

Independent

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ISLAMABAD: Special Envoy of the Secretary General of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in Jammu and Kashmir H.E. Yousef M. Al Dobeay calls on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Caretaker CM directs to restore electricity of approved legal tube wells of agri. sector

Urgent solution of problem of electricity restoration to be found out; Says we want to save zamindars from heavy losses and destruction owing to power suspension during season

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has directed the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) to restore electricity of the approved legal tube wells of the agriculture sector by today (Friday) so that the farmers and growers may not suffer any agriculture loss right during the peak season due to the power suspension.

The Chief Minister formed a sub-committee headed by the Secretary Energy department and Commissioner Quetta for preparing viable suggestions for payment of the arrears between the QESCO and agriculturists, installation of meters and taking action against the il-

legal tube wells. The Chief Minister was chairing an emergent meeting of the QESCO, Finance department and administrative officers here at the CM's secretariat on Thursday.

Also present in the meeting were the caretaker Provincial Minister Information, Jan Achakzai, Chief Executive Officer QESCO, Abdul Karim Jamali, Secretary Finance, Zahid Saleem, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiq and other concerned high ups.

While briefing the meeting, the QESCO CEO informed that QESCO's 437 billion of rupees are outstanding against agriculture consumers in the province. Moreover, Rs. 32 billion are outstanding against the private consumers, as a re-

sult the QESCO is facing severe financial crunch, he added.

He informed that operation is being started for payment of arrears and suspension of illegal power connections in the "B" areas of province.

For the purpose, the Home department has been written a letter to provide services of FC, adding he mentioned.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister said that the power suspension would cause destruction and heavy loss to the agriculture sector, therefore, QESCO should ensure restoration of power by Friday.

He also directed to take concrete steps for prevention of power theft as well as payment of the QESCO arrears in the province.

Pakistan values its brotherly relations with Qatar, COAS

RAWALPINDI (Online): Lieutenant General (Pilot) Salem Hamad Eqail Al-Nabet, Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed Forces called on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), COAS at GHQ, today.

During the meeting matters of mutual & professional interest and regional security situation were discussed.

COAS said that Pakistan values its brotherly relations with Qatar and Pakistan Army also looks forward for enhanced defence and security cooperation with Qatar Armed Forces.

The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan Army continuous efforts for peace and stability in the region and pledged to keep working for better relations between the two countries.

Nawaz Sharif not returning under deal, says PM Kakar

Govt has no soft corner for any political party; Nawaz will have to face legal obstacles to contest polls; Govt finalising required measures for polls with ECP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday dismissed the impression that the decision of Pakistan Muslim League leader Nawaz Sharif to return to Pakistan was part of any deal with the interim government.

"The caretaker government has 'no soft corner' for PML-N or any other political party...How can a caretaker government strike such a deal," he said in an interview with digital media platform, WE (World Echo) News.

The prime minister was responding to a question relating to the PML-N chief's homecoming who flew from London to Saudi Arabia yesterday with his

announcement to land in Pakistan on October 21.

Kakar pointed out that Nawaz Sharif left the country as per the court decision "under the nose of Imran Khan's government, and not the caretaker setup".

However, he said that if Nawaz Sharif returns and takes part in politics, he will have to face some legal obstacles. "The answers to these legal questions lie in legal remedies," he said.

Kakar said any leader be it Imran Khan, Asif Ali Zardari, or Nawaz Sharif, everyone would have to seek their legal remedy as per their case scenario.

He said Pakistan was

facing the formation of "regimental camps" and the country had been turned into a fighting ground for political positions.

He rejected the notion that the caretaker setup could be likened to the 90s 'Kakar formula' where both Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan were forced to quit on the proposal of then army chief General Waheed Kakar to make way for fresh election.

"This comparison is apples and oranges. It is out of context because in our case, the stint of the normal parliament led to its retirement and we are part of the constitutional con-

tinuation where leaders of the House and the Opposition agreed upon my name," he said. There has been no interference from any institution in our case, he said.

On general polls, he said necessary security and administrative arrangements were in place.

He said the caretaker government in collaboration with the Election Commission was in the process of the finalization of the required measures.

On the expulsion of Afghan refugees, the prime minister said the action was being taken only against unregistered foreign nationals and over one million illegal aliens.

Peace in region to remain elusive till Kashmir dispute resolution: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday calling the Kashmir dispute the root cause of tension in South Asia, said peace in the region would remain elusive till the resolution of the issue.

The prime minister in a meeting with OIC Secretary General's Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir Yousef M. Al Dobeay, said Pakistan was committed to a just and peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

He welcomed the visit of the OIC delegation to Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

He lauded the sustained efforts of the OIC in support of the Kashmir cause, particularly in the



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over a meeting regarding restoration of electricity to agriculture sector and payment of outstanding dues of QESCO

Caretaker PM bans unnecessary foreign visits of Ministers

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has banned the unnecessary foreign visits of care taker Federal Ministers and senior government officials.

New SOPs have also been issued regarding foreign visits of Ministers and government officials.

Sources told that a report was submitted to Prime Minister (PM) that some Ministers and Federal Secretaries and others are making unnecessary foreign visits.

In which it was said that due to these visits, the work in the federal ministries and the Pakistan Secretariat is being affected.

Royal system of police, patwari should be abolished: CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa on Thursday remarked that the institutions should be respected while the royal system of police and 'patwari' should be abolished.

The CJP gave these remarks during hearing of a case pertaining to the 70 tola gold committee.

During the hearing of the case, the top court expressed displeasure over the poor investigation into the matter.

The chief justice inquired that how much gold the arrested goldsmith had to give through the committee. The court was told that 70 tolas of gold was not given to the plaintiff.

The chief justice noted that no income tax had been paid on one and a half million worth of gold, where does this gold come from? What is its legal status.

He said that the real suspect in this case should be the police, adding that the policeman would ask for the gold only for his own benefit. The CJP observed that the committee was formed by the arrested suspect and the police investigated his family members. The Supreme Court, however, approved the bail of the accused arrested in the gold committee against surety bonds worth Rs 200,000.

Afghan refugees issue Double standards of western countries exposed

Independent Report

QUETTA: The West exhibits a stark contrast by urging Pakistan to show compassion to Afghan refugees while failing to grant special visas to nearly 197,000 Afghans who fled the Taliban's rule in 2021. For more than 40 years, Pakistan has welcomed 1.95 million Afghan refugees, with an additional 600,000 finding shelter after Taliban took over.

As of Sep 2023, the US has resettled fewer than 4,000 Afghans, despite promising to provide asylum to Afghans who had worked with the US in Afghanistan through their special visa programs. Similarly, the UK resettled only 3,000 Afghans but halted the program, citing COVID-19 as the reason. 156,000 Afghans awaiting visas from US, and 141,000 from UK under their respective special visa programs are a testimony to their hypocritical approach towards Pakistan.

Second phase of CPEC in full swing: Sami Saeed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Thursday said the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was in full swing, reiterating the interim government's strong commitment to implementing the development projects in letter and spirit.

