

Independent

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Caretaker PM says No talks with TTP; state powerful enough to fight them even for 100 years

Vows to wipe out all anti-state elements from country

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday ruling out any talks with Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), said that state of Pakistan was powerful enough to fight them even for next 100 years. "Don't you see that their people are being killed on daily basis. Our people are also being martyred. So what kind of talks or impediments (you are talking about)? They are killing my children and I am killing them... The state of Pakistan is so powerful to fight TTP, not just one year rather 100 years," the prime minister told the media during his visit to Peshawar.

Caretaker KP Chief Minister Azam Khan and Governor Haji Ghulam Ali were also present.

Asked what were the impediments in talks with TTP, the prime minister said the biggest obstacle was that no one was willing to talk to them.

"We don't want to talk to them. Who told you that we have any intention to talk with TTP," he remarked.

Prime Minister Kakar, who earlier offered Fateha and laid wreath at the grave of former FC Commandant Shaheed Sifwat Ghayur said, "If you want me to announce the same in North Waziristan or South Waziristan, take me there. Keep in mind, I may die but not Pakistan." Rubbishing the notions of any registered Afghan refugees being expelled from Pakistan, the prime minister said only the foreigners living illegally in Pakistan were being ousted.

He said through such measures, Pakistan did not want to undermine its relationship with Afghanistan rather desired to have the ties based on international standards in which the movement of the people would be subject to the visas.

He said as the illegal residents had no registration in Pakistan's database, the state was unable to distinguish between those playing a productive role in the society and the criminals.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar talking with mediemen and delegation of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi conferring the award of Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) upon the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, at a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

General elections to most likely take place by end of January: Murtaza Solangi

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has expressed confidence that upcoming general elections will be held at the end of January.

He said this while participating in program of News and Current Affairs Channel of Radio Pakistan 'Lahore Insight' today.

Referring to the Election Commission of Pakistan the minister said the final list of constituencies will be finalized on 30th of next and the election date will be announced around this time.

He said it is clearly mentioned in the Election Act 2017 that all the parties will be given at least 54 days which is about

two months for election campaigns so it is hoped that the elections will be held at the end of January. Murtaza Solangi said the actual election activity starts only after the election schedule is announced.

In response to a question, the Information Minister said that Radio Pakistan requires innovation, modern technology and professional freedom in order to thrive.

Murtaza Solangi said caretaker government is taking forward the previous parliament's decision to re-launch the license fee for Radio Pakistan and there will be very good news soon regarding addressing the financial problems of the organization.



MUZAFFARABAD: Special Envoy of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Secretary General for Jammu & Kashmir Ambassador Yousef Muhammed Saleh Aldobey laying floral wreath at J&K Monument during his visit to Chakothi (LOC) and Muzaffarabad along with High level delegation from brotherly Muslim countries including KSA and Sudan.

No political pressure accepted, illegal residents will have to leave Pakistan: Jan Achakzai

KARACHI (Online): Caretaker Information Minister of Balochistan Jan Achakzai has said that no political pressure will be tolerated who will crush the state's policy.

Illegal residents will have to leave Pakistan: Jan Achakzai

Speaking to the media at the Karachi Press Club, Jan Achakzai said that the state has taken a few principled decisions and they will be strictly followed, every day many families staying illegally are going back.

Jan Achakzai said that 13 of the 20 suicide bombings in the country this year were carried out by Afghan terrorists.

He said that around 250 madrasas were geo-tagging

which are being used by 80 Afghans, bringing these madrasas legally under Pakistan.

The Provincial Information Minister in charge of trafficking said that operations are underway to prevent smuggling in Balochistan, the smugglers will be drowned in the sea those who are on boats, will maintain the writ of the state with full force.

He said that since the day Army Chief General Asim Munir reined in the smugglers, the dollar has been getting cheaper.

Achakzai said that border smuggling is being dealt with strictly, all measures in Pakistan are in accordance with international laws.

President confers Nishan-e-Imtiaz (M) to Naval Chief

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Dr. Arif Alvi conferred Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) on newly appointed Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Friday. The investiture ceremony was held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad. Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar ul Haq Kakar also participated in the ceremony.

OIC envoy on Kashmir visits LoC; supports Pakistan's stance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Envoy of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Secretary General for Jammu and Kashmir, Ambassador Yousef Muhammed Saleh Aldobey on Friday visited Chakothi (Line of Control) and Muzaffarabad.

He was accompanied by a high level delegation from brotherly Muslim countries including Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Sudan.

Upon arrival at Muzaffarabad, the delegation laid wreath at J&K Monument. The delegation members also visited Mankpiyan Refugees Camp Muzaffarabad where they were briefed on elaborate measures taken for socioeconomic well being of the inhabitants who fled from Indian atrocities in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The delegation interacted with the victims continued ceasefire violations (CFV) and was briefed on situation along the LOC.

The dignitary assured OIC's support for Kashmir cause and expressed his desire to visit Kashmir twice each year. Besides, he supported Pakistan's stance on Kashmir issue and reiterated that OIC endorsed Pakistan's stance which was principally based on the UN resolutions.

Communication to be faster by laying 1733 km long railway line under CPEC: Qadir

QUETTA (APP): Chairman Standing Committee for Petroleum and Resources Senator Muhammad Abdul Qadir said that on the occasion of the Belt and Road Forum between Pakistan and China, 15 including the ML-1 project of railways, memorandum of understanding (MoUs) of more than projects to be signed on October 17 & 18.

In statement issued here on Friday that he said that the third Belt and Road Initiative Forum would be held in Beijing, the capital of China saying that on the occasion of the forum, Pakistan and China would make a major breakthrough in the second phase of China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He said that under the ML1 project, the 1733 km long railway line of Pakistan from Karachi to Peshawar would be upgraded and a new track could also be laid to bring the speed of the train up to 160 km per hour.

He said that China's rail system was a masterpiece system equipped with the most advanced technology

in the world, the quality of China's railways was in no way lower than the quality of the railways of the United States, Europe and the United Kingdom, rather, being the most modern, it was more upgraded than the rail system of these countries.

An example of the quality of China Railways is in front of us in the form of Lahore Orange train service, he mentioned.

He said that the agreements for infrastructure, energy and other projects would be signed saying that announcements would also be made regarding further promotion of cooperation in various sectors of CPEC.

CPEC is the first and most important project of the Belt and Road Initiative which started between China and Pakistan ten years ago, he noted adding that China has invested more than 30 billion dollars in the project so far.

In the second phase of CPEC, other projects including ML-1 and Thakot, industry and energy projects will also be considered in detail and contracts will be signed, he said.

