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QUETTA: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the Provincial Apex Committee.

Anwarul Haq Kakar chairs 14th Provincial Apex Committee meeting:

PM describes socio-economic dev. of Balochistan imperative for ensuring peace and development

COAS assures Army would provide full support to LEAs and other government departments for enforcement actions against spectrum of illegal activities with full force to deny pilferage of resources and economic losses that the country suffers due to these activities

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar has stated that socio-economic development of Balochistan is imperative for ensuring peace and development in the province.

The caretaker Prime Minister was chairing the crucial meeting of Apex here on Tuesday.

The Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir attended meeting of the Provincial Apex Committee.

The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki,

Federal Minister interior, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, caretaker provincial ministers besides other concerned civil and military high ups were also in attendance.

During the Apex Committee meeting, the forum was briefed about revised National Action Plan, Law enforcement operations, anti-smuggling and anti-narcotics operations in Balochistan, security of foreign nationals employed on CPEC/ non CPEC/ private projects, repatriation of illegal foreigners, foreign currency regularization measures, and progress on SIFC initiatives in Balochistan.

The Prime Minister expressed confidence in the progress made by the Balochistan government and assured full support of the federal government.

During the session, the Prime Minister emphasized that "Socio-economic development of Balochistan is imperative for ensuring peace and development of the province." COAS highlighted that Army will provide full support in concert with LEAs and other government departments for enforcement actions against spectrum of illegal activities with full force to deny pilferage

of resources and economic losses that the country suffers due to these activities.

Prime Minister said that, "Initiatives taken by SIFC at federal level should have a trickle down effect in each province for the people of the area. Balochistan is rich in mines and minerals and development in this sector will generate economic activity and job opportunities for the people of the area. Moreover, investments in agriculture and IT should also be focused apart from human resource development". Quetta. The Prime Minister

underscored the need for synergy among all relevant departments for gainful effects of the initiatives.

He also stressed the need to make investments in agriculture and information technology.

The participants affirmed that state institutions, government departments and people are united for progress and prosperity of the province and would also work for the same together.

Earlier, upon arrival, the Prime Minister and COAS were received by Chief Minister Balochistan and commander Balochistan Corps.

President for free & fair polls inclusive of mainstream political parties

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday stressed to give opportunity to all mainstream political parties to run for the upcoming general elections. "Democracy becomes meaningless if people are not able to elect leaders of their choice", he said.

The president expressed these views while talking to former federal minister and Senator, Muhammad Ali Durrani, who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President Alvi said the upcoming general elections should be free, fair, transparent and inclusive. He emphasized that all political parties and their leadership should be given equal opportunities to participate in the electoral process to strengthen democracy in the country.

The president was of the view that there was a dire need for political, institutional and stakeholder unity in the country to tackle the difficulties on all possible fronts, including that of economy. "Bitterness must end

ership. He said the forthcoming general elections would provide a good opportunity to create the vibrancy, needed to rebuild the country.

The president also appreciated the statements given across the



and give way to cooperation and forgiveness", he said. He stated that difficult decisions needed the backing of the people and their participative ownership.

spectrum by all political leaders that there should be a level playing field as only this single issue of inclusivity, was the essence of democracy.



GWADAR: Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed chairs a meeting to review a progress over China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

Audio message of TTP goes viral

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Tuesday reviewed progress over China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects in Gwadar while directing the ministries and divisions to further accelerate the work.

The Minister gave these directions while chairing a meeting to review the progress over CPEC projects in Gwadar. The meeting was attended by the Secretary Planning Ministry, Secretary Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Chief Economist, Chairman Gwadar Port Authority, Director General Gwadar Development Authority and other representatives

from various ministries The representatives of various ministries and divisions gave a detailed briefing over the implementation status of their respective projects in Gwadar. All major projects under CPEC in Gwadar, including Gwadar Power Plant, Distribution of 2000 Boat engines to fishermen of Gwadar, Khuzdar-Panjgur Transmission line (via Nag-Basima) which connect Markran with National Grid, New Gwadar International Airport Project, the China-Pak Friendship Hospital, China-Pak Technical and Vocational Institute in Gwadar, the Gwadar East-bay Expressway Project, Gwadar Free Zone & Gwadar Port would become a shining pearl in the

Progress on CPEC projects in Gwadar reviewed

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Caretaker CM meets PM; briefs about law & order, other matters

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki met the caretaker Prime Minister, Anwarul Haq Kakar here on Tuesday.

During the course of meeting, the Chief Minister briefed Mr. Anwarul Haq Kakar about the 14th meeting of APEX committee being held for implementation on the decisions of National Action Plan in the provincial metropolis.

He also briefed the Premier about the overall law and order situation in the province. Also present in the meeting was caretaker Federal Minister Interior Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

DAYS REMAINING

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Pakistan striving to strengthen health system

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Tuesday said that the government of Pakistan is successfully implementing its reform agenda to strengthen the health system of the country. He



was addressing the 70th WHO Regional Committee meeting in Cairo- a 22-nation highest regional forum on health.

Dr. Nadeem Jan said that "Health for All by All" is everyone's business as this includes governments, civil society, development partners, private sector, academia, local communities and health practitioners.

"We must all work hand-in-hand with a belief that strong health systems will protect everyone."

The minister appreciated WHO Regional Director's report for Member States on progress, achievements and challenges in implementing Vision 2023, which has outlined the key priorities and

progress in line with the Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019-25 like enhancing access to Universal Health Coverage, tackling Health Emergencies and ensuring Health and well being.

He said that in order to achieve universal health coverage, by providing access to quality essential health services without financial hardship, Pakistan became the first country in the World to adopt Disease Control Priorities - edition III.

PTI chief attempted to sell personal narrative to US: Fazlur Rehman

MULTAN (INP): JUI-F leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman said on Tuesday the PTI chairman attempted to sell his personal narrative to the US.

The JUI-F leader said there had been much hue and cry for holding the general election.

He said everyone seemed worried about the election and the JUI-F was fully prepared to participate whenever the elections would be held.

The elections would be held at the end of the January 2024, which would be the coldest month of the year, he said, adding that there must be similar weather in all parts of the country for everyone during the election period.

The PTI chief had created a storm in a teacup by waving a piece of paper.

The previous government had attempted to recognise Israel and the dream of economic prosperity was seen in the recognition of the 'illegitimate' state. The Islamic world was required to be united and must clarify its position. We should stand united with our Palestinian brothers," he said.

Caretaker Govt to ensure free, transparent elections: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said the caretaker government would ensure free, transparent and impartial elections in a peaceful and conducive environment. In a meeting with former Member of Provincial



Assembly, former spokesperson of Balochistan Government and senior politician Farah Azim Shah, he said development and welfare of Balochistan was a priority of the caretaker government.

