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BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Chinese Premier Li Qiang met on the sidelines of 3rd Belt and Road Forum.

PM Kakar says Pakistan committed to work with China, regional partners on goals of open global economy, connectivity

Pakistan, China agree to further strengthen high-level engagement, deepen multiple ties

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said Pakistan was committed to working with China and other regional partners in achieving the ideals of an open global economy and promoting connectivity on a trans-continental scale.

"With shared responsibility and by embracing the vision of working together, we can create a brighter, peaceful, and sustainable future for ourselves and for our generations," he said in his address at the high-level event of the Third Belt and

Road Forum (BRF) on "Connectivity in an Open Global Economy".

The two-day forum, which marked the 10 years of the multi-billion dollar cross-regional Belt and Road Initiative, kicked off in China's capital Beijing with representatives from 140 countries in attendance.

PM Kakar said Pakistan endorsed China's vision of global connectivity and also looked forward to joining hands with other partners across borders and regions to materialize the projects.

"I am hopeful that together we can shape a world

with the bonds that unite us together, rather than the forces that divide us," he said.

The prime minister congratulated President Xi Jinping for his revolutionary idea of the Belt and Road Initiative launched 10 years ago that proved instrumental in bringing common development and shared prosperity.

He termed enhanced connectivity a profound factor in development and progress in the modern age of globalization. The BRI's concept of shared future for mankind is not about road

and railway infrastructure, but also to create linkages among civilizations and nations," he said.

He mentioned that the world faced a number of challenges including post-pandemic effects, the divide between the developed and the impoverished, peace, and food security.

Kakar highlighted that BRI's flagship project China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) played a crucial role in generating new economic opportunities in Pakistan.

Underscoring its salience for Pakistan's robust economic development, he endorsed the Chinese proposal for developing CPEC as a corridor of growth, innovation, livelihood, green economy, openness, and inclusiveness.

The prime minister underlined the need for a united global response to address complex transnational challenges faced by humankind and to prevent backsliding on the gains achieved under the UN Sustainable Development Goals and 2030 Agenda.

Strongly condemns Israeli airstrike on Gaza Hospital CM urges UN, int'l community to play effective role for stopping Israeli brutalities against Palestinians

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardaan Khan Domki has strongly condemned the Israeli forces airstrike on a hospital of Gaza that martyred at least 500 people and wounded several others.

In an official condemnation issued here on Wednesday, the caretaker Chief Minister said that the government of Balochistan strongly condemn the cruelties and brutality of Is-

rael against the oppressed Palestinians.

He particularly referred to the Israeli air raid that hit the yard of a hospital in central Gaza and termed it an extreme of brutality and wildest act.

The caretaker Chief Minister said that the martyrdom of over 500 people in the Israeli attack is the biggest human tragedy.

He said that the health establishments and institutions can't be targeted in a war situation under the international laws.

However, by carrying

out airstrike, Israel did extreme of barbarism and cruelty, Mr. Domki condemned adding that the United Nations should play its effective role to stop such extreme brutality ending mum on the Palestine situation and Israel's barbarism.

He also urged the international community to play its role to end the besiege of Israel at Gaza strip. He also appealed to ensure implementation on the international laws for provision of medical emergency treatment in Gaza.



BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets Secretary General of United Nations António Guterres on the sidelines of 3rd Belt and Road Forum, Beijing.

Governor for improving relations of federation with provinces further

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that there are pleasant relations between the federation and provinces, however, these relations are needed to be improved further.

The Governor was speaking to the Governor Punjab, Balighur Rehman, whom he met in Lahore on Wednesday.

During the course of meeting, the matters related to the inter-provincial coordination, political situation and profitable prospects of investment were discussed. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor Kakar stressed the need to strengthen further relations between the federation and provinces. Both the leaders were of the strong view that the bonds between the federation and provinces should be improved further.

President condemns Israel attack on Gaza hospital; calls for immediate ceasefire

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday strongly condemning the brutal Israeli attack on Al-Ahly Al-Mamadany Hospital in Gaza, called upon the international community to hold Israel accountable for its war crimes.

He also urged the world community to take urgent measures to bring an immediate halt to the Israeli bombardment and the ongoing siege of Gaza.

According to media reports, hundreds of Palestinians were killed on Tuesday when Israel carried out air strikes on a hospital and a refugee camp in Gaza, where people had sought

shelter to escape the relentless bombing on residential areas.

The president expressed his deep shock over the tragic loss of innocent lives due to the brutal and inhuman Israeli airstrike, saying that Israel has trampled all international and moral norms by killing thousands of innocent people, women and children and then bombing a hospital, where patients were seeking emergency treatment.

President Alvi voiced concern that Israel continued to commit war crimes by indiscriminately targeting civilian populations and health facilities.

Refugees will be sent back to their country with dignity: Achakzai

Independent Report

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Information Jan Achakzai said on

where illegal immigrants are living in the province.

Achakzai said that refugees have been treated with



Wednesday that Pakistan will deport all illegal Afghan immigrants by November 1.

While talking to media here, he shared over 1,000 Afghan families have left Pakistan so far, and around 250 families are returning to Afghanistan via the Chaman border daily.

The minister also said that the government has compiled complete data on

hospitality for the last 40 years, and now they will be sent back to their country with dignity. He added that no political pressure will be tolerated in that regard and illegal migrants will have to leave Pakistan.

The state has taken some principled decisions and they will strictly follow it, he said adding that after the deadline, the illegal residents will be sent back.

Caretaker Interior Minister condemns Israeli bombing on Hospital in Gaza

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister for Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti on Wednesday strongly condemned Israel's barbaric bombing of a hospital in Gaza killing hundreds of innocent Palestinians.

The minister expressed deep sorrow and regret over more than 500 martyrs in the attack and said that such

barbaric attacks on wounded, patients and refugees in hospital is inhuman act.

He said hospitals and medical staff are protected under international humanitarian law and targeting civilian populations and property is a violation of international law and a war crime.



QUETTA: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi distributing certificates in a graduation ceremony under PM's Youth Skills Development Program at University of Balochistan.

Madad Ali Sindhi says Measures being taken to improve quality of education in country, Balochistan

QUETTA: (APP)- Federal Caretaker Minister for Education Madad Ali Sindhi on Tuesday that practical measures were being taken to improve quality of education in country including Balochistan by addressing issues of education on emergency basis.

He expressed these views while addressing as chief guest at ceremony of certificates distributing among the passed out students under the Prime Minister Youth Skill Development Program at the University of Balochistan, Quetta organized by the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission.

In the fourth batch of the Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Program, 3895 students from across Balochistan graduated, out of which 83 students from Quetta were awarded certificates in the ceremony.

A large number of disabled students, Women Technical Training Center

(WTTTC), and Technical Training Center Quetta (TTC)'s students attended the ceremony.

Addressing at the ceremony, Caretaker Federal Minister Madad Ali Sindhi said that measures were needed on an emergency basis to deal with the problems of education in Balochistan saying that without improving the quality of education, the journey of development could not be set.

