

# Independent

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## Invites President Xi to visit Pakistan Pakistan blindly trusts China; nothing to be allowed to undermine our partnership: PM

President Xi underlines Pakistan an iron-brother, partner in peace and development; Pakistan, China emphasize steady pace of CPEC, vow to make it corridor of sustainable growth

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday, calling the bilateral partnership made in "heaven", said that Pakistan blindly trusted China and that the country would not allow anything to undermine the bilateral strategic partnership.

The prime minister, in his opening remarks while meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, said Pakistan firmly supported One China policy and would show it through its actions,

not mere words. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the Third Belt and Road Forum, attended by leadership and representatives of around 140 nations.

"Pakistan will not take an inch back when it comes to our relations with China," he remarked as the two leaders met to discuss the bilateral and regional matters.

President Xi warmly received the prime minister as he arrived to hold the meeting accompanied by

his delegation members, including Shamshad Akhtar, Sarfaraz Bugti, Gohar Ejaz and others.

The prime minister thanked the Chinese leader for inviting him to attend the "historic" Belt and Road Forum and also congratulated him for the "resounding" success of the event.

He said President Xi's address at the Forum was "profound, deep and visionary", which offered a lot of opportunities for the countries like Pakistan.

"I used to hear the phrases of (Pak-China friendship) 'sweeter than honey' and 'iron clad brotherhood', but I realise that this moment is for Pakistan when you say 'when China does well, the rest of the world does well.'"

"This is the moment for Pakistan to come and seize the opportunity," he remarked.

He said eight proposals President Xi had put forth at the Forum were actually a roadmap for not just physical connectivity

but also an important stabilising factor in international order.

Prime Minister Kakar said the Belt and Road Initiative was a "pragmatic" and "practical" answer to the global political, economic and civilisational challenges faced by many nations.

He said China's unprecedented progress was a role model which transformed the lives of the millions of its people, also having no parallel in the world history.



BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a meeting with the Ambassador of the State of Palestine in Pakistan, Mr Ahmed Jawad Rabei, and expressing solidarity with the people of Palestine.

### CPEC to bring about Pakistan's economic prosperity, regional connectivity: PM

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday, terming CPEC a landmark project in the history of Pakistan-China relations, said it would bring about economic progress and prosperity in Pakistan and contribute to regional connectivity and development.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Chairman of China International Development Cooperation Agency Luo Zhaohui, lauded the vision of connectivity and partnership under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and its fruits over the last ten years in terms of economic milestones for Pakistan.

Prime Minister Kakar and CIDCA Chairman Luo discussed the collaboration in socioeconomic development projects under the CPEC framework in agriculture, health, education, vocational education, water supply and poverty alleviation.

The chairman welcomed the prime minister's proposal for the swift implementation of CIDCA's GDI projects in Pakistan. Prime Minister Kakar lauded the dynamic partnership between Pakistan and CIDCA and especially commended CIDCA's strong commitment to development projects in Pakistan.

### Pakistan sends 100 tons humanitarian aid for Palestinians

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Thursday sent humanitarian assistance for the people of Palestine including medicine, tents and blankets.

A chartered aircraft carrying 100 tons of essential medical supplies, tents and blankets departed from Islamabad for Egypt this afternoon, the Foreign Office said. From Egypt, the supplies will be transferred to the people of Gaza.

At least 3,785 Palestinians were killed in Gaza in Israeli strikes since Oct 7, the health ministry in Gaza said Thursday.

### Schedule announced for LB elections in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Provincial Election Commissioner Balochistan Sharifullah on Thursday said that the Election Commission of Pakistan has announced the schedule for the local government elections to be held on November 30 in Quetta.

As per the schedule, the returning officers will issue the public notice on 30 October 2023. While the nomination papers will be received from the candidates from November 2 to 4n after which the list of names of nominated candidates can be released on November 6, he said.



