, Multan-Sukkur (M-5) Motorway, Hakla-D.I.Khan Motorway, Optical Fiber Cable, Eastbay Expressway and Orange Line Metro Train. Furthermore, on the western alignment of CPEC, work on different sections is under implementation which would be completed by 2024. Since most of these highways pass through the far-flung areas of Pakistan, it has opened those areas for business which would bring prosperity. During the meeting, it was further informed that the meeting of Joint Working Groups (JWGs) on (Infrastructure) will be held next week to review the projects.

The minister also asked the relevant ministry to expedite the work on Special Economic Zones (SEZs) which include

Rashakai Special Economic Zone, Dhabaji Special Economic Zone; Allama Iqbal Industrial City; Bostan Special Economic Zone; ICT Model Industrial Zone; Industrial Park on Pakistan Steel Mill Land; Mirpur Industrial Zone; Mohmand Marble City and Moqpondass Special Economic Zone. Similarly, during the meeting, a briefing was also given on the upcoming Belt & Road Forum to be held in China. The CPEC enters a significant milestone as it celebrates a decade of remarkable achievements in fostering economic growth, infrastructure development, and regional connectivity. The year 2023 marks the Decade of CPEC and the strong partnership between Pakistan and China.

Accordingly, both Pakistan and China are celebrating 10 Years of Belt & Road Initiatives (BRI) and CPEC from July 5 2023. Recently, the Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng visited Pakistan and attended a ceremony to mark 10 years of the CPEC project.

Controversial tweet: Journalist Khalid Jamil in FIA custody for two days

ISLAMABAD (INP): A district and sessions court in Islamabad on Friday remanded journalist Muhammad Khalid Jamil in the custody of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for two days following his arrest over a 'controversial tweet'.

The journalist was presented in an Islamabad district and sessions court after he was arrested last night in Cyber Crime Act.

During the hearing, the FIA demanded a 10-day physical remand of Khalid

Jamil, which was strongly opposed by the journalist's lawyers.

Jamil's lawyer Naveed Malik said that every citizen has the right to freedom of expression in Pakistan, noting that the agency has violated the decision of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) by arresting the journalist.

After hearing arguments from both sides, Judicial Magistrate Shabbir Bhatti granted a two-day physical remand of journalist Khalid Jamil.



LAHORE: A delegation of CEO Club Worldwide Pakistan & UAE Chapter in a group photo with Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

3 member bike lifter gang held; six motorbikes, cash recovered

ISLAMABAD (INP): Tarnol police here on Friday arrested three wanted members of a bike lifter gang involved in motorbike lifting activities and recovered six motorbikes and spare parts from their possession.

A police spokesperson said, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the police had started a crackdown against criminal elements in order to save precious lives and property of citizens. Tarnol police team used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending three wanted members of a bike lifter gang, identified as Gul Khan, Muhammad Hassan and Nasir Khan. The police team also recovered six stolen motorbikes and spare parts from their possession.

Govt taken steps including SIFC to boost the economy of the country: Governor

Independent Report LAHORE: A delegation of CEO Club Worldwide Pakistan & UAE Chapter called on Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rehman, here at Governor House Lahore today. The delegation comprised CEO Club Worldwide Pakistan and UAE Chapter, Patron-in-Chief, Sohail Al-Zarooni, President Muhammad Ijaz, Chairman Akhuwat Foundation, Amjad Saqib, Senior Journalist Mujibur Rahman Shami and distinguished business personalities. In the meeting, issues of mutual interest, trade and opportunities for local entrepreneurs to start business ventures in the UAE were discussed in detail.

Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that continuity of policies is

very important for economic development. He said that after 2018, the economic conditions of the country suffered due to the change of policies, but now the situation is on the way to improvement again, hopefully there will be more improvement in the future, he added.

He further stated that the government has taken steps including establishment of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and Export Processing Zones to boost the economy of the country.

He said that there is a lot of scope for corporate farming in the country. Governor Punjab said that the initiative of CEO Club Worldwide Pakistan and UAE Chapter to provide an international forum for local entrepreneurs to start business ventures in UAE is commendable.

Kashmir issue should be resolved as per UN resolutions

NEW YORK (Online): Caretaker Foreign Minister (FM) Jilil Abbas Jilani has said Kashmir is very vital issue and it should be resolved as per UN resolutions.

"All the outstanding issues between Pakistan and India can come to end only if Kashmir issue is resolved, he said in an interview to Al-Jazeera TV here.

He went on to say resolving Kashmir issue as per UN resolutions is very important.

Over 7 lac Indian armed troops are there in Occupied Kashmir. While Indian security forces are involved in brazen violations of human rights therein.

He reiterated Pakistan will continue to support Kashmiris at every forum.