Governor Balochistan says Good governance conditional with accountability, transparency of institutions

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that establishment of good governance is conditional with the accountability, transparency and fulfillment of the responsibility by the government departments.

In a statement issued here on Friday, the Governor said that it is big dilemma of our society that that majority of the people are playing active and important role in betterment of the society, but

the same people of the labour class are deprived of all incentives and facilities.

Therefore it is need of the hour to bring balance in it and divide the authority and incentives in an appropriate manner so that the society is saved from the confrontation and chaotic situation, adding he stressed.

He regretfully pointed out that the poor growers who provide wheat to the whole society are deprived of two times meal even.

Saudi Arabia identifies 12,000 Afghans traveling on fake Pakistani passports

ISLAMABAD (INP): Over 12,000 Afghans have been found traveling on fake Pakistani passports, prompting the Ministry of Interior to form a high-level committee to investigate the matter and take action against those involved.

According to media reports, Saudi Arabia has identified 12 thousand Afghans traveling on Pakistani passports, on which the Ministry of Interior has formed a high-level committee to investigate the matter by taking action on the issuance of fake passports to more than

twelve thousand Afghans.

The committee, which includes representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs, FIA, and sensitive agencies, will identify those issuing fake passports and prepare a list of those involved, following which action will be taken against all such elements.

Sources said that Pakistani passports have been issued to Afghans from passport centers across the country. The investigation is ongoing, and further details are expected to be released soon.

Balochistan suffered loss of Rs. 700 billion due to flashfloods: Caretaker CM seeks Islamabad's faster assistance for early rehabilitation of affected sectors in Balochistan

Interim Federal Minister Planning and Special Initiatives Sami Saeed pledges to improve rehabilitation operation in flood affected areas of province further

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the funds allocated for the province in the world rehabilitation relief are insufficient and as such the federal government may assist us in the 20 percent grant sharing of the province in Geneva fund.

He also sought the very cooperation of federal government for implementation on the programme already decided with the Government of Balochistan for rehabilitation of the af-

affected sectors.

He said that the province is currently facing financial hardships as such the federal government may expedite assistance for implementation on the already decided programme of rehabilitation in the province. The caretaker Chief Minister was participating through video link in the crucial meeting of policy and strategy committee formed about rehabilitation activities after last year's devastating floods between the government of Pakistan and international relief institutions.

While the caretaker

Federal Minister for Planning and Special Initiatives, Sami Saeed chaired the meeting with other concerned high ups and representatives of World Bank, Asian Development Bank, ARBE China and other relief agencies in attendance, the caretaker Chief Minister participated in it through video link.

Expressing his views and talking about the current situation of the province, Mr. Domki told the meeting that financial loss of Rs. 700 billion was caused to the province due to the flashfloods and heavy rains last year.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki attending meeting of Policy & Strategy Committee formed about rehabilitation activities after last year's devastating floods between the government of Pakistan and international relief institutions through video link

Government appoints four army officers in NAB

ISLAMABAD (Online): Circle tighten against corrupt elements, serving military and military officers have been appointed in NAB.

After the approval of the Prime Minister, the Establishment Division has issued a notification.

According to the separate notification issued by Brigadier Muhammad Khalid has been appointed as Director and Lt. Col. Nadeem Muzaffar as Additional Director of NAB.

The notification for the appointment of the Establishment Division has been issued after the approval of the Prime Minister.

Likewise, Major Waleed Khalid, hailing from the Military Intelligence Corps, has taken on the role of Deputy Director in NAB.

Major Qais Kamran Syed, also from the Military Intelligence Corps, has been appointed as Deputy Director of NAB.

Rallies held in solidarity with Palestinians amid Israeli aggression

Independent Report

QUETTA: The people of Quetta demonstrated complete solidarity with the people of Palestine against the Israel and its forces' naked aggression and barbarism in Gaza and other Palestinian territory.

The rallies were taken out and demonstrations held in the provincial metropolis against the Israel's brutality and viciousness against innocent Palestinians. A rally was taken out by the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) on its central call from the main office on Jinnah road.

The rally taken out under provincial and district leadership of JUI marched through the Jinnah road, Shahrah-e-Iqbal and Adalat

road where a protest demonstration was staged.

A large number of JUI workers and other people belonging to different walks of life participated in the rally.

A rally was also taken out by Tehreek Labbaik in the metropolis. The motorcycle rally started from Sariab road ended at the Press club. The participants of rally were carrying the flags of Palestine and placards inscribed with the slogans against Israel.

Similarly, the Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf, Insaaf Lawyers Forum and Pakistan Markazi Muslim League also took out rallies and held demonstrations in favour of Palestine and against Israel's cruelty on the Palestinians.



QUETTA: Secretary Information Balochistan Imran Khan and Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran meeting with Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

DAYS REMAINING

17

in v f @ @GortofPakistan

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Caretaker contracts

Are the lines blurring between the responsibilities of a caretaker government and the mandate of elected assemblies?

In August, the ECP banned the granting of NOCs to new housing societies in Punjab. It also reminded the interim chief minister that such policies exceed the authority of a caretaker set-up. But, two months later, the KP caretakers seem to have fallen out of line.

On Wednesday, the provincial interim government approved amendments to the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961, to include the "oath of finality of Prophethood [PBUH] in the marriage registration form".

The Lahore High Court issued directives for revisions in the nikah form during the hearing of a writ petition. Subsequently, a joint resolution by the provincial assembly solicited the insertion of the "Khatm-i-Nabuwat oath" in the nikahnama.

Caretaker governments are watched with scepticism so even a slight slip-up ignites flak. Their prime function is to hold the fort; from the dissolution of the assemblies, through the run-up to free and fair elections, and ending with the swearing in of a new, elected dispensation.

They should also execute routine governance and ensure smooth, impartial continuity in matters of the state. For this reason, interim systems impinge on the authority of an elected legislature when they engage with long-term issues.

Instead, the relevant authorities would do well to prioritise women-centric progress.

Take a diagnostic study of Punjab, which found that a resounding 60pc of nikahnamas, registered from 2016 to 2022, were incomplete, or that the bride's CNIC number was absent in 48pc of marriage contracts, 75pc of girls were 16 to 18 years old and the alimony section was blank in 39pc. Admittedly, this paints a grisly portrait for future generations.

Therefore, the time is now to steer away from policymaking and move towards emancipation and empowerment of women with a greater understanding and participation in the nikahnama so that their socioeconomic rights are unequivocally settled.