QUETTA: Caretaker Federal Education Minister Madad Ali Sindhi meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

### IHC grants protective bail to Nawaz Sharif till Oct 24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday granted protective bail to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif till October 24, and stopped the authorities from arresting him on his arrival in Pakistan from abroad.

The IHC bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb announced the verdict on the petitions seeking protective bail for the former prime minister in Al-Azizia Steel Mills and Avenfield property references.

At the outset of hearing, NAB Prosecutor Rafay Maqsood said that the IHC had stated in its judgment that the former prime minister could request the court to open his appeal again at any time after his return.

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had no objection if Nawaz Sharif wanted to surrender,

he said, adding he had adopted the stance after taking instructions from the NAB Prosecutor General.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb said that the bench was granting protective bail to Nawaz Sharif on the statement of NAB prosecutor, otherwise, it would have decided the matter as per case merit.

The court subsequently granted protective bail to the former prime minister stating that NAB had not raised any objection on it. It also stopped the Bureau from arresting Nawaz Sharif on his arrival in Pakistan till October 24, so that he could surrender before the court.

Later, the court, in its written order, also observed that NAB Deputy Prosecutor General Naeem Tariq Sakhera presented the stance of Bureau after taking instructions from the prosecutor general that it had no objection on the protective bail of ex-prime minister.

### President visits Palestine Embassy; calls for ceasefire, humanitarian corridor

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday visited the Embassy of Palestine and expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people who are being subjected to indiscriminate killings by Israel.

He urged the international community to condemn Israel's brutalities and its disproportionate reaction which killed thousands of innocent people.

He called for an immediate ceasefire and the opening up of a humanitarian corridor to send aid to the people lacking food, electricity and water.

The president also met Ambassador of the State of Palestine Ahmed Jawad Rabei, and expressed soli-

arity with the Palestinian people on behalf of the Government and the people of Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan would always stand by Palestine and only accept a solution that was acceptable to the Palestinians.

President Alvi said that the United Nations should debate the atrocities that happened in Palestine, and the UN Security Council should pass a resolution to stop Israeli atrocities.

He said that such brutal actions created more possibilities of hatred leading to more wars, adding that the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) should raise a strong voice in support of Palestine.

### CJCSC witnesses PAF's 14-Nation Air Exercise Indus Shield-2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, visited an operational air base of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) to witness the ongoing aerial exercise Indus Shield-2023 on Thursday.

On his arrival at the base, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee was received by Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, a PAF news release said.

The Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee was briefed on the Air Power Center of Excellence training facility as well as

the scope of the exercise which aims to project co-operation between the participating air forces and consolidate upon modern concepts of aerial warfare.

The Air Chief appreciated the utmost support extended by General Sahir Shamshad Mirza and lauded his efforts in the promotion of tri-services synergy.

He highlighted the significance of the 14 nation Exercise Indus Shield which in addition to boosting the operational readiness of PAF, would also prepare the participants for contemporary warfare challenges.

### Israel-Hamas war: Pakistan has no intention to send Army to Gaza: FO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Thursday expressed its disappointment over the results of the emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) held on Wednesday and called for an immediate end to the bombardment and inhuman blockade of Gaza.

"We are nationally disappointed by the results of the UNSC debate. The Security Council should play its designated role to bring an immediate end to the bombardment and

blockade leading to a humanitarian catastrophe," the Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in her weekly press briefing. The spokesperson was referring to the use of veto power by the United States at the UN Security Council to block a resolution calling for Israel to allow humanitarian corridors into the Gaza Strip, a pause in the fighting and the lifting of an order for civilians to leave the north of the besieged territory.

### Electricity supply to agriculture consumers: Jan Achakzai accuses QESCO of betraying agreement with zamindars

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has accused the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) of betraying the agreement reached with the zamindars of province in presence of the provincial government regarding restoration of electricity supply to them (zamindars).