While appreciating of technical institutions, he said that it was a matter of pride to have a large number of women participating in the skill development program.

I am well aware of the educational problems of Balochistan, the improvement of government schools is one of our top priorities, he said.

He said that he was trying to solve all related issues of education after conducting meeting with consultation of vice chancellors of universities of the country and Balochistan.

Caretaker Govt to ensure fair elections in country: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi Wednesday said that fundamental responsibility of the caretaker government was to provide a conducive environment for elections and monitor the electoral process.

This was stated by him, during separate meetings with Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) leader Mussadiq Malik and Pakistan People's Party leader Syed Akhuzada Chattan.

During the meetings, issues of mutual interest including upcoming general elections were discussed.

Murtaza Solangi said that peaceful transfer of power was topmost priority of the caretaker dispensation.

The minister assured both the leaders that caretaker government would ensure that elections were conducted in fair, transparent and impartial elections.

QESCO arrears reach Rs. 578 bn against defaulters in Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) has announced that the arrears of the Company against the defaulters have reached up-to Rs. 578 billion in the province.

According to the QESCO spokesman, only the agriculture consumers have to pay Rs. 437 billion to QESCO.

The provincial government has to pay Rs. 48.63 billion on account of the agriculture subsidy.

Similarly, the federal government is required to pay Rs. 23 billion on account of the agriculture subsidy.

Moreover, the dues of Rs. 2.98 billion are payable against federal government departments operating in the province.

The QESCO said that there are arrears of Rs. 34.17 billion against the Balochistan government on account of the electricity utility bills.

According to him, Rs. 32.56 billion are outstanding against the domestic, commercial and industrial consumers in the province.

CEC vows to utilize all resources for transparent, peaceful election

Independent Report

QUETTA (APP): Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja on Wednesday stressed the

importance of utilizing all available resources to conduct a transparent and peaceful election in the country.

Chairing a meeting at the Civil Secretariat Quetta to assess the preparations for the upcoming general elections, Raja emphasized the importance of close collaboration between the caretaker government and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

He cautioned that stringent measures will be taken against officials and staff members who demonstrate negligence in the election process. Furthermore, he

emphasized that ensuring free, fair, and impartial elections is pivotal for enhancing democracy.

He stated that the Election Commission is fully committed to assisting the Interim provincial government to the best of its abilities. Additionally, the Chief Election Commissioner emphasized a strict stance against any instances of political bias among government employees, ensuring swift action will be taken upon the identification of such complaints.

Jamali emphasizes upon adopting modern DRR methods based on local challenges facing economy

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has emphasized upon adopting the modern methods of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) based on the local challenges and requirements facing the developing economies.

The Minister for Home was speaking at special ceremony organised at the Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University on Wednesday.

The Minister Home was the chief guest at the

session that marked the International Disaster Risk Reduction day.

The Vice Chancellor SBKWU, Professor Dr. Sajida Noreen, Dr. Gulam Murtaza, and other concerned high ups besides the faculty of University and students.

Speaking on the occasion, Zubair Jamali said that natural disasters can't be ended, however we have gathered here to ponder upon how to reduce them.

He said that it is our priority to take necessary steps for provision of the relief to masses during natural disasters.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali and Vice Chancellor SBKWU Prof. Dr. Sajida Noreen leading a walk in connection with International Disaster Risk Reduction day.

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

DAYS REMAINING

12

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Israel's Extreme barbarism in Gaza

The Israel's naked aggression and barbarism in form of airstrike on a hospital of Gaza is nothing but heartbreaking for the humanity especially the Muslims all over the globe. It has shaken the nerves of every one leaving them in a state of shock. The people even the conscious ones in the so-called civilized developed west are grieved over the extreme brutality demonstrated and being demonstrated by Israel's inhuman leadership towards the Palestinians for last several days. As a result of the brutality and cruelty unleashed by Israel and its forces, thousands have so been martyred and thousand others wounded.

And now what's extreme happened is the airstrike of the Israeli forces in Gaza and that targeted a hospital there martyring over 800 people and wounding several others.

The media reports suggested that the Al-Ahli Hospital located in the central Gaza Strip was bombed without any prior warning, causing severe destruction which would prevent the hospital from continuing and providing medical services for thousands of people. There are "hundreds of victims" under the rubble of a Gaza hospital compound that was hit by Israeli bombing, said the Health Ministry in the besieged coastal enclave.

The incident stands as the bloodiest single occurrence in Gaza since Israel initiated a relentless bombing campaign in retaliation for a deadly cross-border Hamas assault on southern Israeli communities earlier in October.

Needless to mention those martyred were included injured during the shelling and bombing by Israel in Gaza and other adjacent areas. What's agony and pitiful is that the martyred also include doctors and health workers serving in the Hospital.

Seeing the worst on-ground situation, one thing is very much clear that humanity has just ended on part of Israel. One can term the huge massacre occurred in a Gaza hospital a holocaust. It is an Israeli state-sponsored massacre of the innocent people in Gaza and other Palestinian territory.

Earlier, a UN-run school in central Gaza where 4,000 people are sheltering was hit during an Israeli airstrike, killing at least six people. Entire neighbourhoods have been razed and survivors are left with dwindling supplies of food, water and fuel. "The situation is catastrophic beyond what I could have imagined," said Jamil Abdullah, a Palestinian-Swede, hoping to flee the blockaded enclave, said, "There are corpses in the streets. Buildings are crashing down on their inhabitants. Blood is everywhere. The smell of the dead is everywhere." "Enough!" cried Mohamed Abu Zaid, counting about 20 family members killed in one strike. "How long will this continue for?"

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees says more than one million Palestinians—almost half of Gaza's population of 2.4 million—have fled their homes. World Health Organization regional director Ahmed Al-Mandhari told AFP that Gaza was barreling towards "real catastrophe". Since Israel's evacuation order in north Gaza, entire families, young children and the elderly have gathered belongings and fled to southern Gaza, bedding down in any available space, indoors and out.

In this catastrophic situation in Gaza and adjoining areas, the west media is just exposed as it is not reporting exactly what's going on in Gaza and with innocent Palestinian.

However, following the attack, Russia and the UAE requested an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council over the Gaza hospital strike.



Rafia Zakaria

It was a hot one. In fact, climate scientists who study Earth's temperature have found that September 2023 was perhaps the hottest September ever recorded.

According to The Washington Post, the scientists' early analysis revealed that global temperatures surged last month by over half a degree Celsius. While scientists have long known and forecast Earth's rising temperature, the fact that it rose so much in just one month suggests what most of us are already aware of: that the various governments and transnational organisations pretending to grapple with climate change will not be able to stop it. Given this most recent rise, Earth is now 1.7°C to 1.8°C warmer than it was prior to the Industrial Revolution.

Copernicus — the European Union's Earth Observation Programme — is predicting that the average temperature this year will ultimately be 1.4°C warmer than before industrialisation, shattering records that are thousands of years old.

In addition to global warming by the rampant and unchecked use of fossil fuels, the El Niño weather system is also putting pressure on the climate. The Post points out that besides global warming induced by the greenhouse effect, El Niño is adding to the temperature increase.