Deadly culture wars



Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

It has been almost 50 years since the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delivered a speech on the floor of the UN General Assembly imploring the world to end the Israeli occupation and deliver peace to all of the region's people.

It was a different world then. Colonised peoples in Asia and Africa were being admitted into the 'international community' after centuries of enslavement. The same UN in which Arafat made his plea also featured emergent Third World countries calling for a New International Economic Order to undo what Ghana's first president Kwame Nkrumah called economic neo-colonialism.

Until the early 1990s, the oppressed peoples of the world were still relatively unified and hopeful. In 1994, South Africa's brutal apartheid regime was tossed into the dustbin of history, Nelson Mandela — once branded a 'terrorist' in the 'civilised world' — made the leader of a new multiracial polity.

But the 1990s also marked the end of 20th-century socialism and the onset of 'culture wars' afflicting almost every part of the world today. Put simply, ideas of liberation and emancipation have become increasingly limited to the concerns of one's own specific identity groups rather than the cause of all oppressed peoples.

The Palestinians are amongst the biggest victims of this rightward shift. Today, they are subject to an ever more genocidal

policy of apartheid, while the narrative of the intellectual and political mainstream is framed almost exclusively around Israeli 'victims' and Palestinian 'terrorists'.

The 'war on terror' is a big reason for why such framing is commonplace. While such binaries have animated the logic of empires throughout history, the 'us versus them' story that was widely propagated after 9/11 has shaped an entire generation of people everywhere. This is the same generation that has come of age through globalised, digital networks and the entirely distinct modes of political communication and ideological contestation that such networks have ushered in.

In effect, then, many ordinary young people have become foot soldiers for the dominant narrative around 'terrorism'. Indeed, notwithstanding the announcement made that the so-called war on terror ended in August 2021 when American troops pulled out of Afghanistan, the truth is that wars of terror led by contemporary states are endless.

The language is always the same: the scourge of terrorism will be eliminated at all costs. The forces of evil will never be allowed to overwhelm us. The rhetoric is timeless by design so as to suppress inconvenient historical truths about state terror.

What we should have learned from the 'war on terror' is that violence perpetrated by the state — it can be Israeli, American, Pakistani, Indian, Russian, Ukrainian, French, Saudi Arabian, Iranian, Turkish or any other contemporary nation-state — cannot solve political conflict. In fact, what has happened due to the deadly culture wars and the relative retreat of the progressive left is the rise of hate-mongering right-wing forces that ostensibly

target one another.

The prime minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, for instance, has more than once made clear that he prefers the continued influence of Islamist groups like Hamas than to give an inch to progressives of any stripe. The PLO has lost all the legitimacy it once had because it surrendered so many fundamental demands of the Palestinian movement.

There is an analogy in how many who would call themselves progressive in our part of the world were either supportive or silent about the 20-year US occupation of Afghanistan, and ultimately this benefited the militant right wing (whether the Taliban or IS or whoever else).

Ultimately, if there is ever to be peace and justice for Palestine, and an end to the cycle of hate that engulfs all identity groups, it will require us to rejuvenate a wider, universal anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist politics.

It is the same in Pakistan — the Baloch and other ethnic peripheries, feminists and those who speak for oppressed genders, religious groups and all others who decry majoritarianism, must do so together around a left-progressive political-economic project. Crucially, they must try and win over as many who presently support majoritarian tyranny to their side.

Remember that successful national liberation projects all over Asia and Africa took decades to win over even those brown and black subjects of empires that were more loyal than the king.

The challenge for the Palestinians is to preserve their own humanity, and, indeed, that of their oppressors, and thereby transcend deadly culture wars. — Courtesy Dawn

Rapid growth



Amin Valliani

Most developed nations are worried about their dwindling populations, along with the growing number of seniors. They see their future as uncertain. Therefore, they have embarked upon the path of solving the problem of their stagnant or dwindling populations by various means. Many countries have eased their migration/immigration laws, allowing work visas to outsiders who fulfil their criteria. Contrary to this, Pakistan is facing the problem of rapid population growth. This has been termed a ticking time bomb, having a high risk of imminent explosion. Others have declared rapid population growth as the mother of all problems. Feeding their entire population is amongst the greatest challenges every government faces. In the Global Hunger Index, Pakistan is ranked 99th out of 121 countries due to the rapid growth of its population. This condition is likely to get worse with unbridled and unplanned population growth.

Population is a valuable resource of a country, provided its growth is planned. Unchecked growth has been responsible for many of our economic and social issues. The youth segment is considered to be the driving force of a country. But young people are in search of greener pastures overseas, sometimes falling victim to human trafficking. Not too long ago, hundreds of people lost their lives in the open sea when an overloaded boat sank off the Greek coast. Many of the victims were from Pakistan and were

trying to make it to Europe illegally.

Many experts suggest that the government should focus on population control, otherwise, all developmental efforts would prove futile. Moreover, the youth need to be nurtured via skill-oriented education. They have a passion to acquire new skills and pursue higher education. The government should, therefore, engage them in nation-building. But unfortunately, our performance in educating our population and providing employment has remained dismal. Many youths are disappointed with the recent economic meltdown. The promise of jobs has remained a pipe dream. Increasing population at the present speed might foil our entire planning efforts. In order to make Pakistan a country of opportunity, where our youths may find an attractive future, with jobs of their choice, the government should reset its focus on engaging the youth and controlling the excessive population. The Holy Quran says "Verily! Allah does not change a people's condition unless they change their inner selves" (13:11).

The government may guide people about the ideal size of a family and make them realise the importance of smaller families. It should start a well-fledged drive to convince the masses that an unbridled increase in population numbers is not in the interest of the country. In an ideal family setting, children get enough attention, quality time, love, guidance and patronage. But when the family size is large, the parents may not be able to pay the required attention to each child. Consequently, young ones feel alienated and develop behavioural problems. The Holy Quran directs believers to ward off your families from a fire whose fuel is men and stones (66:6).

As experts have noted, "families are self-stabilising systems, with members interacting and exerting influence to preserve and maintain stability in the face of perturbation". But when the family size is large and parents do not pay the required attention to their offspring, there are chances of children developing negative traits. Sometimes, they turn recalcitrant and create problems in society.

Uncontrolled population growth needs to be tackled jointly by the government and the people on a war footing. A country becomes developed when the government and its people jointly work on a national agenda. Here, uncontrolled population growth is the main hindrance in our national development. Large-size families may devour familial and national resources with little contribution. They tend to create immense pressure on the food supply as well as health and educational facilities. The rapidly growing population also contributes to scarcity and depletion of natural resources including water, forests, clean air, etc.