While addressing a hurriedly called press conference along with the leaders of Balochistan Zamindar Action Committee (BZAC), Abdul Rehman Bazai and others here at the Quetta Press Club on Thursday, Jan Achakzai regretfully pointed out that



an agreement was reached between the QESCO and zamindars due to the efforts of provincial government for restoration of electricity supply to the farmers of province, however, the QESCO is not implementing the agreement, which is uncalled for and

unjustified, adding he regretted.

He said that the interim cabinet of Balochistan had approved funds of Rs. 1 billion for payment of arrears to QESCO, out of which around Rs. 78 crore have also been sanctioned by the government.

### Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan says: Modern technical educational institutions to be made effective with support of federal Govt.

Caretaker Federal Minister Education assures representation of all provinces to be ensured in administrative affairs of federal institutions

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the modern technical educational institutions operating in the province would be made more effective with cooperation of federal government.

He said that the measures are being taken to produce skilled human force according to the demand of market.

This was shared by the Chief Minister while speaking to the caretaker

Federal Minister for Education, Madad Ali Sindhi who called on him here at the CM's secretariat on Thursday.

During the course of meeting, the matters pertaining to promotion of education, technical and vocational training, opportunities available for the same, besides the financial issues facing the public sector universities of the province were discussed.

The Federal Minister Education informed the Chief Minister about the ongoing programmes of in-

stitutions established for technical education with cooperation of federal government. Also present on the occasion were Minister Finance and Revenue, Amjad Rsaheed, and other concerned high ups of federal and provincial governments.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the provincial government would take special measures for resolving the issues being faced by the universities of the province with cooperation of the federal government.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Sahir Shamshad Mirza addressing the participants of ongoing aerial exercise Indus Shield-2023

### CM says GoB not reduces age limit for government jobs

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that final decisions has not been made yet on the matter of reduction of upper age limit for obtaining the government jobs in the province.

Rather, the matter has been kept for further consideration in the next meeting of provincial cabinet.

In a tweet on his social media account (X) issued here on Thursday, the caretaker Chief Minister said that the agenda point of the upper age limit for the government jobs was presented by the Services and General Administration Department in the cabinet's last meeting.

### Jamali praises performance of Home Dept

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has appreciated performance of the Home department with regard to repatriation of the illegal immigrants in the province. The caretaker Minister Home was speaking to the newly appointed Secretary Home, Zahid Saleem who called on him here on Thursday. During the meeting, matters pertaining to security and law and order were discussed between the Minister and Secretary Home.

They also reviewed the ways and means to enhance mutual relations between the security institutions.

### Governor Kakar meets Balighur Rehman

LAHORE (APP): Governor Balochistan Abdul Wali Kakar met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman and discussed matters of mutual interest besides promoting inter-provincial relations during a meeting at the Governor's House here on Thursday.

Welcoming his counterpart to Lahore, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Balochistan is the largest province of the country in terms of area, adding that development and prosperity of Balochistan is essential for the development of the country. He said a sizeable number of scholarships and seats have been reserved for the students of Balochistan in the universities and medical colleges in Punjab.

### Six terrorists killed, four soldiers martyred in Waziristan gun fight

RAWALPINDI (INP): Six terrorists including a high-value target named Hazrat Zaman alias Khawarey Mullah have been killed by security forces in an operation at general area of Gharyoum in North Waziristan district.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations, the ringleader was actively involved in multiple terrorist activities in the area and was highly wanted by the law enforcement agencies.

However, three military personnel including Lance Naik Tabbasum UI Haq, Sepoy Naeem Akhtar and Sepoy Abdul Hameed also embraced shahadat while fighting gallantly against terrorists. In another operation at general area of Asman Manza in South Waziristan District, Sepoy Farman Ali also embraced shahadat in the line of duty. Sanitization is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area.



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Israeli barbarism**

It is difficult to put into words the outrage one feels when looking at the broken, lifeless bodies of Palestinian men, women, and especially children — all victims of Israel's latest murderous assault on Gaza.

