

Independent

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www.dailyindependent.com.pk Hub

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XVIII No. 287, Rabi-us-Sani 01, 1445 AH Tuesday October 17, 2023, Pages 08, Price Rs.15



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over meeting of Provincial Cabinet

Allah and then federal Govt can steer province out of financial crisis: Govt serious in restoring peace; endeavouring hard to improve governance, CM Domki

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has categorically stated that the interim provincial government is serious in restoring peace in the province and endeavouring hard to improve governance. He said that Allah Almighty and then federal government can steer the province from the financial crisis. The caretaker Chief Minister was speaking to select group of media persons at the Chief Minister secretariat on Monday. He spoke at different topics and issues facing the province and shared his heart-out with the media persons. Mr. Domki noted with contentment that prices of petrol and petroleum products have been reduced considerably, which would have good impact on the economy. He also said that the caretaker federal government has taken certain important initiatives for bringing improvement in the economy. As a result of these measures, the prices of dollar, gold and iron are getting decreased. Now the transporters should also decrease the fares

of transport so that the public may benefit from it. Referring the labourers killing in Turbat, the caretaker Chief Minister said that he is grieved over the killing of labourers saying that it is not tradition of Balochistan. He, however, asserted that the government is very serious about it and as such stern action would be taken against those involved in it. He said that there is an issue of law and order in the province, however, insha Allah there would be improvement in it. He admitted that surely there was negligence of administration in Turbat incident. In that incident, SSP Kech has been suspended, adding he mentioned. He also said that he is going Turbat soon where he would see the circumstances there. He said that we have enforced section 144 for good of all. Regarding rehabilitation of the flood affected people, the caretaker Chief Minister said that work would be started for their rehabilitation soon.

Pakistan committed to CPEC as 'corridor of socio-economic growth': PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has expressed the country's commitment to jointly building the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), saying the project has transformed the socio-economic landscape of Pakistan. "The CPEC has transformed the socio-economic landscape of Pakistan, upgrading modern infrastructure, enhancing regional connectivity, ensuring energy security, and creating jobs," the prime minister wrote in his article published in Global Times China.

PM Kakar, who is set to participate in the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in China on October 17-18 which marks the completion of a decade of the Belt

and Road Initiative (BRI), said Pakistan endorses China's vision of CPEC as a corridor of growth. As the flagship project of the BRI, he said, CPEC marks a milestone in Pakistan-China relations by placing "economic cooperation and connectivity at the very center of the bilateral agenda", making the two countries more interconnected. "We fully endorse China's proposal of developing the CPEC as a corridor of growth, livelihood, innovation, greenness, and openness - representing our two countries' preference for a human-centric approach, inclusivity, and green development," he said.

The prime minister said Pakistan and China as close friends, strategic partners, and iron brothers, are moving forward

toward a destiny of shared future.

"The tale of China-Pakistan relations is not an ordinary one. It is an account of brotherhood, friendship, and trust, the foundations of which were laid more than 70 years ago," he said.

Kakar said the timeless Pakistan-China partnership and deep-rooted friendship serve the interests of both countries and remain the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy.

He said Pakistan and its people, with absolute confidence, value the relationship greatly, and proudly call China as best friend. It is heart-warming that in China, the term "Ba Tie" meaning Iron Brother is reserved only for Pakistan, he added.

He termed the historical evolution of the Paki-

stan-China relationship amid the evolving regional and global developments as an "exemplary model of inter-state relationship".

"The unique relationship of more than seven decades, underpinned by the rationale of strong political support, mutual trust, and all-round practical cooperation, has matured into a strong strategic partnership," he said.

The prime minister paid tribute to the vision and statesmanship of President Xi Jinping who propounded the vision of building a global community of shared future, a new idea for global governance and cooperation, and a fresh approach toward international exchanges, thus drawing up a new blueprint for a better interconnected world. He quoted Zhou Enlai,

China's first premier, who once said that "the friendly interactions between the peoples of China and Pakistan date back to the dawn of history" and mentioned in this regard the historic links such as the Silk Road and Gandhara civilization.

The prime minister said Pakistan was a pioneering member of the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative (GDI) proposed by President Xi Jinping and played an active role in giving it a more concrete shape.

"As the first one to ink a Memorandum of Understanding on the GDI, Pakistan stands ready to benefit from this cooperation in areas of education, healthcare, climate change, and poverty reduction," he said.



BEIJING: Mr. Wang Zhigang, Minister of Science & Technology of China receiving Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar upon his arrival.

Caretaker PM arrives in China to attend 3rd Belt and Road Forum

BEIJING (Online): Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has arrived in China to participate in the '3rd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.' He was received by Chinese Minister of Science & Technology, Wang Zhigang, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong and Ambassador of Pakistan to China Moin-ul-Haq.

The Prime Minister is undertaking the visit at the invitation of China's President Xi Jinping. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation including members of the cabinet and senior government officials.

The Prime Minister will attend the Opening Ceremony of the BRF and address the High-Level Forum titled 'Connectivity in an Open Global Economy' to be held on 18 October 2023.

The Prime Minister will hold bilateral meetings with President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and Mr. Li Xi, member of the Standing Committee of Politburo of CPC Central Committee.

Gas tariff likely to be increased by 100pc on IMF demand

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan caretaker government is likely to jack up gas tariff by 100pc on the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) demand, sources said Monday.

According to sources knowing the matter, the IMF demanded an increase in gas tariff from up to 100pc before the next economic review to curtail circular debt in the gas sector.

Sources said the shortfall of Rs185 billion will be added to the circular debt of the gas sector if the gas tariff is not increased. The current circular debt of the gas sector is touching Rs2,700 billion.

Pakistan, Iran, Egypt agree for steps to prevent Gaza conflict escalation

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister for Foreign Affairs Jalil Abbas Jilani on Monday telephonically spoke to his counterparts from Iran and Egypt and discussed the crisis in Gaza including the killing of civilians.

The foreign minister, in the conversation with Iranian counterpart Hossien Amir Abdollahian also discussed the large-scale displacement of the Palestinians from their homes.

Both sides agreed that urgent steps were needed to prevent conflict from escalating and the provision of humanitarian assistance.

As part of efforts for a coordinated response to ongoing conflict in Gaza, Foreign Minister Jilani also spoke to the Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shukri.

In the conversation, the stressed preventing conflict from escalating, protecting civilians from collective punishment, starvation and displacement.

The foreign minister also assured of Pakistan's humanitarian assistance.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanging views with Ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Maliki at Naval headquarter.

Reshuffling in civil bureaucracy continues Rashid Razzaq posted as PS to CM, Saboor Kakar as ACS Development

QUETTA: The reshuffling in senior civil bureaucracy remained continued as some senior officers serving on the key positions were removed giving new responsibilities on Monday.

According to an official notification issued here on Monday, the Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Lal Jan Jaffar has been transferred and posted as the Secretary Planning Department while Rashid Razzaq, awaiting posting orders, has been posted as Principal Secretary to Chief Minister.