Recently, the government constituted a national health and population advisory committee to deal with health- and population-related matters and reforms. The committee will play a role in bringing funding for population control. This is a laudable effort. Just as the government is distributing laptops to the youth or paying money under BISP to the poor, it can also encourage people to adhere to a smaller family size and get monetary rewards. Besides, it should make family planning clinics active and contraceptives widely available, as well as increase awareness about this key issue. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Stabilization measures start yielding results: SBP Governor

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Jameel Ahmad said on Friday that stabilization measures had started yielding results with inflation coming down and position of external account improving.

The governor was briefing international investors during events organized by global banks, including Barclays, JP Morgan, Standard Bank and Jefferies on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank meetings in Marrakech, Morocco.

He said, inflation had come down to 31.4 percent in September 2023 after peaking at 38.0 percent in May 2023 and was expected to continue its downward trajectory over the coming months,

whereas the external account had improved considerably and foreign exchange buffers were being built up.

Jameel shared that with the policy rate at 22 percent, the SBP assessed the real interest rates turning substantially positive on a forward-looking basis, as inflation was expected to come down significantly during the second half of this fiscal year.

Going forward, the Stand-By arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is expected to support the ongoing policy efforts to stabilize the economy.

The governor briefed the investors about the recent macroeconomic developments, policy

responses to current challenges, and the outlook of Pakistan's economy, and also answered their questions.

He informed the investors that the current policy mix adopted by the government and the Central Bank was geared towards achieving stabilization through addressing macroeconomic imbalances.

He apprised that the SBP was among the first central banks that began to tighten monetary policy in the wake of the rising inflation globally.

However, certain domestic challenges, most notably the unprecedented floods in the beginning of the previous fiscal year, complicated SBP's efforts to bring down inflation.



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of France HE Nicolas Galey called on Federal Minister for Privatization Fawad Hasan Fawad.

Jehanzeb highlights GB's investment-attraction potential

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission (PC) Dr Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan has highlighted the potential of Gilgit-Baltistan in attracting investment for the uplift and sustainable development of the region.

Addressing the GB Investment Roadshow held here the other day, he underscored the significance of the GB region as the 'Land of Opportunities,' presenting a compelling case for investment by highlighting its strategic geographical location, natural resources, and rapidly evolving infrastructure.

Dr Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan presented three fundamental aspects including 'people, nature

and value, commending the GB government's investment in its people and stressing the importance of respecting the distinct culture and values of the region.

He emphasized the need for sustainable and nature-sensitive development, advocating for community-led and nature-oriented tourism to preserve the pristine ecology of the region.

Addressing the challenges of development, Dr Khan emphasized the critical role of digital connectivity and urged investment in digital infrastructure to unlock the region's full potential.

French envoy calls on Privatisation Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Nicolas Galey, French Ambassador to Pakistan on Friday met with Caretaker Minister for Privatisation, Fawad Hasan Fawad, and discussed matters related to mutual interest.

Both sides expressed their firm resolve for the enduring bilateral relationship, as well as an in-depth discussion aimed at expanding collaboration in essential sectors, including education and agriculture economic cooperation. The meeting embodied the unwavering dedication of Pakistan and

France to intensify their strategic partnership and explore new frontiers for economic and cultural exchange. Speaking on the occasion, the envoy expressed keen interest in gaining insights into Pakistan's privatization strategy and was provided a comprehensive overview of the privatization plan.

The French Ambassador extended valuable suggestions regarding French Advisory Services and prospective firms and corporations that could possibly participate in these initiatives.

Tokyo markets end lower

TOKYO (AFP/APP): Tokyo stocks closed lower on Friday, extending falls on Wall Street as US inflation data renewed concerns over higher interest rates.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index was down 0.55 percent, or 178.67 points, to end at 32,315.99, while the broader Topix index lost 1.44 percent, or 33.74 points, to 2,308.75.

The dollar stood at 149.70 yen, against 149.79 yen in New York late Thursday. A forecast-topping US inflation report revived fears the Federal Reserve will hike interest rates again before the end of the year.

Shamshad holds meeting with top leadership of Deutsche Bank

ISLAMABAD (Online): Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar held a meeting with the top leadership of Deutsche Bank, on the sidelines of annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Morocco on Friday. The discussions were marked by a constructive exchange of ideas and insights, focusing on fostering economic cooperation and financial stability.

Both parties expressed their commitment to strengthening ties and highlighted the potential

for mutually beneficial initiatives in the financial sector. Meanwhile, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar also met her Iranian counterpart and discussed strengthening economic cooperation and exploring avenues for bilateral trade and investment.

Both Ministers expressed their commitment to further strengthen economic ties for advancing mutual interests.



SUKKUR: Sukkur Electric Power Supply Company (SEPCO) Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Saeed Ahmed Dawach addresses to media persons during press conference, at his office in Sukkur.

Turkish CG, LCCI President discuss SIFC, see good results

LAHORE (APP): Consul General of Türkiye Durmus Bastug said here on Friday that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was a good step for both investors and countries as the embassy of Turkey was closely monitoring the activities of the SIFC and was hopeful that the initiative would produce good results.

He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry during a meeting with LCCI President Kashif Anwar.

and also help in resolving the issues being faced by investors in the country. He said that Türkiye was aware of the potential of Pakistan as the investors of Türkiye had invested around \$2 billion in Pakistan and half of its investments was in Punjab which would hopefully rise to \$5 billion. "We want to solve the problems being faced by the investors," said Durmus Bastug, adding that "we are monitoring the PTA with Pakistan and will move to the second phase which is FTA after the results of PTA".

Measures being taken for economic stability: Shahid

Pakistani trader must focus to enhance trade in Central Asian region, Umar

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Communications, Railways and Maritime Affairs Shahid Ashraf Tarar has said that measures are

attract large-scale trade that will change the fortune of our country. He visited FPCCI Capital Office, Islamabad and he was also accompanied by the Customs Collector Asif

working on the IT sector, which have great potential to provide opportunities to a large number of youths to work and earn.

In order to save the time of people of KP, it was



being taken for economic stability. Efforts are also being made to attract local and foreign investments. On the proposal of establishing tunnel at Wah Khan Corridor, he expressed that it will connect Pakistan with Central Asia and

Hargan. The Minister further said that steps are also being taken to improve the performance of Commercial Consulars in Pakistani missions abroad. Federal Minister Shahid Ashraf Tarde said that the caretaker government is

proposed that a separate connectivity on motorway may be constructed for KP people to enable them direct access to Islamabad airport, the Federal Minister assured that this proposal is under consideration of his ministry.

