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dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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Long term policies to steer country out of deep rooted economic challenges: PM

Vows no fear or favor to any political party during electoral process

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday stressed upon formulation of the long-term policies to address the deep-rooted economic challenges faced by the country. The prime minister said that economic continuity, privatization, external debts, agriculture, services delivery, production of goods, tax net and private businesses, were some of the key issues upon which the upcoming elected government should focus.

During an interview with the anchorpersons and Vloggers telecast on PTV News, the prime minister said that the caretaker government during its short period, would set priorities and would do 'what is doable' while for the long-term policies, would be leaving behind drafts for the succeeding elected government.

He said contrary to the history of Pakistan, the US governments also took debts to the tune of billions of dollars but they had utilized them for boosting its economy and now they had an economic cycle in which their different sectors were thriving.

The caretaker prime minister said that he himself would vote for that party in the general elections that would have an economic revival plan.

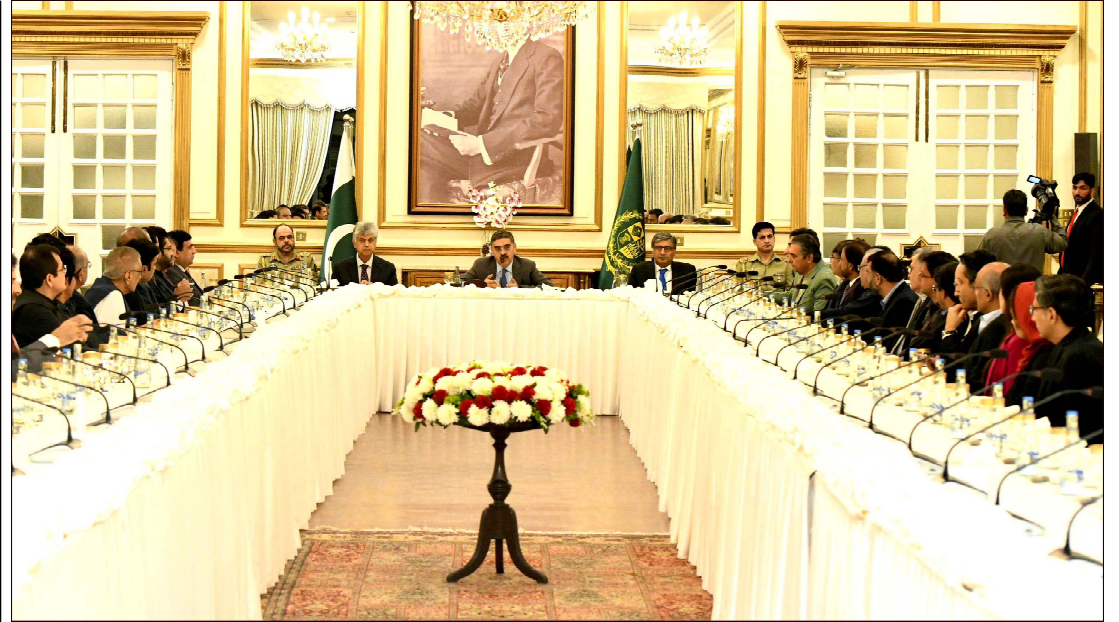
To a question about Palestine issue, he reiterated that Pakistan had a consistent policy under which they always expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The two-nation state plan was regarded as a solution to the issue but still Israel was denying it, he added.

The caretaker prime minister stressed for the solution of Palestine and Kashmir issues.

The prime minister further elaborated that the caretaker set up in the shortest period would be demonstrating how to perform and give a model to the upcoming government, adding so far about Rs18 billion recovery was made in the power sector.

He said the additional cost of the power production was diverted to those consumers who were already paying bills and due to the poor administration, the lower segments always borne the brunt.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar interacts with TV anchors and media persons



ISLAMABAD: The newly-appointed Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

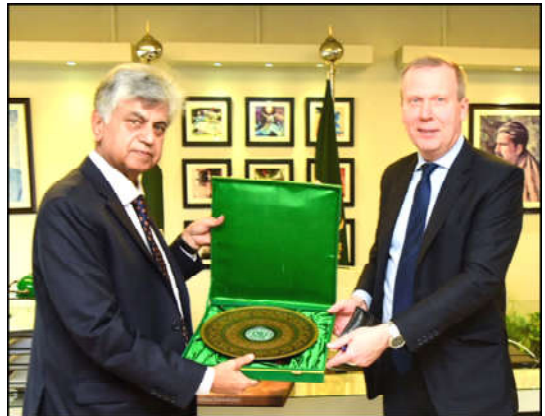
Solangi for boosting cooperation with Russia in diverse fields

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday underlined the need for boosting cooperation with Russia in various fields including media, drama, films, joint productions and training programmes.

The minister, in a meeting with Russian Ambassador to Pakistan Danila Ganich, also stressed that a formal invitation would be extended to his Russian counterpart for his visit to Pakistan.

During the meeting, cooperation between the two countries in diverse fields including media and the modalities regarding the Russian information minister's visit to Pakistan were also discussed.

Possible signing of agreements between APP and TAAS News Agency, PTV and Russian Television and



Russian Radio and Radio Pakistan during the visit of the Russian Minister also came under discussion during the meeting. Both Solangi and the Russian Ambassador expressed the commitment of the two countries to strengthen relations in various fields including security, economy, education, culture and tourism.

Pakistan valued its relations with Russia and it was desirous to expand cooperation with Moscow in the fields of media, drama, and films, the minister said.

CNICs to be used as Health Cards in Balochistan from October 25, announces CT Health Minister

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Health, Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jozgezi has announced that Health Cards Programme is going to be effective from October 25, 2023 in the province, and those having Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) would be able to get the medical treatment of worth Rs. 1.2 million in as many as 1200 hospitals all over the country.

What's important is that the people would have no need to go anywhere for the Health Cards, as those holding their CNICs would be considered as the Health Cards.

The funds of Rs. 7 billion have been released for the Health Card Programme in the province.

This was announced by the Minister Health while speaking on occasion

of his visit to the District Headquarter Hospital Duki on Monday morning.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Commissioner Duki, Captain (Retd) Fayyaz Ali, District Health Officer, Dr. Rafiq Baloch, Medical Superintendent of DHQ Hospital, Dr. Johar Khan Shadozai, besides other concerned officials.

The Minister Health visited the casualty department, child ward, DHO office and other sections and inspected the facilities being extended to the patients there.

He was also briefed about the overall functioning of the DHQ Hospital and the issues being faced by it due to lack of medicines and other resources.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Jozgezi mentioned that the caretaker government has done historic works during short span of three weeks.

PM, newly appointed CNS discuss matters of Pak Navy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The newly appointed Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here on Monday, the PM Office said. The meeting discussed the administrative and professional matters pertaining to the Pakistan Navy.

The prime minister expressed confidence that under the supervision of the new naval chief, the Pakistan Navy would play an effective role in the defence of the country.

October 17 fixed for indictment of Imran in cipher case

RAWALPINDI (Online): Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain of special court set up under official secret act has fixed October 17 for indictment in cipher case against chairman PTI and co-accused Shah Mehmood Qureshi. The court distributed the copies of case among the accused persons but lawyers of PTI chairman have not signed on receipt of the copies. Chairman Mehmood Qureshi were present in court room during the hearing of the case in Adiala jail. FIA team, special prosecutor of federal government Zulfiqar Abbas Naqvi, other state counsels, Barrister Suleman Saifdar, Sher Afzal Marwat, other lawyers were also present in the court.