Similarly, the senior Member Board of Revenue, Abdul Saboor Kakar has been posted as Additional Chief Secretary Development while his predecessor,

Hafiz Abdul Basit has been directed to report in the Services and General administration department.

Moreover, Secretary Finance, Zahid Saleem has been transferred and posted as Additional Chief Secretary Home while Secretary Fisheries department, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir has been posted as senior Member Board of Revenue.

Syed Faisal Agha, who was also awaiting posting order, has been posted as secretary S&GSD while his predecessor Babar Khan has been posted as the Secretary Finance and ACS Home, Saleh Muhammad Nasar has been transferred and posted as Secretary Secondary Education department while his predecessor,

Farrukh Habib quits PTI, joins IPP

LAHORE (INP): Another key politician of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and former minister Farrukh Habib announced to quit the party on Monday.

According to details, Farrukh Habib who was considered one of the close aides of PTI Chairman Imran Khan during the last regime also announced to join the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP). arrukhabib had disappeared for the last several months and suddenly appeared before the media and announced separating his ways with Imran Khan in a press conference.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Ministers Dr. Ameer Muhammad Khan Jozegai, Jan Achakzai and Prof. Qadir Baloch exchanging views during a meeting

Minister Information Jan Achakzai shares detail of decisions: Interim Balochistan cabinet strongly slams Turbat labourers killings; vows to take terrorists to task

Cabinet chaired by Mir Ali Mardan Domki expresses concern over Palestine situation; urges UN to intervene immediately; approves formation of Information Commission under Right to Information Act; okays grant of Rs. 780 million for restoration of power to farmers

Independent Report

QUETTA: The interim cabinet of Balochistan has strongly condemned the incident of brutal killing of six labourers in Turbat city of Kech. The cabinet has pledged to take the terrorists involved in the brutality to task at every cost.

Moreover, the cabinet also expressed grave concern over the situation of Palestine and showed solidarity with the people of Palestine against the Israel's barbarism and urged the

world community especially the United Nations to intervene in the Palestine issue immediately.

This and other details were shared by the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai while addressing a hurriedly called press conference soon after the meeting of provincial cabinet here at the Chief Minister's secretariat on Monday.

Sharing the details of decisions and other related matters discussed in the cabinet's meeting, Jan Achakzai said that the cabi-

net met with the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki in the chair.

He said that the cabinet strongly condemned the incident of terrorism took place in Turbat that claimed lives of six labourers on Saturday last.

He said that the government would take stern action against those involved in the terrorism incident.

He said that the terrorists involved in the brutality would be taken to task at every cost. No one would be spared in this terrorism act, he vowed.

Jan Achakzai said that the cabinet also expressed serious concern over the situation of Palestine and urged the international community including United Nations to intervene in it immediately.

Oman Army commander lauds Pakistan's efforts for regional peace

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commander Royal Army of Oman, Major General Matar bin Salim bin Rashid Al-Balushi called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir at the General Headquarters (GHQ) on Monday.

The visiting dignitary lauded the Pakistan Army's achievements in the fight against terrorism and continued efforts for regional peace and stability, an In-

ter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest were discussed.

Earlier on arrival at the GHQ, the Commander Royal Army of Oman laid a wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Army presented the guard of honour to the dignitary.

Solangi vows level-playing field to political parties in electoral process

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday said it was the caretaker's government responsibility to ensure level-playing field for all the registered political parties during the whole electoral process.

In a meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Information Minister, Solangi said "it was a shared responsibility of the caretaker set up to assist the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in carrying out the whole electoral exercise across the country".

Both the Information Ministers discussed matters related to mutual interests including the upcoming general election, media cooperation between federal and provincial information departments and pathways for capacity building of journalists. They also discussed a plan to train Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's information officers in the Information Services Academy (ISA) here at Islamabad.

During the meeting, the Federal Minister said it was the need of hour to tackle current era challenges by imparting trainings to the officers and officials of the information departments on modern lines.

The scope of the Ministry of Information has widened in the new era, and it is essential to harness the full potential of modern information systems in contemporary times, he added.

Solangi said his ministry would provide all possible cooperation to strengthen the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Relations Department along new lines.

In accordance with the mandate of the caretaker federal government, all-possible cooperation would be extended for better working environment with the provincial departments, he added.

Journalists' Welfare Endowment Fund rules were crucial for the welfare of journalists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Murtaza Solangi said, adding the fraternity had to perform duties in tough situations.

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

DAYS REMAINING

14

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QUETTA: Caretaker Home Minister Captain (Retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali addressing a ceremony held in connection with Disaster Risk Reduction Day

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Rogue nation

A recent assassination — the latest in a spate of similar killings from Karachi to Kashmir — has turned the spotlight onto what has seemed, for quite a while, to be an organised campaign overseen by a hostile intelligence agency to murder individuals on Pakistani soil.

In the last two months alone, there have been at least four targeted killings that have, either directly or indirectly, been attributed by police to India's foreign intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing.

In each case, armed assailants tracked, targeted and killed individuals associated in various capacities with different religious outfits.

However, after the most recent incident, in which a former activist of the outlawed Jaish-e-Muhammad was killed, along with two others, in a Daska mosque on Wednesday, police and intelligence agencies were quicker to react. Within 24 hours of the incident, they claimed to have busted a network involved in carrying out a vendetta for a 'rogue nation'. Even if the Punjab police chief, who made the announcement of the arrests, desisted from taking names, it did not take much imagination to conclude that it was India his finger was pointing to.

Indian media have reported that the slain man, Mohammad Shahid Latif, was suspected by New Delhi of having facilitated the attack on an Indian Air Force base in Pathankot in 2016.

However, there seems to be little evidence to substantiate this allegation, and no link was ever made public tying Latif to the Pathankot incident.

Indeed, the murders of Latif and the others before him would seem, on the face of it, to be part of an international campaign that also saw the high-profile killing of Sikh nationalist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Surrey, Canada, in June this year. The Canadian government has said it has evidence of Indian involvement in the murder; and now Pakistan is claiming the same.

It would seem as if New Delhi wants anyone whom it suspects has played a role in any one of the nationalist movements active within the territories under its control killed. But India cannot go around murdering people in other countries with impunity. There must be severe consequences imposed on it. It is also pertinent to ask our own authorities how they could let so many individuals be murdered on Pakistani soil before a network apparently being run by an enemy power was finally busted. Pre-empting such attacks is a core task for counter-intelligence officials responsible for the nation's security, and as such, it is their responsibility to ensure that Pakistan's enemies do not use its soil to carry out vendetta killings. Nothing can be more embarrassing for them than the enemy managing to infiltrate the country while they are busy dealing with domestic issues they legally and technically have no business being involved in.