Naqvi inaugurates Nankana Sahib Safe City project with 136 cameras

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated the newly established Safe City Project at Nankana Sahib's Model Police Station Sadar on Friday. During his visit, he toured the Safe City Center, where he personally reviewed the city's surveillance through modern camera systems. He also monitored traffic movement and surveillance on the screens at the Safe City Centre, said a handout issued here.

The Chief Minister further inspected the Integrated Command and Control Room, Operation and Monitoring Room, and

Data Room. Taking time to acknowledge the dedication of the Safe City staff, Mohsin Naqvi encouraged them to continue their hard work.

The CM praised both the Punjab Safe Cities Authority and the police team for their collaborative efforts in establishing the Safe City Center in Nankana Sahib. During the briefing, it was revealed that the Punjab Safe Cities Authority installed over 136 cameras in Nankana Sahib, along with the implementation of six checkpoints at the entry and exit routes. This significant project, costing a total of Rs 350 million, was completed in a span of just one and a half years, saving

approximately Rs 50 million in costs. The Nankana Sahib Safe City Project was a joint endeavor involving local and international companies, which will also take on the responsibility of operation and maintenance for the next three years.

As part of the Nankana Sahib Safe City project, a total of 30 kilometers of optical fiber has been laid throughout the city. This project has been seamlessly integrated with the Lahore Safe City network. Notably, cameras have been strategically installed to enhance security at Sikh places of worship, Ashura routes, religious sites, and government buildings.



LAHORE: A group photo of Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi with Radio Pakistan Staff.

LHC disposes of PTI's plea for permission to hold rally at Liberty Chowk

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday disposed of a petition, filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), seeking permission for holding a rally at Liberty Chowk on October 15.

Justice Raheel Kamran heard the petition, filed by PTI Lahore President Azeemullah Khan. During the proceedings, a law officer stated that the request of the petitioner for holding a rally at Liberty Chowk had been declined

through an order by the deputy commissioner Lahore in view of the security threats posed at the proposed venue.

However, the request of the petitioner will duly be considered, if he approaches the deputy commissioner for holding rally at another venue, he submitted and added that the petitioner could visit the office of the deputy commissioner along with an application for the purpose.

Five arrested for issuing illegal SIMs on Afghan passports

PESHAWAR (APP): The officials of Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) have arrested five accused for issuing illegal phone SIMs on Afghan passports.

FIR spokesman told media on Friday that action was taken at Kohat Road, Peshawar from where five accused were arrested from a franchise of a mobile phone company.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali and the Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Azam Khan call on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

CM Aide urges campaigns to curb vehicle emissions in KP

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Zafar Ullah Khan Umarzai, the Special Assistant to the Caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Transport and Housing, has instructed the relevant authorities within the transport department to initiate campaigns in various cities across the province aimed at reducing the harmful emissions from vehicles.

He emphasized that all department officers should collaborate as a team to enhance the performance of the transport department. Umarzai issued these directives during a meeting held at the Directorate of Transport, which was attended by the Secretary of Transport, Director General, Secretary of the Provincial Transport Authority, and other officials.

BRT operator fears suspension of bus service from Oct 19

PESHAWAR (APP): The private operator of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) bus service in the provincial capital had urged the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to release Rs 560 million outstanding dues fearing suspension of service from October 19 in case of non-payment.

In a letter written to the transport department and Trans Peshawar, the operator of the BRT bus service said that the company was already facing losses and it was hard to meet the expenses including payment of salaries to the staff and others.

KP Caretaker CM takes notice of MTIs' financial issues

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan has taken notice of financial issues being faced by the Medical Teaching Institutions (MTIs) of the province in a meeting with his advisor on health Dr. Riaz Anwar and Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry who called on him to discuss the matters related to the financial issues of MTIs here at Chief Minister's House on Friday.

CM directed his advisor on health and the Chief Secretary to take immediate appropriate steps to arrange the required funds for these

hospitals on a priority basis. He said that all kinds of emergency services at MTIs should not be affected in any way, adding that required funds should be arranged on priority so that uninterrupted emergency services must be ensured in these hospitals.

The Chief Minister said that it was the top priority of the caretaker provincial government to keep uninterrupted healthcare facilities continued for the public, and added that despite financial crunches, the provincial government would make no compromise on the provision of treatment facilities to the masses.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan in a meeting with Governor Gilgit Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah at his office.

10 dead, 1,391 injured in Punjab road accidents

Independent Report
LAHORE: At least 10 people were killed and 1,391 others injured in 1,289 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 692 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 699 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

The data analysis showed that 670 drivers, 44 underage drivers, 169 pedestrians, and 559 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics showed that 296 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 327 persons, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by 96 in Multan with 97 victims, and at third Faisalabad with 89 accidents and 97 victims.

According to the data, 1,125 motorbikes, 89 auto-rickshaws, 132 motorcars, 31 vans, 15 passenger buses, 31 trucks and 126 other types of vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the road accidents.

Health minister warns of glaucoma's silent threat to sight on World Sight Day

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Dr. Jamal Nasir emphasised the importance of raising awareness about glaucoma, a condition he referred to as the "silent killer of sight."

Speaking at a seminar in observance of World Sight Day, organized by the Al-Mustafa Trust here on Friday, Dr. Jamal Nasir underscored that glaucoma is not only the most dangerous eye disease but also the leading cause of blindness worldwide.

Dr. Nasir revealed alarming statistics, stating that over seven million people worldwide are affected by glaucoma, and tragically, about one million individuals in Pakistan have lost their sight due to this insidious disease. He stressed that to combat eye diseases effectively, it is imperative to control diabetes, blood pressure, and air pollution, as these factors have a detrimental impact on vision. Dr. Nasir highlighted that individuals with diabetes and high blood pressure are more susceptible to developing glaucoma.

Five people killed in a road accident

KOT ADDU (APP): Five people died in a collision between a car and a trailer on Noor Shah Talai Road in Kot Addu on Friday.

Rescue 1122 sources said that the vehicle collided with the trailer coming from behind standing on the road. According to information, the occupants of the car were killed on the spot. The deceased were heading to their home in Kot Addu from Multan and were identified as Muhammad Iqbal (32), Ghulam Qasim (50).

International News

Countries urge Israel to hold off on Gaza assault with civilians in firing line

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Countries urged Israel on Friday to hold off on plans for an all-out assault on northern Gaza, where more than a million civilians largely defied its order to evacuate before it goes after Hamas militants who slaughtered Israelis a week ago. Hamas, which controls the densely populated Palestinian territory, vowed to fight until the last drop of blood and told residents to stay put after Israel said they should move to the south within 24 hours.