The minister made these remarks while speaking at a seminar on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI): "Paving the Path to Shared Prosperity," organized here by the Centre of Excellence, CPEC, Quaid-e-Azam University (QUA).

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong was the chief guest at the conference.



Chief of Qatar Armed Forces Lieutenant General Salem Hamad Eqail Al-Nabet meeting with Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir in Rawalpindi.

Pakistan calls for end to "inhumane" blockade of Gaza; UN's role for ceasefire

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Thursday strongly condemning the indiscriminate use of force by Israeli authorities in Gaza, called for an end to the "inhumane" blockade causing humanitarian situation, besides urging the United Nations' proactive role in facilitating a ceasefire.

"We are deeply concerned about the fast-deteriorating and dire humanitarian situation in Gaza due to the inhumane blockade and collective punishment by Israeli forces. The decision to cut off electricity, fuel and water supplies is unjust and should be reversed, as it would severely impact the lives of the Palestinians residing in the enclave," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in her weekly press briefing.

She said the unprecedented gravity of the situation demanded urgent intervention by the interna-

tional community.

"We urge the United Nations to play a proactive role in facilitating a ceasefire to alleviate the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza," she said.

She called upon Israel to bring an immediate end to its campaign of indiscriminate bombing against the people of Gaza.

"It should fulfill its obligations as an occupying power under international law, lift the blockade and allow unhindered access to humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people," the spokesperson remarked.

She said the current cycle of aggression and violence was a sad reminder and a direct consequence of over seven decades of illegal foreign occupation, aggression, and disrespect for international law, including UNSC resolutions that recognized the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinian people.

'Gaza is not garden, it will be very costly,' Hamas warns Israel

Monitoring Desk

GAZA: A Hamas leader has said that the group is prepared for any potential deployment of Israeli troops inside Gaza amid strong indications that Israel is preparing a ground offensive into the besieged enclave in response to Saturday's attack. "We are not afraid. We have a strong determination to continue. We have a lot of fighters and a lot of people who want to support us," said Ghazi Hamad, a member of the Hamas political bureau.

"Even people in the borders of Jordan, Lebanon and everywhere, they want to come here and fight for us. Gaza is not a garden and it will be very costly for them," Hamad warned.

"Since the beginning of this operation we sent 1,200 fighters who succeeded in destroying the image of Israel, the security of Israel, the intelligence of Israel, and the image that Israel is a superpower," he said.

Nawaz Sharif arrives in Jeddah

JEDDAH (Online): Former Prime Minister (PM) and PML-N supremo Mian Nawaz Sharif has arrived in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from London. Thus he has started his journey back to Pakistan. He will also perform Umrah in Saudi Arabia. He reached Jeddah by Saudi Airlines.

Nawaz Sharif will stay in Saudi Arabia for a week and his important meetings are also scheduled there. He will leave Saudi Arabia for Dubai on October 18. PML-N leader Mian Nawaz Sharif will arrive in Pakistan on October 21 through a special flight from Dubai.

Development & prosperity possible only through quality education: Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has emphasized that the dream of development and prosperity can't be materialized without benefiting from modern technology and research.

He said that good education happens to be the basis of strong society and development and prosper-



SIBI: Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar distributing laptops among students at Mir Chakar Khan Rind University

'Don't give up, time of trial to end soon': Imran's message to supporters

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Incarcerated chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Imran Khan has reiterated his resolve that he would not back down even an inch from the quest of 'Haqqeeqi Azadi' (real freedom), urging the nation to not give up, as this time of trial will end because whenever the election will be held the only destiny of this "unelected predatory group and their facilitators is defeat".

In his message to the "nation" from the jail, the former premier said: "Regardless of what prisoner they keep me in, whatever conditions they impose upon me, I will not back down even an inch from the quest of Haqqeeqi Azadi, for the upholding of the rule of law and the Constitution of Pakistan, at the core of which is free and fair elec-

Jamali visits PDMA office; gets briefing on relief activities

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Zubair Jamali visited the office of Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) on Thursday.

The Director PDMA, Attaullah Mengal and other officers were also present on the occasion.

The caretaker Minister was briefed about the relief activities after fire erupted in the forests of Duki.

He was also briefed about the relief and rehabilitation activities for the flood affected people.

In addition to this, the Minister was also briefed about the devastations caused at large scale in the country. Speaking on the occasion, Mir Zubair Jamali said that Pakistan is included in the countries affected due to the climate change.

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

18 DAYS REMAINING

18

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Last call?

Policy confusion, economic disarray, social upheaval, media clampdown and political persecution have cast a suffocating pall on Pakistan.

Amidst this feeling of desolation, a call for forgiveness and cooperation is a reminder that the way out is much simpler than what it has seemed to be.

What President Arif Alvi has said echoes what many politically astute minds believe is the only way for Pakistan to realistically turn the corner: the state must provide an outlet to the public's suppressed will with an election that is free of controversy and fair to all parties.

For a change, it should let the system work in the way it was originally intended to. The country's economic condition presents an unprecedented existential challenge for Pakistan.

No government can realistically expect to survive the difficulties that lie ahead if it comes to power on a stolen mandate. To break free of the past, we must break the mould.

Though the print and electronic media have not been allowed to dwell too long on the topic, the public knows well that it is being ruled by a regime whose priorities and policies are completely at odds with the aspirations of the majority.

The latter's discontent has been made worse by the state-sanctioned use of coercive tactics to restore 'stability', which have yet to yield any tangible dividends for the ordinary citizen.

Those who favour this style of 'political management' must realise that repression has never worked in the past and is unlikely to do so this time. In present conditions, holding an election whose fairness is widely doubted will further fracture the sociopolitical order.

This will not only imperil Pakistan's standing in a rapidly changing world, but the continuing instability is likely to set its economy back by decades. And, by the time the extent of the damage that has been wrought under the present regime is acknowledged, the country will have slumped lower in human development rankings.

The past cannot be undone, but the path we take forward is entirely up to our political, judicial, military and civil society leadership.

The leaders of the different parties must sit together — or be persuaded to if they are not amenable — to agree to some ground rules for the upcoming election. In negotiating these rules, the parties can create the 'level playing field' that each of them has been seeking separately. Meanwhile, the state ought to consider diverting its energies away from the less-than-effective policies it has been pursuing and allocate them, instead, towards ensuring that the political parties have an equal incentive for participating in the talks. This seems like the only 'positive role' it can play at this point. Realistically, and given present conditions, this seems to be the most reasonable path forward.

How can PTI become Relevant Again???



By Qamar Bashir
Former Press Secretary to the President; Former MD, SRBC; Former Minister Press, Embassy of Pakistan to France

In the context of PTI's relevance to the elections and to the politics of the country, the challenge lies in PTI's current confrontational stance towards the powerful Army, which plays a significant role in Pakistan's politics. PTI is perceived as actively seeking favor from the public and institutions to establish its superiority over army and its leadership by cultivating its retired and serving officers and by maligning, weakening and discrediting the army as an institution and its leaders. Whereas, the army as an institution has decided to vehemently frustrate all such efforts by all means at its disposal and at all costs.