Pak condemns UP CM's statement about taking back 'Sindhu'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Monday condemned the "highly irresponsible" remarks made by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh about taking back 'Sindhu' - the region around the Indus River in Southern Pakistan, saying that the provocative remarks were inspired by the gratuitous assertion of 'Akhanda Bharat'. "We condemn the highly irresponsible remarks made by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, a key member of India's ruling dispensation and a follower of the bigoted Hindutva ideology, at the National Sindhi Convention in Lucknow. It is equally condemnable that the so-called reclamation of the 'Ram Janmabhoomi' has been cited by the Chief Minister as a template for reclaiming the region.

Govt determined to establish peace, make implementation on decisions of APEX committee: CM Domki

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the circumstances of Balochistan are quite different than other provinces where we are facing numerous challenges.

However, we are determined to establish peace, make implementation on the decisions of APEX committee and provide basic facilities of health, education, water to the people.

The caretaker Chief Minister was speaking to the Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori who met him at the CM secretariat on Monday. The Governor Sindh congratulated Mir Ali Mardan Domki on assuming the office of chief Minister Balochistan.

During the course of meeting, they discussed the trade and social matters be-

sides other matters of mutual interests.

Speaking to the Governor Sindh, Chief Minister said that the provincial government is committed to hold free and fair elections in peaceful manner.

In addition to this, we also want timely completion of the ongoing development projects in the province so that general public may benefit from the fruits of development.

The Governor Sindh appreciated the priorities of the caretaker provincial government and expressed best wishes for it.

Mr. Kamran Tessori also visited the Chief Minister to visit Sindh, which he accepted.

The Chief Minister Domki presented a souvenir to the Governor Sindh while traditional gifts were presented to him by the Governor.



QUETTA: Caretaker Interior Minister Mir Sarfaraz Khan Bugti meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Major among two martyred, five terrorists killed in Zhub IBO

RAWALPINDI (APP): A Pakistan Army officer among a soldier embraced martyrdom while leading an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted in Sambaza area of Zhub District, Balochistan that resulted in the elimination of five terrorists amid intense fire exchange.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Monday, "On night [of] October 8/9, security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in general area Sambaza, Zhub District, on reported presence of

terrorists."

During the conduct of operation, it said the terrorists were surrounded and after an intense exchange of fire, five terrorists were sent to hell.

The martyrs were identified as Major Syed Ali Raza Shah (Age 31 years, resident of Sargodha District), who was leading the operation from the front, and Havaldar Nisar Ahmed (Age 38 years, resident of Vehari District), having fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced, Shahadat, in ensuing exchange of fire.

Nawaz's Oct 21 address to set direction for Pakistan: Shehbaz

LAHORE (Online): Former Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has said national address of Nawaz Sharif in Minar-e-Pakistan on October 21 will set national objective, the spirit and ideological attachment of men, women and young workers to party is exemplary, he said this in a message to party workers here Monday. Unity in Pakistan and its economic robustness is the need of hour in the emerging crisis in the region and world.



QUETTA: Members of Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ) are holding protest demonstration against the murder attack on Khuzdar Press Club Journalists Siddique Mengal and Mohammad Khan, at Quetta press club.

Constitution, law not subject to wishes of chief justice: CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa on Monday remarked during the hearing of petitions against the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act 2023 that the constitution and law are not subject to the wishes of the chief justice.

We are bound by the constitution and the people, he said, adding that the chief justice should not go beyond the provisions of the constitution and law.

A 15-member full court bench presided by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa heard the case. Additional documents were also submitted by the parties in the Supreme Court on the occasion.

During the course of the proceeding, President Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Abid S. Zuberi gave arguments and said that the Parliament

was not authorized to form rules for SC.

The chief justice said that regarding the rules of the Judicial Commission and the Supreme Judicial Council, it is written in the constitution that the constitutional bodies will make the law themselves.

However, when it comes to SC, Article 191 states that the rules of the SC could also be made by law, he said, adding that the point is that the legislators had themselves given the option of law.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan asked how 184/3 was used in Pakistan. Whether the human rights cell had been mentioned in the constitution or the SC rules. If a Chief Justice makes a mistake, whether the Parliament can correct it or not, he questioned.

Addressing Abid Zuberi, the CJP said that

our work will increase by getting the right to appeal. Why you are worried, he asked.

Justice Jamal Mandokhail said that if you want to see the intention of the legislators, then look at Article 175. If the framers of the Constitution had to give complete authority to the Supreme Court, they would have clearly written that any regulation that conflicts with the law or the Constitution would automatically be null and void, he added.

Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi said that the Parliament had made a law about SC rules but why it didn't make the same thing for the high courts. Shariat Court Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan said that the high courts are empowered to make their own practice and procedures.

Zhub Operation: Bugti admires valour of forces against terrorists

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti on Monday expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of Major Ali Raza and Havaldar Nisar Ahmed during the operation against terrorists in Zhub.

He admired the valour of brave soldiers in the operation with the families of the martyrs and shared their grief.

Major Ali Raza and Havaldar Nisar Ahmed were martyred while fighting bravely against terrorists, said the minister in his message while paying respects to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the country.

The minister said that the Pakistani nation owes the sacrifices of martyrs, adding brave soldiers of security forces killed five terrorists.

He said that the entire nation stands with the Pakistan Army and terrorism must be eradicated at any cost.

Govt decides to end free electricity facility for officers

ISLAMABAD (Online): The federal government has finalized to end the free electricity facility for the officers of the electricity companies and recommended to stop providing monthly free units to Grade 17 to Grade 21 officers. The Cabinet Committee on Energy will give final approval on the Power Division's summary tomorrow.

Abolishing the facility of free units will save more than 6 billion rupees annually. It has been recommended to give 15 thousand 858 rupees instead of 450 monthly free units to grade 17 officer,

21 thousand 996 units per month instead of 600 free units to grade 18 officers, 37 thousand 594 rupees to grade 19 officer instead of 880 free units per month, 46 thousand 992 rupees instead of 1100 free units to grade 20 officers, 55 thousand 536 rupees instead of 1300 free units to Grade 21 officers,



QUETTA: Governor Sindh Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Meets Governor Balochistan; Governor Sindh terms development & prosperity of Balochistan essential for bright future of country & nation

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori has stated that the development and prosperity of Balochistan is essential for the bright future of Pakistan.

Mr. Kamran Tessori was speaking to the Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar whom he called here at the Governor House on Monday morning.

Mr. Tessori was on his first visit to Quetta after assuming the office of Governor Sindh.

During the course of meeting, the political situation of the country as well as matters regarding acquaintance with the ever new technology and utilization of the hidden potential of youth were discussed.



QUETTA: Caretaker Minister for Excise & Taxation Prince Ahmed Ali meeting with Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

DAYS REMAINING

21

in f @ @GovtOfPakistan

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Turned away

On Saturday, as UN agencies pressed Islamabad to consider the risks of forcefully repatriating Afghan refugees, a major earthquake in western Afghanistan resulted in over 2,000 deaths, according to the Taliban government, with thousands left injured and homeless. Reports of the devastation caused by the disaster served as a grim backdrop to the concerns raised by humanitarian agencies about the difficulties Pakistani authorities may condemn hundreds of thousands of Afghans as they go ahead with a controversial plan to evict all 'illegal aliens' by the end of this month. The drive, which has been criticised for seeking to forcibly push those who had fled violence, persecution and impoverishment in Afghanistan back into that troubled country, has been pursued with unseemly eagerness by the caretaker government, with one ministry even running a countdown on X (formerly Twitter) to remind undocumented migrants about the number of days they have remaining in this country.