While some heeded the call to leave, by Friday afternoon there was little sign of a mass exodus.

"Death is better than leaving," said Mohammad,

20, standing in the street outside a building reduced to rubble in an Israeli air strike two days ago near the centre of Gaza.

"I was born here, and I will die here, leaving is a stigma." With power supplies cut and food and water in the Palestinian enclave running short after a week of retaliatory air strikes and a full Israeli blockade, the U.N. said Gaza's civilians were in an impossible situation.

"The noose around the civilian population in Gaza is tightening. How are 1.1 million people supposed to move across a densely populated warzone in less than 24 hours?" U.N. aid chief Martin Griffiths

wrote on social media.

White House national security spokesman John Kirby said such a huge evacuation was a "tall order," but that Washington would not second-guess its ally's decision to tell civilians to get out of the way. "We understand what they're trying to do and why they're trying to do this—to try to isolate the civilian population from Hamas, which is their real target," he said on MSNBC. The northern half of the Gaza Strip includes the enclave's biggest settlement Gaza City. The U.N. said it had been told that Israel wanted the entire population to move across the wetlands that bisect the enclave.



Protesters hold Palestinian flags during a demonstration in Paris.

Ecuador to elect a president amid bloody gang war

Monitoring Desk
QUITO: Shell-shocked by the eruption of a bloody drug war that has spilled from the country's prisons into the streets, Ecuadorans will vote for a new president Sunday just weeks after a popular candidate was assassinated in public.

A climate of fear hangs over the campaign in which the two finalists—socialist Luisa Gonzalez and banana empire heir Daniel Noboa—have both vowed to address the escalating violence.

Whoever wins will be elected to only 16 months

in office—completing the term of incumbent Guillermo Lasso, who called a snap vote to avoid possible impeachment for alleged embezzlement.

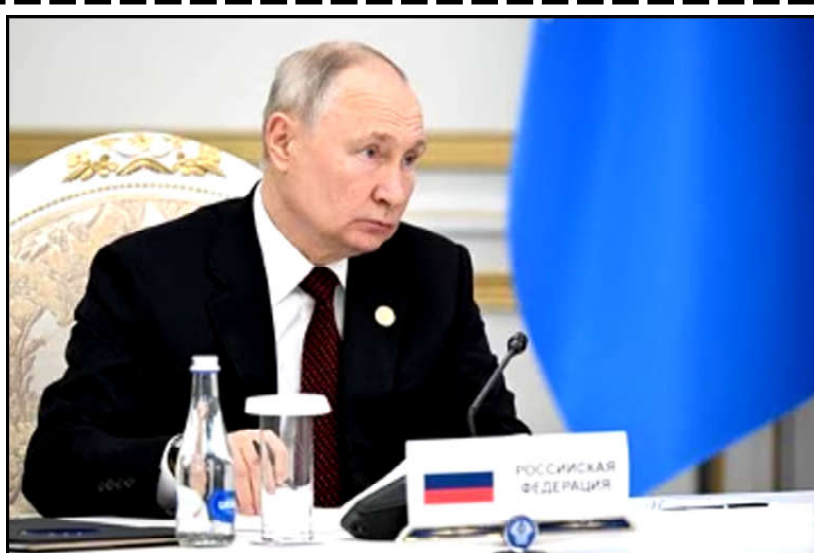
The main concerns of Ecuadorans, according to recent polls, are crime and insecurity, followed by unemployment.

Long a peaceful haven between major cocaine exporters Colombia and Peru, the South American nation has exploded in violence in recent years as enemy gangs with links to Mexican and Colombian cartels vie for control.

US, Qatar to halt Iran's access to \$6bn fund, says Post

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States and Qatari officials have agreed to prevent Iran from using a \$6 billion humanitarian assistance fund, according to the Washington Post. The money had been transferred to Iranian accounts in Qatar, in a US-Iran prisoner swap deal announced in recent weeks where five US detainees were released by Iran.

But Washington Post re-p-ported on Thursday that a decision was made to halt access to the funds, while President Joe Biden faces rising pressure on the matter given Iran's declared support to Hamas. "We have strict oversight of the funds and we retain the right to freeze them," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told a press conference in Tel Aviv on Thursday. The White House ad-d-ed in a separate briefing that "every single dime of that money is still sitting in a Qatari bank." "Not one dime of it has been spent," according to National Security Council spokesman John Kirby.



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) leaders' summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

7 killed in suicide attack on Afghan Shia mosque: official

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: At least seven people were killed and 15 more wounded when a suicide blast tore through a Shia mosque in northern Afghanistan on Friday, the Taliban government said.

The number of bomb blasts and suicide attacks has reduced dramatically since the Taliban ended their insurgency after seizing power in August 2021, ousting the US-backed government.

However, a number of armed groups—including the regional chapter of the Islamic State organisation

—remain a threat.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast, which rang out as Shia worshippers gathered for Friday prayers at the Imam Zaman mosque in Pol-i-Khomri, the capital of Baghlan province.

"Security and investigative forces went to the area of the incident to investigate how this heartbreaking incident happened," said provincial information and media chief Mustafa Asadullah Hashimi. "Investigations are still ongoing," he said in a statement confirming the

casualties. A source at Baghlan Provincial Hospital—who asked to remain anonymous—put the tally higher, saying 19 bodies and 40 wounded patients had been brought to the facility so far. "Some of the dead and wounded were taken to other private hospitals as well," he told AFP.

Local resident Abdul Hamid said he heard a "terrible sound" as the bomb detonated.

"After the explosion, a large number of martyrs and injured people were transferred to the hospital," he said.

Putin says civilian losses from Israeli ground operation in Gaza would be 'unacceptable'

Monitoring Desk
BISHKEK: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday said an Israeli ground operation in Gaza would result in a level of civilian casualties that would be "absolutely unacceptable."

Putin was speaking after Israel's military called for all civilians of Gaza City, more than 1 million people, to relocate south within 24 hours, as it amassed tanks ahead of an

expected ground invasion in response to a devastating weekend attack by the militant group Hamas.

Putin said that using heavy weaponry in residential areas was "fraught with serious consequences for all sides."

"And most importantly, the civilian casualties will be absolutely unacceptable. Now the main thing is to stop the bloodshed," he said.



A rescuer looks on amid debris in the aftermath of Israeli strikes, in Gaza City.

In Beirut, Iran's foreign minister warns war could spread if Israeli bombardment of Gaza continues

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Iran's foreign minister warned Friday that if Israel's attacks on the Gaza Strip don't stop immediately, the violence could spread to other parts of the Middle East.