The ongoing struggle between PTI and the Army became evident through a PTI-sponsored survey indicating strong public support for Imran Khan, with a 61% positive opinion. Regionally, 29% from Punjab, 28% from Sindh, and 14% from KP had a favorable view of Imran Khan. However, 37% expressed a negative opinion. Notably, Nawaz Sharif and Bilawal Bhutto also garnered far less public support, with 36% having a positive opinion of both. Shehbaz Sharif, on the other hand, faced a 65% negative rating, with only 32% expressing a positive opinion.

In my official capacity, I had close associations with both PTI and PML(N) leadership during their respective times in government. It's

common for the party in power to conduct surveys to boost their ratings, often through friendly agencies. As a counter strategy, the parties in opposition conduct counter surveys to validate their higher rating and prove the earlier survey as biased. However, this time around neither the PML(N) nor PPP conducted the counter surveys, but intriguingly the army did.

The Army conducted its own survey, titled "National Public Opinion Poll Report," which received an impressive 88% rating. This survey, conducted between June 10 and June 30, gathered responses from 3,500 participants across all four provinces of Pakistan.

Some critics argued that assessing the Army's popularity was unnecessary, as such surveys traditionally focus on public figures rather than the military. However, it's worth noting that similar surveys are commonplace in advanced democracies, including the UK and the USA.

For instance, the Pew Research Center conducted a survey in 2018, revealing that the military is the most trusted institution in the United States, with 72% of Americans expressing a great deal of trust and confidence in it. Similarly, a 2022 YouGov Survey found that 62% of Britons have a favorable view of the British Army, while only 16% held an unfavorable view.

The significance of the two surveys conducted in Pakistan lies in their timing, reflecting a prevailing perception that PTI and the Army were engaged in a contest for gaining popularity against each other. This perception, whether rightly or wrongly held, carries profound and far-reaching consequences. In national discourse, it's not uncommon for political parties to compete with each other. However, when the perception arises that a political party is competing for popularity against the country's most sensitive and critical institution, and vice versa, it raises serious and troubling concerns.

The stark reality is that the Army, as the most powerful institution, has

historically held control over political, economic, and financial discipline in Pakistan. It often remains neutral while vigilantly monitoring the direction each aspect of discipline takes. It has established upper and lower limits of tolerance or acceptable behavior, and when any of these boundaries are breached, it intervenes to bring them back within acceptable bounds. Seasoned and traditional political parties have learned these limits and, no matter the circumstances, strive to operate within them, fully aware of the consequences of deviating from the established norms.

However, PTI, being relatively new to the political landscape and facing the formidable influence of the establishment for the first time, miscalculated the extent of support it could muster through street protests and massive public backing to challenge the Army's overarching role in national politics. If the PTI had previously encountered the establishment's "smart power" with full force, it might have refrained from exceeding the established limits of tolerance.

PTI, along with its public supporters and alleged involvement of retired and serving army officers, had underestimated the extent to which the Army would take action against them, particularly after the disturbing, violent, and unlawful events of May 9.

The Army employed a meticulously coordinated combination of kinetic and soft power to effectively remove PTI from the national discourse. It utilized its coercive power to silence PTI's chairman and leaders, preventing them from conveying the party's perspective through national media. High-profile PTI figures and supporters were apprehended, effectively muting their presence in national discussions. It employed fear mongering tactics to dissuade public support for Khan and PTI. This included arbitrary arrests and detentions, often communicated for extended pe-

riods. Detainees suspected of involvement in attacks faced alleged torture and ill-treatment. Allegedly, families of detainees were threatened with reprisals if they didn't confess to their alleged involvement.

Concurrently, a highly successful strategic communication campaign was launched to undermine PTI and its leadership. It leaked stories to the media while disseminating propaganda and information about Imran Khan and PTI. Released footage showcasing violence involving PTI workers clashing with the police and damaging property was employed to shape public opinion. Journalists were briefed on the violence, and provided with their own version of events to sway the narrative. Engaged with political parties, civil society, and community leaders to discourage support for mass protests, while cautioning the public against participating in protests with threats of consequences.

It employed sophisticated technique of narrative framing consistently negative and unfavorable towards Imran Khan and PTI. For instance, Khan was portrayed as a divisive and dangerous figure. Techniques such as priming were employed, repeatedly accusing Khan of corruption and incompetence. A repetition of negative messages about Khan and PTI was used to create an adverse public image. A bandwagon effect was created, giving the impression that the majority of the public opposed Khan and PTI, with claims that most supported the military establishment and the government.

Most likely the PTI leadership and its advisors did not have any idea to face such a massive, sophisticated combination of hard and soft power. But so far the PTI leadership has not learnt the crucial lesson and is continuing to directly confront the army leadership or the institution itself which is highly risky and perilous undertaking. It is not ready to learn the bitter lesson that the army

had a history of successfully achieving its objectives, often reducing opposing parties to insignificance, regardless of their popularity or public approval ratings.

Despite enduring significant trials and tribulation, PTI seemingly failed to grasp this lesson. Recent social media posts from PTI leaders who have evaded the law and their supporters openly challenging the army's authority are unwise and provocative. Such confrontational behavior provides the army with justification to respond assertively and decisively. This confrontational stance likely accelerates the use of smart power against the PTI, further diminishing its prospects for a fair and equitable contest in the upcoming elections.

PTI should change its posture sooner the better from its belligerent relationship with the powerful armed forces and should actively seek avenues for constructive and open dialogue with the military leadership. This dialogue should aim to understand the concerns and goals of the armed forces. PTI must maintain transparency about its intentions, policies, and objectives, addressing any misconceptions held by the military. Finding common areas of interest and collaboration for the betterment of the nation is crucial. Respecting the constitutional framework and ensuring that the party's actions align with the laws governing the military's role is imperative. In cases of specific grievances or conflicts, engaging in conflict resolution processes such as mediation or negotiation to reach mutually acceptable solutions is a wise approach. Building trust over time through consistent, responsible actions and a commitment to conflict resolution is a fundamental step. Above all, the PTI should avoid any actions or statements that may provoke the armed forces or create unnecessary tensions.

Simultaneously, it

should change its posture towards other political parties. Rather condemning them of corruption and refusing to engage with them for national construction efforts, it should work on building a consensus with them through collaboration and dialogue which can lead to a more stable political environment.

It should prioritize good governance, addressing economic and social issues effectively, and plans of action to fundamentally improve the public service delivery to the people in all sectors and disciplines.

It should fundamentally change its narrative from negativity against the army and political parties to positivity through policies and actions that resonate with the population, addressing their concerns and needs while maintaining transparency in its actions and decisions to build trust with the public and institutions. Above all, PTI needs to strike a balance between pursuing its political agenda and collaborating with key institutions to ensure stability and progress in Pakistan's political landscape.

It's anticipated that with such concrete, honest, and conviction-driven actions, a change of hearts within the establishment may occur. Deep down, they also recognize that excluding a major political party from participation could significantly compromise the credibility of elections.

