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Section for right of appeal declared in line with Constitution.

Supreme Court sustains parliament's act clipping CJP's powers

Apex court by majority of 10 to 5 has upheld the Supreme Court (Practice & Procedure) Act 2023; Justices Ijazul Ahsan, Muneeb Akhtar, Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Ayesha Malik and Shahid Waheed dissent verdict; court rules retrospective right of appeal unconstitutional.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday sustained the SC Practice and Procedure Act 2023, and dismissed the petitions against it while announcing the short order.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa pronounced the short order, which was reserved earlier by a 15-member full court bench after all respondents concluded their arguments.

The chief justice said that ten members of the full court bench out of 15 had declared the legislation passed by the Parliament with reference to the pow-

ers of the Chief Justice as correct. The CJP said that the full court has declared the petitions filed against the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act, 2023 as inadmissible by majority opinion. The short order available with this scribe said, "By a majority of 10 to 5 (Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Sayyid Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Ayesha A. Malik and Justice Shahid Waheed dissenting), the sub-section (1) of Section 5 of the Act (granting a right of appeal prospectively) is declared to be in accordance with the Constitution and to this extent the petitions are dismissed.

of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and to this extent the petitions are dismissed. It further said, "By a majority of 9 to 6 (Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Sayyid Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Ayesha A. Malik and Justice Shahid Waheed dissenting), the sub-section (1) of Section 5 of the Act (granting a right of appeal prospectively) is declared to be in accordance with the Constitution and to this extent the petitions are dismissed.

Earlier, the top court had reserved its verdict after all respondent concluded their arguments in the said case. During this day hearing Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan concluded his arguments before the bench.

He also gave answers of various questions raised by members of the full court bench. It should be noted that earlier, an eight-member bench of the top court headed by former Chief Justice Umar Atta Bandial had issued a stay order against this law in April this year, which has remained in place for about six months, but today (Wednesday) the full court has rejected the petitions filed against the act while declaring it inadmissible.



ISLAMABAD: H.E. Mr. Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China calls on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Federal Cabinet calls for immediate halt of Israel's bombing on Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday said the Federal Cabinet had called for an immediate halt to Israeli bombardment of civilian areas of Gaza, in addition to lifting of blockade for the provision of relief items to the civil population.

He said the Cabinet meeting, presided over by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, also called for prompt measures to allow international aid to reach the civilians in the Gaza.

Addressing a news conference along with Minister for Privatization Fawad Hassan Fawad, he said the forum strongly condemned Israel's bombardment, particularly targeting civil population in Gaza besides expressing concern over the volatile situation, stemming from Israel's illegal occupation, oppression of Palestinians for decades,



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and blatant violations of United Nations Security Council Resolutions in this regard. The Federal Cabinet stressed that the issue of Palestine should be resolved in accordance with relevant UNSC resolution, he said, adding it also called for the restoration of pre-1967 status of Palestine.

He said the Federal Cabinet reiterated Pakistan's principled stance for the resolution of the Palestine issue in line with the aspirations of its people. Solangi said the forum reiterated the proposal for

the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with its borders predating Israel's illegal occupation in 1967 as well as Bait-ul-Quds (Jerusalem) as its capital.

He said the prime minister had directed the federal ministers to undertake only essential foreign visits.

The Federal Cabinet had approved the appointments of former Lahore High Court judge Sohail Nasir as Deputy Chairman of NAB and Syed Ehtesham Qadir Shah as NAB Prosecutor General. Accountability, he added.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi conferring the award of Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon the Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed Forces, Lt. General (Pilot) Salem Hamad Eqail Al-Nabet, at a special investiture ceremony, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Apex Committee decides to probe 10 years of dev. projects' funds: Jan

Says corrupt elements will have to face consequences; Sets 10 days' deadline before crackdown on oil smugglers

QUETTA (APP): Caretaker Balochistan Minister for Information Jan Achakzai on Wednesday said that in the Apex Committee meeting has decided to investigate the ongoing development funds released in the province during the last ten years.

He said that the meeting decided that ten days gave times to those involved in oil smuggling, after which the smuggling boats would be destroyed.

He expressed these views while holding a news conference at the press club in Quetta along with Interim Home Captain (Retired) Zubair Ahmad Jamali and Interim Minister Agriculture Asif-ur Rehman Dummer.

The Minister said that the Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir said in the meeting of the Apex Committee yesterday that corruption has entered into our DNA, he also warned that

if the curse was not removed, there would be great loss.

In yesterday's meeting, the determination to eradicate corruption has been expressed that a clear and transparent investigation of development funds in Balochistan in ten years would be ensured, he added.

He said that 80 percent of the smuggling in the province was done through sea routes, it was decided to give ten days respite to oil smugglers after that the oil smuggling boats would be destroyed saying that all resources were being used against smuggling. The orders of the federal government will be implemented in every way, he said that 84 of the 250 madrasas in Balochistan were managed by Afghan citizens but eight thousand five hundred students were studying in these institutions.



QUETTA: Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

19 DAYS REMAINING

19

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Don't see any possibility of delay in polls: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday ruling out the possibility of any delay in general elections, said that the polls would be announced and conducted on time.

"I don't see any possibility (of delay in elections). I don't have any confusion at all. I feel the elections will be announced and conducted on time," the prime minister said in an interview with a private television channel.

Reiterating his government's resolve to hold free and fair elections, he said all the registered political parties had legal and constitutional rights to canvass, mobilize people and attract public support.

Interim Govt welcomes foreign investors, says Chief Minister

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has expressed satisfaction over the services of Barrick Gold Corporation for investment and social sector under Corporate Social Responsibility.

He said that the caretaker provincial government welcomes the foreign investors in the province.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the President and Chief Executive of Barrick Gold Corporation, Mr Mark Bristow, who called on him here on Wednesday.

Mr. Bristow apprised the Chief Minister about the steps taken by the cor-

poration for investment and social welfare in the province.

While welcoming Mr. Mark Bristow, the Chief Minister expressed satisfaction over the services of his corporation for investment and social sector.

He on the occasion pointed out that Balochistan is rich in the mineral resources and these resources are very important for development and economic self sufficiency of the province.

He said that government of Balochistan considers Barrick Gold Corporation a key partner and has resolve to expand the circle of investment in future.



QUETTA: President & Chief Executive Officer Barrick Gold Corporation Mark Baristow meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

PM reassures timely completion of CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said that Pakistan and China were fully committed to ensuring the success of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the government would continue to work closely with the Chinese authorities to ensure timely implementation and completion of various projects envisaged under CPEC.