Hossein Amirabdollahian is on a tour that took him to Baghdad before Beirut, and later in the day he is scheduled to travel to the Syrian capital, Damascus. Iran heads the so-called "axis of resistance" that includes powerful militant groups in the region, such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Popular Mobilization Forces in Iraq.

Amirabdollahian spoke to reporters in Beirut after a meeting with his Lebanese counterpart, during which the two officials called for an end to Israel's attacks on Gaza.

He also met with Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, as well as caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati and the speaker of parliament.

There have been concerns that the war could spread to Lebanon's border where Hezbollah fighters have been on alert following Hamas' attack on southern Israel on Saturday that left hundreds of people dead.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over a meeting regarding National Program for Agriculture Development and Alternate Energy.

Israel committing war crimes in Gaza, Pakistan tells UNGA committee

Expresses concerns over cycle of occupation, violence; Stresses need for two-state solution to Palestine issue

NEW YORK (INP): Pakistan has expressed deep concerns over the cycle of occupation, oppression and violence in Palestine.

Speaking at the UN General Assembly's sixth committee meeting in New York, Second Secretary at Pakistan's Permanent Mission to the UN Rabia Ijaz said the rapidly deteriorating and dire humanitarian situation in Gaza due to the

indiscriminate aerial bombardment and an inhumane blockade of food, fuel and medicines, as collective punishment of the entire Palestinian population of Gaza by Israeli Occupation forces are unacceptable. These actions amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

She said the current cycle of aggression and violence is a sad reminder and

a direct consequence of over seven decades of illegal Israeli occupation, aggression, and disrespect for international law, including UNSC resolutions that recognize the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinian people.

Rabia Ijaz said the international community must work together for a just, comprehensive and lasting two-state solution

with a viable, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine on the basis of pre-1967 borders, with Al Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

Exercising its rightly of reply, Second Secretary Rabia Ijaz said Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognized disputed territory and is not at all a so-called integral part of India nor is it India's domestic matter.

Gwadar deep seaport poised to play greater role in regional trade

GWADAR (APP): Being a core of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Gwadar deep seaport in southwest Pakistan is poised to play a greater role in regional and global trade.

From bulk cargo of agricultural products to containerized goods such as fertilizers and livelihood supplies, to staple products such as liquefied petroleum gas, business volume has increased significantly since the beginning of this year.

A recent report showed that in the first half of this year, Gwadar Port completed a container throughput of 1,162 TEUs and bulk cargo throughput of 506,800 tons.

"Through sea, land and air connectivity, Gwadar Port is increasingly becoming a regional logistics hub, effectively connecting with the Middle East, Central Asian countries and China, creating opportunities for the integrated development of Pakistan and regional coun-

tries," emphasized Zamir Ahmed Awan, Founding Chair of an Islamabad-based think tank, Global Silk Route Research Alliance, CEN reported.

Apart from being a port itself, Gwadar connects China's western economic zones to the sea, such as Kashgar which is 4500km away from the Shanghai seaport but only 2033km from Gwadar, the KASB report mentioned.

"About 60 per cent of Chinese oil imports are from the Middle East and the opening of Gwadar port reduces the marine distance from 16000 km to 5000 km and the duration from 45 days to 10 days," the report added. Pakistan will benefit from this opportunity as it is estimated that CPEC would generate transit revenue of USD 70 billion per annum through Gwadar Port.

So far, the Gwadar Port Free Zone has been allocated 2,281 acres of land for infrastructural develop-

ment. The first phase (60acres) of the project is completed. 46 enterprises have been registered in the Free Zone while 3 companies have started production.

The report also involved transportation, the 19km long Eastbay Expressway was inaugurated on June 22, 2022, which has connected the Free Zone with the network of National Highways for smooth logistic transportation of import, export, and transit goods.

Akbar Reis, Chairman of the Gwadar Fisheries Association, indicated that the opening of the expressway provides a vital logistics channel for Gwadar Port trade, benefiting the majority of fishermen. "This road is very important to us because the built breakwater protects fishing boats from ocean thunderstorms and storms. With this road, the transportation of goods between the port and big cities will be smooth."

Ensuring better use of water reservoirs Barren land can be brought under cultivation: Domki

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the barren land can be brought under cultivation by ensuring better use of the water resources in the province.

The Chief Minister was chairing the meeting regarding water projects here on Friday.

The caretaker Provincial Minister, concerned Secretary and other high ups were in attendance.

Addressing the meet-

ing, the Chief Minister said that the issues of uneven voltage and power suspension can be overcome by transferring the agricultural tube wells on solar energy. It can also rid the consumers of heavy billings, he maintained.

The Chief Minister directed the concerned high ups to ensure transparency in the projects at every cost.

He announced that he would personally visit and inspect the projects, which have been completed in the province.

PUC observes 'Palestine Solidarity Day' across nation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) on Friday observed 'Palestine Solidarity Day' across the nation expressing unity with the oppressed Palestinians and offering special prayers in Friday sermons.

The PUC Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, along with other prominent religious leaders, spoke out in support of Palestine.

They highlighted the critical juncture in the Palestinian issue and called on Muslim leaders to play their role immediately.

Addressing the issue of human rights, PUC Chairman Ashrafi deplored the silence on the mass killings of the oppressed Pal-

estinians. He emphasized that for decades, Israel had been subjecting innocent civilians, hospitals, schools, and ambulances to its ruthless aggression. Notably, he said the United States, India, the United Kingdom, and other Western nations remained silent in the face of Israeli brutality, disregarding the principles of human rights. He called for swift action from the Muslim leaders to halt Israel's aggression stressing that at this moment, the entire Muslim world stood with their oppressed Palestinian brothers and sisters. He appreciated the unwavering efforts and stance of the leadership of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey, Iran, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanging views with Shahid Ashraf Tarar, Caretaker Minister for Maritime Affairs during meeting held at Naval Headquarters.

Preparations reviewed for launch: All set to launch Health Cards in Balochistan, Secretary Health

Independent Report

QUETTA: All is set to launch the much-awaited Health Card Programme in Balochistan province.

A crucial meeting was held to review the preparations of Health Card Programme with Secretary Health Department, Asfandyar Khan Kakar in the chair here on Friday.

The Chief Executive Officer of Health Card Programme, representatives of State Life Insurance Corporation and NADRA were also in attendance at the meeting.

The preparations were reviewed for launch of the Health Cards in the province.