Meanwhile, reports abound of refugee settlements being shuttered, landlords being told to evict Afghan tenants, and Afghans — both documented and undocumented, men, women and children — being rounded up by police across the country.

The reaction from rights organisations and more hospitable Pakistanis to Islamabad suddenly turning its back on Afghan refugees has, understandably, been one of dismay and concern.

While the Pakistani authorities are well within their rights to demand that migrants and refugee seekers, especially those who are undocumented, return, is this really the right way to go about doing so? Uprooting hundreds of thousands of human beings who have scraped together a life in Pakistan and sending them back to an uncertain future defined by terror and turmoil seems unnecessarily cold, made all the more so by the short deadline given to them to pack up and leave.

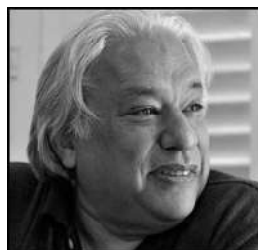
The UNHCR and the International Organisation for Migration have both come forward to advocate for the rights of Afghan refugees; they must work proactively with the Pakistani government to find a quick solution to this issue. It appears from reports that the authorities here are unprepared for the task they have taken on.

At the bare minimum, the ongoing effort to deport all foreigners not holding a valid visa and passport requires international oversight to ensure that those being returned are not deprived of what little they possess in the process.

There have been complaints of unscrupulous individuals exploiting vulnerable Afghans by demanding bribes to ensure their safety; the Pakistani authorities have a responsibility to put an immediate end to such reprehensible practices.

Ideally, the entire exercise needs to be reconsidered, but even if the decision is non-negotiable, the returning Afghans need to be treated with compassion. They are owed that.

Future in jeopardy



Arif Hasan

I have written earlier about the Pakistan Quarters when a proposal for its development was made in 2018 under very different political circumstances. At that time, the Sindh government had some control over land in the city. However, today, developers have completely taken over land-use decisions due to the policies of the previous government.

The Pakistan Quarters consist of Martin East, Martin West, and Jahangir Quarters. To avoid the misuse of land as in the case of Bahria Town and to avoid creating homelessness and misery as in the case of the KCR-related evictions and the Gujjar nullah, Orangi nullah and Mahmoodabad nullah demolitions, a rehabilitation process should be guaranteed, that will not result in homelessness and hunger or force people to live under the sky without water, electricity, schools, and employment on the rubble of their homes for years.

The Pakistan Quarters on which the government wishes to construct apartments consist of about 335 acres and have a population of around 90,000, or 13,000 households. There are five types of residents in the Quarters: i) there are the original allottees. Most of them are probably dead; ii) there are the children and grandchildren of the allottees; iii) there are those who have rented out their homes to others; iv) there are those who have not paid their dues to the state; v) there are those who have sold their houses and have

left. All these categories need to be identified, and their numbers worked out so that a just and equitable system of rehousing, relocating, or removal can be worked out. This work could be handled by a Karachi-based academic institution of architecture and planning, as it will lead to a better understanding of design and planning-related problems of rehabilitation for low-income and lower-middle-income settlements for students and their teachers.

All these categories and their needs and numbers should be identified, and their financial status and housing needs worked out so that a just, equitable, and transparent system of re-allotments or removal can be worked out. This, as a survey, is not difficult to do.

So far in Karachi, the 'rehabilitation' processes have been very poor and court judgements have supported the demolition of homes and settlements, saying that rehabilitation should be provided one year after the demolition. The problem of where the residents would live after the demolition of their homes has been ignored. Even then, after more than four years the rehabilitation of demolished homes, there has been no programme for rehabilitation, and the courts have failed to force the government to comply with their judgements.

If a programme of such a large nature as the proposed Pakistan Quarters is undertaken, it can be an asset to the city if it is aesthetically planned and executed. For this, it is necessary that there should be no nepotism in the appointment of the architect. I would even suggest that a national or international competition for the design be held and judged by an international jury.

Martin Quarters also contains the first

residential accommodation that was built for the lower-income government employees in Karachi after partition; therefore, it also has historic importance. Apart from very important cultural importance for the city as a whole, it has also been a part of many political movements, often reactionary.

Knowing the nature of government administrative systems, the management and construction work for the redevelopment of the quarters will probably be given to a developer. This is the trend today. It might even be given to a foreign developer. In both cases, our experience has been terrible. So it is suggested that a committee consisting of well-known and public-spirited citizens be created to oversee the project. Such a committee would also contain a representative of the developer and technical persons appointed by the committee.

It should be understood that over the past 74 years, the residents of Pakistan Quarters have created various communities and strong identities. In the process, they have created sports clubs, religious associations (mosques and imambargahs), libraries, and protected land; for these activities. These should be identified, and spaces for them allocated next to the communities who operate and use them. Funds for their survival should also be allocated. It is hoped that for once we will be able to build something that is of benefit to the poor and lower middle-income groups of Karachi and not create a development that is ugly, un-aesthetic, and exploitative and which provides the market the opportunity to extract maximum value out of land at the cost of the city's built and social environment. — Courtesy Dawn

In the middle



Zarrar Khuhro

The Indian Ocean has been a critical trade route but has arguably never been of the same strategic importance as, say, the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The latter two have been the staging grounds for many a war and superpower rivalry and, by virtue of having the US sandwiched between them, have always loomed large in the public imagination. But the rise of China, and the ongoing efforts to contain that rise, has increasingly made the Indian Ocean a playground for regional strategic rivalries and indeed a centre of gravity in overall strategic terms.

For China, this ocean is the route that critical raw materials and energy supplies take, travelling through the chokepoint of the Malacca strait.

Another equally critical chokepoint is the Strait of Hormuz and then there's the Djibouti strait, which connects the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean. The Indian Ocean region is also home to a rising number of military and naval bases, with the US base on Diego Garcia and the Chinese presence in Djibouti being just two. And then, of course, there are the critical ports that span all the way from Myanmar's Kyaukpyu port to Sri Lanka's Hambantota to Gwadar in Pakistan, and beyond.

Truly, the developments of the past few years have proven the sagacity of American naval strategist Alfred Thayer Mahan who said over a century ago that "whoever controls the Indian Ocean will dominate Asia; the destiny of the

world will be decided on its water". It is in this context, and specifically in the context of the Sino-Indian tug-of-war, that the recent political developments in the Maldives — an island nation of 500,000 souls — must be viewed.

That archipelago state has seasawed between India and China for over a decade now, with former president Abdullah Yameen who ruled the Maldives from 2013 to 2018, tilting towards Beijing. Yameen's tenure saw the Maldives move closer to Beijing's orbit, with investment flowing in from China and India being kept at a relative distance. This changed dramatically when Yameen lost power to Solih in 2018 and championed an India-first policy. While China did continue to try and woo Solih, his inclination towards New Delhi — which has historically had close relations with the Maldives — was pronounced.

But now, Solih has lost to Muhammad Muizzu, a close ally of the former president Yameen, who was jailed on corruption charges late last year. The mayor of Malé, Muizzu took advantage of a split in Solih's Maldivian Democratic Party, to sweep into power and almost immediately announced that he would force all foreign military personnel to leave the Maldives.