All-Weather Friendship: The Evolving Pak-China Relationship

By A.R Ansari

Pakistan and China's relationship is often referred to as an "all-weather friendship" owing to strong political, economic, and military ties. This friendship has evolved over several decades, based on mutual interests and cooperation in the fields of economic development, military and defense, and infrastructure projects, cultural exchanges and people-to-people contacts have also grown, with an increasing number of Pakistani students studying in China and a surge in Chinese expatriates living and working in Pakistan. Despite the strong ties, there have been challenges in the Pakistan-China relationship like concerns about the terms and conditions of Chinese loans and investments under CPEC, owing to Pakistan's growing debt burden and security concerns in the border region.

China has been a staunch ally of Pakistan at international forums, particularly on issues related to Kashmir. China has supported Pakistan's stance on the Kashmir conflict and has shielded Pakistan from diplomatic isolation in the United Nations and other international organizations. China is holding its third Belt and Road forum in Beijing where representatives from over 130 countries are joining to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a massive infrastructure and economic development project initiated by China. It aims to create a network of roads, railways, ports, and other infrastructure that connects China to Europe, Africa, and other parts of Asia. CPEC is a flagship project of the BRI initiative—a collection of infrastructure projects that include the construction of highways, railways, pipelines, and the development of the strategic Gwadar Port. The world has witnessed in 1979, one of the world's highest and most spectacular international road connections

Karakoram Highway as evidence of all-weather friendship, that connects Pakistan and China, making it one of the world's highest and most challenging engineering feats. The Karakoram Highway holds strategic significance, providing China with access to the Arabian Sea via Gwadar, very essential for China's energy and trade interests. The Karakoram Highway stretches for approximately 1,300 kilometers (810 miles) from HasanAbdal near Islamabad to the Chinese city of Kashgar in Xinjiang. The Karakoram highway is subject to harsh weather conditions, especially in the winter, and has faced issues such as landslides and road closures due to natural disasters.

Pakistan's Prime Minister, Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar, visit to China sets the stage for a new era for CPEC projects, particularly in the acceleration of the Thakot-Raikot section—a critical segment of the Karakoram Highway, known for its sharp bends and limitations. It is poised for an overhaul, of state-of-the-art tunnels, for reducing travel time and enhancing safety. The road classification will be advanced from Class 4 to Class 2, signaling an upgrade in its quality and the permitted speed limit will be increased, promising swifter and more efficient travel. This development extends beyond mere travel enhancements. It holds the potential to revolutionize cargo transport, making it more efficient and cost-effective. The improved road network will support heavier cargo loads, streamlining the transportation of goods with greater ease and efficiency. The Karakoram Highway looms as a prominent highlight of this historic partnership. It signifies more than just a road; it's a symbol of friendship, cooperation, and a shared vision for a brighter, more interconnected future.

The Highway Research & Training Centre also stands as one of the pivotal projects, prominently taking center stage as the primary highlight of Prime Minister Kakar's visit. A promising Joint Research Program is envisioned with the Government of China from 2023 to 2027, aiming to foster collaboration and innovation in various domains of highway engineering. A formal memorandum of joint research extension will be finalized and entered into during the PM's visit to China. This program aims to foster collaboration and innovation in various domains of highway engineering. The extension is poised to be a cornerstone of the cooperation in the road infrastructure while the National Highway Authority is a vanguard of such cooperation. It is agreed to construct the Highway Research and Training Center spread over 530 acres by a Chinese Contractor/ Consultant under a Chinese Grant of Rs.15 billion. It includes infrastructure, a Test track, and indoor and outdoor lab equipment which will be handed over to NHA for operation after completion and required training. Various research Projects in Reclaimed Asphalt, Bridges and Tunnelling, training and degree courses in China, development of engineering design manuals and standards for Pakistan are some of the key target areas of this project.

Pakistan-China relationship is poised to continue evolving, adapting to the ever-changing global landscape. With a shared commitment to deepening ties and fostering enduring peace, this friendship remains a cornerstone of stability in a rapidly shifting world. Pakistan and China are not just strategic allies but genuine friends, encouraging a legacy of collaboration that continues to shape the future. The Pakistan-China relationship serves as a compelling case study of how nations can accomplish prosperity and progress through resolute partnership, surpassing borders and generating a conduit to a happier future for all.

Beyond 'restraint'



Huma Yusuf

China last week issued a statement on the Israel-Palestine war, calling, noncommittally, for restraint on all sides and an end to hostilities. There was no condemnation of Hamas's atrocities or of Israel's response against Gaza's civilian population. This is the latest example of Chinese non-interference and a manifestation of its Global Civilisation Initiative (GCI), Beijing's latest strategic push that could in the long run have more influence on its allies, including Pakistan, than the much-touted BRI.

China has in the past called for Palestinian statehood, and even in last week's statements evoked the two-state solution as the only way out of the Israel-Palestine quagmire. At the same time, Israel and China have in recent years deepened economic and political ties, with China in 2021-22 replacing the US as Israel's main source of imports. China's role in the diplomatic rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia also had a bearing on Israeli political calculations vis-à-vis Beijing; it had manoeuvred itself into a position to influence Israeli security.

China's forays into the Middle East may have been part of its Global Security Initiative, launched in 2022, in an effort to rebalance the international world order, tipping power away from the US and other Western countries towards China and Russia. But Beijing's choice not to speak out forcefully

against either Hamas or Israel is a reflection of its GCI, introduced in March this year, which privileges state-defined values over those — such as human rights — that have been posited in global governance as universal.

The GCI is a direct critique of Western efforts to implement a world order according to Westernised norms, particularly the absolutism around human rights and democracy. The GCI instead acknowledges "peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom" as "common aspirations" rather than fundamental rights. China argues that these issues and the way they are embedded in states and societies are 'relative', rooted in local history and culture, and cannot be universally mandated. In a dig against the US in particular, which for years tried to impose its values of democracy and human rights — forcefully, if necessary, despite the ironies — the Chinese do not believe in imposing one country's models on another.

Many international observers have understood the GCI as a way for the Chinese government to justify why it won't condemn or attempt to stop bad behaviour, whether that be human rights violations within or beyond its borders or state conduct in conflict scenarios. The idea of relativism offers Beijing a way out: a conceptually and strategically grounded ability to dismiss egregious acts as culturally and contextually rooted, and therefore indigenous and worthy of respect rather than disruption. And so despite the challenges of balancing engagement in the Middle East context, China will try, its GSI and GCI flags waving over its effort.

These initiatives are unlikely to get centre stage at the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation taking place in Beijing. This meeting will laud the achievements of the Belt and Road Initiative, of which CPEC was a major pillar, and which is celebrating its 10th anniversary. The gathering is expected to look ahead to a new era for BRI, which is more green, more inclusive, and more sustainable from a debt perspective for recipients of projects.

But many have described this week's BRI forum as a swan song for a project that never reached its lofty ambitions. A 2021 study conducted by research lab AidData found that 35 per cent of BRI projects have been plagued by controversies such as corruption, excessive debt and labour exploitation. The Global South's call for BRI investment has in recent years been replaced with calls for debt forgiveness, as it transpired that the lending terms were burdensome. Many projects, including numerous SEZs remain as part of CPEC, remain unbuilt, incomplete or underutilised.