The prime minister was talking to Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Jiang Zaidong who called on him, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The caretaker prime minister said that Pakistan and China enjoyed a unique relationship as 'All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partners, Iron Brothers' and

trusted friends.

He lauded the vision and leadership of President Xi Jinping, particularly the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Prime Minister Kakar also noted the centrality of CPEC in enhancing economic, trade and technological ties between the two countries and highlighted its role as the flagship project of BRI.

This was Ambassador Jiang's first meeting with the caretaker prime minister since presenting his credentials as China's Ambassador to Pakistan. The prime minister congratulated Ambassador Jiang on assuming ambassadorial responsibilities in Islamabad and hoped that he would play a key role in further strengthening relations between the two countries.

A terrorist killed in retaliatory action after attack on FC post

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): A terrorist was killed in retaliatory fire by law enforcement personnel as unknown militants launched an attack on the Frontier Constabulary (FC) post near Karri, Jandola, Tank last night.

According to police, SHO Jandola police station Noor Aslam Khan received information that unknown miscreants attacked the post of FC near Karri with small and large weapons and the personnel in the post also fired back under the right of self-defence.

After receiving information, a heavy contingent of police and security forces from FC Fort Jandola rushed to the spot and started retaliatory fire, which continued for about two and a half hours.

ECP assures political parties of code of conduct revision

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has pledged to make essential changes to the draft code of conduct for the upcoming elections in response to the concerns of political parties.

In a meeting presided over by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja here Wednesday, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) pledged to amend the code of ethics based on feedback from political parties, with the aim of guaranteeing equitable and transparent elections.

Apart from the members of the Election Commission, representatives of various political parties and senior officers of the Election Commission participated in the meeting.

Convened under Section 233 of the Elections Act, this meeting aimed to engage with political parties regarding the code of conduct for the forthcoming general elections. The Election Commission collected input from political parties concerning the draft code of conduct and received their suggestions for its improvement.

Balochistan delegation calls on PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation from Balochistan headed by former Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik on Wednesday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here.

In the meeting, they discussed the issues faced by Balochistan province and the steps for their resolution, under the prime minister's leadership.

The participants of the meeting viewed that the foreign investment in the mining sector of Balochistan under the Special Investment Facilitation Council was welcoming.



CAIRO: Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan met with H.E. Minister of Health, Bahriyan Dr. Jaleela bint AlSayed Jawad Hasan on the sidelines of the 70th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Middle East held in Cairo.

Governor calls for accountability of former representatives, vote for good ones in next elections

Wali Kakar grieved over lack of basic facilities, poor conditioned roads and cleanliness situation in Dera Murad Jamali and adjoining areas as he travelled there by road from Quetta

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speaking during visit to the new campus of Lasbela university of Agriculture, water and Marine Sciences (LUAWMS) in Dera Murad Jamali on Wednesday.

The Governor on the occasion inaugurated central library in the premises of Lasbela university and inspected the under construction other buildings there.

He also distributed laptops among the students of university.

He was particularly pained to see the hard life particularly of the women in these areas.

The Governor was



NASEERABAD: Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar distribute laptop among participants during the Laptop distribution ceremony of PM Youth Laptop Scheme Phase-III held at University College of Dera Murad Jamali, in Naseerabad.

PML-N, JUI-F for moving ahead via mutual consultation, cooperation

LAHORE (INP): President Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Shehbaz Sharif and chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman have reiterated resolve for moving ahead through mutual consultation and cooperation.

The JUI-F chief on Wednesday called on PML-N's President at his residence in Model Town, Lahore and discussed with him the country's overall situation, including upcoming general elections.

During the meeting, the key leaders of two political parties termed the consultation and cooperation imperative to tackle the crises faced by the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Shehbaz Sharif thanked Maulana Fazlur Rehman for "contributing" to saving Pakistan from bankruptcy in 16 months of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) tenure.

"During the 16 months, all political parties only thought of saving the state not the politics", the PML-N president said, adding that only consultation and cooperation can bring Pakistan out of crises.

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Crucial Apex committee session in Quetta

The 14th meeting of Balochistan's Apex committee was held with the caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaarul Haq Kakar in the chair on Tuesday last. Also participated in the crucial session was by the Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir, Federal Interior Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Chief Minister Ali Mardan Khan Domki, his cabinet members and other senior officials.

During the meeting, officials briefed the participants on the revised National Action Plan (NAP), law enforcement operations, anti-smuggling and anti-narcotics operations in Balochistan. The officials also briefed the participants on the security of foreigners employed on CPEC, non-CPEC and private projects, the repatriation of illegal immigrants, foreign currency regularization measures, and progress on SIFC initiatives in Balochistan. The PM expressed confidence in the progress made by the provincial government and assured full support from the Centre. He emphasized that Balochistan's socio-economic development was imperative to ensure peace and development of the province. "Initiatives taken by the SIFC at federal level should have a trickle-down effect in each province for the people of the area," the premier said.

The Premier said that 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. He highlighted that Balochistan possessed abundant mineral resources, and fostering development would stimulate economic activity and create job opportunities for the local population. Furthermore, he stressed the importance of directing investments toward agriculture and IT, in addition to human resource development. He stressed the necessity of collaboration and coordination among all relevant departments to maximize the positive impact of these initiatives. Mr. Kakar also mentioned that initiatives taken by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) at federal level should have a trickle-down effect in each province, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar said on Tuesday.

At the meeting, the Army Chief highlighted that the military would provide full support in concert with law enforcement agencies and other government departments to enforce actions against a spectrum of illegal activities with full force to deny pilferage of resources and economic losses that the country suffered due to these activities. The participants expressed their collective commitment, affirming that state institutions, government departments, and the people are unified in their pursuit of progress and prosperity for the province. While the crucial Apex meeting has expressed its firm resolve against certain issues, the Army chief has already asserted that the law enforcement agencies and the government would continue efforts against a "spectrum of illegal activities with full force to deny pilferage of resources and economic losses." What's great to note and commendable is that the state institutions, government departments and people were united for the progress and prosperity of the province. Above all, the COAS has also promised the interim government of the army's "all-out support" for continuity of policies in a bid to revive the economy and steer the country towards progress and prosperity.

Migration crisis



Arif Azad

Migration has been in the media and policy spotlight lately. Several international migration-related developments have refocused attention on migration and asylum issues. Recently, the small Italian town of Lampedusa received a sudden surge of new migrants. The surge, though small, was portrayed as gigantic as it exceeded the size of the local population which had been tiny anyway.