That, of course, means India, which maintains a very small military presence on the islands. This presence is linked to the gift of a few reconnaissance aircraft and helicopters by the Indian government to the Maldives, which also included the stationing of 75 or so Indian troops purportedly to assist in the operations of the aircraft. This was adroitly turned into an election issue by Yameen's party, that launched an 'India Out' campaign, playing on nationalistic feelings and the fear of losing sovereignty

to India. But while a small Indian presence may not have been enough of a rallying point, concerns were also raised about India signing a deal with the Maldives to construct and maintain a critical naval facility, a move that was hailed by then Maldivian defence minister as a 'significant milestone' in defence cooperation between the countries.

Now, with Muizzu's victory, the future of this cooperation is in doubt, but this doesn't necessarily translate into a sweeping victory for Beijing. The proximity of India, and its cultural links and diaspora in the Maldives mean that Beijing will always have trouble making inroads beyond infrastructure and possibly defence deals.

In times of crisis, the geographical proximity of India will also prove an advantage; in 2014 when a major water treatment plant in Malé caught fire, leaving the residents of Maldives' capital without drinking water. While India was able to immediately ferry in fresh water, it took China two to three weeks to arrive with aid. So despite Muizzu's election rhetoric, there will be no major cooling off of relations and the Maldives will likely continue to seasaw between the two regional heavyweights.

As for the Indian Ocean, it will become increasingly militarised as India boosts its fleet in an effort to keep China out; the target is to have 175 warships by 2035 along with other military assets such as aircraft, drones and helicopters dedicated to the Indian Ocean region. The rivalry is moving beyond South Asia to Southeast Asia as well, with increased military cooperation between Vietnam and China, along with other states that have a stake in the seas surrounding China. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Commerce Minister, Spanish envoy discuss bilateral trade relations

ISLAMABAD (Online): Spanish Ambassador Jose A. de Ory called on the Minister for Commerce and Industry, Dr. Gohar Ejaz at the Commerce Ministry today. The meeting was convened to discuss bilateral trade and investment relations.

Minister Ejaz expressed popularity of football in Pakistan, with a particular interest in La Liga, and support for renowned clubs like Real Madrid and FC Barcelona. He emphasized Pakistan's growing sports industry and importance of Pakistani branded sports goods exports to

Spain. Minister Ejaz appreciated Spain support for EU GSP Plus.

Spanish Ambassador Jose A. de Ory stressed importance of a mindset shift to boost exports, drawing from Spain's own successful experience. He highlighted Spain's support for its businesses to expand abroad, particularly in South America, and emphasized that Pakistan needs to emulate this policy to assist businessmen in going global. Ambassador de Ory proposed facilitating trade by providing Pakistan with a list of essential Spanish imports, allowing Pakistani

businesses to focus on meeting those demands effectively. Minister Ejaz shared Pakistan's interest in collaboration with Spain to establish solar manufacturing facilities in Pakistan, given Spain's leadership in solar technology. Furthermore, the Ambassador encouraged Pakistan to explore renewable energy opportunities, citing Spain's expertise in wind power.

Spanish Ambassador invited Minister Ejaz to lead a business delegation to Spain to further strengthen bilateral trade and economic ties.



ISLAMABAD: Spanish Ambassador H.E. Jose A. de Ory meeting with the Minister for Commerce and Industry, Dr. Gohar Ejaz at the Commerce Ministry to discuss bilateral trade.

Govt's initiatives strengthening rupee against \$US: Atif Akram

KARACHI (INP): President Candidate FPCCI, Atif Akram Sheikh has said that the efforts of the government are continuously strengthening the rupee against the dollar, which is a great achievement. In a statement issued here on Monday, he said that due to the initiatives of the government, the prices of various commodities were decreasing in the market, which was providing relief to the public and the business community.

Atif Akram Sheikh, who has also served as VP FPCCI,

Chairman PVMA, and President ICCI lauding the efforts of the government said that the only way to stabilize the rupee on a permanent basis was to increase exports and discourage unnecessary imports. Remittances bring huge foreign exchange to the government, but they also encourage unnecessary consumption, he said.

The business leader said that consumerism has also been on the rise for decades, and investors have been attracted to non-productive sectors.

Federal Committee on Agriculture to meet on Wednesday

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Committee on Agriculture (FCA) will meet on October 11 (Wednesday) to review the output of major and minor crops during the Kharif season and fix the production targets of Rabi crops 2024 for fulfilling the local dietary requirements as well as exports.

The high-powered committee is mandated to oversee strategic measures for ensuring food safety and security in the country and will be held under the chairmanship of the Minister of National Food Security and Research Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik, said a senior official in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research.

Talking to APP here on Monday, he said that among others, the meeting would also be attended by the senior officials of the provincial food and agriculture departments, State Bank of Pakistan, Zarie Taraqiatie Bank Limited, National Fertilizer Development Center.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy Mr. Muhammad Ali calls on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

NBG says: Electricity should be cheaper for people, industries in winter

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Monday that the production capacity of electricity in the country is 40 thousand megawatts while consumption is only 10 to 12 thousand megawatts in winter.

People and businesses are forced to pay even though some industries are shut down in the winter and do not use electricity.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that instead of shutting down the electricity-generating plants during the four or five months of winter, they should be operated, and this electricity should be sold to cover operating costs only.

Speaking to the business community, the veteran business leader

said that cheap electricity should be provided to the public, commercial establishments, and agricultural and industrial sectors to increase economic activity. Providing cheap power to industries will increase production, employment, and export earnings, improve foreign exchange reserves, and thereby provide additional resources to the government for capacity payments.

Zong launches Z-Verse to transform enterprise communications

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's leading telecommunication network Zong 4G has launched Z-Verse — an innovative, all-encompassing solution for enterprises to streamline customer interactions, ensure performance elevation, and conquer the market like never before.

Z-Verse offers a diverse range of solutions that seamlessly integrate all your digital platforms, including Meta and X 'Twitter', as well as emails, SMS, and more — all within a user-friendly interface. It empowers businesses to effortlessly

Dollar continues to fall

ISLAMABAD (Online): US dollar continued to depreciate against the Pakistani currency in the currency market.

According to currency dealers, the value of dollar in Inter Bank has further reduced to RS 9 on the first day of business week and the price of dollar has become RS 281.80 paisa. It is pertinent to say that during the last business week, the interbank depreciation of the US dollar against the Pakistani rupee was recorded by more than 5 rupees.

The price of dollar has reduced to RS 5.5 paisa in Inter Bank during Business week. US Currency has closed to RS 281.80 paisa in Inter Bank.

Mian Zahid calls for low-cost electricity for people, industries in winter

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that the production capacity of electricity in the country is 40 thousand megawatts while consumption is only 10 to 12 thousand megawatts in winter.

In a statement on Monday, Mian Zahid Hussain said that people and businesses were forced to pay even though some industries were shut down in the winter and do not use electricity.

Instead of shutting down the electricity-generating plants during the four

or five months of winter, they should be operated, and this electricity should be sold to cover operating costs only, he added.

He said that low-cost electricity should be provided to the public, commercial establishments, and agricultural and industrial sectors to increase economic activity. Providing cheap power to industries will increase production, employment, export earnings, improve foreign exchange reserves, and thereby provide additional resources to the government for capacity payments. The business leader said that supporting the industrial sector will increase production and reduce the price of various commodities, which will benefit the people.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power Muhammed Ali called on Federal Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hasan Fawad.