The petering out of the initiative would not mean that the era of Chinese influence is waning, however. Beijing's current strategies, including the GCI, may have a more lasting impact on Pakistan's state and society than infrastructure investment ever could. While China itself pursues its balancing act in the Middle East, it can reconcile with a Pakistan that supports Gaza, but does not criticise China's treatment of its Uighur population, or introspect about the plight of its own religious minorities. A new global order that hesitates to challenge states' worst instincts will be equally, if not more, oppressive than the one that came before. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

People welcome relief in POL prices; ask for inflation-ease

ISLAMABAD (APP): People from different walks of life on Monday welcomed the government's decision to substantially reduce petroleum prices, viewing it as a much-needed relief to counter the adverse effects of high inflation on their daily routines.

In the past, they said whenever petroleum prices increased it resulted in a surge in the prices of essential commodities, public transportation fares, and shipping costs, negatively impacting the common man.

Now, with the government's ample reduction of Rs40 per liter in petrol prices and Rs15 in high-speed diesel, people expect this to have a trickle-down effect on the

prices of everyday items, goods transport, and public transportation fares. Khurram Shahzad, a government employee who commutes daily from Qasim Market Rawalpindi to Islamabad, expressed his concern that public transporters had not lowered their fares despite a significant reduction in petroleum prices.

They had increased fares by almost 300 percent over the past six months, which he said should be revised and brought down.

He urged the Regional Transport Authority to revise and regulate the public transport fares to align them with the reduced petroleum prices.

He also called for the display of revised fare

charts in public transport vehicles to provide maximum relief to the common commuters between the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

The business community also commended the government's decision to reduce petroleum prices, considering it a positive step in combating inflation and providing much-needed relief to the common man throughout the country.

They attributed the positive indicators to the government's zero-tolerance policy against the illicit trade and smuggling of essential commodities and the dollar mafia. These measures led to the strengthening of the local currency against the



HYDERABAD: A large number of motorcyclists at petrol pump after the government reduce the petrol prices.

Investment in digital banking, FinTech, AgriTech beneficial for global investors: Dr. Umar

DUBAI (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Dr. Umar Saif said on Monday that international investors could greatly benefit from investing in Pakistan's digital banking, FinTech, AgriTech, and telecom infrastructure sectors.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the Global Information Technology Exhibition in Dubai, he said international investors can

take advantage of various incentives in Pakistan, including tax concessions and a 100% ownership rights regime.

Running from October 16 to 20, the Dubai Global Exhibition features delegates from 170 countries, representing over 6,000 IT companies.

Dr. Saif said that 85% of Pakistan's population does not have bank accounts and prefers to use cash or alternative means

for transactions. This presents an excellent opportunity for offering suitable digital payment solutions.

The minister said Pakistan is an attractive market for payment companies like PayPal due to its potential for generating billions in revenue.

He also pointed out that Pakistan's strength lies in its youthful population, with 65% of its people under the age of 30.

IIUI, I Bank Al-Falah ink MoU

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) and Bank Alfalah Limited Monday joined hands by signing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for free of cost digital banking.

The MoU is part of the efforts of IIUI President's vision of Students' facilitation, said a press release here.

As per MoU, the Bank Alfalah will provide facility of mobile banking through its app for deposit of dues at IIUI.

The students will also be given a facility of Alfalah wallet that is an E wallet

service to make banking and transactions more easy. The bank will also install special cash deposit machines to facilitate the IIUI community for payment of dues.

Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, President IIUI and Adnan Nasir, Head Digital Payments Bank Alfalah signed MoU on behalf of their respective institutions. Dr. Hathal said that IIUI was committed to promote education and adopt the latest techniques.

He opined that the student's centric approach was cornerstone of the university's leadership's vision.

Facilities at rural revenue centres reviewed

LAHORE (APP): Senior Member Board of Revenue (SMBR) Nabil Javed here Monday chaired a meeting about the provision of facilities at rural centres.

Punjab Land Revenue Authority (PLRA) Director General Saira Umar apprised the meeting about facilities in rural centres such as e-registration, inheritance and online registration of property for foreign nationals. The SMBR congratulated Saira Umar for her excellent performance. Briefing the meeting, Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Director Nazia Jabeen.

PSX holds Gong ceremony to announce building of In-House manufacturing facility

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) held a gong ceremony to announce the building of an in-house manufacturing facility for the Panadol portfolio by Haleon Pakistan Limited, a world-leading Consumer Healthcare Company and a listed company on the Pakistan Stock Exchange.

The gong ceremony was attended by British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott, as the Chief Guest, said a press release on Monday.

The team from the British High Commission and Haleon Pakistan Limited were received at the Stock Exchange by the MD & CEO PSX, Farrukh H. Khan and Board

member(s) PSX along with the Exchange's senior management. The gong was struck by the Chief Guest, Jane Marriott, and the CEO of Haleon Pakistan Limited, Farhan M. Haroon, in the presence of MD and CEO PSX, Farrukh Khan, Board member(s) PSX, the team from the British High Commission and senior management of both Haleon Pakistan and PSX.

Speaking on the occasion, the MD & CEO PSX, Farrukh Khan stated, "I warmly welcome the British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott, her team, the CEO of Haleon Pakistan, Farhan Haroon, and the Haleon Pakistan management team, to PSX."



MULTAN: A labourer busy in spreading rice for drying purpose in the field.

PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 237 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with a bullish trend on Monday and gained 237.88 points, a positive change of 0.48 per cent, closing at 49,731.35 points against 49,493.47 points the previous day.

A total of 467,383,787 shares valuing Rs 14.119 billion were traded during the day as compared to 556,389,862 shares valuing Rs 15.450 billion the previous day.

As many as 359 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 218 of them recorded gains

and 129 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 12 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Ltd with 98,168,338 shares at Rs 3.15 per share, PTCL with 22,603,000 shares at Rs 6.95 per share and Pak Int. Bulk with 22,073,500 shares at Rs 4.59 per share. Nestle Pakistan witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 102.00 per share price, closing at Rs 7,300.00, whereas the runner-up was Philip Morris Pak with a Rs 40.50 rise in its per share price to Rs 580.50.



PESHAWAR: Members of Car Showrooms Association Ring Road are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of influential police officials, held at Peshawar press club.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh says Business community lauds Army Chief's role in economic stabilization

Independent Report KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, said that the business community of Pakistan appreciates the effective, timely and crucial role played by the Army Chief in swiftly reducing economic uncertainty, bringing back stability and fostering positive sentiment in the country. Controlling speculative trading of dollar and putting a stop on its smuggling are

the most effective and meaningful steps in the right direction by COAS, he added.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh recalled that dollar was trading at 336 on 4th September in the open market and today it has come down to 276. In an export-dependent economy like Pakistan, currency depreciation is the mother of all evils as it fuels inflation, increases cost of production.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): The movements of ships was reported at the port where five ships namely, MSC Gina, Maersk Chesapeake, Hafnia Prestige, Jal Kalpavriksh and Horin Trader carrying Containers, Gas oil, Coal and Chemicals, berthed at Container Terminal, Oil Terminal, Bulk Terminal and Engro Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile four more ships, Onyx-1, Gambella, Xin An Ping and Al-Zubarahs scheduled to load/offload Cement, Containers, LNG and Coal also arrived at outer anchorage of the port during last 24 hours.