In democratic systems, it's crucial for elections to be inclusive and allow fair competition among various political parties. The exclusion of a major party could be perceived as undemocratic, raising concerns about the legitimacy and fairness of the election. Perhaps the establishment is waiting for the right signals and movements from PTI to allow PTI's leadership and the party to launch an election campaign against other political parties rather than against the military.

Commerce News

Koto Hydropower to add its share in national grid by April 2024: Minister

DIR LOWER (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa caretaker Minister for Mines, Minerals and Energy, Sarfaraz Ali Shah has said that Koto Hydropower Project would start power supply to the national grid from April 2024.

He said this mini-power project would prove an accomplished megaproject for the provincial government due to its efficient power addition to the national grid. The minister added that problems of people related to mines and minerals would be addressed on priority.

The minister said this

during his daylong visit to Dir Lower district on Thursday. The minister visited Chakdara Minerals and Mines and Asif Minerals and Mines Talaash. He inspected various sections of the sites and expressed satisfaction with their performance.

On the occasion, he listened to the problems of the people associated with minerals and mines and issued directives to the deputy commissioner and DPO to address the same.

Later, the minister visited the under-construction Koto Power Project and inspected various sections of the project.



Secretary Railways Syed Mazhar Ali Shah is chairing a meeting at Islamabad.

Poultry Industry playing important role in economic development: Ibrahim Hasan

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister of Punjab for Transport, Livestock and Mines & Minerals Ibrahim Hassan Murad has said that the Poultry Industry was playing an important role in the country's economic development.

During a visit to the Directorate of Poultry Research Institute Rawalpindi, the Minister informed that Pakistan ranks 11th among all countries in terms of poultry industry.

Director of Poultry Research Institute Rawalpindi, Dr. Syed Kamal Nasir briefed the provincial minister regarding the performance of the institution.

He was informed that the Poultry Research Institute Rwp was established in 1985 and the institute was playing an important role in developing the poultry industry at commercial and rural levels.

Along with the economic benefits from the sale of chicken meat and eggs, about 150,000 people are associated with the poultry industry.

It was told in the briefing that there are various labs in the institution for research. The vaccination of birds is also done at the institute. One-day, one-week, 3 and 6-month poultry courses are organized for the public free of charge.



Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the policy board on development of shipbuilding in Pakistan, in Islamabad.

CPEC boosts development of industries in Pak: Report

BEIJING (APP): The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has boosted the development of industries such as energy, infrastructure, agriculture, and textiles in Pakistan, making significant contributions to Pakistan's economy.

The report titled "10 Years of Belt and Road Initiative-China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)" was released as China and Pakistan are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and also the 10th anniversary of

the launch of CPEC, a BRI flagship project.

Since the launch of CPEC in 2013, China has become the largest source of investment for Pakistan for 10 consecutive years with \$25.4 billion investment in direct projects in the country. Among them, investment in the energy sector accounts for 68%, making it one of the areas with the largest investment, the fastest progress, and the most significant achievements under CPEC, CEN reported on Thursday.

As of the end of 2022, completed power projects under CPEC account for 1/4 of Pakistan's power generation, and the compound growth rate of power generation has jumped from 2.7% in pre-CPEC period to 7% during post-CPEC period. CPEC Power plants provided cheaper electricity by utilizing Thar coal reserves. This reduced Pakistan's oil and gas import bill burden.

In terms of transportation infrastructure, over 90% of Pakistan's passenger traffic

and around 96% of freight movement are primarily dependent on road transport. The mileage of completed and ongoing motorways under CPEC is 1622 kilometers, accounting for approximately 40% of the total mileage of Pakistan's motorways.

The Motorway network in Pakistan links different parts of the country to the three main ports which include Karachi Port, Port Bin Qasim, and Gwadar Port, improving Pakistan's cross-border trade efficiency.

SBP clarifies Blue, Green Rs 75 commemorative banknotes are legal tender

KARACHI (APP): State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), on Thursday, clarified that both blue and green colour commemorative banknotes of Rs. 75 are legal tender, eligible to be used as medium of exchange and acceptable at all the banks across the country. The central bank, in a statement issued here, stated that "under Section 25 of the State Bank of Pakistan Act, 1956, all banknotes including commemorative notes issued by SBP

Russian Envoy, Minister pledge to strengthen bilateral trade ties

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Russian Ambassador to Pakistan, Danila V. Ganich, called on the Minister of Commerce, Dr. Gohar Ejaz, at the Commerce Ministry today. The meeting centered on discussions surrounding the enhancement of bilateral trade relations between the two nations.

During the session, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to fostering stronger cooperation with the aim of increasing the volume of bilateral trade. This commitment reflects

the shared interest in fortifying the enduring friendship and economic partnership between Pakistan and Russia. As of the fiscal year 2022-23, the total trade between Pakistan and Russia amounted to US\$ 920 million. Pakistan's exports to Russia during this period totaled US\$ 74 million, while imports from Russia reached US\$ 846 million.

Pakistan's exports to Russia encompass a diverse range of products, including citrus fruit, leather apparel, ready-made garments,

potatoes, home textiles, woven cotton fabrics, surgical and medical apparatus, woven fabric of synthetic staple fiber, and salt, among others. Whereas, key imports from Russia to Pakistan consist of wheat and meslin, dried leguminous vegetables, bituminous coal, and similar solid fuels manufactured from coal.

The Commerce minister welcomed the positive developments in bilateral trade and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to facilitate an environment conducive to robust economic cooperation.

PM directs to accelerate development of more shipyards in country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday directed the authorities concerned to accelerate the development of more shipyards in the country.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting of the policy board of shipbuilding, also called for keeping in view the environmental impacts of the shipyard building projects.



ISLAMABAD: Russian Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Danila V. Ganich meeting with the Caretaker Minister of Commerce, Dr. Gohar Ejaz at the Commerce Ministry to discuss bilateral trade relations.

SCCI president, Chief CC discuss issues of custom clearing agents, traders

PESHAWAR (APP): A businessmen's delegation led by the President of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Fuad Ishaq on Thursday held a meeting with Chief Collector Customs Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Saeed Akram. At the meeting, the SCCI chief in detail apprised chief collector custom KP, Saeed Akram about customs clearing agents and gave a number of proposals for their amicable resolution.

The delegation consisted of the Frontier Customs Agents Association (FCAA) president Ziaul Haq Sarhadi, General Secretary Wahid Bacha and other members of the association along with traders,

The meeting reviewed the current position of the development of shipyards in the country.

In the briefing, the meeting was told that the shipyards could be developed in Surbandar, Eastbay, Kappar and Pishu Khan areas of Balochistan.

The prime minister also instructed the relevant authorities to formulate a comprehensive strategy to curb illegal trawling in coastal areas.



ISLAMABAD: Russian Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Danila V. Ganich meeting with the Caretaker Minister of Commerce, Dr. Gohar Ejaz at the Commerce Ministry to discuss bilateral trade relations.

exporters and importers, said in a press release here. Collector Customs Enforcement Peshawar Khawaja Khurram was also present in the meeting. Chief Collector Customs Saeed Akram took a keen interest in issues of custom clearing agents and traders' community. Fuad Ishaq thanked the chief collector of customs for assurance toward early resolution of issues that were faced by the business community. Both sides agreed to establish a close liaison and devise a joint mechanism for prompt resolution of issues of the traders' community.