In the US, refugees are streaming into the state of Texas, which has chosen to bus them onward to bigger cities such as New York. In the UK, reducing the number of asylum seekers crossing the English Channel is one of the five policy ambitions of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. This has given the hard-line home secretary, Suella Braverman, carte blanche to employ whatever means necessary to stop boats carrying migrants. Here in Pakistan, we have seen new arrivals from Afghanistan after the Taliban's takeover of Kabul.

The Lampedusa migration crisis occasioned an emergency visit from EU President Ursula von der Leyen to the island town. While pledging extra help, she asserted it was the EU that would ultimately determine who could come into Europe. Her fleeting visit aimed at shoring up the struggling right-wing government was followed by an EU justice and home ministers' conclave on the new migration crisis. There remain differences over how to tackle the

crisis and chart a lasting way forward. The differences centre on the Italian objection to German-funded support to rescue operations at sea. The Italian proposal to do away with certain legal protection in asylum detention centres in a crisis is also a stumbling block.

Earlier, EU governments had agreed on the principle of 'mandatory solidarity', requiring member states located beyond the front-line states of Italy and Greece to accept 30,000 migrants a year. In case of a country not accepting the allotted number of refugees and asylum-seekers, that country would pay 20,000 euros per migrant to an EU-wide fund to boost the money available to the front-line states dealing with the growing number of new arrivals. The US has further extended protections to Venezuelan migrants already living in the country.

In a related development, Ms Braverman chose the venue of a Washington think tank to lay out her vision for a most reactionary immigration policy. She called for a new definition of 'refugee' to be fashioned, besides the updated of the Geneva Convention. In the same anti-migrant vein, she railed against multiculturalism and inadequate integration of incoming migrants. In recent times, she has also singled out the role of the European convention on court of human rights in frustrating her plans to deport all asylum-seekers to Rwanda. Her speech attracted widespread criticism from the UN refugee agency, politicians and civil society in the UK, with UNHCR rejecting her calls for reforming the Geneva refugee convention and pointing out that rather than updating it, its provisions

must be implemented and adhered to by all signatory countries.

Many commentators linked her pronouncements on immigration to her domestic agenda of seeking the leadership of the Conservative Party (Braverman has been very popular with the extreme right wing of the party for her hard-line views on migration and asylum.) The British prime minister has defended multiculturalism in an apparent rebuff to his own home secretary.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has received successive waves of refugees from neighbouring Afghanistan since the 1970s. Yet due to Pakistan's not signing the Geneva Convention on the status of refugees, the country's refugee and asylum policies have not been framed. Despite its long engagement with Afghan refugees, Pakistan has lived in denial insofar as the historical presence of Afghan refugees is concerned, and now wants them to leave the country.

Two contradictory impulses are at work. On the one hand, the Afghan refugees have been given a final date by which to leave the country. On the other, in a landmark judgement of the Islamabad High Court, the judiciary has ruled that Pakistan recognises the right to asylum. This sets a new judicial precedent in the evolving refugee law in Pakistan, with implications for all those being rounded up with a view to deporting them to Afghanistan. This news can only be welcomed. Yet in the long term, as well as in the light of revising our flawed foreign policy towards Afghanistan, Pakistan needs to work towards signing the Geneva Convention and fulfilling its obligations in line with international law. -- Courtesy Dawn

Distant echoes



Mahir Ali

Israel prides itself, not unreasonably, on its intelligence-gathering capabilities. This applies internationally, with Israeli apps offering the go-to spying software to a range of reprehensible regimes. But within Israel and the Palestinian territories it occupies, it's on a different scale.

The sweeping up of electronic data is supposedly supplemented by informers in every Palestinian organisation. Further, as former UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter puts it, "Gaza is the most photographed place on the planet, and between satellite imagery, drones and CCTV, every square metre of Gaza is estimated to be imaged every 10 minutes."

How Shin Bet and the various military intelligence agencies were apparently clueless in advance about last Saturday's events may perhaps be explained by the Israeli inquiries that inevitably lie ahead. Ritter blames it on an overreliance on AI to sift through massive data troves, and suggests that Palestinian tech warriors worked out how to fool Israeli algorithms. If true, that exposes the inadequacies of state-of-the-art surveillance technology. It has also been reported, though, that Egyptian warnings about Hamas planning "something big" went unheeded, reflecting a parallel with the Yom Kippur war when, 50 years earlier, a joint Egyptian-Syrian attack took Israel by surprise. Back in 1973, the information suggesting

something was in the offing was disregarded because, surely, 'they wouldn't dare'. Israel shortly regained the upper hand with US help, but that war shifted the dynamics in the Middle East. So will the current conflict, even though this time the surprise blow to Israel's arrogance comes not from the largest Arab army, but from a relatively small militant group that controls a festering wound called the Gaza Strip.

But there's another imperfect parallel to be drawn from 80 years ago, when the surviving inmates of what was then the world's largest prison — superseded only by Gaza more than 60 years later — decided to resist the odds. The Warsaw Ghetto had been set up in late 1940 by the Nazi occupiers to incarcerate the Polish capital's Jewish population. It was essentially a way station to Treblinka or other death camps where the hellish process of industrialised mass slaughter was being honed. The fewer than 60,000 Jews who remained in the ghetto by early 1943 resolved they would not take any further deprivations. Despite being infiltrated by informers, they mapped out their response, mostly with improvised weapons, and when the Nazis came for them in April, they fought back almost for a month, the last of them dying when the Germans burned the area down. Jürgen Stroop, the SS commander in charge of the extermination, was later hanged. What's striking is the similarity between the language he used for the Jews, and the words Benjamin Netanyahu and his colleagues are deploying in describing Gaza's imminent fate, with the prime minister talking about reducing the enclave to rubble, and his defence minister, Yoav Gallant, decreeing that "no electricity, no food, no water, no gas" will be allowed into Gaza, because "we are

fighting animals". Such terminology might once have been considered verboten but the Zionist hierarchy has always looked upon the natives of Palestine as Untermenschen — lesser beings — and treated them accordingly. It seems the lesson they learned from the Nazi experience wasn't 'never again, full stop', but rather, 'never again until we are the unchallengeable arbiters of everyone's fate'.

Not surprisingly, that hasn't worked out well for Palestinians since 1948, and the vague promise of the Oslo Accords 45 years later has since been buried alongside the fantasy of a two-state solution. There have been sporadic explosions ever since, and what's surprising about the latest one is that it did not occur in the West Bank, which has lately been the focus of brutalisation under the neo-fascist reincarnation of the Netanyahu regime.