Railways earn over Rs 6mln from saloons

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has generated revenue worth Rs 6,340,156 million through utilizing its 23 saloons and inspection coaches for commercial purposes, during the last three and half years.

"At present, Pakistan Railways has only 23 saloons and inspection coaches with different dignitaries of the country who are entitled to use these saloons when needed," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

Giving the details, he said, "Two highly luxurious coaches have been allocated for the Prime Minister's

Secretariat while four coaches have been allocated for the Minister for Railways, Secretary/Chairman of Railways, and another senior official in the ministry."

The official said, "Only one saloon has been allocated to the federal government while one each has been allocated to the Governors of Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab, and the provincial governments." In addition, eight saloons had been allocated for the Railway Headquarters Lahore, in which one each would be marked to Chief Executive Officer/General Manager (BS-22).

Role of Christian community in creation of Pakistan unforgettable: Governor

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended a ceremony as a special guest today under the auspices of IMRF (Implementation of Minority Rights Forum) at Governor House Lahore regarding the "S.P Dewan Bahadur Singha Award 2023".

Addressing the ceremony, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the role of the Christian community in the creation

of Pakistan is unforgettable. After the establishment of Pakistan, the Christian community rendered valuable services in various fields including health, education and law. He said that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had said that the rights of minorities will be protected in Pakistan. He further stated that the minorities have full protection and equal rights as per the vision of Quaid-e-Azam and the Constitution of Pakistan.

He said that among

the heroes who played an important role in the establishment of Pakistan, the name of SP Dewan Bahadur Singha is worth mentioning, adding he said that the government of Pakistan had also issued S.P. Dewan Bahadur Singha commemorative stamp in recognition of his services.

Governor Punjab said that minorities have equal rights and opportunities in the country, adding he said that Senator Kamran Michael was the first finance minister belonging to the minority who

presented the budget of Punjab. Governor Punjab said that the minority community played a great role in the formation of Pakistan, and they are actively participating in the development and prosperity of the beloved country even today. Governor Punjab further said that we have to promote love, tolerance and brotherhood in the society. Chairman IMRF Samuel Payara, Sister Anna Bakshi and many other guests were present in the function.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with participants of IMRF (Implementation of Minority Rights Forum) at Governor House regarding the "S.P Dewan Bahadur Singha Award 2023".



HYDERABAD: Students are performing tableau on stage during public gathering meeting arranged by Qaumi Awami Tehreek (QAT) held at Hatari Bypass in Hyderabad.

Dr Jamal calls for stronger ties with Saudia Arabia

Independent Report
RAWALPINDI: Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare, Dr. Jamal Nasir, called on the Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Maliki, on Monday and discussed issues pertaining to mutual cooperation in the health sector with him.

According to a handout issued here, Dr. Jamal Nasir said that Pakistani doctors were competent and hardworking while Saudi Arabia can utilize their services to provide quality healthcare facilities to its citizens.

"Saudi Arabia could also get the benefit of services of Pakistani nurses and paramedical staff for this purpose",

he added.

Dr. Jamal informed that the Punjab Government has simplified the procedure for getting ex-Pakistan leave for senior nurses for overseas employment and now their applications for proceeding abroad for jobs are being decided within four days only.

The health minister said that the possibility of starting Arabic language courses for medical staff being employed by Arab countries could also be considered for developing their proficiency in Arabic conversation. He said that apart from Pakistani labour, Saudi Arabia could also get the services of professionals in engineering, IT and other areas.

Gas cylinder explosion injures 2 in Karachi

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (APP): At least two persons were critically injured when a gas cylinder exploded in a shop located in Karachi's Maskan Chowrangi on early Monday.

As per initial report, police sources said that two cylinders exploded inside a fast-food shop, which was closed. Due to the intensity of the blast, two passersby were injured. Several vehicles, shops and motorcycles were also damaged in the blast, a private news channel reported.

Four killed in road accident in Muzaffargarh
ISLAMABAD (APP): Four persons were killed and two others injured when two motorcycles were hit by a tractor-trolley in Shehar Sultan near Muzaffargarh in the wee hours of Monday.

A tractor-trolley coming from behind ran over the motorcyclists, killing four of them on the spot and injuring two others, private news channels reported.

Police and rescue teams reached the site and shifted the dead bodies and injured to hospital.

Naqvi visits Govt Pilot School Wahdat Road, inspects condition

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid a visit to Government Pilot Higher Secondary School Wahdat Road on Monday.

During his visit, he personally inspected the classrooms and engaged with the students. He also made a significant decision, prohibiting teachers from engaging in other duties, including elections, during school hours.

CM Naqvi emphasized that teachers should solely focus on

their responsibilities within school hours, ensuring that students receive uninterrupted education.

To a request from the students, the CM announced plans to enhance the school's canteen facility. Additionally, he declared that students would be provided with discounted travel options through the Speedo Bus service.

Mohsin Naqvi issued directives for the enhancement of classroom conditions, as well as improvements to the

school grounds and lawn. New appointments were made for teachers responsible for instructing students in the 11th and 12th grades, a move that was met with joy from the student body.

Furthermore, he expressed his commitment to transforming the pilot school into a model educational institution. He also took the opportunity to review the implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for managing conjunctivities.

Sardar Attique says Dedication to ideology is imperative to recover national strength

Independent Report
MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said the deliberate weakening of his ideological Muslim Conference party platform by some hidden hands has lent the cohesive political space of AJK to societal chaos.

It was, he reminded, the weakening of the mother party of Pakistan, the Muslim League, in 1971 that resulted in the disastrous break-up of Pakistan, a loss that cannot be recouped, he maintained in a statement issued here yesterday.

Azad Jammu Kashmir and Pakistan's strong ideological identification is

a guarantee of national unity and territorial security, Attique, who also heads All Jammu Kashmir Muslim Conference, said.

Our national ideology is a formidable citadel of geographic solidarity from Gwadar to Karachi to Khyber to Kashmir. Our known enemy India is on the lookout to vitiate the internal environment of our national society, he warned.

During his day-long visit Saturday to various rural localities of Dhirkote subdivision he cautioned that anti-inflation sentiments should in no way negatively affect the national demographic and institutional cohesion.



LAHORE: SAPM on Human rights and Women empowerment Mushaal Hussain Mullick offering Fateha on the grave of National Poet of Pakistan Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

General polls to be held in mid-February, Nawaz Sharif to lead PML-N: Raja Riaz

Independent Report
FAISALABAD (APP): Former opposition leader in the National Assembly Raja Riaz Ahmad Khan on Monday said that Nawaz Sharif would lead the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) election campaign and the general elections would be held in mid of February.

Addressing a press conference at his 'Dera' here, he said that he had joined the PML-N after thorough consideration and deliberation because Pakistan was facing multifaceted crises and

only the PML-N supreme could drag the country out of prevailing situation.

He said that general elections would be held in mid of February and the PML-N was ready to contest it. The PML-N was a pro-people party and it would emerge as victorious with thumping majority during upcoming elections, he added. He said that Pakistan Tehreek-Insaf (PTI) had enjoyed the power for about four years but failed to deliver and if PTI government was not ousted,

52 smoke emitting factories sealed in one month

Independent Report
FAISALABAD (APP): Deputy Director (DD) Environment Muhammad Nawaz Khan said that environment protection laws were fully implemented in the district to control smog and environmental pollution and an environment squad sealed 52 factories on charge of emitting excessive smoke.