The caretaker Information Minister said there would be no comprehensive progress of the country without the development of Balochistan province.

They discussed the overall political situation of country, especially Balochistan including the elections. Farah Azim Shah expressed full confidence in the leadership and initiatives of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Sanjrani calls for unity among all political forces

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Former Chief Minister of Balochistan, Abdul Qudous Bizenjo called on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in Islamabad on Tuesday.

Senator Dilawar Khan, Senator Naseebullah Bazai, and Sardar Abdul Rahman Khetrani were also in attendance.

During the deliberations, the attendees focused on the overall socio-economic situation of Balochistan. Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani took the opportunity to express his admiration for Abdul Qudous Bizenjo's dedicated service as the Chief Minister of Balochistan, highlighting the exemplary develop-

ment projects initiated under his leadership.

Chairman Senate emphasized the importance of creating opportunities to involve the youth of Balochistan in the development process. He called for unity among all political forces, stressing the collective responsibility for the development of Balochistan.

"It is the need of the hour to give a comprehensive plan for the eradication of unemployment and poverty," remarked Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani.

Former Chief Minister Abdul Qudous Bizenjo expressed gratitude towards the Chairman Senate, acknowledging the continuous guidance provided by him for the development of Balochistan.



Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with former Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudous Bizenjo in Islamabad.

Balochistan Information dept to organize National Conferences on Interfaith Harmony

Jan Achakzai says conferences are being organized to "foster narrative of Interfaith Harmony, National Integration, and inclusive platforms by promoting peace, brotherhood, and coexistence in Pakistan"

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Information Department of Government of Balochistan has announced that it is organizing a series of National Conferences on Interfaith Harmony and Peace Building across the country.

The first Conference will be held in Islamabad on November 23, 2023, with subsequent Conferences to be held in other major cities throughout the country.

The Conferences are being organized in collaboration with the Balochistan Rural Support Programme and Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, and will bring together religious leaders,

scholars, activists, and community members from all faiths to discuss and promote interfaith dialogue, understanding, and cooperation. The Conferences will focus on a range of topics, including:

-The role of interfaith harmony in promoting national integration and social cohesion

-The importance of religious tolerance and pluralism for a peaceful and prosperous society

-The challenges and opportunities for interfaith dialogue and cooperation in Pakistan

Information Minister Jan Achakzai said that the Conferences are being organized to "foster the narrative of Interfaith Harmony, National Integration, and inclusive platforms by promoting peace, brotherhood, and coexistence in Pakistan."

He added that the Conferences will send a strong message that Pakistan is a country that values religious diversity and tolerance.

The Information Ministry is committed to promoting the positive image of Balochistan and countering various narratives that seek to manipulate faultlines and sow discord in the country.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Smuggled goods

That the 39pc surge in Afghan transit cargoes through Pakistani ports and territory in one year coincides with Islamabad's import restrictions to curb dollar outflows underlines both the extent of and the ease with which this facility is being abused to smuggle goods into this country.

It also shows how the Afghan transit trade has always been misused by traders of the two countries for smuggling. Reports suggest that transit cargoes are often diverted from ports directly to Pakistani markets before crossing the border.

New Customs data showing the number of containers in the Afghan trade soaring to 102,886 in FY23 from 74,316 the previous year is alarming. The dollar value of the trade, too, is assessed to have spiked to a staggering \$6.7bn from \$4bn a year earlier.

Cargo value for the first two months of the present fiscal stood at \$1.14bn and the full-year projection is \$6.8bn. The value of items prone to being smuggled under transit cargo is also up by 63pc to \$3.7bn.

Smuggling is the bane of the Pakistani economy. It especially has a debilitating impact on the manufacturing industry, discouraging fresh investment, and resulting in large job and tax revenue losses.

In cases like Pakistan, the settlement of payments for illicit cross-border trade through the illegitimate hawala/ hundi network also impinges on much-needed remittance flows and often leads to capital flight.

It is heartening to note that the authorities have woken up to the challenge, launched an anti-smuggling drive, and tightened the Afghan transit trade regime, besides banning the import of goods prone to being smuggled under it.

But this campaign should not be confined to simply reinforcing border controls; it must be expanded to take action against those who stock and sell smuggled or illegally imported goods in their shops without fear of the law, or who under-invoice their imports. It may bring the government under pressure, but it is the only way forward.

Grave violation



Sana Farrukh

Oct 10 marks the World Day Against the Death Penalty. This year, activists will reflect on the relationship between the use of torture and capital punishment. There are over 3,800 people languishing in death-row cells across Pakistan, many of them victims of torture. Outside the prison walls, the average Pakistani hopes never to cross paths with law enforcement. In this country, even ostensibly well-meaning police officers use torture, cruel and inhuman or degrading treatment to track down perpetrators.

While the death penalty landscape is diverse and touches many criminal justice issues, torture remains at the heart of it. By curbing this endemic practice, we can protect both the rights of the accused, who may be an innocent bystander confessing under duress, and the rights of victims and their families to seek accountability, who may lose the opportunity to hold the right person to task for their losses.

The research on torture and interrogations dates back to the very least to the 1600s, with repeated findings pointing out its inefficacy. Information received through torture is often incorrect. The subject is more likely to assist in an investigation if the interrogation is rapport-based. In a high-pressure, high-stakes situation, torturing a detainee is the poor choice — an abject failure to understand neuroscience, human psychology, and criminal justice. If by a mere coincidence, a confession based on torture hap-

pened to be true, it would be inadmissible in court, leading to prosecutorial failure.

The fact that torture does not work, while essential to note, should be our secondary concern. First and foremost, torture is a serious human rights violation — the Constitution of Pakistan, Islamic principles, and international law all declare an absolute prohibition on the practice.

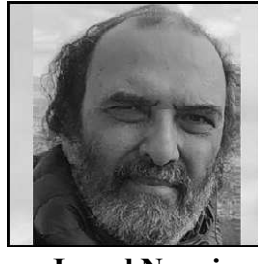
In November 2022, after years of discourse, the tabling and lapsing of numerous bills on the issue, and the torture and custodial deaths of countless Pakistanis, the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act was passed. Although Pakistan previously had several safeguards against torture scattered across our laws, the act is the first comprehensive enactment on the subject and brings the country more in line with its obligations under international law.