Earlier, FCAA delegation headed by its president Ziaul Haq Sarhadi held a meeting with SCCI chief Fuad Ishaq at the chamber house.

CM gives keys of 312 new vehicles, uniforms to PHP Police

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi gave keys of 312 new vehicles and uniforms to Punjab Highway Patrol (PHP) Police at a ceremony held at his office here on Thursday. Addressing the ceremony, the CM said that the incumbent government had given new vehicles to the Punjab Highway Patrol Police after a hiatus of 19 years. Only 47 vehicles were provided to the patrolling police after 2003-04, he

said and maintained that the government was bound to give two uniforms to the policemen every year. From now on, every jawan and senior police officer would be given two uniforms besides the provision of additional funds, he said. Punjab Highway Patrol police had been given the responsibility of checking the axle load. If the police performed this responsibility in a befitting manner, it would take a lead to Punjab police and traffic police, he remarked.



LAHORE: Police officials restore baton charge and arrest protesters during protest demonstration of Punjab Teachers Union against the ongoing privatization of government schools, amendments to pension regulations and the issue of leave encashment, outside Civil Secretariat in Lahore.

Commissioner for strict action to prevent smog

MULTAN (APP): Commissioner Multan division, Engineer Amir Khattak, ordered crackdown against those involved in burning of crop residues and waste to prevent smog. He expressed these views while presiding over review meeting on performance of environment department here on Thursday.

He also ordered to seal the factories causing environmental pollution by serving notices and asked DCs to launch anti-smog drive in their districts concerned effectively. He said that the elements involved in spreading environmental pollution would be brought to justice in any case. He directed

environment department to conduct thorough investigation before reporting in the construction plan. Amir Khattak has ordered action against those who burn crop residues around motorways and highways. He directed transport department to raid against smoke emitting vehicles along with traffic police.

Director environment Mahar Shamshad, while giving briefing, said that inspection of nine units spreading environmental pollution was conducted and notices were served on three units, two FIRs lodged and two units sealed. Likewise, inspection of 46 brick kilns was made and 11 sealed 4 FIRs registered three notices issued and over Rs eight lac.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Council of Pakistan Newspapers' Editors (CPNE) led by its Senior Vice President Anwar Sajidi, Secretary General Aijazul Haq meeting with Principal Information Officer Dr. Tariq Mehmood Khan.

AJK PM calls for teachers' fair, healthy role to produce quality future architects

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while acknowledging the overall healthy role of teachers in nation building, has said that teachers were the real heroes and true architects of a healthy society.

While talking to a teachers' delegation that called on him at Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis late Wednesday, the PM said that the responsibility of the refinement of society rests on the shoulders of

teachers who serve as key actors in shaping the future of the nation by nurturing young minds, imparting knowledge and unlocking intellectual potential.

Describing teaching as a prophetic profession, he said that teachers must play their proactive role to improve the standard and quality of education in the region.

"Teachers must perform their duties honestly, give hundred percent results, and make sure that the future of children is bright", he said.

He said that the government was cognizant of the problems being faced by the teaching community. He assured the delegation that in addition to teachers' promotions, all their problems would be solved on a priority basis.

"A cabinet committee has been constituted to solve the problems of teachers", the PM said, adding that suspended teachers would be reinstated. The government, he said, would ensure the protection of peoples'

rights as per the constitution and law of the land.

"I will continue to fight for the constitutional rights of the people of Azad Kashmir", he said, adding that when we talk about our legitimate rights we must not forget our duties and obligations towards the state. In order to improve the overall performance of government offices and departments, the PM said that biometric attendance has been made compulsory in schools.

Naqvi inspects expansion project of Bibi Pak Daman shrine

LAHORE (APP): The renovation and expansion project of the Bibi Pak Daman shrine will be completed by the middle of next month as around 80% of the work has been completed.

Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi reviewed the ongoing activities at Bibi Pak Daman shrine early in the morning. Both secretary C&W and architect Nayyar Ali Dada apprised him about the pace of work and the steps taken to improve the interior of the shrine.

Journalists hold protest for arrest of Maher's killers

Independent Report
MIRPUR MATHELO: On the call of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists to arrest the killers and facilitators of journalist Shaheed Jan Muhammad Maher of Sukkur, the journalists on behalf of Ghotki Union of Journalists led by President Amir Chana, General Secretary Taj Tanwari, in the district headquarters, journalists organized a protest at press club.

While protesting in front of the protest, they raised slogans for the ar-

rest of the killers and facilitators. In the protest, senior vice president of Ghotki Union Hakim Khan Abro, president of DHQ Press Club Saqib Nasir Gadani, president of Jarwar Press Club Ali Gohar Gabol, senior journalist Mumtaz Arain, Riaz Arain, Tanveer Ahmed Soomro, Zaheer Wasir, Muhammad Ali Sheikh, Naveed Chughtai, Ghazi Wasir, Abdul Majeed Shar, Sherbaz Shar, Naem Akram Mashoori, Farid Malik, Asad Ghanio, Rizwan Bhutto and others participated. The protest-

ers said that even after two months have passed since the murder of Shaheed Jan Muhammad Maher, the killers and facilitators have not been arrested, which is an example of the great incompetence of the police and the government.

If the killers of journalist Jan Muhammad Maher and their facilitators are not arrested immediately, a strong and decisive protest will be held in Sindh Bahr on the call of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists.

PIO assures CPNE's delegation of resolving print media's issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Principal Information Officer (PIO) Dr. Tariq Mehmood Khan on Thursday assured a delegation of the Council of Pakistan Newspapers' Editors (CPNE) that the issues faced by print media would be resolved on priority.

The delegation led by CPNE's Senior Vice President Anwar Sajidi and Secretary General Aijaz ul Haq, was called on the PIO here at his office, said a news release.

The delegation felicitated the PIO on assuming the new responsibilities and

apprised him of the challenges and problems being faced by the print media in the country especially financial issues were discussed in the meeting in details.

The PIO highlighted the importance of print media in present times in the wake of many new media platforms and appreciated their efforts in highlighting the government's policies, programmes and issues of the general public.

He further listened to their issues and assured the delegation to address and resolve the problems on priority.



HYDERABAD: Participants are showering rose petals in Indus River on the eve of World Food Day organized by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations held in Hyderabad.

PITB monitoring system proving effective in dengue surveillance

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) has been at the forefront of innovative technology solutions to address the public health challenges.

It introduced the Smart Dengue Monitoring System, which has been playing a pivotal role in efficiently measuring the performance of anti-dengue surveillance activities, ultimately aiding in control of the dengue epidemic.

This emerged during a progress review meeting, chaired by PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf, according to a press release, issued here on Thursday.

The participants in the

meeting were apprised that a total of 77,000 Android users were registered on the Dengue Tracking System, actively participating in monitoring and performing anti-dengue activities. On average, 45 million Android-based activities are registered quarterly, with an average of 650,000 daily registrations, showcasing the system's robust capabilities.