It is difficult not to feel a sense of gloom and foreboding over this worsening state of affairs that has already unleashed catastrophic weather

The heat is on

events all over the world. Pakistan is still reeling from the after-effects of the floods that devastated the country last year, while other states are dealing with hurricanes, storms, and avalanches.

Major cities around the world have experienced sharp increases in temperatures, some exceeding beyond 10 per cent.

One of the highest temperature increases was seen in the Turkish capital of Ankara whose temperature was reported to have increased by 18.2 per cent since 2019. The average temperature in that city has increased from 22.4°C to 26.4°C. Temperatures in Athens and Seoul have similarly witnessed significant increases.

The numbers overall are forbidding and frightening. Not only do they show that the climate catastrophe is truly entrenched, but they also reveal another dark truth: the fact that governments in places such as Seoul or Ankara or in any of the other much hotter cities have been completely ineffectual in pushing any proposal that can receive even a basic level of global acceptance.

Translated, this means that the world is quite literally turning into a hot and messy hellscape and those who could stop it have utterly failed to do so. Considered against the backdrop of this situation, the entire series of COP summits seems a ridiculous waste of time. To the extent that countries are willing to commit to reducing emissions — in whatever way they promise — it is obviously too late and not enough.

If temperatures continue to increase by 1°C or more above the current levels, billions of people largely in the Middle East and South Asia will find themselves living in areas where the temperature will be too high for humans to survive.

According to a study published in the journal of the National Academy of Sciences, there is already plenty of evidence of heatwaves lasting longer, being more intense and causing difficult health conditions even among the young and healthy.

The hot September of 2023 has already produced temperatures that exceed the Paris Agreement target of keeping the increase below 1.5°C. This has much to do with emissions continuing their wild unchecked trajectory. If this goes on, the outcome will be unlivable bands of extreme heat in North and South America.

Times like these encourage dark thoughts and predictions of the end of days. The most frightening thing about these is that some of the people who peddle them seem actually invested in hastening a calamitous 'Day of Judgement'.

Evangelical Christians from the US have been gleefully watching the cataclysm in Gaza because they believe it to be a sign of the end times. Proponents of this idea include none other than former US vice president Mike Pence. This dangerous lot is so confident of this idea of the end times that rabid wars and the transformation of Earth into a living hell seem to them par for the course. The sheer excess of the catastrophe that prevails across the world makes our present an eerie and unpredictable moment. One cannot help but stop and wonder whether our parents or grandparents ever saw such an excess of chaos and tumult. Surely, we cannot be the first ones to stand frozen before the collapse all around us. Science seems to suggest that we very well might be the first, and by dint of that truth are, very unfortunately, cursed. -- Courtesy Dawn

The dispossessed



Mahir Ali

Last Saturday, a majority of Australian voters decided to disallow the descendants of their continent's original inhabitants constitutional recognition via a 'voice to parliament'. The result of the referendum was not a surprise.

Opinion polls had predicted the result, though perhaps not the proportions of the defeat of a relatively straightforward proposition. It entailed the recognition of the historical status of indigenous Australians — whose ancestors had dwelt on the land for some 60,000 years before Europeans 'discovered' it and the British colonised it — and setting up a representative body to advise parliament and the executive government on matters affecting Aboriginal people.

Their disadvantages in metrics ranging from health and education to housing, life expectancy and juvenile incarceration rates are appalling, and usually recognised. What could be done about this remains controversial. The proposal for indigenous Australians having a say in relevant policymaking came from the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart, based on extended community consultations, and was initially rejected by the broader political class.

When the Labor Party embraced it ahead of last year's election and then proposed a referendum after gaining power, the majority appeared to back the idea. But the support rapidly went south once the main opposition parties launched a campaign against the notion that embraced the rejectionism

of the far right and unleashed a flood of misinformation, disinformation and abuse that reflected the Brexit and Trump phenomena. Inevitably, a lot of latent racist scum surfaced during a lopsided national debate in which much of the media knowingly contributed to the confusion.

Indigenous Australians comprise less than four per cent of the population and their 'voice' would hardly have affected anyone else. Even this minor concession proved too hard to swallow, mainly for the older, poorer and less well-educated segments. Small wonder, then, that forces of conservatism everywhere, directly or otherwise, dismiss the concept of adequate mass education, which would deprive them of their constituency.

Given this state of the world, it's no surprise that Australia's retrogressive own goal barely registered as a blip on the international radar. But the dispossession that underlies this saga is not completely at variance with the settler-colonialism that relegates Palestinians to the status of a people who are, just about, to be tolerated provided they obediently behave themselves and turn the other cheek to every blow.

Obviously, there are vast differences of time and scale, yet there is a common history of dispossession and extermination campaigns. Raz Segal, an Israeli and an associate professor of Holocaust and genocide studies in the US, has referred to the catastrophe unfolding in Gaza as a textbook case of "intent to commit genocide", amid "shameful use" of the grotesque history of the Holocaust that includes comparing the victims to Nazis in order to "justify, rationalise, distort [and] savag mass violence against Palestinians".

The West's reaction to the Middle Eastern explosion has unqualified

support for the oppressor, amid sporadic attempts — from Europe and the US to Australia — to shut down public expressions of support for the oppressed. It's not just appropriate but essential to condemn the atrocities that Hamas committed on Oct 7. And it's thoroughly hypocritical not to apply the same standards when Israel — which purports to be a nation-state rather than a terrorist organisation — perpetrates similar violence by somewhat different means.

The US has been rushing weapons to a nuclear-armed state with one of the biggest arsenals of conventional arms and supposedly the region's most efficient military force. That wasn't enough, so a couple of aircraft carriers named after ex-presidents Ford and Eisenhower are muddying the waters nearby to guard their biggest asset in the Middle East. And yet another old (but not ex) president, Joe Biden, will arrive in Israel today as a symbol of US support. He has lately advised Israel against pre-2005-style reoccupation of the Gaza Strip. It's hardly a secret, though, that among its dedicated circle of friends, Israel tends to get away with murder.

Even mass murder, which will no doubt intensify with the imminent ground invasion of Gaza. The rest of the world paid no attention as the "ethnic cleansing" in the West Bank intensified in the past week. Barring some of Australia's island neighbours, it will also likely turn a blind eye to the deplorable but much less alarming turn of events in what has (not entirely accurately) been tagged as "the Pacific Israel".

It must be hoped that Hezbollah and Iran don't step into the Middle Eastern cauldron, but don't expect Israel to desist from stirring the pot. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

PM Kakar says Pakistan as initial beneficiary appreciates, supports BRI

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan has consistently expressed great appreciation and strong support for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping and was willing to learn from China's development experience, Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said talking to the Chinese media.

Kakar, who was invited to attend the

third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing, said that the Pakistanis valued the great vision embodied in the BRI, which advocated bringing peace and prosperity through economic development.