This move demonstrates Pakistan's appreciation of the Concluding Observations of the UN Committee Against Torture and the UN Human Rights Committee, which in 2017 had urged Pakistan to improve its compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention Against Torture (CAT). The act gives the National Commission for Human Rights a supervisory mandate over investigations into torture. The NCHR has been instrumental in documenting the practice, most recently in its assistance to the Islamabad High Court in the case of Imtiaz Bibi. Of the prisoners interviewed in Rawalpindi jail, 74 per cent reported torture ranging from beatings with a rubber tyre to solitary confinement.

While the presence of more data on torture is essential to curb this practice, to perform its mandate under the act, the NCHR's role must be clearly delineated, along with that of the Federal Investigation Agency. Although the passage of the act is a historic occasion for Pakistanis, it is the subordinate legislation, that is, the rules and regulations passed under an act, which enable its implementation. Now that the debate and scrutiny over various points of law are behind us, and consensus on the necessity of this law is present and palpable, what remains is for the relevant ministries to sit together and come up with a roadmap for its enforcement. Section 20 of the act empowers the division concerned to make rules for the purpose of carrying out the objects and purposes of the act. For this act, the division concerned is the Interior Division under the Ministry of Interior which presented the bill in the Lower House. When subordinate legislation is framed by the relevant division, it is drafted and vetted by the Law Division under the Rules of Business, 1973. The Interior Division, the Human Rights Division and the Law and Justice Division must work together on the draft rules and regulations.

While there are no perfect laws or tidy solutions for issues surrounding torture and the death penalty, despite all its obstacles, this country has taken steps in the right direction. With continued momentum to push the rules and regulations through, we can start to reap the benefits of the tremendous work that has already been done. With Pakistan's upcoming reviews under the ICCPR in 2024 and CAT in 2025, it is the implementation of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act that will be centre stage. -- Courtesy Dawn

Can we fight Zionism, not Jews?



Jawed Naqvi

Anyone who is familiar with the history of Spain under Muslim rule before the 1492 Catholic pushback — and there's an excellent body of work on the theme by Tariq Ali — could not miss the intermingling of Jewish, Christian and Muslim cultures in a cornucopia of art, literature and philosophy at its zenith.

One was sadly reminded of that slice of history in the face of the needless pain and trauma coming with the uptick in the bloodletting between the people that once represented a blessing to humanity.

The Hamas attack on Israel has left over 700 people, overwhelmingly Jewish, dead. The unkindest cut was the reported killing of 260 revelers at a musical jamboree.

The right-wing government of Israel is, of course, singularly responsible for provoking the attack. It has allowed the sacred Al Aqsa Mosque to be desecrated by Jewish extremists.

Its troops have been killing Palestinians at will in Gaza and in the West Bank and allowing settlers to plunder more land with impunity. Prisoners at Delhi's Tihar Jail are treated with more respect than are Palestinians in the open prison that the Gaza Strip is.

Christian worshippers too have not been spared in the new Israel, being spat upon by zealots in some kind of invented tradition.

Netanyahu is pursuing several agendas, not excluding his personal re-tribute, at least for now, from the judicial sword hanging over his head.

Narrow Israeli nationalism is out for revenge, and the consequence for the Palestinians could be unspeakably horrific.

On the other hand, the daybreak blitzkrieg has jolted the state of Israel and severely embarrassed Prime Minister Netanyahu. How did the celebrated Israeli intelligence miss the Hamas assault?

And how did Israel allow an unforgivable number of its men and women, apparently including military personnel, to be driven or simply walked across the wall and into the Gaza Strip as hostages?

We knew that Israel's greatest ally, the US with its own fabled intelligence apparatus, was caught napping on crucial occasions on its watch, including the weekend carnage in occupied Ashkelon.

US intelligence lapses that come to mind include most obviously the Iranian revolution, which saw scores of American diplomats being taken hostage; the ground-changing Indian nuclear tests of 1998; and of course, the daylight attack with hijacked planes on the World Trade Centre. As we write 2,000 have been killed far away from the headlines in Afghanistan's Herat region in a devastating earthquake. Again, this is the country where the US abandoned its vacuous promise of liberating Afghan women and ushering democracy, a terrible intelligence goof-up.

How sincere are those who are courting Israel today but whose history from Martin Luther to Shakespeare is peppered with scorn for Jewish people. India's Hindutva ideologues, embracing Israel today, given their shared love of Islamophobia, openly celebrated Hitler. They prescribed the treatment

meted out to Jews in Germany for Indian Muslims. The solidarity with Israel does not go unrewarded. A host of Indian journalists and opposition leaders found their mobile phones infected with Israeli-manufactured Pegasus malware.

Was the Indian state spying on its fellow citizens with Israel's help? Saturday's outrage revealed a truer reality: that Israel may know more about the private lives of distant Indian hacks and politicians but evidently less about the sullen mood turning into a lethal brew in its own backyard.

So, what is at stake? The fallout under such circumstances always has both intended and unintended features. The Hamas action disrupted moves for a Saudi-Israeli rapprochement, and prompted, poll-bound President Biden to promise military and diplomatic support to Tel Aviv, moving some battleships closer to Israel's seashore.

Ilan Pappé, a Jewish historian veers close to the idea of seeing the problem whose shards not for the first time hit world capitals at the weekend, as settler colonialism.

In a collection of essays and interviews with Noam Chomsky in a volume titled On Palestine, Pappé spelt out the idea: "The application of this definition — settler colonialism — to the case of Zionism is now quite common in the academic world and has politically enabled activists to see more clearly the resemblance of the case of Israel and Palestine to South Africa and to equate the fate of the Palestinians with that of the Native Americans."

Seeing a distinction between Zionism and Judaism could thus be a step towards undercutting the right-wing yearning for mindless violence, which extracts a brutal toll on both sides without offering a vision for the future. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pak future in just energy transition, strategic position at global negotiations

ISLAMABAD (APP): The speakers at a consultative meeting held here by the SDPI on Tuesday underscored the need for timely transitioning of the country's energy mix over clean and green renewable power solutions of solar and hydropower for a sustainable future amid a strategic position to be maintained at the global forums negotiating on clean energy shift.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) organized a consultation session with

senators and leadership of different political parties to mull over the country's challenges and opportunities to shift over clean energy for a sustainable future in the prevailing testing times of economic turmoil.

The discussion was participated by Senators Musadik Malik, Engineer Rukhsana Zuberi, Farah Naz, Seemi Ezdi, whereas former MNA Shahida Akhtar Ali and former SAPM Malik Amin Aslam were also present. Senator Musadik Masood Malik of PML-N said the country's local energy resources, gas,

and production are declining and its precious foreign exchange is burdened with the heavy import bills of oil and gas. In the middle of these economically unsuitable conditions, there is an elite capture in the energy sector that consumes one-third of the total gas produced.

for manufacturing of fertilizer whereas the decision was made to provide subsidized fertilizer to the farmers. Malik underlined that the cheapest energy produced from gas is diverted to fertilizer companies

through the maneuvering of the elite capture which diverts the highly expensive electricity tariff to the poor who are voiceless. He highlighted that such deals are done through legal contracts that pave the way for litigation embedded in it through a capability deficit which is structured in the system.