Faisal Yousaf said, "The PITB Smart Dengue Monitoring System stands as a remarkable example of how technology can be harnessed to address pressing public health concerns efficiently and effectively."

International News

Biden warns Iran to 'be careful' about actions in region

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden on Wednesday issued a stark warning to Iran to "be careful" around its actions in the region following Hamas' attack on Israel. During a roundtable with Jewish community leaders on the administration's efforts to provide support for Israel, Biden stressed the assistance that the US is providing, adding that he's been frequently speaking to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The US is "surging additional military assistance to the Israeli Defense Force including ammunition, interceptors to replenish the

Iron Dome, we moved the US carrier fleet to the eastern Mediterranean and are sending more fighter jets there, to that region, and made it clear, and made it clear to the Iranians - be careful," Biden said.

Meanwhile, Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman held their first phone call since both countries renewed diplomatic ties, an Iranian presidential aide said Wednesday.

During the call, both leaders discussed the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, "the need to end war crimes," as well as Islamic unity, Raisi's deputy for political affairs,

Mohammad Jamshidi, said on X, the platform previously known as Twitter. Biden calls UAE president to discuss situation.

US President Joe Biden spoke Wednesday with United Arab Emirates President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan "to discuss the terrorist attacks on Israel," according to the White House. "The President stressed his condemnation of Hamas's terror and his warning against anyone who might seek to exploit the current situation," the White House said in a readout of the call. "The two leaders also discussed the importance of ensuring humanitarian assistance reaches those in need."



Supporters cheer for Ecuadorean presidential candidate Daniel Noboa during his closing campaign, in Quito, Ecuador.

Over 338,000 Palestinians displaced in Gaza: UN agency

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: The United Nations has released a harrowing report on the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, revealing that over 338,000 people have been forced to flee their homes in the Gaza Strip. The UN's humanitarian agency, OCHA, described the situation as a "mass displacement" as heavy Israeli bombardments continue to pound the densely populated Palestinian enclave.

The crisis deepened as Israel intensified its attacks on Hamas targets in response to the militants' surprise Saturday assault. Israeli forces

reported that approximately 1,200 people, the majority of them civilians, have tragically lost their lives during this devastating onslaught, marking it as one of the most severe in the country's history.

In Gaza, officials reported over 1,000 casualties due to Israel's sustained campaign of air and artillery strikes. OCHA's statement highlighted that nearly 220,000 of the displaced individuals, which make up two-thirds of the total, have sought refuge in schools run by the UN agency that supports Palestinian refugees, UNRWA.

Russian foreign ministry calls for Gaza ceasefire to allow in food and medicine

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia's foreign ministry urged Israel on Thursday to agree to a ceasefire in Gaza to allow in food and medicine and said it was unacceptable that what it called the "indiscriminate" bombing of the Gaza Strip was causing so many civilian casualties.

Moscow stated after Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov spoke to Hussein Al-Sheikh, secretary general of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), by phone.

Israel said earlier on Thursday there would be no humanitarian exceptions to its siege of the Gaza Strip until all its hostages were freed after the Red Cross pleaded for fuel to be allowed in to prevent overwhelmed hospitals from "turning into morgues".

The Russian foreign ministry said Bogdanov and Al-Sheikh had agreed on the need for a ceasefire and for the opening of human corridors to deliver food and medicine to Gaza's population.



GAZA CITY: Palestinians look for survivors under the rubble of a building following an Israeli air strike as bombing of the besieged enclave continued for the fifth consecutive day.

130 countries to take part in Belt and Road Initiative celebrations next week

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China announced on Wednesday it will host a gathering of foreign leaders next week to celebrate a decade of its Belt and Road Initiative project, with Russian President Vladimir Putin expected to attend.

The Belt and Road Initiative is a landmark project in President Xi Jinping's bid to expand China's clout overseas, with Beijing saying this week it had now inked over two trillion dollars in contracts across the world. Representatives from over 130 countries are

due to take part in the event, scheduled for Oct 17 and 18, with Xi set to deliver an opening speech and hold a welcoming banquet for foreign leaders.

It is the third forum of its kind since China launched the vast investment initiative, with events previously held in 2017 and 2019. Russian President Putin has said he will attend the event, in what will be his first visit to China since the Ukraine war began last year. Top Russian diplomat Sergei Lavrov will also attend and hold talks with Chinese counterpart

Wang Yi, Moscow said. China and Russia describe each other as strategic allies, frequently touting their "no limits" partnership and economic and military cooperation. China has refused to condemn the war, and has tried to position itself as a neutral party, while at the same time offering Moscow a vital diplomatic and financial lifeline. "We welcome countries and partners actively participating in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to come to Beijing to discuss cooperation plans and seek common development."

Canadian senate speaker to skip G20 event in New Delhi amid killing row

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Canada's Senate speaker will not attend a two-day G20 event in New Delhi this week, India said on Thursday, as ties remain frozen after Canada said it is investigating allegations linking Indian agents to the killing of a Sikh separatist leader.

Speaker Raymond Gagne will not be present at the two-day parliamentary speakers' summit that starts on Friday, as part of India's year-long presidency of the Group of 20 (G20) major economies, which expires in November.

"We invite all members for G20 events. Participation is their decision and subject to a number of factors," said Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi.

Turkiye's Erdogan discusses Israeli Palestine conflict with UAE president

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan discussed the conflict between Israeli and Palestinian forces with Emirati counterpart Mohammed bin Zayed in a call on Thursday, Turkiye's presidency said. "During the call, President Erdogan stated that ending the tensions between Israel-Palestine will be possible through the positive steps that the international community, namely regional countries, will take," the presidency said on social messaging platform X.

Russia, Kyrgyzstan to create joint air defence system

Monitoring Desk
BISHKEK: Kyrgyzstan's parliament on Wednesday ratified an agreement for a common air defence system with Russia, a day before a planned visit by Russian President Vladimir Putin to the Central Asian country.

The agreement provides that a land plot of 12 acres at the Kant Russian military base in Kyrgyzstan will be used for the joint programme.

"Lawmakers examined and adopted the bill on the ratification of the agreement between the Kyrgyz Re-

public and the Russian Federation for the creation of a Joint Regional Air Defence System," the Kyrgyz parliament said.

Putin had been scheduled to travel to Kant, but the Kyrgyz presidency said on Wednesday the visit had been cancelled, without providing more details.

The Russian leader is still due to speak with his Kyrgyz counterpart Sadyr Japarov on Thursday, and attend a summit gathering leaders of post-Soviet countries the following day.



Russian veteran human rights campaigner Oleg Orlov talks to the media after a court hearing in which he was found guilty of discrediting Russia's armed forces, in Moscow, Russia.

Former Hamas chief calls for protests, neighbours to join war against Israel

Monitoring Desk
DOHA: Former Hamas chief Khaled Meshaal called for protests across the Muslim world on Friday in support of the Palestinians and for the peoples of neighbouring countries to join the fight against Israel.