The Pakistani delegation, comprising top-level officials from the economic, industrial, security, and other

departments, was eagerly anticipating bilateral discussions with Chinese officials during the visit, engaging in dialogue and interaction with Chinese think tanks and media as well, he said.

Emphasizing the significant accomplishments of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), an exemplary project of the BRI, Kakar said the CPEC

has brought great development and bright prospects to his hometown of southwest Balochistan province.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC was a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.



Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Caretaker Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali witnessing the signing ceremony of MoU between United Energy Group of China and Pakistan Refinery Limited for investment in the petroleum sector of Pakistan, Beijing.



DUBAI: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif in a group photo after meeting with Regional GM of Cisco at GITEX Global 2023.

Direct air flights between Pakistan, Nigeria can enhance trade: High Commissioner

FAISALABAD (APP): High Commissioner of Nigeria in Pakistan Mr. Mohammad Bello Abioye has said that direct air flights between Pakistan and Nigeria can play a key role in enhancing bilateral trade.

Addressing the business community in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he said that he has taken various measures to ensure exchange of information, B2B meetings and simple visa policy to facilitate the serious entrepreneurs. He said that during the last two years visa applications are being

processed within 48 hours.

He acknowledged the socio-economic importance of Faisalabad and said that textile is an iconic representation of this city at the global level. He said that he has developed friendly relations with the business community and 'we are exploiting this friendship to promote bilateral trade'. He also termed Nigeria as a land of opportunities and said that the Pakistani business community should avail from this facility.

He said that China and Malaysia are investing in Nigeria and

Pakistan should also explore new opportunities for investment in various sectors. He said, "Textile owners should also set up their units in Nigeria as we have surplus cotton."

Responding to a question, he said that Pakistani businessmen could also invest in the cashew-nut processing sector.

Earlier President FCCI Dr. Khurram Tariq welcomed the guests and said that Faisalabad is designed on the pattern of Union Jack in 1898. "It made tremendous progress and now it has emerged as textile capital of the Pakistan".

PM highlights govt's business friendly, pro-investment initiatives

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said that the government was taking business-friendly and pro-investment initiatives to bring about the economic development in the country.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of East Sea Group led by Chairman Fang Yulong, highlighted pro-business policies of the government.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the

Belt and Road Forum held here.

He said the government was encouraging the private sector and providing a conducive atmosphere to enable it play an effective role for country's economic development.

Fang Yulong told the prime minister that East Sea Group was making investments in Gwadar Free Zone and refinery sector and that the Chinese firms were taking keen interest in increasing their investment in the country.

PSX sheds 99 more points as profit-taking continues

KARACHI (INP): Profit-taking continued at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) for the second straight session on Wednesday, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index losing 99.54 points (-0.20 per cent) to close at 49,431.47 points. The market opened on a slight positive note but took a dip soon. The dip proved short-lived and the indices turned towards the green territory. The benchmark index later hit the day's high and remained in the positive during the

first half of the session. However, selling pressure took the indices in the red territory again where it stayed till the end of the session. However, good corporate results of some companies eroded some of the losses of the day. A sharp decline in rupee's value for the second straight day after making gains for 28 consecutive sessions also acted as a catalyst for profit-taking. The benchmark index briefly crossed the 50,000 points level for the first time since January 2017.

Agricultural development is prerequisite for country's uplift: CM Naqvi

Independent Report FAISALABAD: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi has said that agricultural development is prerequisite for the country's uplift, for which agricultural scientists should develop high-yielding varieties resilient to climate change in order to increase productivity and ensure food security.

He stated this while addressing the scientists of University Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF). Punjab Agriculture Minister SM

Tanvir, Agriculture Secretary Punjab Nadir Chattha, Planning and Development Punjab Chairman Ifthikhar Ali Sahu, IG Punjab Usman Anwar and others attended the meeting.

UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan gave a briefing about the history of the university, ongoing educational and research projects and agricultural issues.

Chief Minister Punjab Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi while appreciating the role of UAF said that

UAF in collaboration with Washington State University, developed new high yielding varieties of wheat which are in testing phase for the second year. It is a hallmark step, he said, adding that after fulfilling the requirement, it would reach to the farmers' fields by next year.

He said that India had been producing soybean for the last fifteen years. But unfortunately no sufficient work has been done so far in Pakistan to promote its cultivation.

Gold rates up by Rs.6,400 to Rs.206,500 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.6,400 and was sold at Rs. 206,500 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs. 200,100 the previous day of trading. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.5,487 to Rs.177,040 from Rs.171,553 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.162,287 from Rs. 157,257, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

KP Govt decides to develop fruits, vegetable processing sector

Independent Report PESHAWAR: KP Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Dr. Aamir Abdullah has said that the provincial government has decided the processing of fruits, vegetables, and other agricultural products on international standards as edibles and its development as a profitable business sector.

He made this announcement while presiding over a meeting here in the Committee Room of Industries, Commerce and Technical

Education Department here in the Civil Secretariat on Wednesday.

Besides, Secretary, of Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah and authorities of all subsidiary sectors, the head of Agriculture Business and Training Institute, Saleem Abne Fazil also attended the meeting. The caretaker minister directed the concerned authorities to take practical steps to focus on these sectors, besides the traditional attractive sectors of investment.

Governor Punjab says Youth should play role in driving country to knowledge based economy

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab/Chancellor Punjab University Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the youth should play their role in driving the country to knowledge based economy. He stated this while addressing the laptop distribution ceremony under Prime Minister Youth Programme Scheme Phase 3 at Punjab University. Governor Punjab said that the future of Pakistan is connected with merit and transparency. He said that digital divide is increasing

in the modern era, those who have access to technology are ahead while those who don't have the access to technology are lagging behind. Governor Punjab said the distribution of laptop among students would bring them at par with the modern world, adding he said that the laptops are being distributed on merit to encourage students and equip them with IT skills. He said that Punjab University is a prestigious institution, and it is a great honour to study in it. The Governor Punjab said that when the laptop

scheme was initially started and laptops were distributed among brilliant students on merit, it contributed towards the development of the country in IT sector. He further stated that Pakistan was fast moving among the e-lancing countries, software exports were also increasing, and the talent of Pakistani youth in gaming apps was getting recognition in the world. Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman, while stressing the importance of logic and research said that educated people decide on logic and

facts. He said that a disappointed nation can never develop. We must avoid those who spread despair, he added. He said that we have to get the nation out of despair. Therefore, the positive aspects should be highlighted. He said that respecting the opinion of others is also very important in a pluralistic society. Governor Punjab said that teachers should also focus on character building of students. He said that our religion has taught us not to believe without verifying the facts.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with students during laptop distribution ceremony under Prime Minister Youth Programme Scheme Phase 3 at Punjab University.