No one can condone the war crimes committed by Hamas after its audacious prison break-out last Saturday. At the same time, no one who condemns them should ignore the state and settler terrorism to which Palestinians are subjected, with no end in sight. Israel will no doubt reclaim the hierarchy in the mathematics of death — at the time of writing, Israeli fatalities apparently outnumber Palestinian casualties — but what lies beyond is uncertain. Likewise, the international dynamics, stretching from Iran and the Saudis to the US and the moribund Palestinian Authority. What cannot be overlooked, though, is the reminder of the past few days that peace in the Middle East will remain elusive as long as the occupation persists. The so-called international community recognises that much in Ukraine. Whether it can stretch its horizons as far as Palestine remains to be seen. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

SOEs running into losses add to economic woes: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said that the country was facing financial problems and those state-owned enterprises (SOEs) which had been incurring losses, were adding to these economic woes.

The prime minister chaired a high-level meeting over the affair of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). The meeting was given a detailed

briefing over the different issues of PIA. The meeting was attended by Caretaker Minister for Privatization Fawad Hassan Fawad, Adviser to PM Ahad Cheema and other relevant authorities, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the meeting, the prime minister expressed his concerns over the delayed decision making with regard to issues of PIA. He stressed upon

expediting the privatization process of PIA and other SOEs running into losses, adding that their losses could not be met with the public tax money. The caretaker prime minister said that reforms in the aviation sector could bring better facilities to the public. Transparency in the privations process should be ensured, he emphasised, adding of responsibility for the losses was requisite so that necessary

steps should be taken to avoid further losses. The meeting was apprised of the progress on the financial situation of PIA and its privatization process. All the hurdles in its privatization process were removed, it was further added. The prime minister directed for accelerating privatization of the national flag carrier to avoid further burden on the national exchequer.



ISLAMABAD: General Manager, China Energy International Group Company, Mr. Wang Huihua met with Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed on Wednesday to discuss matter related to energy sector.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Simon J. Stolp, Practice Manager (Energy & Extractives), World Bank South Asia Region along with his WB team called on Federal Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hasan Fawad.

Rashakai SEZ project vital for industrial uplift: Dr. Aamir

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce, Technical Education and Newly Merged Districts Affairs Dr. Aamir Abdullah has said that Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Rashakai was vital project of the provincial government towards industrial development, which had been established under China Pakistan

Economic Corridor (CPEC) through mutual cooperation. He said that this project would prove to be a milestone for the promotion of industrialization and economic development in the province, while it was the government's effort to provide all facilities to the entrepreneurs and companies setting up industries here.

Gold rates up by Rs. 5,500

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs. 5,500 and was sold at Rs. 205,500 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs. 199,500 the previous day of trading. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs. 4,715 to Rs. 175,754 from Rs. 171,039 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs. 161,108 from Rs. 156,786 the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

Fawad vows to privatize all loss making SOEs to reduce financial burden

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Privatization Fawad Hassan Fawad here on Wednesday reiterated his government's commitment to privatize all loss-making State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) to reduce financial burden and enhance capabilities, and efficiencies for the sustainable economic development of the country. He said that current economic conditions were not able to bear further losses of these SOEs, adding that the other objective of the

privatization of such enterprises was to attract potential foreign investment for the development of these enterprises. Addressing a news conference along with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi, he said that the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar was also briefed about the privatization of such loss-making enterprises including Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

ICCI for re-activation of SME Bank to promote SME sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Wednesday urged the government to re-activate the SME Bank to provide easy financing options to the SME sector as its winding up would deprive SMEs of the affordable credit facility. He said that already SMEs are facing great problems in getting credit

from banks as the SME sector in Pakistan receives only 6-7% of the private sector financing as compared to 25% in Bangladesh and 18% in India. He said that the closure of SME Bank would create more hurdles for SMEs in expansion and growth. He said this while talking to a delegation of employees' unions that called on him led by Zahoor Awan, Chairman, Pakistan.

PTA, SECP sign MoU to promote mutual cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalise mechanisms for information sharing and cooperation between both regulators. The MoU was signed by Director General PTA, Muddasir Naveed, and Executive Director SECP, Khalida Habib, at a

ceremony held here, according to a press release issued here. Chairman PTA, Maj Gen @ Hafeez Ur Rehman; Chairman SECP, Akif Saeed; Commissioner SECP, Mujtaba Ahmed Lodhi; Member Compliance and Enforcement PTA, Dr. Khawar Siddique Khokhar; and senior officers from both organisations were in attendance. The objective of the MoU is to establish a framework for bilateral

Pak, IsDB explore ways to promote economic cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar met the Chairman of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, Dr. Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser in Morocco on Wednesday. According to a press statement issued by the finance ministry, the meeting aimed to foster productive discussions on economic cooperation and development initiatives.

Planning minister, Chinese official discuss energy projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami on Wednesday met with the General Manager of China Energy International Group Limited Wang Huihua and discussed matters pertaining to bilateral relations with a special focus on energy projects. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on exploring new opportunities for cooperation in diverse fields including energy and green energy, a news release said. The Planning minister appreciated the China Energy International Group Limited's investment efforts in Pakistan, which is working on various projects including Suki Kinari (SK), Neelum-Jhelum and Mohmand Dam projects. Highlighting the importance of all the projects being carried out by the Chinese Energy International Group, Sami Saeed assured the Chinese companies of the government's full support.

KP Caretaker Cabinet approves soft loans for youth, SMEs

PESHAWAR (APP): The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has given in-principle approval for the provision of concessional loans for youth and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the province.

The cost of the Bank of Khyber's additional concessions on the loan schemes with flexible conditions will be covered by the provincial government.

This approval was granted by the caretaker

provincial cabinet in a meeting held the other day with caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan in the chair, according to an official handout issued here on Wednesday.

In addition to the members of the caretaker cabinet and chief secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, the concerned administrative secretaries also participated in the meeting. On this occasion, the representatives of the

Bank of Khyber gave a detailed briefing to the Cabinet about State Bank of Pakistan loans for SMEs and youth, the benefits of the province's participation in such schemes, and the benefits of this initiative of the provincial government. The interest rate will be reduced to zero for youth and institutions taking out loans. The caretaker provincial cabinet also approved the transfer of 2 kanal and six marla of land

for the establishment of a public library in Upper Karam, while it also approved the construction of a judicial complex on 13.5 kanal of land in Sarai Naurang (Lucky Marwat).

The provincial cabinet rejected both the payment of the provincial government's portion of the 155 million dollar loan for the future and the at-source deduction of the 88.673 million dollar debt owed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman posing for a group photo with participants at the Sustainable Development Goals Excellence Awards 2023 ceremony of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali addressing the ceremony of All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association.