"[We must] head to the squares and streets of the Arab and Islamic world on Friday," Meshaal, who currently heads Hamas's diaspora office, said in a recorded statement sent to Reuters. Meshaal, who is based in Qatar, said the governments and peoples of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt have a bigger duty to support the Palestinians.

"Tribes of Jordan, sons of Jordan, brothers and sisters of Jordan... This is a moment of truth and the borders are close to you, you all know your responsibility," Meshaal said. Jordan and Lebanon are home to the largest number of Palestinian refugees.

His rallying call came as Israel vowed to escalate its response to an attack by Hamas with a ground offensive, after Israeli fighter jets struck more than 200 targets in Gaza city overnight. Gaza's health ministry said at least 950 people have been killed and 5,000 injured in the crowded coastal enclave.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a group photo with CPNE delegation.

PM for resolving issues of newspapers on priority

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday directed the ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the finance ministry to resolve all issues of newspapers on priority. Talking to a delegation of Council of Pakistan Newspapers' Editors (CPNE) led by its president Irfan Arif here, the prime minister said the newspapers should play their role in promoting such an environment in which everybody should listen to the differences of opinions.

He said currently an organized propaganda campaign was being launched against the state.

He said during his visit to the US, an organized campaign of false news and undue criticism was launched against him.

He said he accompanied a very short delegation during his visit to the US where he effectively pre-

sented the Pakistan's case of climate change.

The prime minister pointed out that he presented the cultural aspect of climate change to the world by referring to the holy Qur'an.

With respect to smuggling of foreign currency, he said strict measures were being taken to stop smuggling of dollars in the short term. The rising value of the rupee against the dollar is a testament to the success of this campaign, he said adding that the Managing Director International Monetary Fund (IMF) had also appreciated the government's measures to stop smuggling and illegal transaction of foreign currency. The prime minister said the smuggling of petroleum products also continued to cause serious damage to the country's economy. Likewise, he said steps were being taken across the country to prevent power theft.

He said Pakistan had billions of dollars of trade potential with Central Asian states, adding "I am trying my best to take such measures during the short period by which we can use out trade's capacity."

Speaking about his upcoming visit to China, PM Kakar informed that Pakistan-China strategic relations, bilateral trade, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and tourism promotion would be discussed during the visit.

Similarly, he said plans to take full advantage of the potential of tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan would also be part of the discussions.

He said the government was making the process of privatization of loss-making state-owned enterprises (SOEs) fast and transparent as privatization of loss-making public institutions would reduce the loss to the country's exchequer.

Yusef Aldobeay says Kashmir issue is not only of Kashmiris, Pakistan but of entire Islamic world

ISLAMABAD (INP): Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for Jammu and Kashmir, Yusef Aldobeay, while reiterating OIC's constant support for the Kashmir cause, said that the issue of Kashmir is not only of Kashmiris and Pakistan, but of the entire Muslim world.

Yusef Aldobeay expressed these views during a conversation with the delegation of All Party Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter, which met him, today, at the Foreign Office.

He said Kashmiris need patience and hope, adding the OIC stands by their side in their just struggle for right to self-determination. He further said Pakistan's efforts against Islamophobia are valuable and the fact is that the massacre of Muslims, the destruction of mosques and the desecration of the Holy Quran in India and India's illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir is Islamophobia, which India is committing.

Yusef Aldobeay said the OIC has rejected the actions of August 5, 2019 in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir by Modi-led Indian government and has been demanding that India withdraw its unilateral and illegal actions.

PTI submits a 25-point CoD to ECP for holding free, fair polls

ISLAMABAD (INP): A three-member committee of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) consisting of Senator Ali Zafar, Dr. Babar Awan and Barrister Gohar Khan attended the meeting held at Election Commission of Pakistan, presented a 25-point charter of demand and called upon the commission to fulfil the same in order to ensure free, fair and credible elections in the country within the timeframe of 90 days from the dissolution of the National Assembly fixed by the constitution.

The charter of demand is as under; Former Prime Minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan is currently incarcerated as a Prisoner of Conscience. Our Leaders mentioned in the list of attendees for the ECP meeting have not been allowed to attend, PTI being victimised and perse as a political entity. ECP is delaying issuing the written order of PTI's Election Symbol case, 'Enforced Staged Encounters' of PTI Leadership staged to force them to renounce PTI. Enforced Disappeared Leaders have been forcefully made to give interviews/statements and leave PTI, No level playing field for PTI.

Quality education, major requirement for country's development: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday stressed the universities to provide quality education to the students as it was the foremost requirement for the development of the country.

He directed the education ministry and Higher Education Commission (HEC) to support universities in designing the courses and departments in accordance with the demand of jobs in the market.

Addressing the Convocation ceremony of the Quaid-i-Azam University here, the president said Pakistan was passing through the economic crisis but hoped that the country would rise again soon by ensuring quality education, rule of law and justice.

"Pakistan has full potential to develop and the sun of development and prosperity would rise in the country soon," he remarked.

During the ceremony, the president gave away medals to the top position holders and conferred degrees to the successful students in various departments of the university.

Referring to the shortage of professionals, especially in the medical field in the country, the president advised the female profes-

sional not to sit at home after completing their degree. He said women of the country were very hardworking and they could play key role in the development of the country by working shoulder to shoulder with the men. However, he stressed the need to stop their harassment at workplaces so that they could work freely. The president said the literacy rate in the country was alarmingly low as over 20 million or 40% of children were currently out of school.

He said to accommodate all the children at once, the government would need 55000 more schools that would be unaffordable for it. Comparing the regional statistics, the president highlighted that in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, around 98% of the children were enrolled in schools.

He feared that this huge number of out of school children could become burden for the country in future.

He said the Brick and Mortar structure could be followed to educate maximum number of children. He said the mosques could be utilized for providing education besides use of latest technology to educate the children while sitting at home.



QUETTA: A delegation of Zamindar Action Committee meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Zubair Jamali pays surprise visit to Airport PS

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Zubair Jamali paid surprise visit to the Airport Police Station here on Thursday.

During the visit, the Minister inspected the CCTV cameras, record and roznachma register of the Thana.

He appreciated the staff of police station for making excellent arrangements and maintaining record in the police station.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Home directed the police force to take special care of the elderly citizens and especially women in police stations.

He said that it is duty of police to protect life and property of the masses. In this regard, police would have to improve its performance further, adding he stressed.

Highly appreciates BRSP's services: Govt. values assistance & initiatives of NGOs, states caretaker CM

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has appreciated the services of Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) in different sectors including education, health besides during the natural disasters.

He said that the provincial government values a lot the assistance programmes and initiatives of the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and as such every possible cooperation would be extended to them wherever they would need so.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the delegation of BRSP who called on him under leadership of its Chief Executive Officer, Dr Tahir Rasheed, here on Thursday.

The delegation informed the Chief Minister about ongoing different projects of BRSP in the province.

The BRSP Chief Tahir Rasheed presented souvenir to the Chief Minister on behalf of his institution.

The caretaker Chief Minister gave away shield to the BRSP Chief.