BISE Larkana announces results of HSC Part-II (Pre-Medical) exams-2023

LARKANA (APP): The Controller of Examinations, Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Larkana Raja Nadeem Soomro on Wednesday evening announced the results of Annual Examinations-2023 of Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) Part-II Pre-Medical Group. The BISE Larkana covered Larkana, Kamber-Shahdadkot, Shikarpur, Jacobabad and Kashmore-Kandhkot districts and two talukas of Dadu District that is Taluka Khairpur Nathan Shah and Taluka Mahar. According to the re-

sults announced here the positions are as under:-
Boys Positions:-
Abdul Rauf S/o Akhtar Ali Wassan, Seat No. 155393, of Cadet College Larkana stood first by obtaining 987 marks with Grade-A-1.
Muhammad Mahad Qureshi S/o Adnan Wahab Qureshi, Seat No. 150722 of The City School Larkana second position with 986 marks with Grade-A-1.
Ibrar Ali Shah S/o Munwar Ali Shah Syed, Seat No. 156209 of Government Degree College Larkana obtained 985 marks and stood third position with grade-A-1.



LARKANA: Members of Social Ittehad Youth Wing are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruelty and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

PFA discards 220 litre fake carbonated drinks.

Independent Report
LAHORE: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has unearthed a fake beverages manufacturing unit producing carbonated drinks of different popular brands on Mustafabad Road in the provincial metropolis. The authority discarded 220 litres of spurious carbonated drinks; prohibited chemicals, sweeteners and hazardous artificial flavours. Further, PFA confiscated 1,000 empty bottles, 65 crates, four cylinders, five blue non-food grade drums, five filling machines, labels, stoves, RO and filtration plants. This was informed by PFA Director General Raja Jahangir Anwar. He said that the authority also filed an FIR against the factory owners on account of adulteration and forgery. He said that the authority took action against the factory owner for violating the Punjab Pure Food Regulations. He said that fabricated fizzy drinks were being prepared with loose colours, hazardous chemicals, artificial sweeteners and unclean tap water.

Thalassemia affected children visits Governor House

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: As many as fifty thalassemia-affected children and their parents on Wednesday visited Governor House Peshawar on Wednesday on the invitation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali. The children were accompanied by the Founder of Hamza Foundation, Hamza Ejaz, Professor Abaseen Yousafzai and Khalid Khan. KP Governor intermingled with children and distributed snacks and juice among them. Talking to the media, on the occasion, he said that these children deserve our special attention, love and help owing to their sufferings. He said that these children have confronted many difficulties in their life and we should provide them hope, assistance and kindness enabling them to overcome hardships and lead a normal life. "I am honoured to arrange a luncheon for them, and would always strive to give them happiness and hope", he added.

Naqvi lays foundation stone of FIEDMC management office

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi along with the cabinet members laid the foundation stone of FIEDMC management office at Faisalabad Industrial Estate and Management Company. Acting Consul General of China Cao Ke welcomed CM Mohsin Naqvi on reaching FIEDMC. Mohsin Naqvi was given a detailed briefing about the FIEDMC management office. He after planting a sampling formally inaugurated the plantation campaign. CM visited the

under construction hospital for ten years at FIEDMC. Mohsin Naqvi and the cabinet members also visited VIVO Mobile Factory. Provincial Ministers, Chief Secretary, IG Police, Chairman P&D, Commissioner Faisalabad and other officials were also present on the occasion. Later, CM Mohsin Naqvi while addressing a ceremony being organized at Faisalabad Industrial Estate and Management Company said that a club will be established for the Chinese friends as a gift working in FIEDMC.

Provincial Ministers, Chief Secretary and the whole team members are endeavouring to set up one window operation centre. Hopefully one window operation centre will become functional by January. Chinese investors will be provided NOCs by different departments under a single roof. One window pilot project will be launched simultaneously at Lahore and FIEDMC. The under construction ten-bedded hospital in FIEDMC will be completed in coming few weeks.

CVDs, major cause of mortality worldwide: Dr Rehan Omar

KARACHI (APP): Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are the leading cause of death worldwide as during Covid-19 from 2019 to 2022 around three million people died but as per estimates shared by the World Health Organization, the CVDs killed around 20.6 million people every year across the globe, and around 80 percent of these deceased were from low and middle-income countries. These views were shared by Consultant Car-

diologist, National Medical Centre, United Hospital Karachi, Dr Rehan Omar on Wednesday. He was addressing a seminar on 'healthy heart, healthy nation' arranged by the Medical Center of the University of Karachi. The event was held at the auditorium of the old pharmacy building. He expressed that in 2020, an estimated 523 million people had some form of CVDs of which approximately 19 million deaths

were attributable to the CVDs. He informed the audience that every two minutes one person died of heart disease. Sharing another report, he said that an estimated 783 million people would be affected by diabetes by 2045. Dr Rehan while referring to a report published in the year 2018 said that 1.13 billion people were suffering from hypertension due to socio-economic

problems. "The uses of tobacco, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, and obesity are a few main causes of heart disease. We must promote awareness and prefer timely diagnosis and treatment approach," he added. Meanwhile, the Consultant Cardiologist at the National Medical Center Dr Mansoor Ahmed stressed that the trend of rapid increase in smoking needs to be stopped with immediate effect.

problems due to which they were suffering from diabetes and heart diseases. He termed that one of the main reasons for the issue was consuming junk foods. "It is not possible to eliminate junk food from society because more money is spent on its marketing than health," Dr Mansoor Ahmed stressed that the trend of rapid increase in smoking needs to be stopped with immediate effect.

International News

UN Security Council rejects Russian resolution on Middle East

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The UN Security Council on Monday rejected a Russian resolution condemning spiraling violence in the Middle East, with delegates refusing to back a motion that did not single out Hamas for its surprise raid on Israel. Just four countries voted with Russia on its proposed text. Four others — including the US — voted against, while six abstained. A second text proposed by Brazil with unequivocal language condemning the group appeared to have broader support, and was expected

to come to the vote on Tuesday evening, diplomats said. Russia's UN ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia, said despite the failure, the resolution had spurred the council to action. "It has contributed to launching a substantive discussion in the Security Council on this topic. Without our encouragement, everything would probably have been limited to empty discussions," he said. The United Kingdom, which joined the US in voting down the Russian proposal, criticised Moscow's lack of consultation, and accused Russia of not making a serious attempt to find

consensus. Israel's Gilad Erdan said the Security Council, which has not adopted a resolution on the situation in Israel and the Palestinian territories since 2016, stood at "one of its most pivotal crossroads" since its founding in the aftermath of World War II. Palestinian ambassador Riyad Mansour said the council had a moral duty to act in a bid to restrain an Israeli assault on the Gaza Strip he said was claiming 12 lives every hour. "Don't send the signal that the Palestinian lives don't matter," he said.



Ukrainian students, who lost relatives due to the Russia-Ukrainian war set flags in their memory on the memorial of fallen Ukrainian soldiers, while attending the reconstruction of a student-led protest campaign "Revolution on Granite" on Independence square in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Lebanon-Israel border clashes escalate, five Hezbollah fighters killed

Monitoring Desk
KIRYAT SHMONA: Israeli troops killed at least four fighters attempting to breach the border from Lebanon on Tuesday, the army said, as tensions run high on the border between the two countries. Since Oct 8, Israel has traded fire on a near-daily basis with Hezbollah and Palestinian fighters in Lebanon.