Canada exposes India's ugly face of extremist, racist India: Muhsaal

NANKANA SAHIB (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights, Muhsaal Hussein Mullick on Friday said Canada has exposed the ugly face of extremist and racist India targeting Sikh community across the world. The interim minister on the directions of the Prime Minister visited Nankana Sahib to express solidarity with the Sikh community. Mullick said, "Baba Guru Nanak always taught peace, love and brotherhood. I have come to Gurdwara Janam Asthan to express solidarity with the Sikhs." She added that the killing of Sardar Hardeep Singh in Canada was condemnable, whereas there were many freedom

movements going on in India including Khalistan. The Minister also mentioned that the Jarranwala tragedy was orchestrated by the Indian spy agency RAW, adding, the RAW agents burnt 23 churches in Jarranwala. She termed the Jarranwala tragedy as regrettable incident and said after the tragedy of Jarranwala, the entire state got moved. "The houses of 94 affected Christian families have been restored in Jarranwala," Muhsaal Mullick said. The Minister said India wanted to destroy the peace of the entire world and had made the lives of Kashmiris miserable. "No minority is safe in India."

Emergency nor martial law can be imposed, Khursheed

ISLAMABAD (Online): Senior Leader of PPP Syed Khursheed Shah said that Election Commission (EC) should have given only a date for elections. Neither Emergency nor martial law can be imposed in current situation.

While talking to media PPP Leader Syed Khursheed Shah said that when the last week of January was given then one of the 6 days of last week should have been given. This is constitutional matter where constitution is being violated.

CPO Safe City/Traffic holds a meeting with National Radio and TCOs

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Following the special instructions of the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the CPO Safe City/Traffic held a meeting with senior officers of the National Radio Telecommunication Corporation (NRTC) at Safe City Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

He said that that meeting was held regarding the award of the upgrade and expansion of Islamabad Safe City to NRTC on a G2G basis. Furthermore, all the components of Safe City Islamabad, including the data center, cameras, fiber, infrastructure, surveillance software, and analytics software, were discussed at length.

They stated that after a detailed survey and POC deployment we may be able to sign an MOU for upgradation/revamping of Safe City Islamabad on a G2G basis. He said that the delegation visits the command and control center, the data hub unit, modern technology-equipped cameras, and the Police operations center hall. They were fully briefed about the procedures and benefits.

Moreover, the delegation was informed that Safe City Islamabad is playing a significant role in various departments through modern techniques, including the Police Operations Center, Emergency Control Center, Data Hub Unit, Dispatch Control Center, E-Challan System, and the "Pucar-15" helpline.

He emphasized that the delegation was also apprised of the functionality and benefits of the Safe City cameras in the city. The modern cameras of Safe City are playing a crucial role in ensuring the safety of the city and preventing crimes and safeguarding the lives and property of citizens. 42% of crimes are resolved through the Safe City Command and Control Center.



Islamabad: Federal Minister Madad Ali Sindhi attended the Students Project Exhibition "Beyond the Classroom" as the chief guest at ICG F-6/2, in Islamabad.

Nestlé Pakistan inaugurates 7th clean, safe drinking water facility in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Committed to be a force for good, Nestlé Pakistan inaugurated a facility to provide clean and safe drinking water to more than 12,000 people in Islamabad's Sector I-10/4 in partnership with the Capital Development Authority (CDA). During the inauguration, Jason Avancena, Chief Executive Officer, Nestlé Pakistan said, "We are committed to Creating Shared Value (CSV) throughout our value chain for communities and the inaugu-

ration of this seventh clean safe drinking water facility is a testament to our commitment to making a positive impact for families, communities and the planet."

"The impact we make is only possible because of the efforts of our employees, partners, and stakeholders across our value chain. I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to CDA for their support."

Nestlé Pakistan has already developed and currently managing six clean

and safe drinking water facilities around its manufacturing sites in Sheikhpura and Kabirwala, he said and added, with the inauguration of this facility in Islamabad, approximately 72,000 people will have access to clean and safe drinking water daily around the company's manufacturing sites.

Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Waqar Ahmad, Head of Corporate Affairs and Sustainability, Nestlé Pakistan said, "Nestlé Pakistan has an active.

They stated that after a detailed survey and POC deployment we may be able to sign an MOU for upgradation/revamping of Safe City Islamabad on a G2G basis. He said that the delegation visits the command and control center, the data hub unit, modern technology-equipped cameras, and the Police operations center hall. They were fully briefed about the procedures and benefits.

Moreover, the delegation was informed that Safe City Islamabad is playing a significant role in various departments through modern techniques, including the Police Operations Center, Emergency Control Center, Data Hub Unit, Dispatch Control Center, E-Challan System, and the "Pucar-15" helpline.

He emphasized that the delegation was also apprised of the functionality and benefits of the Safe City cameras in the city. The modern cameras of Safe City are playing a crucial role in ensuring the safety of the city and preventing crimes and safeguarding the lives and property of citizens. 42% of crimes are resolved through the Safe City Command and Control Center.