Caretaker CM orders recovery of kidnapped SHO, policemen

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar, while taking serious note of the kidnapping of six policemen, including the SHO of Kot Shahu police of District Shikarpur, has ordered their recovery within three days and issuing of explanation to the DIG and SSP concerned.

Expressing his displeasure and dismay, the chief minister said police stations have been made so vulnerable and weak that the dacoits attack them and kidnap policemen easily. "This shows that the police officers who are in command in the districts have failed to control, deliver and perform," he said and added that he had learned that most of the

SSPs did not go to their offices and do the policing sitting at their homes which led to emerge such a shocking situation.

Justice Baqar talked to the IG Police on the telephone and directed him to visit the Shikarpur district and get the kidnapped policemen recovered within three days. "I want you (IG police) to issue explanations to the DIG Larkana and SSP Shikarpur for their failure to strengthen the police station and secure the police."

The CM said that inefficient, ineffective and unwilling police officers must be replaced with efficient officers. "I am sorry to say that as such incidents are earning a bad name for the government and governance".

ANF seizes 49 kg drugs in five operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations managed to recover 49 kg drugs and arrested four accused, said ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday.

He informed that in an operation, 38 grams weed was recovered from a parcel sent from UK at the courier office in Chaklala, Rwp.

In a raid in Mianwali, over 2.7 grams of heroin was recovered from a motorcycle. A resident of Mianwali was arrested during the operation.

2 kg hashish concealed in a vehicle was recovered near M-2, Ravi Toll Plaza Lahore. Two accused residents of Khyber were arrested during the operation. 185 narcotic (ecstasy) tablets were recovered from the accused, a resident of Islamabad, near Passport Office Karachi.

AJK minister announces Rs 1,000,000 for District Press Club Hattian Bala

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): The Minister of the government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Javed Ayub, has pledged Rs 1,000,000 from the Annual Development Program (ADP) to allocate fund for the construction of the District Press Club Hattian Bala building. He made this announcement while addressing a press conference in Hattian Bala here Wednesday. Prominent local political figures, including

Sahibzada Muhammad Ashfaq Zafar Advocate, Central Senior Vice President of Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir, and Raja Parvez Iqbal Advocate, District President of Pakistan People's Party Jhelum Valley and others were present on the occasion.

Sardar Javed Ayub acknowledged the efforts of Sahibzada Muhammad Ashfaq Zafar Advocate for initiating the construction of the District Press Club.

Govt striving to provide equal educational opportunities to females: Mushaal Mullick

FAISALABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights & Women's Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Wednesday said that women were sharing 54 percent population of the country and the government was striving hard to provide equal educational opportunities to this segment for greater national interest.

She was addressing a seminar on "harmony unbound fostering peace for marginalized

communities and minorities" at Government College University Faisalabad (GCUF) here.

She said that the best educational facilities were being provided in educational institutions so that the young generation could play their active role in national progress and prosperity.

She said that there should be no discrimination between the rich and the poor but talent matters in all issues and achievements.

Therefore, the

talented people should come forward to expedite the pace of national development, she added.

Expressing concern over latest situation in Palestine and Gaza, she said that world class leaders of all religions should play their role to control the situation.

She strongly condemned whatever happened in Palestine and said that Israel had demolished schools and hospitals and more than one lakh people had so far lost their lives in this war.

France to organize the 2nd edition of "Choose France Pakistan - Education Tour" in Lahore, Karachi

Independent Report
KARACHI: Following the success of the first edition in Lahore and Islamabad, the "Choose France Pakistan - Education Tour" is back in 2023 to explore Lahore and Karachi. The program includes a wide range of fields such as management, engineering, humanities, finance, business and sciences. Eleven top-notch French universities are part of the delegation, such as Sciences Po Paris, Centrale Nantes, and EDHEC.

"Choose France Pakistan-Education Tour" is a government initiative from France, organized by the French Embassy in Paki-

stan, Campus France Pakistan, and their local partners, to promote studying in France.

The 2 Education fairs to be organized in Lahore on October 17 and in Karachi on October 19, will give the opportunity to students to interact directly with French universities, learn more about the 1700 programs taught in English at the Bachelor and Master levels, and get details about the 183 scholarship programs available for Pakistani students. This year, four French business schools are part of the delegation.

According to the latest Financial Times world rankings, French business

schools are still topping the ranking. For example, the four best Masters in Finance Pre-experience 2023 is French; among the five best Masters in Management 2023, three are French, including the one ranked No. 1.

For MBA and Executive Education, a French institution is ranked in the top position: INSEAD, an institution with a large alumni network in Pakistan. During this "Choose France Pakistan - Education Tour", French delegates will also visit Pakistani universities to discuss partnership opportunities to strengthen the academic cooperation between France and Paki-

stan in the area of business & management, sciences & engineering, and social & political sciences.

Campus France is a French public organization under the umbrella of the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, which provides official and free counseling and support to international students who are looking forward to pursuing higher studies in France. In Pakistan, Campus France is officially represented in Islamabad and Lahore; the office in Karachi is to be opened in 2024. To contact Campus France Pakistan,

visit the website <https://www.pakistan.campusfrance.org/> or send an email to pakistan@campusfrance.org

List of French universities includes Sciences and Engineering: EPITA, ESTP, Centrale Nantes, IMT Atlantique, Université de Nantes/ Polytech Nantes- Business and Management: EDHEC, ESDS, IESEG, KEDGE. Social sciences and humanities Sciences Po Paris

Practical information: Schedule of the Education fairs: LAHORE on 17 October, from 1.00 pm to 6.00 pm Karachi on 19 October, from 1.00 pm to 6.00 pm.

International News

Under heavy bombing, Palestinians in Gaza move from place to place, only to discover nowhere is safe

Monitoring Desk
GAZA CITY: Over 180,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are packed into U.N. shelters as Israeli warplanes pound the tiny territory of 2.3 million people after their Hamas militant rulers launched an unprecedented weekend attack on Israel. Among them is 27-year-old Sabreen al-Attar. She sprang into action when she heard rocket after rocket whoosh over her farmland in Beit Lahya just south of the Israeli border on Saturday. She knew from experience that Israeli retaliation would be swift and severe.

Grabbing her children, al-Attar rushed to one of the dozens of shelters set up in schools run by the U.N. agency for Palestin-

ian refugees in Gaza City. There, blasts of unprecedented intensity punctuated hours of steadily declining conditions Monday as food and water ran out.

"When I escape, I do it for my children," she said, her hands trembling. "Their lives rest on my shoulders."