The Chief Executive

Officer of Health Card Programme informed the meeting that all preparations are complete for the launch of Health Cards in the province.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Health directed the concerned authorities that there should be no issue in provision of health facilities under the Health Cards.

He said that all available resources would be mobilized to ensure quality medical treatment to the people under Health Cards.

It may be mentioned here that the interim government has already announced to launch Health Cards in the province by end of this month.

Man shot dead in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): A man was killed on Friday on Qambrani Road, police said.

The man identified as Tariq Bangulzai died instantly when armed men opened fire at him, police said adding that the motive behind the killing is yet to be ascertained.

Further probe is underway.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi visit Radio Pakistan.

Health minister meets Iranian counterpart

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr. Nadeem Jan on Friday met Minister of Health Iran Dr. Bahram Eynollahi on the sidelines of 70th Session of the WHO's Regional Committee for Eastern Mediterranean in Cairo.

Dr. Nadeem Jan stated that historical relations between Pakistan and Iran were bound by common faith, history and culture. The leadership and people of Iran and Pakistan enjoy cordial relations.

The minister of Iran stated that Iran not only view Pakistan as a neighbouring but also as a brotherly country.

The two ministers discussed the new challenges for the health sector and identified way forward to respond such challenges for the betterment of residents of the two countries and the region.

Jan concerned about delay in restoration of 8-hours' power supply to growers

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has expressed concern over delay in restoration of power supply to the growers for eight hours daily despite willingness of the Chief of QESCO the other day.

In an official statement issued here on Friday, Jan Achakzai regretfully pointed out that the daily eight hours power supply has not been restored despite the willingness made by the QESCO Chief.

He termed the delay in restoring power supply is extremely concerned.

He said that if the power supply was not restored immediately then the crops of billions of rupees can be destroyed in the province.

We would be forced to import necessary food grains if the loss was caused

to agriculture and crops. As a result, there could be financial burden on the province rather on the country, he maintained.

The Minister Information mentioned that unfortunately the growers had already faced huge losses due to the floods last year as a result their production was just devastated.

He stressed that it is unavoidable to save the source of livelihood of the farmers from further loss.

Jan Achakzai said if WAPDA remain failed to restore electricity supply as per its commitment and consensus with the provincial government, then the matter would be taken up with Prime Minister.

He said that the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki would be compelled to take up the matter with caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar.

ECP rebuts 13 million ineligible voters allegations

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) strongly refuted a news report that was replete with inaccuracies and false information, incorrectly suggesting that 13 million people won't be able to vote in the next general elections.

ECP spokesperson said in a statement that the news report featured in Friday's edition of Dawn is saturated with inaccuracies and misinformation.

The spokesperson clarified that voters' registration was based on their permanent or current address as per their computerized National Identity Card (CNIC), and this process has no connection to population statistics.

CPEC project completes 1st decade, Pak-China eternal friendship

ISLAMABAD (Online): CPEC project, an eternal example of Pakistan-China friendship, has completed 10 years.

Major projects are underway in Pakistan under CPEC, including Peshawar Karachi Motorway, Karakoram Highway Phase 2, Lahore Orange Line Metro and other projects. According to details, CPEC project was laid in 2013 to take China-Pakistan friendship to greater heights.

The year 2023 marks a decade of the CPEC project Beijing has released a comprehensive document to review the historic BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) this year on the 10th anniversary of CPEC.

427 more power connections suspended on non-payment as QESCO drive continues

Independent Report

QUETTA: As many as 427 more power connections were suspended on non-payment of arrears by the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) in different parts of the province including Quetta on Friday.

According to the spokesman of QESCO, the drive against power pilferers and defaulters remained continued all over the province.

As part of the campaign, some 427 connections were disconnected on

non-payment of the dues. Moreover, nine transformers were also removed during the campaign.

In addition to this, five more FIRs were registered against power pilferers in Naseerabad and Sui areas.

Moreover, the recovery of amount against the dues of QESCO is also continued as over Rs. 83 crore were collected from the defaulters. Similarly, over Rs. 12 crore were also recovered from the pilferers on charges of electricity theft in the province.



HUB: Activists of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JU-I) are holding protest rally against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at RCD road in Hub.

Commissioner directs to initiate construction of Quetta Sports Complex

QUETTA (APP): Commissioner Quetta Division Muhammad Hamza Shafiq on Friday directed the official concerns to initiate the construction work of Quetta Sports Complex and remove all obstacles in the construction project as soon as possible.

He said that football, cricket, tennis court, futsal and other sports fields will be constructed in the Quetta Sports Complex.

He said that the construction of a sports complex is necessary to attract the youth towards sports, so all the relevant institutions should remove the obstacles with mutual cooperation so that the construction of the sports complex can be started.

Under the direction of Commissioner Quetta Division, a meeting was conducted to discuss the challenges facing the development of the Quetta Sports

Complex and Cricket Academy. The Quetta Sports Complex and Cricket Academy's construction status was discussed during the discussion.

On the occasion, it was decided that the Sports Department will send a summary to the Chief Secretary Balochistan for the acquisition of the land of Radio Pakistan, which will be sent to the Prime Minister office for approval.

Apart from that, the land acquisition for the construction of cricket academy should be done as soon as possible.

He said all possible steps should be taken to establish a 60-acre sports complex and a 12-acre cricket academy in Quetta.

In that regard, the reservations of all concerned institutions should be removed so that the work can be started as soon as possible.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA Lt. General Inam Haider Malik presenting Shield to MD USAID Ms Kate Somvongsiri.

Sanjrani commends Pak Navy's exemplary professionalism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Friday emphasized that the indelible contributions of the Pakistan Navy in safeguarding the country's maritime boundaries would be etched in golden letters in the annals of the nation's history.

He said this during a meeting with Rear Admiral Javed Iqbal (HI), distinguished with the Hilal Intiaz Military award, led the 53rd staff course delegation comprising faculty and administrative personnel from Naval War College Lahore during their visit to the Parliament House.

The meeting took place at the Parliament House where Sadiq Sanjrani

engaged with Rear Admiral Javed Iqbal in productive discussions concerning professional matters concerning the Pakistan Navy and topics of mutual interest. He acknowledged the exemplary professionalism exhibited by the officers and personnel of the Pakistan Navy, commended their valour in creating enduring stories of bravery that resonate with the nation. He emphasized their immense value as vital assets to the nation.

Highlighting the steadfastness and resolve of the Pakistan Navy akin to the Army and Air Force, he underscored their historical response to enemy aggression, fortifying our maritime borders.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafiqat presiding over a meeting regarding repatriation of Afghan refugees.