In a statement on Monday, he said that teams of environment protection department had inspected 305 factories during last one month and issued warning to 87 factory owners.

International News

Israel imposing 'total' Gaza blockade as dozens of Palestinians killed in strikes on refugee camp

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: Israel is escalating measures against the Gaza Strip to a "total blockade" including a ban on admitting food and fuel, Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said on Monday, after Hamas stunned Israel with surprise offensive.

Gaza's health ministry said there were dozens of Palestinians killed and wounded in Israeli air strikes on the Jabalia refugee camp. Israel has launched hundreds of strikes on Gaza since Saturday, when Hamas fighters launched attacks in Israel and fired thousands of rockets at the country.

The death toll in the

Gaza Strip rose to 560 on Monday, the health ministry in the Palestinian enclave said.

The Hamas-controlled ministry said "570 people were killed and another 2,900 injured" in the fighting that began on Saturday after Hamas fighters fired thousands of rockets in Israel in a surprise dawn offensive. More than 123,000 people have been displaced in the Gaza Strip since fighting began, the United Nations said. "Over 123,538 people, have been internally displaced in Gaza, mostly due to fear, protection concerns and the destruction of their homes," said the UN's humanitarian agency, OCHA.

More than 73,000 are sheltering in schools, OCHA said, some of which have been designated emergency shelters.

Adnan Abu Hasna, a spokesman for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), said he expected the numbers to rise further.

"There's electricity in these schools, we provide them with a meal, clean water, psychological support and medical treatment," he told AFP.

Gaza is home to 2.3 million Palestinians, who have lived under a crippling Israeli blockade imposed after Hamas took power in 2007.



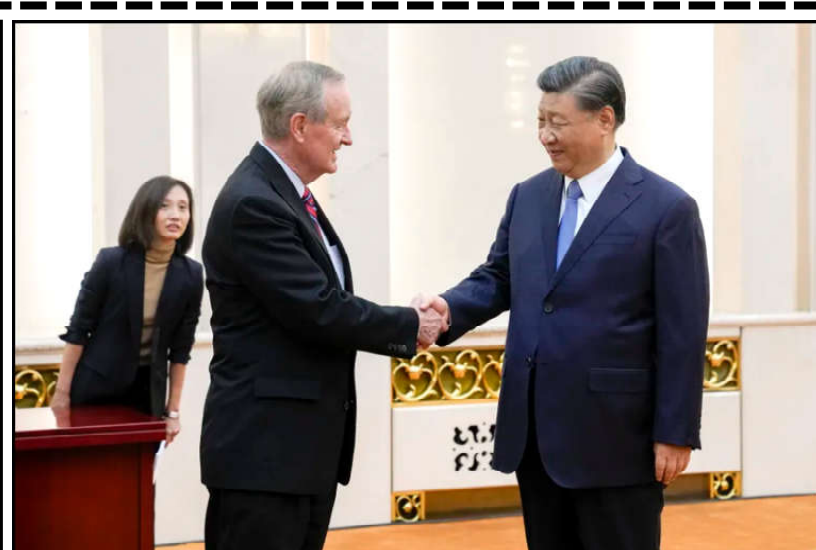
Performers take part in the closing ceremony of the 2022 Asian Games at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Stadium in Hangzhou in China's eastern Zhejiang province.

Russia eyes return to UN rights body despite Ukraine war

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: Russia, which was ousted from the UN Human Rights Council after its forces invaded Ukraine, will attempt a return to the body on Tuesday — an uncertain move that will provide a gauge of its international support. The UN General Assembly will vote that day to elect 15 new members to the Geneva-based UN body, for terms running from 2024 to 2026.

The council's 47 members are allocated by region, and each large regional group

usually pre-selects its own candidates, which the General Assembly then generally approves. But this year two groups have more candidates than available seats: Latin America (candidates from Brazil, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Peru will contest three seats), and Eastern Europe (Albania, Bulgaria and Russia will vie for two seats). Moscow's candidacy has drawn scepticism, and the vote will come just days after a Russian missile attack on the Ukrainian village of Groza killed more than 50 people in a scene of carnage.



U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho is greeted by Chinese President Xi Jinping before their bilateral meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

US Senate Majority Leader Schumer meets Xi and welcomes stronger Chinese statement on Hamas attack

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: U.S. Senate Majority Leader Schumer said Monday he was grateful for a strengthened statement from China condemning the killing and kidnapping of Israeli and foreign civilians by Hamas, issued during a bipartisan congressional visit to Beijing that included a lengthy meeting with President Xi Jinping.

Schumer led a delegation of six senators to China for talks aimed at stabilizing ties following a sharp deterioration in recent years

over trade, U.S. support for self-governing Taiwan, human rights and other issues. The delegation, which included three Democrats and three Republicans, was the first visit by U.S. lawmakers since 2019 and came at a time of growing attacks on China in Congress as America contends with Beijing's rise as a global power. Schumer told Foreign Minister Wang Yi earlier in the day that he had been very disappointed by China's failure to strongly condemn the attack on Israel and show sympathy for the country and its people.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said later Monday that China is "deeply saddened by the civilian casualties caused by the conflict between Palestine and Israel."

"China opposes and condemns acts that harm civilians," along with actions that "expand conflict and undermine regional stability," Mao said, going beyond an initial Foreign Ministry statement on Sunday.

Iran's UN mission says Tehran not involved in Hamas attacks

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Iran's mission to the United Nations said on Sunday that Tehran was not involved in one of the bloodiest attacks in Israel's history when Islamist group Hamas killed 700 Israelis and abducted dozens more.

"The resolute measures taken by Palestine constitute a wholly legitimate defense against seven decades of oppressive occupation and heinous crimes committed by the illegitimate Zionist regime," Iran's U.N. mission said in statement. Iran has made no secret of its backing for Hamas, funding and arming

the group and another Palestinian militant organisation Islamic Jihad.

The Hamas assault on Saturday, the biggest incursion into Israel in decades, coincided with U.S.-backed moves to push Saudi Arabia towards normalising ties with Israel in return for a defence deal between Washington and Riyadh, a move that would slam the brakes on the kingdom's rapprochement with Tehran.

"We emphatically stand in unflinching support of Palestine; however, we are not involved in Palestine's response, as it is taken solely by Palestine itself," Iran's U.N. mission said.



A woman and a child struggle with strong winds as Hong Kong issued its second-highest storm warning signal.

Israeli and Palestinian supporters rally across U.S. as Israel declares war after Hamas attack

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Supporters of Israel and backers of the Palestinian cause held competing rallies in several American cities Sunday over the conflict that has killed hundreds and wounded thousands in the Middle East.

In New York City, a skirmish broke out between opposing demonstrators near the United Nations compound after a large group of Palestinian supporters rallied in Times Square. Palestinian Americans protested outside the Israeli consulates in Atlanta and Chicago. Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi led a Jewish

community gathering to support Israel at a synagogue in San Francisco.

The demonstrations and involvement of American political leaders show the far-reaching ramifications of a conflict that has already prompted the U.S. to order naval forces deployed to the Eastern Mediterranean, ready to assist Israel. Here's what reaction around the country has looked like:

In New York City, police ringed the United Nations compound as scores of pro-Palestinian protesters gathered a block away, chanting and waving flags.

UK's opposition Labour on course for landslide election victory, poll predicts

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Britain's opposition Labour Party is on course to win a landslide victory at a national election expected next year, according to an opinion poll published on Saturday.