SIBI: Leaders of workers of different political parties meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Bristow visits Reko Diq site, reviews project progress

QUETTA (APP): Barrick Gold Corporation's president and chief executive Mark Bristow this week arrived at the site of the Reko Diq project to review its progress and engage with stakeholders who live in and around the area. Due to go into production in 2028, Reko Diq hosts one of the world's largest undeveloped copper-gold deposits. Among others, Bristow and his team met representatives of the Par-e-Koh and Nokkundi community development committees, which include members of resident tribes, village elders, women and youth groups.

They also visited the primary school set up by Reko Diq at the Humai village and inspected the Community Medical Center at Humai with funding from Reko Diq. At the Reko Diq development site, Bristow spoke to the project's employees who, in line with Barrick policy, have been largely recruited locally. Some 75% of the permanent employees are from Balochistan, and most of these are from the surrounding Chagai district.

"Barrick is committed to creating long-term value for our host communities and sharing the economic benefits our operations generate with them to drive their sustainable development.

Funds for minorities' protection earmarked in budget: Domki

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki on Thursday said hefty funds have been allocated in the budget for the protection, construction and repair of the places of worship of the minority community.

CM Domki while talking to a delegation of the Christian community led by Shaukat Stephen said quota for minorities has been implemented in all departments including all the posts advertised in the Public Service Commission (PSC).



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan, Chairman of the Arbitration Law Review Committee convened the third meeting of the Committee today at the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad.

Pashtoon nationalist leaders call for forging unity to face challenges

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Pashtoon nationalist leaders have stressed that there is a need to forge unity among the Pashtoon nation to face the challenges facing it.

They said that we can confront the challenges being faced by the Pashtoons just through unity among our ranks.

They asserted that attempts are being made to create divisions, but they would not succeed.

The Pashtoon leaders were addressing a public gathering at Bacha Khan Markaz Chaman on Thursday.

Those who addressed the gathering were included: Chairman, PkMAP, Khushhal Khan Kakar, provincial president of Awami National Party, Asghar Khan Achakzai, provincial president of National Democratic Movement, Ahmed Jan, Nasrullah Zairay, Salahuddin Watanyar, Abdul Khaliq Haqmal, and others.

Also present on the occasion were: ANP's provincial General Secretary, Mabat Kaka, secretary of PkMAP, Faqir Khushhal Kasi, central secretary Finance, Yousaf Kakar, Syed Qadir Agha, Engineer Aimal Khan Nasar, besides other leaders. Addressing the gathering, Khushhal Kakar and other leaders said that Pashtoon Afghan are passing through critical time.

He said that attempts are being made to create differences on the basis of zai and Khaili. He and other leaders also criticized the rulers for their alleged anti-Afghan policies.

They said that the Afghans would never forgive the anti-Afghan attitude of the government.

They also criticized the alleged unjustified constituencies delimitations by the government and Election Commission.

They vowed to challenge the delimitations together with other parties.

Reshuffle in civil bureaucracy continues in Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The reshuffle of civil bureaucracy is continued in the Balochistan province as several more bureaucrats were transferred and given new responsibilities.

According to an official notification issued here by the Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD) the other day, the senior bureaucrat, Qambar Dashti, awaiting posting order, was posted as the Secretary Communications and Works.

Similarly, Sohailur Rehman Baloch, who was also awaiting posting order, has been posted Secretary Agriculture department while Zafar Ali Buledi has been posted as the Secretary Colleges and Higher Education department.

Moreover, Ali Akbar Baloch, earlier posted as the Secretary C&W Department, has been transferred and posted as the Commissioner Kalat Division.

Similarly, Muhammad Sadiq, Hamza Anjum and Mujeeb Rehman, all awaiting posting orders, have been posted as the Assistant Commissioners of Pasi, Mach and Gulistan respectively.

Needless to mention here is that all the transfers and postings have been made with approval of the competent authority and prior permission of Election Commission of Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Charged Affairs at the embassy of the state of Qatar, Mr. Issa Bin Muhammad Al-Dasam Al-Kubaisi, at Parliament House.

Chinese CG visits APNS office BRF will provide opportunity for progress and development of region and globe: Yang

ISLAMABAD (PR): The Consul General (CG) of the Peoples Republic of China Yang Yundong visited the office of All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS). The President Mrs. Nazafreen Saigol Lakhani and Mr. Sarmad Ali Secretary General welcomed the honorable guest and stated that Mr. Yang Yundong was the first diplomat to visit APNS House.

Mr. Yang Yundong thanked APNS for inviting him to their head office and said that the 3rd Belt and Road Forum (BRF) will be held in Beijing on October 17 and 18 in which more than 130 countries and over 30 International Organizations are expected to participate.

The Chinese Consul General said the belt and road forum under the theme of High-quality Belt and Road cooperation, together for common development and prosperity will provide an opportunity for progress and development of the region and the globe. The Consul General added that 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of BRI.

Over the past decade, the BRI has established more than 3000 cooperation projects and galvanized nearly USD 1 trillion of investment, creating an array of livelihood projects and milestones of cooperation.

Referring to China Pakistan Economic Corridor projects, Mr. Yang Yundong said this is a pilot project of the BRI and the land mark project for China-Pakistan cooperation in the new era. He said the Chinese Media sector have made several advancements according to the needs of the modern age.

PANAH organizes seminar to create awareness about unhealthy diets

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) on Thursday organized a seminar on the occasion of International Food Day to raise awareness about unhealthy diets aimed at reducing non-communicable diseases.

Director General Health Dr. Noor Muhammad Qazi said that Ultra-processed foods are a major cause of diseases and various countries have taken other policy options to reduce the consumption of ultra-processed foods as well as put nutrition warning labels on them so that people can know about the healthier foods.

Secretary General PANAH Sanauallah Ghuman said that non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart, diabetes, kidney disease, stroke and several types of cancer are skyrocketing in the country.

He added that unhealthy foods such as ultra-processed foods are one of the major causes of diseases. He said Ulema and the media can play an important role in educating people about unhealthy diets. Sanauallah Ghuman said that thousands of people are losing their lives every day due to unhealthy food. He added that reports show that reducing consumption of ultra-processed products can decrease mortality and morbidity rates.

He said that ultra-processed foods contain harmful ingredients like salt, sugar, trans fats and saturated fats. He called for imposing taxes on ultra-processed foods, regulating their marketing, front-of-pack labelling warning signs and removing these products from schools to reduce deaths and illnesses.

He said that he had appreciated the government's move to increase taxes on sugary drinks in the Finance Bill 2023-24. He said that raising taxes is the first and most effective step to reduce the consumption of ultra-processed foods, but to improve the situation much needs to be done.

Sanauallah said PANAH has launched a campaign to impose front-of-pack labelling on ultra-processed foods which would help people make healthier food choices.

He said PANAH is working with Ulema across the country to raise awareness among people and organized a seminar in Quetta to convey our message to the people that they should eat healthy food and avoid unhealthy foods like ultra-processed foods.



QUETTA: Balochistan National Party (BNP) Leader, Malik Naser Ahmed Shahwani addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.