He said Pakistan's coal reserves worth \$6.3 could be utilized but it would incur environmental impacts, whereas the country should create its strategic position like the Middle East managing.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Railways, Communications & Maritime Affairs, Shahid Ashraf Tarar chairing a meeting at Ministry of Railways.



President and CEO Mobilink Bank Ghazanfar Azaam receiving best digital banking services award 2022 during 20th Annual Excellence Awards organized by CFA Society.

SECP warns public against illegal investment scheme

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued a warning advising the general public against investing in fraudulent investment schemes of Meilleuretech Services, a sole proprietorship concern.

The SECP has notified that the entity, owned by Zeeshan Munir, is prima facie accepting deposits from the public illegally by offering various illegal "advertisement watching packages" and promising unrealistic daily and weekly returns, said a press release issued here on Tuesday. It

is clarified that the said entity does not hold any license to collect deposits from the public. SECP has also received multiple complaints that the individuals, after depositing funds with Meilleuretech Services, did not receive any packages but were asked to arrange for more individuals to buy packages or deposit further funds to get their earnings.

The SECP has initiated legal proceedings against Zeeshan Munir and his entities, which include deregistering/winding up Meilleuretech Services (SMC-Private) Limited.

Workers' remittances record \$2.2 bn inflow in Sept

ISLAMABAD (APP): The overseas workers' remittances recorded an inflow of US\$2.2 billion during September 2023, the State Bank of Pakistan on Tuesday said.

In terms of growth, during the month under review, remittances increased by 5.3 per cent on month on month basis.

Workers' remittances in flow of US\$ 6.3 billion has been recorded during the first three months of the fiscal year 2023-24.

Any new type of wealth tax will be detrimental to economy: Chawla

Independent Report

KARACHI: Mr. Muhammad Suleman Chawla, Acting President FPCCI, has apprised that the business, industry and trade community is worried over the news that some sort of renamed wealth tax is being considered to be imposed to fulfill the never-ending, anti-business conditionalities of international financial institutions (IFIs). We have time and again maintained that business, trade, commercial and economic activities should be

rewarded not discouraged, he added.

Mr. Suleman Chawla explained that wealth or asset-value-tax on movable assets or property cannot be levied on savings, investments, working capital, stock-in-trade, equity holdings and capital assets of businesses.

Otherwise, it would be counterproductive and result in contraction of documented or formal-sector due to excessive taxation as it will equate to disincentive to taxpayers, he added.

ICCI, IBECHS to establish Expo Centre in federal capital

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Intelligence Bureau Employee's Cooperative Housing Society and Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) have agreed for the establishment of a state-of-the-art Expo Centre in the federal capital with joint efforts.

In this regard, the IBECHS hosted a reception in the honor of delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) here Tuesday. Both sides held fruitful discussions to

move forward. Speaking on the occasion, Tariq Mehmood, President, Intelligence Bureau Employee's Cooperative Housing Society said expo centers play an important role in promoting exports and attracting investment.

He said that the Expo Center as a joint venture of Gulberg Green and ICCI in the Federal Capital would provide permanent exhibition facilities to encourage buyer-seller interaction and promoting trade and exports.

SCCI calls for rationalization of duties, tariffs to enhance cross border trade

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Fuad Ishaq demanded rationalization of duties and tariffs on exporting items to improve cross-border mutual trade and exports.

The SCCI chief said high duties and tariffs on imported items have encouraged transit and illegal trade, which should be eliminated. Also, he urged Islamabad and Kabul to devise a joint mechanism to remove hurdles in order to carry out smooth trade between the two neighboring countries.

Similarly, he called for

reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue and taxation system, facilitating the business community. Fuad Ishaq was speaking to a 24-member traders' delegation headed by Gulam Bilal Javed here at the chamber house on Tuesday.

Sanallah Khan, senior vice president; Ijaz Khan Afridi, vice president; Sajjad Aziz, secretary general of the chamber; and others were present during the meeting. He noticed the Pak-Afghan mutual trade had dropped to \$400 to \$500 million, which was around \$2.5 billion a few years ago.

Other members of the

delegation consisted of chairman All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellery and Tahafaz e Hindkowan Foundation Haji Amin Hussain Babar, Shahid Khan, presidents, and general secretaries from the business community.

Members of the business community during the meeting raised concerns about the repatriation of illegal Afghan refugees and the current state of the national economy and highlighted other issues that were adversely affecting trade and commercial activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Nations Expo 2023 set to showcase Intl brilliance from Friday

ISLAMABAD (APP): The upcoming Nations Expo, and Conference 2023, scheduled to take place at the illustrious Pak China Friendship Center in Islamabad from Friday to Sunday (October 13th to 15th), is poised to be a resounding success. The Expo is also expected to draw the attention of numerous embassies, with diplomats and dignitaries from various countries eager to witness Pakistan's multifaceted capabilities.

PSX announces recipients of the top 25 companies awards 2022

ISLAMABAD (APP): In an exciting development for the capital markets and the economy as a whole, the Pakistan Stock Exchange announced the much-awaited list of the Top 25 Companies Awards recipients for the year 2022.

These are the most prestigious and coveted awards in the corporate sector and were initiated by the Exchange in 1978, according to a news release here on

Tuesday. The selected companies have excelled on the basis of their financial performance, governance, and operational achievements, as well as sustainability and ESG-related initiatives. They truly are leaders in all respects in Pakistan's corporate sector. The PSX Top 25 Companies Awards recognize companies achieving certain key prerequisites for this prestigious award, which include having a minimum dividend distribution of 30 percent.

Pakistan wants peaceful resolution of Kashmir, Palestine issues: Baligh

Independent Report
LAHORE: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Minister of State, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, called on Punjab Governor at Governor House Lahore. In the meeting, various issues including Kashmir, Palestine and women empowerment were discussed in detail.