A total of eight ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a containers ship, Maersk Chesapeake left the port on today morning, while two more ships, MSC Gina and Livarden are expected to sail on today afternoon. Cargo volume of 116,892 tonnes, comprising 79,628 tonnes imports cargo and 37,264 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 2,324 Containers (134 TEUs Imports and 2,192 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

CM Punjab orders reduction in commodity prices and transport fare following petrol price cut

Independent Report
LAHORE: Acting upon the special directives of Punjab's Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, a decision has been made to promptly pass on the benefits of significant reduction in petroleum prices directly to the people of Punjab.

In a pivotal meeting convened at the Chief Minister's Office and presided over by Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, a deadline of 48 hours was set for implementing price reductions. Additionally, the task of reducing transport fares by 10%

was assigned, aligning them proportionally with the lowered petroleum prices.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi instructed the Provincial Transport Minister and Transport Secretary to urgently engage with transporters. Similarly, the Provincial Ministers for Industry and Agriculture, SM Tanvir was entrusted with liaising with Ghee, flour and other relevant associations. Furthermore, agriculture secretary, commissioners, and deputy commissioners were entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing reductions in the prices of essential

commodities. Chief Secretary will conduct regular meetings with Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners to assess the progress of price reduction measures.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi issued directives to Price Control Magistrates and Price Control Committees, urging them to actively contribute to providing relief to the public. He emphasized the necessity of a relentless crackdown on hoarders, ensuring that the benefits of the reduced petroleum prices are equitably distributed among the populace.



KARACHI: Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Mehmet Pacaci called on Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamaran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

CM reviews progress of Band Road controlled access corridor project

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi conducted a morning inspection of the ongoing Controlled Access Corridor project on Band Road.

He meticulously assessed the progress of this significant endeavor, spanning from Niaz Chowk to Babu Sabu. He underscored the importance of ensuring smooth traffic flow on the closed road throughout the construction phase. He emphasized that the Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) should personally oversee operations and

recommended deploying additional traffic wardens.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi promptly ordered the relocation of street lights and poles from the closed roads. He further directed that the poles be removed and re-purposed elsewhere. The Chief Minister set forth a clear directive for the timely completion of the controlled access corridor project. He highlighted that this project would grant immediate motorway access from any corner of Lahore.

ANF seizes 108 kg drugs; arrests three

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country managed to recover 108 kg drugs and arrested three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 24.8 kg hashish was recovered from an accused, resident of Kohat arrested on Super Highway Karachi. On the pointation of the accused, a co-accused, resident of Karachi was also arrested. In another operation at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi Courier Office, ANF recovered 180 grams.

Governor asks teachers to protest without skipping classes

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Governor Punjab Engineer Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman has said that all the right demands of teachers should be heard however, teachers must not skip classes for protests which will hurt students' future.

Talking to APP, he said that teachers are founder of our future and the government will solve their grievances.

He urged teachers to work on recruiting more students at school and help in improving Pakistan's literacy rate.

Responding to a question, he said that Pakistan was heading in the right direction and as a result, Pakistan's economy was improving. He said that the

recent decrease in petrol prices, dollar, and gold rates were indicators of better economic conditions.

Governor Punjab said that an international cricket stadium would be constructed in Bahawalpur.

He said that sports activities must be promoted among youth and more grounds must be made available for them.

Engr Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman said that youth must not indulge in negative ventures and refrain from following anti-state propaganda. He said that political parties must teach their followers respect and acceptance of opposite ideologies.

ICCBS successfully cultivates organic cotton in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Researchers at the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi (UoK) have successfully cultivated multiple generations of cotton in Karachi with low energy costs in a year.

This is the first time Organic Cotton has been grown in Karachi, and this experimental production can be expanded with the support of the federal and

provincial governments in Sindh and Balochistan. ICCBS research team, working under the supervision of Dr. Shahid Mansoor, at the Biotechnology Wing of the HEJ Research Institute of Chemistry was able to grow multiple generations of cotton in Karachi with low energy costs.

In addition, the ICCBS research team has not found any evidence of cotton leaf curl disease or major cotton pests in the product.

NH&MP sets up free eye camp for drivers

HYDERABAD (APP): The National Highway and Motorway Police (NH&MP) set up a free eye camp for the drivers near the Hyderabad toll plaza on the M9 Motorway in Jamshoro district on Monday.

An official informed that during the day-long camp, it surfaced that the drivers of heavy transport vehicles including the public transport vehicles suffered from eye-sight issues and some other ailments of eyes.



LARKANA: Students of Government Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Law College are holding protest demonstration against the examination fee being increased by administration of Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur held at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

Pakistan needs indigenous knowledge-based, local solutions for enhanced climate resilience: Speakers

KARACHI (APP): The Speakers on Monday at a panel discussion on climate action urged the government and departments concerned to join hands for collating and collaborating indigenous knowledge-based solutions for enhanced resilience of the country against adverse impacts of climate change and environmental degradation.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute convened a panel discussion titled Climate Action Panel discussion at the launch of Four thematic Policy Position Papers with members of the academia, civil soci-

ety, journalists and business community.

Opening the panel discussion, Deputy Executive Director, SDPI, Dr. Shafiqat Munir Ahmad briefed the participants on the Four Thematic Policy papers discussing the country's position on climate finance, institutional capacities for climate action, policy frameworks and the Loss and Damage that had been created at the global to provide a platform for reparations to the most impacted countries through climate catastrophes.

Dr Shafiqat Munir said the crisis of climate change

had no boundaries and it impacted all the nations without any distinction.

However, the country was lagging in terms effective implementation of its convincing policy instruments established to cope with the climate disasters.

He underlined that the country had separate ministries of subjects that were equally impacted due to climate change and demanded an intricate and integrated approach.

"We need to align and develop coherence in existing system and ministries to address climate change. The country will also have

to maintain technical climate human resource expert on the subject," he added.

He also pointed out that amid growing vulnerability of the country due to climate change it was needed to revise the national disaster risk reduction (DRR) Policy to set targets and key areas like risk understanding, governance, financing and overall framework for collaboration.

Former VP FPCCI, Member Board of Governors SDPI, Eng MA Jabbar felicitated the institute for successfully compiling the policy papers.

He mentioned that the increase in migration to-

wards urban centers was burdening the existing capacities of those cities leading to economic impact driving climate and financial crisis.