Most polls put Labour, which gathers in northern England this weekend for its annual conference, about 20 points ahead of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's governing Conservatives, although commentators say the lead is potentially fragile.

Major airlines suspend flights to Israel after heavy fighting

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Major airlines have suspended flights to Israel after the nation declared war following a massive attack by Hamas.

American Airlines, United Airlines and Delta Air Lines suspended service as the U.S. State Department issued travel advisories for the region citing potential for terrorism and civil unrest. American suspended service to Tel Aviv through Friday. The airline said that it has issued a travel alert providing additional flexibility.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar exchanging views with Admiral Naved Ashraf, newly-appointed Chief of Naval Staff during meeting.

Chinese envoy, Planning minister discuss CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong Monday called on Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed and discussed projects being executed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the ongoing CPEC projects especially related to energy, infrastructure, industrial zones, agriculture and information technology, a news release said.

Secretary Ministry of Planning Awaiz Manzoor Sumra also attended the meeting.

The minister apprised the visiting envoy, who assumed the office charge last month, that the caretaker government was fully committed to completing the CPEC projects on a fast-track basis.

Sami Saeed said the Planning Ministry reviewed progress on ongoing projects regularly and Special Economic Zones' work was in full swing.

He said the government was taking all possible measures to further improve the security of the staff working on the projects, being executed under CPEC.

The Chinese envoy appreciated the efforts of the Planning Ministry for its active role in carrying forward CPEC projects.

Jiang Zaidong said the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was an extremely important forum where Pakistan's participation carried great significance.

He invited the caretaker minister to attend the BRI Forum-2023, scheduled for 17-18th of the current month in Beijing, the capital city of China.

PM for provision of best, inexpensive facilities to Hujjaj

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday directed that the best and inexpensive facilities should be ensured for the pilgrims without compromising on Hajj arrangements.

Chairing a meeting with regard to the Ministry of Religious Affairs, he observed that for the performance of important religious ritual of Hajj, all steps should be taken to facilitate pilgrims.

The prime minister was apprised of performance of the ministry, steps taken for Hajj and

preparation for the Hajj policy 2024, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was attended by Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmed and other officials of the ministry.

Addressing the participants, the prime minister directed keeping strict vigilance on private Hajj companies so that pilgrims proceeding through private schemes should not face any difficulty.

He also asked for the submission of Hajj policy for approval of the federal cabinet.



MUSLIM BAGH: Caretaker Health Minister Dr. Ameer Muhammad Khan Jozegazi listening problems of patients during his visit to Civil Hospital

Asghar slams CM remarks: Protest to be lodged on certain issues on Oct. 12 in Chaman

QUETTA: The Provincial President of Awami National Party (ANP) Asghar Khan Achakzai has strongly condemned the remarks about the Afghan kidnap by the caretaker Chief Minister during his visit to Chaman.

In a statement issued here on Monday, the ANP leader said that millions of refugees from different other nationalities besides Afghans are living in the country, rather some are also posted on the higher posts.

He also termed the so-called three party alliance's agreeing to the government in Chaman as anti-Pashtoon act.

He said strong protest would be lodged against the delay in issuance of the computerized national identity cards, inflation, unemployment, heavy fine by WAPDA, terrorism and extremism, closure of border, anti-Afghan attitude of the three-party alliance on October 12 in Chaman city.

Other parties would also be participating in the protest, he added.

Zardari takes up level playing field issue with authorities concerned

KARACHI: The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has reportedly conveyed its reservations regarding the need for a level playing field in the run-up to elections, to the 'quarters concerned'.

According to a report by a private media outlet, former president and PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari communicated his party's reservations to the authorities concerned.

PPP leader Qamar Zaman Kaira confirmed the development. "Zardari sahib has held some meetings about the level playing field and will soon brief the party about it," he was cited as saying in the news report.

Nearly a month ago on September 16, PPP's central executive committee had voiced apprehensions over

the unfair treatment the party was being subjected to specifically by the caretakers in both the Punjab and Centre as well as the need for a level playing field ahead of the upcoming general elections in the country.

The PPP had held back announcing its electoral strategy at the time, with party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari stating that it was not possible to put forward the party's electoral strategy, since the CEC's reservations conveyed to Asif Zardari concerning a level playing field were yet to be addressed.

Asked about the outcome of Zardari's meetings, Kaira said that "these would be made available once the former president takes the party into confidence".

Saudi Health Minister assures full support towards new health initiatives in Pakistan

CAIRO (Online): Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr. Nadeem Jan held a meeting with Minister of Health Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Fahad bin Abdulrahman Aljalajel on the sidelines of 70th Session of the WHO's Regional Committee of the Eastern Mediterranean in Cairo today. Senior officials from Saudi Ministry of Health were present during the meeting.

The Federal Minister stated that the Government and people of Pakistan hold the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques in high esteem. Bilateral fraternal relations between Pakistan and KSA are based on common faith and aspirations, the Minister added.

The Minister for Health Kingdom of Saudi Arabia noted with appreciation that relations with Pakistan in the field of health have touched new level. Dr. Nadeem Jan discussed the possibility of mutual collaboration in the vaccine production capacity.

The Saudi Health Minister offered to provide assistance and support in developing vaccine production capacity in Pakistan. Both the Ministers agreed for exchange of expertise through a team of health experts to formalise the transfer of technology.

Federal Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan expressed gratitude for accommodating Pakistani Doctors in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He discussed the possibility of exchange of knowledge and expertise especially in the field of Nursing and Paramedics. The Saudi Health Minister agreed to send a high level team from Saudi Health Ministry to deliberate on this proposal and formalise an MoU soon.

Dr. Nadeem Jan also explained his innovative idea of establishing "Pharma Park" in Pakistan

to manufacture the basic ingredients of medicines. The Health Minister of Saudi Arabia appreciated the idea and expressed his willingness to support Pakistan in the establishment of the proposed Pharma Park. Federal Minister for Health informed the Saudi Minister about the steps for polio eradication in Pakistan. He highlighted the newly revamped communication strategy and the localised operational hub for stopping the wild poliovirus circulation in high risk zones. The Saudi Health Minister lauded the strategy for eradication of polio from Pakistan. The Federal Minister informed that Pakistan is sending a team of doctors and paramedics, with a 30 bedded field hospital equipped with all the diagnostic and life saving emergency interventions from Pak Army to Afghanistan for provision of health emergency cover to the victims of earthquake in Herat.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan meeting with Saudi Arabia Health Minister Fahad bin Abdul Rehman Aljalajel in Cairo on sidelines of 70th WHO Regional Committee Meeting.

Domki, Jan grieve over martyrdom of two jawans in Zhob operation

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of two jawans during the operation of security forces in Zhob.

In an official statement issued here on Monday, the Chief Minister paid homage to the security personnel who embraced martyrdom during the endeavors of restoration of peace in the province.

He said that the security forces have competed the miscreants bravely for establishing law and order all over the country including Balochistan.

They have ensured protection of life and property of the people by rendering sacrifice of their lives, he commended.

The Chief Minister also praised the brave and courageous role of security forces on successful operation against miscreants in Zhob.

He also prayed for the departed souls of martyrs. Meanwhile the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has expressed grief over the martyrdom of two jawans of Pak Army during operation of the security forces in Zhob district on Monday.

In an official statement issued here on Monday, the Minister Information said that a Major and a Havaldar have been martyred in exchange of fire with the terrorists.