Talking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Kashmiris in Occupied Kashmir should be given the right to self-determination in the light of United Nations resolutions. Governor Punjab said that Pakistan has raised voice in favour of the legitimate right to self-determination of

Kashmiris at all levels, and Pakistan will continue to play its positive role in this regard. He said that a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue is very important for durable peace in the region. Governor Punjab said that Pakistan wants peaceful resolution of Kashmir and Palestine issues. He said that Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine and violations of human rights are a threat to the peace in the region. He said that depriving Palestinians of their legitimate right to self-determination, inhumane atrocities on innocent Palestinians, attacks on Al-Aqsa Mosque and other holy places by the Israeli occupying forces are crimes that the international community should not only take notice

of, but also play a role to stop. Mushaal Hussein Mullick said that the international community should take notice of human rights violations in Kashmir and Palestine. Talking about the steps taken for improvement in the universities, Governor Punjab said that he has directed the vice-chancellors to pay special attention to character building of students and polish their critical and analytical skills in universities. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, appreciated the consortium established for the education and empowerment of women in universities on the special instructions of Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali is called on by the Ambassador of the Japan Wada Mitsuhiro at Governor House Peshawar.

CM rejects summary for increase in metro, speedo bus fares

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi rejected the proposed Rs.15 fare increase for the Metro Bus and Speedo Bus services while presiding over the 24th meeting of the Punjab Masstransit Authority at his office on Tuesday.

The meeting was attended by Provincial Minister Transport Ibrahim Hassan Murad, secretary finance and officials from the Punjab Masstransit Authority.

Highlighting the importance of innovative revenue-generation strategies, CM stressed the need to

explore alternative approaches instead of resorting to fare hikes.

An important decision was taken to initiate a pilot project for energy-efficient public transport. In collaboration with the World Bank, 27 electric buses are set to operate from Lahore Railway Station to Green Town. Moreover, plans were formulated to introduce electric buses for the Pakistan Metrobus System in Islamabad-Rawalpindi.

The CM issued directives for immediate action on the electric buses initiative and approved measures to address the

shortage of human resources in the Punjab Masstransit Authority. The CM directed repairing and maintaining metro bus tracks in both cities.

The meeting sanctioned the renovation projects for Qaddafi Stadium and Shahdara Railway Station in the provincial metropolis.

The proposal to operate diesel-hybrid regenerative buses was thoroughly discussed during the meeting. The government remains committed to providing secure and high-quality transport services to the commuters, he added.

Mushaal Mullick promises best facilities to prisoners

LAHORE (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick has said that the provision of best facilities to inmates is the top priority of the government as they have equal rights like other citizens of the country.

Talking to media prior to visiting the Kot Kahat Jail here on Tuesday, she said that jail and prisoners were near to her heart as her husband, Yasin Malik, is also in the death cell of the notorious Tihar jail in false, fabricated and politically motivated cases.

Mullick said that maximum facilities would be provided to prisoners through her mandate of human rights and women empowerment, adding that prisoners' rights according to the Geneva Convention should be protected. She said that a 100-day plan would be launched next week with special focus on protection of prisoners' rights and for their rehabilitation.

She said that a rehabilitation proposal is being prepared with the coordination of Legal Aid and Justice Authority (LAJA) for juveniles and women in jails. Under the proposal legal aid would be provided to prisoners while their facilities and rights would be monitored, she informed.



LAHORE: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights Mushaal Hussein Malik meeting with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman.

1st Arayen Ittihad All Sindh Night Cricket Tournament starts

Independent Report
UMERKOT: The first Arayen Ittihad All Sindh Night Cricket Tournament has started. The inaugural match was won by Dhaka XI Cricket Club. The ground is decorated with national flags.

According to the details, the first Arayen Ittihad All Sindh Night Cricket Tournament has started in Rehmat Colony Ground of Kumari City. The central leader of the People's Party Dr. Mansoor Ahmed Bajwa, former cricketer Muhammad Raza, Vice Chairman of UC Bustan Imran Bhatti, Councilor Imran Mughal, Imran FM and others were also present in large numbers. On this occasion, the organizers of the tournament Asif Choda and Sohail Akhtar while talking to the media said that in this cricket tournament, 12 best cricket teams from across Sindh are participating.

There are famous cricket players from all over the country in these teams, no entry fee has been set for this tournament, one lakh rupees for the winning team and 50 thousand rupees for the runner-up team. Valuable prizes have also been set for the participating players.



Rally organized to express solidarity with Palestine people

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): A protest rally was organized here on Tuesday to express solidarity with the people of Palestine, Israel's atrocities against them and the illegal occupation of their areas under the aegis of Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir, a Kashmiri refugee organization.

A large number of citizens gathered at Burhan Wani Chowk in front of Central Press Club having banners stating phrases in favour

of Independent Palestine besides Palestine Flags in their hands.

Protestors were chanting slogans of "Free Palestine" "Stop Israeli Attacks" "Israel's Terrorism, Unacceptable" etc. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Pasban-e-Hurriyat, Uzair Ahmed Ghazali said that bombing innocent citizens of Palestine and Gaza was a brutal aggression against humanity by the Israeli government.

ANF recovers over 31 kg drugs in three operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting three operations managed to recover over 31 kg of drugs and arrested five accused including four women, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

He informed that in three operations conducted near Chungi number 26, Islamabad, ANF recovered 31.2 kg drugs from the possession of five accused including four women.

Efforts to be made to solve issues of journalists of Umarkot

By Aijaz Mughal
UMARKOT: Divisional Director Information Mirpurkhas Ghulam Raza Khoso visited District Information Office Building Umarkot under construction at a cost of 16.0450 million in Umarkot and got information from the contractor on the spot regarding the construction work.

Deputy Director Information Umarkot Ghous Mohammad Pathan, Information Officer Mohammad Aslam Bhatti and the office staff including Irfan Ali Sheikh, Mahesh Kumar, Ramesh Kumar, Menhal

Bhatti, Mohabbate Soomro, Syed Zahid Ali Shah and others were also present on the occasion.

Instructing the concerned staff, use of quality materials in the construction work be done and the work should be completed on time. Earlier, he held a meeting with the staff including the Deputy Director Information at the District Information Office, on this occasion he assured to solve the basic problems of the office.

International News

Palestine-Israel war: Hamas tells residents of Israeli city Ashkelon to leave or face consequences

Monitoring Desk
GAZA STRIP: Al Qassam Brigades of the Palestinian group Hamas had warned the residents of the Israeli city of Ashkelon to leave their homes by 5 pm local time, in response to Israel's displacement of Palestinians.

Hamas's statement on Telegram said, "In response to the crime of the enemy displacing our people and forcing them to flee their homes in several areas of the Gaza Strip, we give the residents of the occupied city of Ashkelon time to leave before five o'clock in the evening."

Hamas fighters

claimed to have hit Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport as part of ongoing rocket attacks on Israel, however, the Israelis have refuted this.

Israel has responded by claiming that two top Hamas figures—its minister of economy, Jawad Abu Shamala, and Zakaria Abu Maamar, a member of Hamas's political office—were killed by its air force.