The Israeli army said its forces opened fire on fighters when they attempted to cross the northern border with Lebanon on Tuesday morning. Hezbollah said five of its fighters had been killed "performing jihad". It was not clear if these were the same ones who Israel had accused of trying to infiltrate the border.

UK university suspends students over Gaza rally

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Students from the Palestine Society at SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies) on Tuesday said the university had "suspended students following a rally in solidarity with Gaza". The SOAS Palestine Society posted to X saying, "URGENT: @SOAS University of London, renowned for its so called progressive politics, has officially begun taking steps suspending its own students following a rally in solidarity with Gaza. This is a clear act of political repression. Please read on and share widely." The tweet said that on Oct 9, the Palestine Society and its student community held a rally in solidarity with the people of Gaza and that hundreds of students joined the demonstration. On October 13 and 14, the statement said "students were suspended and given warnings through disciplinary by the university" and said the action by the university demonstrated "a targeted act of political repression. The two leaders con-



People inspect the area of Al-Ahli hospital, where hundreds of Palestinians were killed in a blast that Israeli and Palestinian officials blamed on each other, in Gaza City.

Russian Duma passes law to revoke ratification of nuclear test ban treaty

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia's parliament moved swiftly to fulfil the wish of President Vladimir Putin by completing the passage of a bill that shifts Moscow's legal stance on nuclear testing at a time of acute tension with the West. The lower house, the State Duma, on Wednesday passed the second and third readings of a bill that revokes Russia's ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Both were passed unanimously by 415 votes to zero. Putin urged the Duma on Oct 5 to make the change in order to "mirror" the position of the United States, which has signed but never

ratified the 1996 treaty. "We understand our responsibility to our citizens, we are protecting our country. What is happening in the world today is the exclusive fault of the United States," parliament speaker Vyacheslav Volodin said. Russia says it will not resume testing unless Washington does, but arms control experts are concerned it may be inching towards a test that the West would perceive as a Russian nuclear escalation amid the Ukraine war. They say a test by either Russia or the United States could prompt the other to do the same, and China, India and Pakistan might then follow, triggering a new global arms race. All are currently observing test moratoriums, and only North Korea has conducted a test involving a nuclear explosion this century. Russia originally ratified the CTBT in 2000. While it is revoking that step, it has so far said it will remain a signatory to the treaty and continue to supply data to the global monitoring system which alerts the world to any nuclear test.

But when he introduced the bill on Tuesday, parliament speaker Volodin raised the possibility Moscow might withdraw altogether, and said it would keep Washington guessing about its intentions. "Ayman Nofal, 'Abu Ahmad', a member of the general military council and commander of the central command in Al-Qassam Brigades, was killed" in an Israeli strike on the central Gaza Strip, Hamas said in a statement.

Saudi Arabia, Japan agree to cooperate to ease Middle East tensions

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida agreed in a call with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Wednesday to work together to improve humanitarian conditions in Gaza and help ease tensions in the Israel-Hamas conflict, the Japanese government said. "The two leaders con-

Hamas says top commander killed in Israeli strike

Monitoring Desk
GAZA CITY: Hamas said on Tuesday one of its top leaders was killed during an Israeli strike in the Gaza Strip. "Ayman Nofal, 'Abu Ahmad', a member of the general military council and commander of the central command in Al-Qassam Brigades, was killed" in an Israeli strike on the central Gaza Strip, Hamas said in a statement.

EU leaders vow tighter borders, more repatriations after Brussels attack

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: The leaders of Belgium and Sweden and the European Union's chief executive promised on Wednesday to tighten border security and step up repatriations after a failed asylum seeker from Tunisia shot dead two Swedish football fans in Brussels. They spoke after paying tribute to the victims of Monday's attack in the Belgian capital, home to the EU institutions, and condemning what they branded a brutal terrorist attack. The shooting has highlighted the EU's persistent difficulties in managing asylum and migration, including security gaps and failures to return people

deemed not to have the right to stay in the 27-nation bloc. Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said Europe's open-border Schengen zone would not survive unless the EU's external frontiers were better protected from unwanted immigration. "If we are not able to protect our common borders, we will not be able to uphold free movement within Europe," he said. Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said the EU also needed a more effective system of returning unauthorised immigrants. "This is something we need to tackle and can only do that in a coordinated way," he said.



British Ambassador to the United Nations Barbara Woodward and US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield vote against the resolution.

Russia's Lavrov arrives in North Korea as cooperation deepens

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov arrived in Pyongyang on Wednesday for meetings seen as setting the stage for a visit by President Vladimir Putin, who has stepped up cooperation with politically isolated North Korea. Lavrov's two-day visit comes a month after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un made a rare trip to Russia, during which he invited Putin to Pyongyang and discussed military cooperation, including North Korea's satellite program and the war in Ukraine. Putin's foreign minister, who last visited North Korea in 2018, will hold talks with his North Korean counterpart, according to the Interfax news agency. Russia's TASS news agency reported that Lavrov may brief the North Koreans on the results of Putin's visit to China, as well as discussing Putin's potential visit. Calling each other "comrade", Putin and Kim toasted their friendship last month with Russian wine. Courting Kim allows Putin, who says Moscow is locked in an existential battle with the West over Ukraine, to needle Washington and its Asian allies.

Bilawal Bhutto says Elections in Pakistan halted for 'one person's return'

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday asserted that the general elections in Pakistan were halted for 'one person's return' - in an apparent reference to PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif.

"The delay in general elections is not vote ki izzat (respect of vote) but vote ki beizzati (disrespect of vote)," the PPP Chairman said while addressing a public gathering related to the 16th anniversary of Karsaz tragedy in Karachi.

Bilawal Bhutto noted that the 16-month tenure of coalition government taught that Pakistan cannot be run from London. "Today, the country's Constitution, election, and democracy were halted due to one person's return," he said.

Without naming anyone, the former foreign minister said: "We hope that his return to the country would be big, and also that ECP [Election Commission of Pakistan] would soon announce the election schedule."

He expressed the urgent need for all political parties to support the de-

mand for the immediate announcement of election schedule by election commission, saying that Pakistan can be brought back on the path of progress only via elections.

Bilawal Bhutto also said that he wants to end the politics of divide and abuse, adding that if politicians keep fighting amongst themselves, the country will not progress.

"We have to leave politics of abuses and divide behind. We need new leadership, which is not stuck in the past but thinks about the future. We don't want 90s' Pakistan or 2017's Pakistan. We want today's Pakistan," he added.

The PPP chairman also announced that his party was kick-starting their mass contact campaign, which will demand the ECP issue election's date. "Let the people exercise their right to vote; they will have to accept the demand of the people," Bilawal added.

Speaking of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he said that former president Asif Ali Zardari laid the foundation of the mega project.



KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Aseefa Bhutto Zardari wave to crowds at a rally organised on the occasion of anniversary of Karsaz tragedy.

Handing over of PHE's 54 tube wells to WASA: Caretaker Minister PHE directs to implement cabinet's decision

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE) Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Khan Jaffar has stated that the cabinet has already given decision to hand over 54 tube wells of PHE to WASA so it must be implemented immediately in letter and spirit.