But residents say there is no real escape in Gaza, which has been under a suffocating 16-year blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt. When war breaks out, as it has four times since the Hamas militant group seized power in 2007, even U.N. facilities that are supposed to be safe zones risk becoming engulfed in the fighting. The United Nations said that an airstrike directly hit one of its shelters Sunday and

damaged five other schools-turned-shelters on Monday. There was no immediate word of casualties.

In the downtown Rimal area, Gaza City's bustling commercial district with high-rises home to international media and aid organizations, al-Attar hoped she would be safe. Rimal had until then not been an immediate Israeli target, unlike border towns or densely populated refugee camps.

But as the Israeli military went neighborhood to neighborhood with rapid and intensifying airstrikes, the heavy bombardments reached the heart of Gaza City, transforming the affluent neighborhood into an uninhabitable desert of craters.



A dove flies over the debris of houses destroyed in Israeli strikes, in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip.

As another 6.3 magnitude quake hits, Afghanistan lowers toll from earlier tremors to 1,000

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: Afghan authorities on Wednesday significantly lowered the death toll from a series of quakes that struck western Herat at the weekend to around 1,000.

The Taliban government had originally said over 2,000 people had been killed in Saturday's magnitude 6.3 quake, centred on rural communities northwest of Herat city. The initial quake was followed by a series of powerful aftershocks.

Public Health Minis-

ter Qalandar Ebad on Wednesday lowered the toll to around 1,000, attributing the confusion to the remoteness of the area and double reporting by agencies involved in the rescue effort. "We have over 1,000 people martyred from the first incident," Ebad told reporters in Kabul.

Another earthquake of magnitude 6.3 struck on Wednesday morning in the same area, where thousands were spending a fourth night in the open.

The quake occurred at a shallow depth at around

5:10am local time (12:40am GMT), with its epicentre about 29 kilometres north of the city of Herat, the United States Geological Survey said. "It's horrible, the whole of Herat is terrified," said 32-year-old Abdul Qudos. "We are so scared that even when we see the trees moving (in the wind), we think it's another earthquake coming."

At least one person was killed and 120 injured by the latest quake, said Abdul Zahir Noorzai, ambulance manager for Herat Regional Hospital.

Jordan's king says no stability in region without Palestinian state

Monitoring Desk
AMMAN: Jordan's King Abdullah said on Wednesday no peace was possible in the Middle East without the emergence of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.

The latest violence - which broke out when Hamas militants assaulted Israel at the weekend - showed the region would not "enjoy stability, security or peace" without a sovereign Palestinian state on land that Israel had captured in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, he said. A two-state solution was the

only option, the monarch told deputies in a speech at the opening of a new parliamentary session.

"Our region will never be secure nor stable without achieving just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the two-state solution," the monarch said.

A two-state solution has long been the bedrock of international peacemaking efforts, but the process has been moribund for years and the possibility of it happening has dimmed even before the renewed bloodshed.



Jordan's King Abdullah II speaks at the opening of a new parliamentary session in Amman, Jordan.

Ukraine President Zelenskyy at NATO defense ministers meeting seeking more support to fight Russia

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: For the first time, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy joined a meeting of more than 50 defense leaders from around the world Wednesday to make a personal pitch for military aid, in the face of lagging political support in the U.S. and new pressure on allies to send weapons to bolster Israel's war with Hamas.

His presence underscored growing concerns about cracks in what has been staunch international backing for Kyiv in its war against Russia's invasion, and worries that Ukrainian forces haven't made measurable progress in the counteroffensive, as winter closes in. "Next Monday, we will mark the 600th day of

our resistance to Russia's full scale aggression against our people, against Ukraine. And today, no one can say for sure how many more days we will have to defend our independence and to defend our identity," Zelenskyy told the gathering as they opened the meeting. "But we can already say several things which I think are important. First, Putin will not achieve Ukraine. Second, Russia cannot afford a new arms race. And third, democracy can win this battle."

The meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, hosted by the U.S., comes as Ukraine is desperately seeking more weapons to help its troops regain ground from the Russian forces before the muddy weather sets in.



Medical personnel attend a wounded victim after earthquake in Herat.

Germany to send \$1.1 billion in air defense tech, plus more tanks

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: Germany will send about €1 billion (U.S. \$1.1 billion) worth of air defense systems to Ukraine as part of a second "winter package" for the embattled country, the German Defence Ministry said in a statement Tuesday.

The support will include a Patriot air defense system and two IRIS-T surface-to-air systems, as

US talking to Israel, Egypt about safe passage for Gaza civilians: White House

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The U.S. is talking with Israel and Egypt about the idea of a safe passage for Gaza civilians as Israel strikes the enclave after a deadly Hamas attack over the weekend, U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan said on Tuesday.

29 killed in army strike on refugee camp in Myanmar

Monitoring Desk
BANGKOK: Twenty-nine people were killed and dozens wounded in a military strike on a camp for displaced people in northern Myanmar, a spokesman for an ethnic rebel group that controls the area said on Tuesday. Myanmar's junta has been accused of carrying out multiple bloody attacks on civilian targets as it struggles to quell resistance to its 2021 coup.

The latest attack happened around 11:30pm on Monday (1700 GMT),

Hezbollah says US is 'responsible' for attacks in Israel

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group on Wednesday blasted the United States for its support of Israel, saying that sending an aircraft carrier to the region "will not scare our people or the resistance movements that are ready for the confrontation."

Hezbollah said that the U.S. "is a full partner of the Zionist aggression and is responsible for the killings, crimes, siege, the destruction of homes and horrifying crimes against innocent civilians."

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OIC's special envoy asks India to reverse illegal change of Jammu & Kashmir's status

ISLAMABAD (APP): Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Special Envoy on Jammu and Kashmir, Yousef M Al-Dobeay, demanded India to reverse its illegal and unilateral action of changing the autonomous status of J&K and grant the people of the valley their due rights.

In a joint press stake-out along with Foreign Secretary Syrus Sajjad Qazi here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the visiting OIC envoy said the OIC would continue to support Kashmiris for their right to self-determination.

The OIC's Special Envoy is in Pakistan and will also visit Azad Jammu and Kashmir to undertake a first-hand assessment of the human rights and the

humanitarian situation in the valley.

Yousef Al-Dobeay expressed concern over the illegal and unilateral actions taken by India on August 5, 2019, that turned the Kashmiris into a marginalized minority.

He said his visit to AJ&K was about getting knowledge about the factual and on-ground situation in the valley ahead of the upcoming 15th OIC Islamic Summit to be held in Gambia this December.