He mentioned that the security forces killed five terrorists while carrying out operation in Zhob.

He said that blood of our jawans would not go wasted and we pay tributes to their unwavering resolve.

He prayed for the departed souls of martyrs and patience for their bereaved families. The Minister Information expressed sympathy and condolence of the families of martyrs. He said that the martyrs are pride of the martyrs.

73 more illegal immigrants arrested under Foreign Act in Quetta

Independent Report QUETTA: At least 73 illegal immigrants belonging to Afghanistan were arrested as crackdown against them remained continued in the provincial metropolis on Monday.

According to the police sources, the arrests of the illegal and undocumented immigrants were made under Foreign Act from different localities of Quetta city and its adjoining areas.

During the crackdown, the illegal immigrants are being checked in the Quetta city.

The necessary data of the undocumented immigrants is also being collected, the police sources informed.

Ji to observe solidarity week with Palestine

LAHORE (Online): Solidarity week with Palestine will be observed all over the country from 15 on the appeal of Ji Amir Siraj ul Haq.

Protest rallies and demonstrations will be held at all level in the country. 250 million Pakistanis stand shoulder to shoulder with their brothers in Palestine.

We will continue moral, diplomatic and political support, this was said by Amir Ji Punjab central Muhammad Javed Kasuri while addressing different ceremonies here Monday.

He went on to say fascist Israeli government is engaged in genocide of oppressed Palestinians. Injustice and tyranny are at their peak in Palestine and Kashmir. Maintaining peace therein is responsibility of UN.



QUETTA: President Isthekam Pakistan Party Abdul Aleem Khan meeting with Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani

HEC launches Scholarship Prog for students from Gwadar

GWADAR (INP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan has launched an initiative aimed at empowering the youth of Gwadar with contemporary education and essential skills.

This program is designed to support exceptional students from Gwadar who aspire to pursue undergraduate studies (BS-4/5 years Program) at HEC-recognized public sector universities and degree-awarding institutions (DAIs) located in the provinces of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Sindh, with a minimum of three years left in their academic session, are also eligible to apply for this scholarship.

Selection of students will be solely based on merit, determined by their performance in an aptitude test administered by ETC-HEC and their academic records in SSC and HSSC.

The scholarship will cover tuition fees, hostel fees, and other charges of the selected students.



QUETTA: A delegation of UNICEF led by its representative in Pakistan, Abdullah Fadil meeting with caretaker Education Minister Prof. Dr. Qadir Baloch



HYDERABAD: Palestine students holding the protest against Israel outside press club.

PM saddened by devastating earthquake in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday expressed deep sorrow over the loss of precious lives and property in the devastating earthquake in Herat, Afghanistan.

"Our hearts go out to the affected communities. We stand in solidarity with the Afghans during this difficult time. I have instructed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to send maximum support to the affected," he said in a post on X.

He said the Afghanistan government had specifically asked for sending a medical team, a field hospital, 50 tents and 500 blankets.

"On my instructions, in addition to the relief goods, all the requested items are being dispatched in the afternoon today, with more relief goods to follow", he added.

Chairman PTI's life is in danger, slow poison is being given, lawyer Latif Khosa

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman PTI Lawyer Latif Khosa said that Chairman PTI's life is in danger. We have serious concerns regarding his health.

He added Chairman PTI is being given slow poison. While taking to media in Islamabad Latif Khosa said that I have asked the Chief Justice that the life guarantee of Chairman PTI should be given to us before you.

The Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court has called for records from all in this regard.

Latif Khosa said it is matter of the honor of 25 crore people. Prime Minister (PM) of the country was made to go on one threat of Donald Lu. What will they indict? What crime he has committed? Is this a violation of Official Secret Act? These acts were created by British Crown to keep slaves. Do we have to get out of slavery of Great Britain and go to lap of US?

UNICEF representative calls on Minister: Interim Govt eying on issues of education deeply: Qadir Baloch

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Education, Dr. Qadir Baloch has stated that the interim government is eying deeply on the issues of education in the province. Our endeavours are continued to bring improvement in education sector from the day first.

This was stated by the Minister Education, Dr. Qadir Baloch while speaking to a delegation of Unicef, who called on him under leadership of its representative in Pakistan, Abdullah here on Monday.

During the course of meeting, the Minister was briefed about different ongoing projects of Unicef in education sector in the province.

Speaking to the delegation, Minister Education applauded the efforts of Unicef for bringing improvement in education

sector in the province. He said that the collaborative efforts of the provincial government and Unicef helped resolve education related issues to great extent in the province.

According to report of Unicef, there are 4,000 schools in the province which have no washrooms facility.

Similarly, 6,700 schools are operating with only one teacher. This poor state of education affairs are casting negative impacts.

The Minister Education said that Unicef is an important donor agent, which is contributing a lot in the education sector.

The Unicef is looking after 2,400 schools in the province, he noted.

The Unicef representative on the occasion assured that more steps would be taken to bring further improvement in education sector by the Unicef.



QUETTA: Governor Sindh Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Campaign to remain continued in Mastung: 98 percent target of polio immunization campaign achieved in Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: At least 98 percent target of polio immunization campaign was achieved in the Balochistan province.

According to the sources of Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Polio Eradication Balochistan, 98 percent children below five years of age have been vaccinated during the vital campaign against crippling disease in the province.

However, it has been decided to continue the campaign in Mastung district for two more days i.e., Monday and Tuesday.

This means, the anti-polio campaign would also remain continued in Mastung on Tuesday (today) where it was affected somehow due to the carnage of 6th October.

It may be mentioned here that over 2.4 million children were due to be vaccinated against polio during the seven-day campaign.

For the purpose, around 11,000 polio teams had been constituted all over the province.



QUETTA: A delegation of Balochistan Editors Council led by Major (Retd) Nazar meeting with Director General Public Relations Muhammad Noor Khetrani

PUC announces to observe Oct 13 as 'Palestine Solidarity Day'

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Islamabad Chapter on Monday announced to observe October 13 (Friday) as 'Palestine Solidarity Day' and to host a 'Palestine Solidarity Conference' on October 17 to express unwavering support to the Palestinians.

Chairman PUC, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi said that he had made a telephonic contact with the Chief Justice of Palestine, Mahmoud Al-Habbash, and discussed the current situation in Palestine. He said, "Pakistan stands in solidarity with its Palestinian brethren in the face of recent events, for which Israel bears responsibility."

Breaching legal restrictions case: IHC issues notice to Bajwa, Faiz Hameed, journalist Javed Ch

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued notice to FIA, former army chief General (Retd) Qamar Javed Bajwa and former DG ISI Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed for breaching legal restrictions and staging different events in wrong and fabricated way.

The case came up for hearing before IHC led by Chief Justice (CH) IHC Aamir Farooq Monday.

CJ IHC issued written order of hearing the petition filed by a citizen Atif Ali from Rawalpindi.

It has been said in the order according to petitioner FIR was requested repeatedly after filing application for registration of case. PEMRA was also requested, but no action was taken.

The counsel for the petitioner requested the court to order FIA to register case against former army chief Gen (Retd) Qamar Javed Bajwa, Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed, journalists Javed Chaudhry and Shahid Maitla and initiate proceedings against them.

The citizen took the plea in its petition that Gen (Retd) Bajwa and Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed crossed the existing legal restrictions in showing different events in wrong and fabricated way after retirement. Therefore, they committed heinous crime. Criminal act was committed due to Qamar Javed Bajwa-Faiz Hameed nexus.