He also directed to the concerned authorities to ensure that PHE may not install any tube well in Quetta in future.

In this regard, a comprehensive summary may be presented in the cabinet after it's preparation.

The Minister PHE was chairing a meeting of the department's officers here on Wednesday.

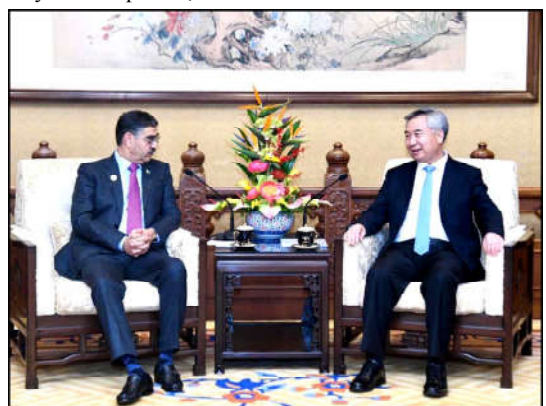
The Additional Secretary Development, Abdul

Qadeer Khan, Additional Secretary Admin, Nadeem Ahmed, Chief Engineer North, Malik Muhammad Azam and other officers were in attendance at the meeting. The meeting reviewed in detail the process on decisions made in previous meetings.

Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Jaffar said that if the officers perform their responsibilities well and honestly then there's no reason not to resolve the issues.

He also urged the officers to resolve the issues of drinking water being faced by people in Gwadar.

In this regard, a comprehensive strategy must also be adopted together with Gwadar Development Authority so as to resolve it in permanent basis.



BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets Mr. Li Xi, member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of Communist Party of China (CPC) and Secretary of CPC's Central Commission of Discipline Inspection.

Caretaker Minister Info calls for digitalization of DGPR to meet emerging needs of digital era

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has underlined the need of digitalization of the Directorate General of Public Relations (DGPR) in order to meet the emerging requirements of the digital era.

Jan Achakzai said that the present era is the era of globalism and communication revolutions and as such we should keep abreast with the modern techniques and innovations for dissemination of the information in an effective manner.

He stressed that it is very important to take necessary measures to adopt the digital era and use modern technology in the province.

The Minister Information was speaking on occasion of his visit to the DGPR office here on Wednesday.

The secretary Information Imran Khan and Director General Public Relations, Noor Khetran were also present.

The Minister and Secretary Information visited different sections of the DGPR and spoke to the high ups present there.

Jan Achakzai on the occasion stressed the need to impart training to the DGPR staff in different modern technologies and communications means.

He also highlighted the important role of DGPR in information dissemination and mass contact and mobilization.

Jan Achakzai also said that his visit reflects resolve of the provincial government to accept the digital era.

He said that the incumbent government wants to ensure effective and modern communication means in the dissemination of information.



BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a group photo with President Xi Jinping and world leaders participating in the 3rd Belt and Road Forum, Beijing.

Pakistan calls for setting up humanitarian corridors for Gaza

ISLAMABAD (INP): At urgent meeting of Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC), Pakistan on Wednesday asserted that Israel must bring an immediate end to its campaign of terror with an immediate ceasefire, calling for establishing humanitarian corridors for relief supplies to Gaza.

Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilani Abbas Jilani made these remarks, who is leading the Pakistan delegation to the urgent open-ended Ministerial Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) being held in Jeddah.

The meeting was convened by Pakistan and

Saudi Arabia to discuss the crisis in Gaza and the humanitarian situation of the besieged civilians there.

Speaking on the occasion, Jilani Abbas Jilani decision the Israeli aggression and inhumane blockade of Gaza that resulted in death, destruction and displacement. He also condemned Tuesday's massacre of innocent civilians in the vicious Israeli attack on a hospital in Gaza.

He underscored that the Israeli occupation forces were in clear violation of international humanitarian and human rights law. Their indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force amounted to war crimes and crimes against

humanity, he added.

The foreign minister called on the international community to hold Israel accountable for its crimes.

Jilani emphasized that Israel must bring an immediate end to its campaign of terror with an immediate ceasefire, and rescinding forced evacuation of Palestinians from their homes.

He also underlined the urgency of humanitarian corridors for rapid, secure and unrestricted humanitarian and relief supplies to Gaza. He underlined that the root cause of the recent conflagration lay in the non-implementation of the two-state solution.

The minister reaffirmed Pakistan's solidarity and

support for the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination.

He called for an early establishment of a viable, secure, contiguous and sovereign state of Palestine on the basis of the pre-June 1967 borders and with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Executive Committee adopted a Joint Communiqué outlining the collective stance of the Muslim Ummah on the situation in Gaza.

On the sidelines, the foreign minister also held meetings with the Foreign Ministers of Gambia, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye.

President PPP Balochistan Chapter calls on Sanjrani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Provincial President of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Balochistan Chapter Mir Changez Khan Jamali Wednesday called on the Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House.

The deliberations delved into a diverse array of vital issues that currently impact the province of Balochistan, said a news release.

The discussion touched upon pivotal subjects, including the prevailing political landscape, the state of law and order, and the intricate economic framework within Balochistan.

During the meeting, Mir Changez Khan Jamali offered invaluable insights and perspectives on these multifaceted matters.

The exchange not only fostered a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by the province but also underscored the collaborative efforts between the provincial leadership and the Senate in addressing and resolving these critical issues.

President Alvi for enhancing trade, economic cooperation with Morocco

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday called for increasing cooperation with Morocco in the fields of trade, investment and economy.

The president, in a meeting with Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Morocco Muhammad Sami-ur-Rehman, who called on him, asked him to work for enhancing Pakistani exports to Morocco.

Talking to the ambassador, he said that relations between Pakistan and Morocco were marked by common history and shared interests.

He said the two sides needed to increase the exchange of high-level visits to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

President Alvi said that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) had been constituted to provide a single platform to facilitate and attract investment and Morocco could benefit of Pakistan's business friendly environment.

Earlier, Pakistan's Ambassador/Permanent Representative-designate to the United Nations in Geneva, Dr Bilal Ahmad, also called on President Alvi.

Talking to the ambassador, the president urged him to continue Pakistan's positive engagement with the UN system to advance country's national interest and priorities.

Nawaz Sharif files protective bail pleas in IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former Prime Minister (PM) Nawaz Sharif has filed protective bail pleas in Islamabad High Court (IHC) to avoid arrest on his return to Pakistan.

Stance has been taken in the petition Nawaz Sharif will reach Pakistan on October 21 by special flight.

Nawaz Sharif wants to surrender before court and face cases against him.

He prayed the court to accept his protective bail so that he could initiate legal process in his defence and get relief.

IHC Registrar office did not raise any objection on both of the petitions.

Nader Alturk says Double-standards of West, coupled with callous policy bleeding Palestinian nation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of Palestine, Nader Alturk Wednesday said that it is double-standards of the West, coupled with a callous policy that is bleeding a dispossessed nation in search of a homeland for the last many decades.