Climate change affecting tools in the country, he said were the power generation plants that had the capacity of 41,000 megawatts (MW) whereas India got 413,000 megawatts plant installed yesterday.

He compared the India and Pakistan coal to energy potential and mentioned that Pakistan had \$183 billion coal reserves which was one of the highest in the world.

International News

Gaza aid stuck as Egypt says Israel not cooperating

Monitoring Desk
ISMAILIA: Egypt said on Monday that Israel was not cooperating with the delivery of aid into Gaza and evacuations of foreign passport holders via the only entry it does not wholly control, leaving hundreds of tonnes of supplies stuck.

Cairo says the Rafah crossing, a potentially vital opening for desperately needed supplies into the besieged Palestinian enclave, is not officially closed but is inoperable due to Israeli air strikes on the Gaza side.

"There is an urgent need to alleviate the suffering of Palestinian civilians

in Gaza," Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry told reporters, adding that talks with Israel had not been fruitful.

"Until now the Israeli government has not taken a position on opening the Rafah crossing from the Gaza side to allow the entrance of assistance and exit of citizens of third countries."

More than 2 million Gazans have been under siege since Israel launched an intense bombardment and blockade in retaliation for an assault by the Hamas Islamist militants.

Two Egyptian security sources had told Reuters a ceasefire in

southern Gaza to last several hours had been agreed for Monday morning to facilitate aid and evacuations at Rafah.

However, Israel denied that.

"There is currently no truce and humanitarian aid in Gaza in exchange for getting foreigners out," a statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said.

Hamas official Izzat El-Reshiq told Reuters the same. On the ground at Rafah, one source said that there had been no bombardments on Monday and that the Egyptian side of the crossing was ready.

Iran says Hamas is ready to release hostages if airstrikes stop

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran's Foreign Ministry said Monday that Hamas potentially was ready to release the nearly 200 hostages it is holding if Israel stops its campaign of airstrikes on the Gaza Strip. The militant group hasn't acknowledged making such an offer.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani spoke at a news conference in Tehran. Iran's theocracy is a main sponsor of Hamas in its fight against Israel, Tehran's regional arch-enemy.

Hamas officials "stated that they are ready to take necessary measures to release the citizens and civilians held by resistant groups, but their point was that such measures require preparations that are impossible under daily bombardment by the Zionists against various parts of Gaza," Kanaani said.

Hamas has said it will trade the captives for thousands of Palestinians held by Israel in the kind of lopsided exchange deals that have been reached in the past.



Palestinians recover a body from under the rubble of a building destroyed in an Israeli airstrike in Khan Yunis in the southern of Gaza Strip.

Russia's Putin speaks to Iran, Israel, Palestinians, Syria and Egypt

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin entered the fevered diplomatic fray of the Middle East on Monday, speaking to five of the major players including Iran and leading Arab powers in an attempt to secure a ceasefire in the war between Israel and Hamas.

Russia, which has relationships with Iran, Hamas, major Arab powers as well as with the Palestinians and with Israel, has repeatedly said the United States and the West have ignored the need for an independent Palestinian state within 1967 borders.

Putin spoke to Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi

and to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad by telephone, the Kremlin said. He also plans to speak to Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, it said.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told Putin that the situation was escalating, that Israeli army actions were "indiscriminate" and that the risk was that Israel would begin a ground operation against Gaza.

"The threat is high that this whole conflict gets out of control," Ryabkov told Putin at a meeting also attended by Russia's spy

chiefs and military leaders. He said that the United States was ultimately responsible for the crisis due to its failed policy in the Middle East and that Washington was blocking a Russian resolution in the UN Security Council.

Putin, who says the West is seeking to cleave Russia apart by supporting Ukraine, says the current violence in the Middle East shows just how far U.S. policy in the region has failed.

Putin will meet Xi Jinping in China this week in a bid to deepen a partnership forged between the United States' two biggest strategic competitors.

France's Macron holds security meeting amid heightened alert after deadly school stabbing

Monitoring Desk
ARRAS: French President Emmanuel Macron held a special security meeting on Monday amid heightened alert against feared terror threats, as a high school where a teacher was fatally stabbed in an attack last week has been evacuated over a bomb threat. Several hundreds of students and teachers went back into the high school in the northern town of Arras after what appeared to be a false alert. All French schools held a moment of silence on Monday afternoon in homage to the teacher who was killed in Friday's attack by a former student suspected of Islamic radicalization. The homage also paid

tribute to another teacher, Samuel Paty, killed exactly three years ago near his Paris area school. He was beheaded by a radicalized Chechen later killed by police. Macron cut short travel plans abroad to hold a security meeting at midday with the prime minister and other key government members as well as top military and counterterrorism officials. He initially planned to attend a summit on the Western Balkans in Tirana, Albania. Speaking at the end of the meeting, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said that 102 people have been arrested in relation with antisemitic acts.



Hlas-Social Democracy party chairman Peter Pellegrini, Smer-Social Democracy party chairman Robert Fico and Slovak National Party chairman Andrej Danko sign a coalition agreement to form a new government in Bratislava, Slovakia.

No, Rafael's 'Iron Beam' laser didn't blow up missiles over Israel

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Videos circulating on social media purporting to show a high-energy laser weapon destroying missiles during the Israel-Hamas war are actually altered clips derived from a military simulation video game. Cropped, low-resolution footage depicting swarms of overhead projectiles being intercepted in front of a tower are sourced from Arma 3, a photorealistic game billed as a "massive military sandbox" by its publisher, Bohemia Interactive.

Multiple prominent accounts on X, formerly Twitter, shared videos over the weekend incorrectly claiming they showed the real-world application of Iron Beam, developed by Israeli company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.

Czech Republic-based Bohemia Interactive on Oct. 10 warned that its game — set in a futuristic, fictional conflict, and easily modded and recorded by players — was being used to peddle misinformation.

Moscow does not violate UN sanctions against North Korea - Russian diplomat

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Moscow does not violate United Nations sanctions against North Korea, but is categorically against new restrictive measures on Pyongyang, a high-ranking Russian diplomat told the RIA state news agency in remarks published on Sunday.

"Russia, as a responsible member of the world community, strictly adheres to its international obligations towards Pyongyang through the UN Security

Council," Russian Ambassador at Large Oleg Burmistrov told RIA in an interview.

"At the same time, we are categorically against the introduction of new restrictive measures."

The White House on Friday said North Korea recently provided Russia with a shipment of weapons, calling it a troubling development and raising concerns about the expanded military relationship between the two countries.

Raisi says Iran backs Palestinians but 'resistance' groups decide independently

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Supporting the Palestinians is Iran's foreign policy priority but the "resistance" groups make their own independent decisions, President Ebrahim Raisi told his Russian counterpart in a phone call on Monday, Iranian state media reported. They quoted Raisi as also telling Russia's Vladimir Putin: "There is a possibility of the conflict between Israel and Palestinians expanding to other fronts."