He mentioned that Jammu and Kashmir was an old agenda at the platform of OIC, where the organization from time to time strongly condemned the human rights situation in the Indian-held Kashmir.

The OIC envoy re-

called that the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir that met on the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September reaffirmed the inalienable right to self-determination of the people of J&K.

He said the meeting also expressed deep concern over the persistent curbs on the fundamental rights and freedom of the people in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The OIC envoy appreciated the government of Pakistan in highlighting the issue of Jammu and Kashmir at the international fora and expressed the OIC's resolve of its continued support to the cause.

To support breast cancer awareness drive President writes letters to Caretaker PM, Governors, Chief Ministers

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has written letters to Caretaker Prime Minister, Caretaker Ministers, Governors and Caretaker Chief Ministers, seeking their cooperation over the breast cancer awareness drive and wearing of pink ribbon during the month of October.

The president also sent letters to President and Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Senators and Governor and Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan in this regard, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Wednesday.

He said that the month

of October was dedicated every year to create awareness about breast cancer.

The president observed that their cooperation over public awareness would yield tangible results. With public awareness, they could play their parts in transforming a healthy and well-aware society.

He said breast cancer in Pakistan caused about 40,000 deaths every year which was the highest ratio in Asia, adding delayed diagnosis was the main cause of these deaths.

Awareness about self-examination could save many lives, he added.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of politicians from Balochistan led by former Chief Minister Dr. Abdul Malik called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

907 local bodies are functional in Balochistan: Domki assures every possible support to LG institutions

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that it's need of the hour to strengthen local government (LG) institutions as their role is critical in resolving basic issues of the masses.

He assured that the interim provincial government would extend every possible support and facilities to the LG institutions remaining in its jurisdictions.

This was stated by the Chief Minister while chairing the meeting of Local Council Grant Committee (LCGC) here on Wednesday.

The meeting discussed the matters related to the Local Council Finance Commission in detail.

It was informed that in all 907 local bodies institutions are functional in the province.

It was informed that around 11,000 local bodies representatives have been elected in the province.

However, LG elections are yet to be conducted in Quetta district.

In addition to this, the meeting was also briefed about the issues related to LCGC, distribution of funds and proposed distribution formula in this regard.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister directed to the concerned authorities to improve the municipal services so as to rid the people of civic problems.

He also directed to present report of performance in next review meeting.

Mr. Domki also directed to launch special drive for removal of the garbage from all zones of Quetta city for desired funds have been released.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Farooq Ahmed Naek, Chairman Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and members of the Committee in a group photo with a delegation led by Ambassador Yousef Mohammed S. Aldobeay, Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs/Special Envoy of the OIC Secretary General for Jammu and Kashmir at Parliament House.

Solangi says: CPEC bolsters people-to-people contacts between Pakistan-China

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi Wednesday said the launch of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had not only deepened the economic cooperation between the two brotherly countries but also bolstered people-to-people contacts in a remarkable way.

"Over 28,000 Pakistani students were currently studying in China. This aspect of cooperation is of prime importance in the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative," the minister said while addressing the Art Exhibition & Cultural Show at Pakistan National Council of Arts.

Since the launch of CPEC, he said people-to-people connectivity between Pakistan and China had soared to new heights.

In Pakistan, the minister said the number of

Chinese language learners was growing exponentially with the establishment of Confucius institutes in top universities like the University of Punjab, NUML University and others.

Likewise, Pakistani students also visited Chinese government scholarships to learn Chinese language and do professional degrees/diplomas, he added. He said similarly artists from Pakistan and China frequently exchanged visits to showcase their artwork in each other's countries through art exhibitions. In the Joint Statement of the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (2022), he said both sides reiterated the importance of people-to-people contacts, tourism cooperation and cultural exchanges for strong bilateral relations.

Building on the MoU on Tourism Exchanges and

Cooperation signed in November 2021, Solangi said the two sides agreed to celebrate the Pakistan-China Year of Tourism Exchanges in 2023 and to establish strong linkages between the tourism promotion agencies and private enterprises of the two countries.

The minister said in May 2023, the Pakistan-China joint exhibition at the Palace Museum featured 173 Gandhara artifacts from Pakistani museums, promoting shared heritage and cultural exchange between the two nations, fostering cultural cooperation and offering insights into Pakistan's heritage for the general public and Chinese scholars.

"These exchanges are not new. In fact, from 138 B.C. until our modern age, the Silk Road has managed to represent one of the longest-established and permanent hubs for exchange.

Home Minister concerned about selling petrol without precautionary measures

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain @ Mir Zubair Jamali has expressed concern about selling petrol in small localities and streets without adopting necessary precautionary measures and directed to take stern action against those involved in the practice.

This situation can cause major mishap causing destruction at the local settlements.

The Minister Home was speaking to a delegation who called on him under leadership of the country manager of a private petroleum company, Syed Muhammad Hasnain, here on Wednesday.

During the course of meeting, delegation pointed out that the private petrol pumps have been selling petrol without precautionary measures in the small localities and streets of the province.

On this, Minister Home directed the concerned authorities to take stern action against those selling petrol without preventive measures as per the law.

ZAC stage dharna against power load shedding, QESCO operation

Independent Report
QUETTA: Zamindars belonging to Quetta and different other parts of the province took out protest rally and staged dharna in the provincial metropolis on Wednesday.

Led by the Chairman Balochistan Zamindars Action Committee, Malik Nasser Shahwani, the farmers marched through Jail road and Jaffar Khan Jamali road from the Ayub Stadium to reach the Fayyaz sunbal Chowk on way to the Quetta press club.

However, they staged dharna right at the Fayyaz Sunbal Chowk for couple of hours before the interim Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai approached and convinced them to end protest.

On the assurance that their problems would be resolved and demands would be met, the zamindars ended their protest.

Earlier, the zamindars gathered at the Ayub stadium for protest.

Never compromised on ideological stance, says Rahim Ziaratwal

Independent Report
LORALAI: Despite our sacrifices for democracy and rule of law in Pakistan, we are being punished. As a political party we have contributed our part in upholding the doctrines of Parliamentary supremacy and Rule of Law. Unfortunately, our party has always been severely punished and our blood has been shed, said Pashoonkhwa Milli Awami Party General Secretary Abdul Rahim Ziaratwal on Wednesday.