Addressing a Distinguished Lecture Series at Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) titled "Situation in Palestine amidst the recent upheavals in the Middle East", the Palestinian envoy thanked for the overwhelming support from Pakistan, and hoped that social media and countries across the world should rally for a nation at the verge of obliteration.

"We are looking for peace, justice and a solution to our territorial dispute

with Israel which it has occupied forcefully," Alturk said and added that the apartheid at work is pushing Palestinians in a death trap.

He lamented the British colonial power for handing over 58 percent of the Palestinian lands to the Jews, and regretted that even the remaining 43 percent too has been encroached upon.

He displayed the map of Palestine that showed stages of occupation in four stages since 1948.

He criticised former US President Donald Trump for initiating a biased diplomacy wherein Israel is being given legitimacy by the Arab states under the Abraham Accord, and no solution is being found for the pestering dispute of Palestinian state.

Pakistan, US extend Science and Technology Cooperation agreement

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan and the United States Tuesday signed a five-year extension of the U.S.-Pakistan Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement to expand relations between the two countries' scientific and technological communities.

The accord is also designed to promote scientific and technological cooperation for peaceful purposes.

Pakistan's Ambassador to the US, Masood Khan, and Jason Donovan, Director Office of Science and Technology Cooperation in Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES/STC) at the US State Department of State, witnessed the signing ceremony.

Muhammad Saad Ahmed, on behalf of the Govern-

ment of Pakistan, and Michelle Shekells, representing the U.S. State Department, exchanged the documents.

Under the terms of the agreement, the two sides will cooperate through the exchange of scientific and technical information; exchange of scientists and technical experts; convening of joint seminars and meetings; training of scientists and technical experts; conduct of joint research projects; educational exchanges related to science, technology and engineering; establishment of science-based public-private partnerships; and other forms of scientific and technological cooperation.

Signed on June 25, 2003, the agreement has been extended after every five years.



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Local transporters assure to reduce transport fares for providing relief to public

Independent Report
QUETTA: The local transporters have assured to reduce fare of transport in order to provide relief needed to the people.

The assurance was made by the representatives of different transport unions including local bus federation, Sariab local bus association, Kuchlak local bus association, All Quetta Rickshaw Union, Mazda bus association, Pishin bus association and other concerned transport unions to the Secretary Regional Transport Authority (RTA

) Waheed Sharif Umrani during a meeting held here on Wednesday.

The Secretary RTA called the meeting of transporters in line with the orders of interim provincial government and directives of Commissioner Quetta for reduction in fare of public transport in Quetta and other parts.

The transporters on the occasion also apprised Secretary RTA about their issues and apprehensions.

The Secretary RTA assured to resolve the issues of transporters.



QUETTA: Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai and DGPR Muhammad Noor Khetran in a group photo with members of Balochistan Editors Council

Air Chief, Turkish Commander agree to explore bilateral cooperation avenues

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation led by Commander Turkish Air Force, General Ziya Cemal Kadioglu Wednesday called on Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zafeer Ahmed Baber Sidhu where both the commanders agreed to explore further avenues of bilateral cooperation including collaboration for joint production of military hardware with special focus on unmanned aerial platforms.

The meeting covered a wide array of matters related to the geostrategic situation, the progress of current joint ventures and the exploration of further

avenues of collaboration in the aviation industry. The discussion also involved an exchange of insights from both dignitaries on the operational training of their respective air forces in the backdrop of PAF's ongoing mega aerial exercise, Indus Shield 2023 which is being witnessed by dignitaries from around the globe, a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) news release said.

On his arrival, a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented guard of honour to General Ziya Cemal Kadioglu. Later, the visiting dignitary was introduced to the Principal Staff Officers.

Hanif Abbasi acquitted in ephedrine case

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has acquitted PML-N leader Hanif Abbasi in Ephedrine case.

Appeal against life imprisonment of Hanif Abbasi has been accepted.

LHC nullified trial court decision regarding conviction of Hanif Abbasi.

A two members bench presided over by Justice Alia Neelum had reserved judgment on appeal filed by Hanif Abbasi against his conviction in 500 kilogram ephedrine case.

The state counsel took the plea ephedrine was received in the company owned by Hanif Abbasi.

Nothing could become known about use of 37 kilogram ephedrine and nor 137 kilogram ephedrine has been recovered.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Morocco, Mr Muhammad Sami-ur-Rehman, calls on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr

Gwadar Off Road Rally in full swing

GWADAR (APP): The Gwadar Off-Road Rally organized by Gwadar Development Authority and Balochistan Motor Sports is in full swing, motorbike race was held in the first phase.

In the second phase, the Racer Car Show and Registration will be held tomorrow, followed by the Qualifying Round on the next day.

The Chairman Gwadar Port Authority Pasand Khan Buledi has inaugurated the race by raising the flag.

The bike track is 25 km long, a challenging track passing through sand dunes and uneven surfaces that provide an opportunity to exhibit their abilities.

expressed his appreciation and said that Gwadar is not only economically and strategically important, but the region is also naturally and culturally beautiful.

Pasand Khan said the arrival of thousands of fans and tourists from different parts of the country to Gwadar will boost the economic and tourism activities here, which will also benefit the local people.

He said that healthy activities like Off Road rally in Gwadar are awaited throughout the year and such events need to be organized frequently. According to source, a total of 204 racers including 11 foreigners, 10 women and 80 locals will take part in the rally. For the first time, two

Ambassador Anna expresses solidarity with Palestinians

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union Anna Baloch on Wednesday met Ambassador of Palestine to Belgium and EU Abdel Rahim Al-Farra to express solidarity and offer condolences on the loss of innocent lives in Gaza.

"She conveyed Pakistan's unwavering support for the people of Palestine," Pakistan Embassy in Belgium posted on X.

Attends 'World Fatwa Conference' in Egypt Aneeq Ahmed urges unity, adaptation in issuing Fatwas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Wednesday participated in 8th World Fatwa Conference being held at the Egyptian Fatwa House under the umbrella of General Secretariat of Fatwa Houses and Bodies in the world in Cairo, Egypt.

The conference, organized under the auspices of President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, brought together scholars, ministers and Muftis from 100 countries, said a statement issued here.

During the conference, he extended his sincere gratitude to Dr. Shawki Ibrahim Allam, the Grand Mufti of Egypt, for his warm invitation and hospitality. He emphasized the importance of discussing the topic of "Fatwa and the Challenges of the Third Millennium" in recognizing the unique and multifaceted challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah in this era.

separate categories of motorbike races have been added along with the Jeep Rally. A long track of 250 km has been prepared, which includes the beautiful natural scenery of Gwadar, including the beach, desert and mountain areas.

The prize distribution ceremony, musical night, fireworks and other interesting and colourful programs are included.



The final motor car race will be held on October 22, which includes international and women racers.

District administration, Gwadar Port Authority, District Police, Security Forces, including all civil and military institutions of Gwadar are fully cooperating in organizing that wonderful event. On the occasion of the inauguration of the race, Chairman GPA