China calls for ceasefire in Israel, suggests mediation at meeting with Russia

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China's foreign minister on Monday called for a ceasefire to halt the bloodshed in Israel, suggesting at a meeting with his Russian counterpart that major world powers should work to avoid a humanitarian disaster. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov discussed the conflict between Israel and Hamas with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing ahead of a visit by President Vladimir Putin to China.

"The United Nations Security Council must take action, and the major powers should play an active role," Wang told Lavrov, according to a Chinese transcript of the meeting.

"It is imperative that a ceasefire be put in place, that the two sides be brought back to the negotiating table, and that an emergency humanitarian channel be established to prevent a further humanitarian disaster." Russia and China, both permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

CPEC major milestone in shape of successful projects in several sectors: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi said on Monday that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a major milestone in shape of successful projects in Pakistan including road infrastructure, power sector, and industrial zones worth 62 billion dollars.

Delivering his speech at the CPEC Art Exhibition jointly organised by Behria University and China Media Group here he said he was glad to note that relations between Pakistan and China were getting

stronger with every passing day.

The minister said that above all people were the heart and soul of every thing and they were focus of every initiative that the government launched. The minister said it was well established fact that arts and culture had a deeper impact on human lives. He said it was encouraging that in this event not only art pieces were being exhibited but interactive media was also included in this exhibition.

He hoped that new interactive media would attract more young people

and make them aware of the importance of Pakistan, China friendship and how this was reflected through the CPEC projects. He stressed that the present government was vigorously continuing its efforts to facilitate CPEC projects by ensuring the implementation of the policies.

Solangi said that Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq had left for China to represent Pakistan in the Third Belt and Road Forum.

As the 10 year celebrations of CPEC were being observed, there

would be good news regarding road infrastructure, green initiative, technology, export processing zones, special economic zones and ML-1, said Murtaza Solangi.

He said it was the pledge of the present caretaker regime to provide relief to the people and steps were being taken for the welfare of the people. "Due to the reduction in the prices of petroleum products, many people are happy today", Murtaza Solangi remarked.

The government, he added had brought the

benefit of petroleum products to the masses as the effects of reduction in the prices of petroleum products should be passed on to the people.

He said the caretaker dispensation in collaboration with the provincial governments and district administration was striving to ensure that transport fares were reduced after a cut in petroleum products prices.

The minister said it was the commitment of the caretaker government to leave the country in a better state than it was handed over.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam M. Tugjo called on Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjran at Parliament House.

British HC calls on PPP Chairman

KARACHI (APP): British High Commissioner (HC) to Pakistan Jane Marriot called on Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at Bilawal House on Monday.

Deputy High Commissioner of Britain Sara Mooney was also present on the occasion.

On the occasion, they discussed the promotion of bilateral relations and other issues of mutual interests.

Caretaker CM addresses interim cabinet: We are determined to resolve public issues & establish good governance

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the interim cabinet is determined to resolve general public problems and establish good governance by making necessary decisions on immediate and important nature matters.

He also said that we are making efforts to take the government affairs to the right direction with dedication and sincerity.

It's our utmost endeavour to dispose of all the matters on merit and that in light of the existing laws.

This and similar other views were expressed by the Chief Minister while presiding over the meeting of interim provincial cabinet here on Monday.

Those who were present in the meeting were included the caretaker Ministers Prince Ahmed Ali Baloch, Mir Zubair Jamali, Mir Amanullah Kanrani, Amjad Rasheed, Jan Achakzai, Dr Qadir Bakhs, Dr Amir Muhammad Khan Jozgazi, Sheikh Mahmood ul Hassan Mandokhail, Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Jaffar, Mir Asifur Rehman and Advisors to Chief Minister Mir Danish Lango and Shania Khan.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that whatever time we have, we would work for the public service and correcting government matters.

Earlier, certain important matters were discussed and decisions made in the cabinet meeting.

The cabinet also accorded approval to certain other matters of the government.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki being briefed about Provincial Cloud Strategy and Digital Balochistan Policy

Pakistan to dispatch humanitarian relief assistance to Gaza

ISLAMABAD (INP): In view of the human tragedy unfolding in Gaza, Pakistan has decided to immediately dispatch humanitarian relief assistance to Gaza, to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian brothers and sisters. In a statement, Foreign Office spokesperson said that in the wake of indiscriminate Israeli aggression and siege of the Gaza Strip, the already oppressed people of densely-populated Gaza were in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

In this regard, Pakistan has decided to dispatch humanitarian relief assistance to Gaza in an effort to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinians. "The Government of Pakistan is coordinating with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, relevant UN agencies, the Government of Egypt and Pakistan Missions abroad to finalise modalities of delivery," the statement added.

Israel has declared war on Hamas after its fighters broke through the heavily fortified border and killed more than 1,400 people.

Israel has responded with relentless bombing, killing at least 2,670 people, the majority ordinary Palestinians, in the blockaded and impoverished Gaza Strip. Earlier in the day, Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) of Pakistan, Anwaarul Haq Kakar, called for an immediate ceasefire and lifting of the blockade in Gaza.

Taking to X (Formerly Twitter), the caretaker prime minister expressed Pakistan's complete solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine.

Expressing deep concern on the ongoing violence and loss of life in Gaza, PM Kakar said Israel's deliberate, indiscriminate and disproportionate targeting of civilians was against all norms of civility.

Kakar pays tribute to Pakistan's first PM's vision

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday paid tribute to the country's first Prime Minister, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, who was assassinated in 1951 on this day.

"Liaquat Ali Khan was the symbol of sacrifice, simplicity, and decency who, along with Q u a i d - i - A z a m Muhammad Ali Jinnah and others, led the struggle for Pakistan," he wrote on the social media platform, X.

He said, "Let's pay homage to his contribution and vision."

Nawaz, Imran be given opportunity to contest election, says Asad Umar

LAHORE (Online): PTI leader Asad Umar has said it is his personal desire that election is held as soon as possible and Nawaz Sharif and chairman PTI should be given opportunity to contest election and their decision be left at people.

He said this while talking to media men outside Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) of Lahore.

He said if we remain silent on the issue of Palestine and care taker government will seek support from outside then they are under delusion.

If we want Kashmir and Pakistan are given their rights then we should raise voice for every oppressed, he stressed.

The price of petrol should have come down at every cost due to curtailment of its price in international market.

He went on to say the cut in price of petrol will benefit only when fares and price of other things stand slashed.

PTI leader said permission for holding public meeting has not been given to PTI.

All is happening before Election Commission (EC).

He indicated PTI application for public meeting is in the court.

Justice says that permission to hold public meeting should be given to all.

Senate Chairman, Indonesian evoy unite for stronger bilateral relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indonesian Ambassador to Pakistan, Adam M. Tugjo, met with Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjran at the Parliament House and discussed matters of mutual interest, culminating in a commitment to strengthen bilateral ties, particularly in the areas of trade and investment.