It comes after Israeli authorities said that 1,500 jihadi remains had been discovered on their soil during Saturday's unexpected strike.

More than 150 Israeli soldiers and civilians, according to Israel, have been abducted and are being held captive in Gaza.

Families have reportedly been abducted, leaving relatives in the dark about what happened to them.

Hamas has threatened to kill a hostage whenever Israel fires an airstrike in retaliation without giving civilians the time to flee.

According to Palestinian health officials, 4,000 people have been hurt in strikes so far, and 770 Palestinians have died in the Gaza Strip. Hamas sources in Lebanon have told Sky News the "operation" on Saturday was in the planning for more than a year.



NEW YORK: Demonstrators gather in support of the Palestinian people during a rally for Gaza outside the Consulate of Israel.

US-China relations impact 'destiny of mankind', Xi tells top senator

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Monday that China-US ties would impact the "destiny of mankind", as he met with a group of American senators in Beijing.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer is the latest high-level US official to go to China as Washington seeks to ease tensions with Beijing, leading a six-person delegation.

"How China and the United States get along with each other in the face of a world of change and turmoil will determine the future

and destiny of mankind," Xi said as he met with Schumer at Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

"I have said many times, including to several presidents, that we have 1,000 reasons to improve China-US relations, but not one reason to ruin them," Xi said, adding China-US ties are "the most important bilateral relationship in the world".

Schumer, in turn, told Xi that "our countries, together, will shape this century". "That is why we must manage our relationship responsibly and respectfully," he said.

Schumer later told reporters the meeting with Xi lasted 80 minutes, double the allotted time. Earlier China's top diplomat Wang Yi said he hoped Washington and Beijing could manage their differences "more rationally".

Meeting with Schumer at Beijing's Diaoyutai State Guest-house, Foreign Minister Wang told the senate delegation he hoped their visit would help the two sides "manage existing differences more rationally, helping the relationship between the two countries return to the track of healthy development".



U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., speaks during a press roundtable with Schumer and his delegation at the residence of U.S. Ambassador to China, in Beijing.

North Korea says military satellite key to countering US 'space militarisation'

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea's spy satellite program is an "indispensable" measure to counter U.S. space militarisation aimed at beefing up the United States' preemptive nuclear strike capability and securing "world supremacy," state media KCNA said on Tuesday.

Ri Song Jin, whom KCNA described as a researcher of the National Aerospace Technology Administration, accused

the United States of seeking greater military hegemony in Asia by expanding its space force in an article titled "U.S. space force deployment aimed at preemptive aggression war".

Ri singled out a recent trip by the U.S. Space Force commander to Tokyo, and the deployment of a Space Force component in South Korea, where its members took part in joint military drills for the first time this year.

India arrests Vivo execs including one Chinese in money laundering case

News Desk
NEW DELHI: India's financial crime agency on Tuesday arrested four executives of Chinese smartphone maker Vivo, including one Chinese national, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

The arrests add to the legal troubles of the Chinese phone maker in India, and come amid rising tensions between Beijing and New Delhi over issues ranging from border disputes to India's increasing scrutiny of Chinese businesses and investment. Vivo and the country's Enforcement Directorate (ED) did not immediately respond to requests for comment made by email and telephone.

The executives were arrested in relation to an ongoing 2022 case where the ED raided the company's offices and accused it of money laundering, the first of the sources said.

Thousands of Afghans out in cold after deadly quakes

KABUL (APP): Thousands of Afghans who survived a powerful earthquake that killed more than 2,000 people were bracing for a winter of homelessness on Tuesday, as rescuers made last-ditch efforts to find survivors.

Volunteers have worked with spades and pickaxes in Herat province since Saturday's deadly magnitude 6.3 quake—followed by powerful aftershocks—while others dug graves instead.

The United Nations said more than 12,000 people, from some 1,700

families, are estimated to have been affected.

It said "100 per cent" of homes were destroyed in 11 villages of Zenda Jan district. Zareen, in the village of Nayeb Rafi, where 11 of his family members were killed in the crush of falling masonry, said aid tents would not withstand the winter storms. "If the government doesn't take us away or help us, we will be stuck here," the man in his 70s told AFP. Providing shelter on a large scale will be a challenge for Afghanistan's Taliban authorities, who seized power in August 2021.

Colombia compares Gaza siege to 'Nazism'

Monitoring Desk
BOGOTA: Colombia's President Gustavo Petro on Monday compared Israel's targeting of Gaza to the Nazi actions against Jews.

In reply to a statement by Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant announcing a "complete siege" of Gaza, Petro said: "This is what the Nazis said of the Jews."

Writing on X, the Colombian president added that "democratic peoples cannot allow Nazism to re-establish itself in international politics".

He said Gallant's wording amounted to "hate speech" which, if allowed to continue,

NATO equips peacekeeping force in Kosovo with heavier armament to have "combat power"

Monitoring Desk
PRISTINA: A NATO top commander said Tuesday the alliance equipped its peacekeeping force in Kosovo with weapons of "combat power" following a recent shootout between masked Serb gunmen and Kosovo police that left four people dead and sent tensions soaring in the region.

Adm. Stuart B. Munsch of the Allied Joint Force Command Naples, Italy said that a battalion of some 200 troops from the United Kingdom and 100 others from Romania "is bringing heavier armament in order to have combat power" to the NATO-led Kosovo Force, or KFOR, but didn't elaborate further.

The KFOR peacekeepers—made up of around 4,500 troops from 27 nations—have been in Kosovo since June 1999, basically with light armament and vehicles. The 1998-1999 war between Serbia and Kosovo ended after a 78-day NATO bombing campaign forced Serbian forces to withdraw from Kosovo. More than 10,000 people died, mostly Kosovo Albanians.

On Sept. 24, around 30 Serb gunmen killed a Kosovar police officer and then set up barricades in northern Kosovo before launching an hours-long gun battle with Kosovo police.



Afghan residents clear debris of damaged houses after earthquake in Nayeb Rafi village, Zenda Jan district of Herat province.

Philippine diplomat witnessed Chinese ships' aggressive actions in disputed South China Sea

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: A senior Filipino diplomat known for his past explosive-laced tirade against China joined a coast guard trip to the disputed South China Sea last week and saw Beijing's ships block and nearly collide with Philippine vessels, including one he was on.