Ziaratwal was addressing a seminar organised in Loralai on Wednesday in remembrance of 40th and 33rd anniversary of the martyrs. On 7th October 1983, Mehmood Khan Achakzai, Chairman Pashoonkhwa Milli Awami Party, was leading a rally against the tyrannical Zia's dictatorial regime and police opened fire on them. In attempt to save the chairman, four party workers laid their lives. Likewise, on 11th October 1991, six party workers were martyred in an attack on party's office in 1991.

Ziaratwal said that our stance on Parliamentary Democracy, Parliamentary Supremacy, Rule of Law, and parity amongst the different ethnicities living in the country have remained unchanged. He added, the solution to current political turmoil lies in strict adherence to Civilian supremacy and empowering federating units.

Ziaratwal reiterating party's political role in country's politics said that our chairman, Mehmood Khan Achakzai, has always unequivocally stated the truth and remained steadfast in the adherence to the constitutional principles. Our political stance has now become the stance of all major political parties.

Though we had some reservations on the constitution, we believe the solution to run this federation lies in the full implementation of the constitution.

Governor visits DMJ, inaugurates library in campus of LUAWMS

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar visited Dera Murad Jamali on Wednesday.

During the visit, he went to the campus of Lasbela university of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences.

He went round different parts of the Campus of LUAWMS and inaugurated the central library there.

Also present on the occasion were the Vice Chancellor of Lasbela University, Professor Dr Dost Muhammad Baloch and his Principal secretary, Hashim Khan Ghilzai besides other concerned high ups.

MoU signed to electrify New Gwadar International Airport

GWADAR (INP): To provide electricity to the new Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) through the national grid, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has officially been signed between the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) and Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO).

Under the MoU, approximately 12 MW of electricity will be provided to the New Gwadar International Airport by October 17, fulfilling its 24-hour electricity needs without interruption.

The MoU states that commercial tariffs will be charged based on electricity usage. On special directives from the Ministry of Planning, Quetta Electric Supply Company, which handles power supply across Baluchistan, has approved 12 MW to electrify NGIA.

A QESCO official told Gwadar Pro that testing and commissioning has been completed, with all required equipment like poles, transmission lines, and electrical circuits aligned to the installed power system.

To ensure uninterrupted electricity, 12 MW will be available to NGIA around the clock through three transmission lines.

Sohail Nasir appointed Dy Chairman NAB

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sohail Nasir, former judge of Lahore High Court, has been appointed as Deputy Chairman while Syed Ihtesham Qadir Shah has been appointed Prosecutor General of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).



KACHHI: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar being briefed by Deputy Commissioner Captain (retd) Jumma Dad Khan Mandokhail during his visit.

Cabinet gives green signal for auction of 5G spectrum: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif Wednesday said that the Federal Cabinet has given the green signal for the auction of the much-anticipated 5G spectrum.

Dr. Saif in a statement said that a Spectrum Auction Advisory Committee, led by the finance minister, had been established to oversee the impending spectrum auction.

He said that this committee included members from the Ministry of Information Technology, Telecommunication and the Ministry of Industries and Production.

The eagerly awaited 5G spectrum is set to make 300 Megahertz of spectrum available, with the potential to revolutionize Pakistan's telecommunication landscape, he added.

Dr. Saif emphasized that a consultant would soon be appointed through the Pakistan Telecommuni-

cation Authority (PTA) to ensure a smooth and efficient spectrum auction process.

He said that the federal cabinet had also approved the sharing of telecommunications infrastructure, a move hailed as business-friendly for telecom companies, expected to lead to substantial cost reductions.

He said that this infrastructure-sharing arrangement would enable telecom companies to install their equipment on each other's towers, optimizing operational and maintenance costs.

Dr. Saif noted that this shift was anticipated to bring about a significant reduction in expenses for telecom firms, ultimately making telecommunications services more cost-effective.

Additionally, the installation of new towers is projected to yield substantial cost savings, potentially amounting to billions of rupees, he added.

WB delegation calls on Chairman WAPDA

ISLAMABAD (APP): A four-member World Bank delegation, headed by South Asia Region Practice Manager for Energy Simon Stolp on Wednesday called on Chairman WAPDA Engr Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd).

The delegation was briefed about progress on the World Bank-funded WAPDA projects, which included the Dasu Hydropower Project, the Tarbela 5th Extension Hydropower Project and Tarbela Floating Solar Panel Project, said a press release.

NAB, UoB collaborate to combat corruption through students

Independent Report
QUETTA: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan hosted a seminar at the University of Balochistan, to foster awareness and a strong aversion to corruption among the students.

The seminar, themed "Engaging Students in the Fight Against Corruption," was essentially acted as an educational platform, motivating students to come together in their anti-corruption efforts. Subsequently, a significant number of students took part in an awareness walk that followed the event.

Mrs. Zainab, the Dean of the Faculty of Management and Information Sciences, alongside faculty members, staff, and a significant number of students attended the seminar.

Addressing the students, Khawar Ilyas, Director of NAB (Balochistan), emphasized the workings and procedures of NAB and underscored the importance of students in the fight against corruption.

He emphasized the need for a collective effort to combat this societal issue for more effective results.

Otherwise, this problem will corrode society from the inside. He highlighted the impactful ways in which students can contribute to fostering a transparent and accountable society.

Mrs. Zainab, the Head of the Management Sciences Department, expressed her thoughts on the subject.

Director NAB provided comprehensive responses to the inquiries and questions posed by the young students.

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Pakistan committed to interrupt Poliovirus circulation: Dr Nadeem

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Wednesday said that Pakistan steadfastly committed to interrupt Poliovirus circulation and join the ranks of polio-free countries. Addressing the session of the Polio Eradication of 70th WHO Regional Committee meeting in Cairo, Dr. Nadeem Jan said that Pakistan has made great strides against polio. The minister said that Pakistan Polio Program had taken concerted measures to improve campaign quality and vaccine uptake in the endemic districts such as fractional IPV campaigns to boost immunity and offering pluses such as soaps to promote hygiene.

He said through effective case response, Pakistan has prevented the virus from establishing circulation outside the endemic zone.

All-age vaccination is being conducted on the Pakistan side along the Pakistan-Afghan border. In the security compromised areas, alternate strategies are being employed such as ring-fencing vaccination and a special campaign to offer polio and routine immunization to children in 69 most vulnerable UCs of southern KP, he told.

The minister said that Pakistan was committed to protecting its children from poliomyelitis and was also mindful of its obligations under the International Health Regulations. This commitment exists across the board, he added.

The minister said that the Prime Minister had very recently chaired a meeting of the National Task Force and inaugurated a nationwide polio campaign. As per the GPEI Strategy 2022-2026, Pakistan has also started planning for transition, by collecting requisite data as per global standards such as physical verification of assets."