Chairman Senate expressed his steadfast determination to deepen relations with Indonesia, emphasizing the historical support both nations have provided each other during challenging times. Acknowledging the intrinsic value of the Pakistan-Indonesia relationship, Chairman Senate highlighted the need to augment economic cooperation, focusing on trade, culture, and tourism.

During the meeting, the favorable investment climate in Pakistan was underscored, with Chairman

Senate encouraging Indonesian businessmen to explore investment opportunities. Stressing the necessity to boost the trade volume between the two countries, he also emphasized the importance of reinforcing parliamentary ties and fostering economic diplomacy.

The parties delved into the intricate situation in Palestine, advocating a resolution aligned with UN resolutions. Chairman Senate urged world powers to exert pressure on Israel, emphasizing the need to halt the suffering of innocent Palestinians.

In addressing the global challenge of Islamophobia, the Chairman Senate emphasized the significance of unity and consensus among Muslim nations. Expressing mutual admiration, Ambassador Adam M. Tugjo described Indonesia's view of Pakistan as crucial.

Pakistan committed for economic uplift, climate resilience: Dr Shamshad

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister for Finance Dr. Shamshad Akhtar has reinforced Pakistan's commitment to sustainable economic development and climate resilience.

She was speaking at the "V20 Ministerial Dialogue X" conducted for the most climate-vulnerable

economies, on the sidelines of annual meeting of World Bank and International Monetary Fund in Moroccan city Marrakech.

The discussions focused on developing global strategies to avert the impending climate breakdown.

Country heading towards economic stability: Jan Achakzai hails reduction in prices of petrol, terms big relief for masses

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has welcomed the decision of caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar regarding reduction in prices of petrol and petroleum products and termed it a big relief for the masses.

In a message on social media on Monday, the Minister Information said reduction of Rs. 40 per liter in the price of petrol is really a big relief for the people.

He said that the federal government under leadership of caretaker Prime

Minister is determined to resolve the public issues.

He said that the not only Balochistan but also the whole country salutes the Prime Minister on public friendly decisions.

He also said that the country is now heading towards economic stability.

He said that fruits of steps taken for the public interests are being seen.

Jan Achakzai urged the transporters and trader's community to provide relief to the masses as well.

He said that it is necessary for everyone to play one's part in development and prosperity of the country.



QUETTA: Director General Balochistan Levies Force Naseebullah Khan Kakar meeting with Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai

SC sets aside LHC verdict in fuel price adjustment case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday set aside the decision of Lahore High Court (LHC) for declaring the fuel price adjustment in electricity bills as illegal and sent the matter to the NEPRA Appellate tribunal.

The apex court observed that the LHC verdict was not practicable as per the Constitution and law, allowing the power transmission companies to receive fuel price adjustment from today, which, however, would be subject to the approval of the NEPRA Appellate Tribunal.

The court said that the consumer companies would file appeals against the fuel price adjustment with the Appellate Tribunal within 15 days, which would fix the appeals within 10 days for hearing and decide within the statutory period.

During the course of proceedings, Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa

asked whether there was any objection to the admissibility of the appeal, and if no one had any objection then give arguments on merit.

The appeals contained different pleas, he noted.

The petitioners' lawyer Salman Akram Raja said that at the time of FPA's imposition in May 2022, the formation of NEPRA (National Electric Power Regulatory Authority) was unconstitutional.

The CJP observed that if NEPRA's formation were unconstitutional then the high court should have given a decision on it. The high court's single member bench had given the verdict beyond its scope, which could not be maintained, he said adding the LHC had given the decision which was even not prayed in the petitions.

CJP Isa observed that it would be better to take up the technical issues before NEPRA.

Saeed Ghani blames MQM for terrorism in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan People Party President Karachi region Saeed Ghani said on Monday that Muttahida Qaumi Movement was responsible for the surge of terrorism in Karachi.

He said MQM was incapable to solve the problems of the city while adding the local elections made the MQM aware of its fragile political situation.

The PPP Karachi region president mentioned that the MQM wanted to win elections in Karachi again by using rigging as a tool while adding it would fail to win in Karachi as the people have had enough of the fake promises by the party.

Jan Achakzai praises China's vision for safeguarding regional peace & stability

QUETTA (APP): Caretaker Information Minister Balochistan Jan Achakzai Monday said that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor is a way forward for timely completion of ongoing projects and highly praised China's vision for safeguarding regional peace and stability.

"China's support to Pakistan has always been meaningfully aimed to support the country in overcoming the challenges", he said while talking to PTV news channel.

CPEC is a game changer for Pakistan and many projects under this mega project have already been completed while the work on the rest of the projects is underway, he added.

He said that the pace of work on the CPEC projects will be further expedited in the coming

Earthquake tremors in Swat, Mingora and surroundings

SWAT (Online): Earthquake tremors have been felt in Swat city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Mangora and surroundings.

Fear and panic spread among citizens due to earthquake. Earlier on Sunday, there was also an earthquake in Afghanistan.

According to American geological survey, today (Sunday), earthquake came at 8:06 local time in Afghanistan.

This is the 3rd earthquake in last 9 days.

While the tremors of earthquake felt in the city of New Delhi in India, intensity was recorded at 3.1 on rector scale.



QUETTA: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Balochistan Central Leader, Abdul Rahim Kakar along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held in Quetta press club.

Qureshi moves IHC for bail in cypher case

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Monday filed a post-arrest bail petition before Islamabad High Court (IHC) in the cypher case, registered under Official Secrets Act.

It prayed the court to set aside the order of the trial court dated October 9, for the indictment of PTI Chairman. It further said that his jail trial was continuing without any notification in this regard.

The petitioner prayed the court to stop his jail trial and issue order for his open trial in the said case.

PCG foils major bid of smuggling of huge quantity of narcotics

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Pakistan Coast Guard (PCG) foiled major bid of smuggling of huge quantity of narcotics from sea-route in Jiwani on Monday.

According to the spokesman of PCG, huge quantity of narcotics was recovered from a speed boat which otherwise was to be smuggled abroad via sea.

The PCG patrolling team got a secret information about the smuggling of narcotics from sea-route. On this tip, a patrolling boat of PCG chased a suspected speed boat in the sea of Jiwani. Instead of stopping it, the smugglers on board accelerated the speed of boat. However, later, they fled after leaving the speed boat at coast of Jiwani.

Later, during search, 833 kilogram of charas and 42 kilogram of ice was recovered.

JUI-F's Hafiz Hamdullah hints at deal with PTI chief

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) leader Hafiz Hamdullah Monday hinted at a deal with the incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Minister.

Exclusively talking to private news channel, Hafiz Hamdullah said deals are possible through backdoor channels in Pakistan and a deal with the PTI chairman is also on the cards, however, the time of

it cannot be confirmed now.

Deals will continue to take place in Pakistan till the politicians continue giving preference to power politics on the masses, he was quoted as saying.

The JUI-F leader claimed that former first lady, Bushra Bibi tried her best for a 'deal' but no one was 'ready' to take guarantee of the PTI chief?