Teodoro Loecin Jr. was on one of two Philippine coast guard vessels that escorted two Philippine boats to deliver food and other supplies to a Filipino marine territorial outpost in the Second Thomas Shoal on Oct. 4, the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a

statement on Tuesday. It was not immediately clear why the public disclosure of his participation in the trip was delayed.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. appointed Loecin, 74, as a special envoy to China in August, in addition to his role as the Philippine ambassador to the United Kingdom based in London. "We are confident that this firsthand information will allow him to effectively convey our concerns to China," Daza said. As the Philippine foreign secretary under Marcos's predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, Loecin often lashed out with blunt language.

President for greater collaborations to improve recovery of children

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday called for greater collaborations among civil society, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and national and provincial government departments to raise awareness about the issue of abducted and missing children.

He said that steps should be taken to ensure the implementation of Zainab Alert Response & Recovery Act (ZARRA) 2020 throughout the country to protect and safeguard our children.

The president expressed these views while chairing a meeting regarding the implementation of the ZARRA 2020, at Aiwan-e-

Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary Ministry of Human Rights Allah Dino Khawaja, Director General ZARRA, representatives of different NGOs working for children's rights, and senior government officials.

During the meeting, the president emphasized the need for awareness at the grassroots level about the ZARRA and the responsibility of police officials to ensure timely registration of complaints and FIRs about missing children.

He also called for raising awareness about the

ZARRA helpline "1099" among the people to register complaints.

The president said that the response time of the local police to missing children's complaints should be improved and they should take prompt action to find missing children as the first 24 hours after a child's disappearance were critical for their recovery.

He called for increasing cooperation among civil society and government departments to protect and recover missing children, besides providing psycho-social counseling to affected children and their families.

During the meeting, the president highlighted

the need for further improving the implementation of ZARRA by identifying gaps and shortcomings in its implementation at the provincial and district levels.

He said that after taking input and advice from civil society and NGOs, corrective measures should be taken to bring about improvements.

The president said that ZARRA's coverage should be extended to the entire country by allocating adequate resources and creating awareness among the people.

He also called for ensuring better management of alerts and complaints about missing children on the 1099 helpline.



QUETTA: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar, Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar and Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki coming out of airport.



MUZAFFERABAD: Activists of Pasban-e-Hurriyat holds protest and burns Israiclan flag at Azadi Chowk to show solidarity with Palestinian People.

At UN, Indian and Pakistani delegates spar over Kashmir, otter issues

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistani and Indian delegates Monday engaged in a fresh verbal duel at the United Nations that resulted from last week's speech by Pakistani Ambassador Munir Akram in which he highlighted that Kashmiris and Palestinians were among the peoples still denied the right to self-determination.

Ambassador Akram had also called India's occupation of Jammu and Kashmir as the "worst manifestation of modern-day colonialism."

Reacting to Pakistani envoy's comments, Indian delegate Nitish Bardi argued that the U.N. had established the right of self-determination principle as a vehicle for the decolonization of the remaining 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories and not as a justification for undermining the territorial integrity of any member state.

Governor grieved over death of Maulvi Akhuzada

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of JUI leader and former Provincial Minister for Forests and Wildlife, Maulvi Abdul Samad Akhuzada.

In a condolence statement issued here on Tuesday, the Governor said that late Maulvi Akhuzada was a thorough nice person and religious scholar.

He prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into its eternal peace and give patience and enough strength to the bereaved family to bear the tragic loss.

Man killed in road accident

QUETTA (APP): A man died in a collision between a car and a motorbike on the National Highway near the Dast' Spezand area of the Mastung district on Tuesday.

According to Levies sources, the victim identified as Abdul Shakoor resident of Dasth Matura was on his way to somewhere on a motorcycle when a speedy car hit him near Dasth.

As a result, he died on the spot after receiving serious injuries.

The body of the deceased was handed over to the heirs after completion of medico-legal formalities. Levies force has registered a case.

Nawaz should leave himself at mercy of court: Khaqan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said that the party is misleading Nawaz Sharif and that a convicted absconder cannot get bail. He also said that he is not convinced of the convoy of buses to welcome Sharif.

Abbasi made these remarks in an interview with a private TV channel. He said that he has spoken to some legal experts who say that if a person is declared a fugitive by the High Court, he cannot get bail and will have to surrender in front of it. The only legal way, he said, is for Sharif to return to Pakistan and leave himself at the mercy of the court.

If he does not get relief from the court, he can file an appeal in the Su

Solangi lauds Pakistan Sweet Home's services for orphans & needy children

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday lauded the remarkable services rendered by Pakistan Sweet Home and its Patron in Chief Zamarud Khan for the welfare of orphans and needy children.

The minister, in a meeting with Zamarud Khan, acknowledged Pakistan Sweet Home's role in providing protection, quality education, and effective grooming to marginalized segments of society.

Solangi said the children who received education from the organization had excelled in every aspect of life.

Zamarud Khan, while expressing his gratitude, said Pakistan Sweet Home had successfully achieved its objectives by imparting modern education to the children under its care.

He hoped that the children would play vital role in the country's important sectors in the future.

During the meeting, both the dignitaries discussed matters of mutual interests.



ISLAMABAD: Former Chief Ministers Balochistan Nawab Muhammad Aslam Raisani and Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo holding a meeting

Forest fire extinguished in Duki's Marjanjai Tambil Mountain

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Duki Fayyaz Ali on Tuesday said that the forest fire in Marjanjai Tambil Mountain was brought under control after three days.

District administration including the Levies Force, and Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Forest Department teams have taken part in the operation and extinguished the forest fire to save and protect the valuable forests.

Fayyaz Ali expressed these views while visiting affected areas of the forest in Loni Marjanjai Tambil Mountain of Duki area which was brought under control for three days.

He said that forests were our valuable assets, the protection of which was the responsibility of all of us.

He also appreciated the Forest Department Officials and other teams for the successful operation and for saving the forest in the area.

PTA hosts meeting with religious scholars to promote safe, responsible use social media

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) took a significant step towards fostering safe and responsible internet usage by organizing a meeting with prominent religious scholars at PTA Headquarters.

The event marked a collaborative effort between the PTA and religious leaders to address the challenges of social media and the internet while promoting a digital environment that aligns with cultural and religious values.

The meeting was attended by Islamic scholars from various schools of thought including Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Chairman Council of Islamic Ideology (CII); Moulana Abdul Khaiber Azad, Chairman of Ruet-e-Hilal Committee and Maulana Tariq Jameel among others. Senior PTA officers were also present at this occasion.

The event commenced with a welcome note from the Director-General of the Web Analysis Division (WAD) PTA, who provided an overview of the PTA's initiatives. Chairman PTA, Maj General Hafeez Ur Rehman addressed the audience and highlighted the pivotal role of religious scholars in guiding the masses toward ethical and responsible internet usage.

He emphasized the potential for an even greater impact if the scholars lend their support to PTA through their own platforms.

An open-floor discussion and recommendation session provided a platform for active engagement and dialogue.

Key highlights of the meeting included a strong emphasis to educate the youth about responsible social media and internet usage especially the critical role of parents in educating their children.

The Quran & teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) were highlighted as a guiding light in this endeavor.

Recognizing the gravity of online threats such as anti-state, blasphemous, and hate speech, it was emphasized that addressing them is the collective responsibility of the State, judiciary, PTA, PEMRA, FIA, and the individuals.

Privatization process being advanced protecting public interests: Fawad Hasan Fawad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Privatization Fawad Hasan Fawad on Tuesday said the government was taking forward the privatization process in a transparent manner while ensuring the protection of public interest.

Addressing a news conference along with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi, he highlighted the importance of privatizing loss-making State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) to enable them to compete effectively in the evolving global economy.

Fawad Hasan Fawad specifically noted that the privatization of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) aimed at bolstering the country's aviation industry, positioning Pakistan as a potential regional aviation hub.

Regarding the Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM), the minister indicated that the government planned to present the matter to the federal cabinet, which will then make a decision in due course.

He assured that a robust regulatory control regime would be in place to safeguard public interests throughout the process.

Fawad Hasan Fawad expressed regret over the past governments' failure to adequately address the country's economic challenges. He reminded that privatization efforts commenced in 1994, with some cases still pending in the courts.

However, he reaffirmed the caretaker government's commitment to fulfilling the responsibilities entrusted to it by the elected governments, emphasizing their adherence to the given mandate.

PTI chairman cannot be allowed to talk to his sons, jailer tells court

ISLAMABAD (INP): The incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former prime minister cannot be allowed to talk to his sons, the Adiala jail superintendent told a special court on Tuesday.

The PTI Chairman Imran Khan was sent to jail on August 5 following his conviction in the Toshakhana case and later was shifted to the Adiala Jail in cipher case.

Bilawal for ensuring education, safety of girls

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has urged that as a nation, more efforts are still needed to ensure the education and safety of young girls in our country.

He said that the entire nation has to work together to prevent issues like discrimination against girls, domestic violence, forced labour and early marriages.

The Chairman PPP, in his message on the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child, said that the girl children of Pakistan are also brave and talented like Pakistani women.

He said that the government and the society are bound to provide a friendly and harmonious environment including better education and health facilities to the girl child.

"If given a better environment and opportunity to exercise their due rights, our girls have the potential to change the situation," he noted.

Chairman Bilawal said that PPP believes in equal rights and equality for all citizens in the country.



QUETTA: Former Deputy Chairman Senate and leader of Pakistan People's Party Saleem Mandviwala addressing party workers. Provincial President PPP Changez Jamali and General Secretary Rozi Khan are also present.

Border Military Police seizes vehicle carrying 'huge consignment of drugs'

DG Khan (APP): The commandment of Border Military Police seized a vehicle carrying 'huge consignment of charrs' that was being smuggled from Balochistan to Punjab.

The drugs smuggler identified as Aziz Ullah, son of Saifullah, resident of district Pishin of Balochistan, was arrested.

Commandant Mushtaq Ahmed, the head of Border Military Police, SHO of the concerned police station, Sakir Najib Qaisrani among the heavy contingent of police participated in the action. The Commandant said that a heavy quantity of drugs was being smuggled from Balochistan to Daska, the Punjab district.

UNHCR officials meet DIG police Loralai Range; discusses refugees issues

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The UNHCR Balochistan's senior official, Tesfaye Bejene along with other officials met the Deputy Inspector General of police Loralai Range, Nazir Ahmed Kurd in Loralai on Tuesday.

During the meeting, issues of the Afghan refugees were discussed.

DIG police said that the Afghan refugees settled here are being treated as per the laws of United Nations.

The action would be taken illegal immigrants under the government's policy, he added.

He stressed that all the refugees should carry the valid documents with them.



LORALAI: Head of UNHCR Balochistan and its Admin Officer meeting with DIG Police Loralai Range Nazir Ahmed Kurd.

Speakers say Youth to keep away from drugs & social evils by engaging them in sports activities

QUETTA (APP)-Leaders of Pakistan People's Party (PPP)'s Balochistan on Tuesday said that youth could be kept away from drugs and other social evils by engaging them in healthy activities and sports, there was no lack of talent among the youth of province.

If they are provided with proper opportunities, they can shine the name of Pakistan not only in Pakistan but also abroad. Players are ambassadors of any country. Pakistan People's Party believes in bringing the youth forward in every field.

These views were expressed by the President of PPP's Balochistan Chapter Mir Changaz Khan Jamali, Former Federal Minister Sardar Umar Khan Gorgaji.

Deputy Information Secretary Qasim Khan Achakzai, provincial leader Eng. Mah Jabeen Jamali, Sana Durrani, Sajida Bengulzai at ceremony of distributing the Shaheed Ms. Benzir Bhutto Award to International and national players of Hazara Town, under the auspices of PPP Hazara Town.

Secretary Health says CPSP can play a key role in efficient provision of health facilities in Balochistan

QUETTA: Secretary Health Balochistan Asfand Yar Kakar, President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan Prof.



Khalid Masood Gondal met in Quetta and discussed the important aspects of health department and various health issues in Balochistan.

Department regarding the better provision of health facilities in Balochistan, while increasing the technical support of Makran

Medical College and Jhalavan Medical College.

While emphasized on training of PGs and Doctors and improving their quality.

Secretary Health said that Balochistan is the largest province in terms of area and has been facing health related problems in the past. In this context, CPSP can play a key role in the better and efficient provision of health facilities in Balochistan

Quetta Customs seizes goods worth of Rs 450 m in first week of October

QUETTA (APP): The Quetta Customs has seized smuggled goods worth of over Rs 450 million in various operations conducted during the first week of October.

According to Customs official, the Quetta Customs, in cooperation with other law enforcement agencies has seized a large quantity of drugs, ice, crystal, chalia, pan, sugar, urea fertilizer, cigarettes, cloths, spare parts, auto parts, black tea, Iranian food items, foreign medicines, cosmetics, confectionery,

tyres, non-customs paid vehicles and other goods during various operations.

He said the value of the non-custom paid goods is more than Rs 450 million.

The efforts taken by the Customs officials has been significantly reduced the smuggling in the province.

Quetta Customs is committed to eliminate the menace of smuggling and will continue intensifying its anti-smuggling operations across the province, he added.



QUETTA: Director General Public Relations Muhammad Noor Khetran distributing prizes among students who got positions in competitions at ChildrenAcademy.