If any other country had been guilty of committing these atrocities, the international community, particularly the self-professed guardians of the rules-based Western order, would have been calling for harsh accountability. But not so for Israel, for whom the rules are always put aside by its benefactors. While the people of Gaza have been enduring hell on earth ever since the events of Oct 7, Tuesday's air strike targeting the Al Ahli Hospital marks a new low in this uneven, brutal conflict. This monstrous crime, in which at least 500 people were reportedly killed, has Israel's footprints all over it, even though Tel Aviv has denied responsibility.

Instead, Israel blames the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, saying the armed group misfired a missile that hit the health facility. The outfit says the accusations are "baseless".

While facts are often obscured in the fog of war, it should be remembered that the Israeli military is well-versed in the art of obfuscation, and that Tel Aviv has a rich history of carrying out massacres of Palestinian civilians, from 1948 onwards.

No one, except for its ardent supporters, is likely to believe Israel's denial of responsibility, since its hands have been covered in the blood of Palestinian non-combatants for decades now. In the most recent hostilities, over 3,300 have been murdered by Israel, including 1,000 children. Were these 1,000 minors all Hamas operatives?

What is just as reprehensible as Israel's unrestrained barbarity is the Western hypocrisy in this conflict. Many Western leaders have made a beeline for Tel Aviv in solidarity with the murderous regime, the latest amongst them Joe Biden.

While offering lukewarm condolences over the hospital outrage, Mr Biden warmly embraced the Israeli prime minister while observing that the "other team" was likely responsible for this odious crime. Gloating over his high-profile visitor's presence, Benjamin Netanyahu termed the conflict a struggle "between the forces of civilisation... and barbarism". Certainly, Tel Aviv's brutal behaviour over the decades, and today, qualifies as barbaric.

It is highly unlikely the West will muzzle Israel. And the Muslim world must take a stand that goes beyond rhetoric, and stops the slaughter in Palestine.

During an OIC meeting in Jeddah on Wednesday, the Iranian foreign minister proposed an oil embargo and sanctions on Israel, as well as called on Muslim states with relations with Tel Aviv to break these off.

There are echoes here of the 'oil weapon' deployed by Arab states during the 1973 Middle East conflict. Certainly, these measures should be considered in solidarity with Palestine's battered population.

**Illegal Israeli attack on hospital in Gaza: a violation of human rights**

By Samiullah

The Impact of the Attack: The attack on a hospital in Gaza resulted in devastating consequences. Innocent civilians, including children, the wounded, and the elderly, were directly affected by this violation of international law. Lives were lost, and the wounded faced dire circumstances with limited access to medical care. Moreover, such actions further perpetuate the cycle of violence in the region, making it even more challenging to reach a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

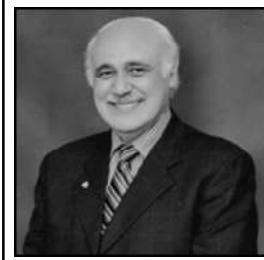
International Responsibility: The United Nations and powerful nations have a critical role to play in addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict. The United Nations and powerful nations have a critical role to play in addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict. The United Nations and powerful nations have a critical role to play in addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict.

The Inhuman Act: Targeting Hospitals: War, even when waged between states with longstanding conflicts, is subject to rules and conventions. The fundamental principle of international humanitarian law is to protect civilians, including the wounded, children, and the elderly. Hospitals are meant to be safe havens in times of conflict, places where the injured can receive medical care without fear of attack. Yet, the attack on a hospital in Gaza violated these principles and shocked the international community.

The concept of "the enemy of my enemy is my friend" has been a notion in international relations for centuries. In this context, it should translate into a commitment to safeguard the rights and safety of the most vulnerable. Powerful nations should exert diplomatic pressure on the conflicting parties to respect the rules of war and peace.

Thucydides' Insights: Rules of War and Peace The ancient Greek historian Thucydides, in his masterpiece "History of the Peloponnesian War," emphasized the

**Abraham's seed**



F.S. Aijazuddin

Over the past five years alone, Israel has invested over \$80bn on its military defence. It must be galling, therefore, for the Israeli defence ministry to discover that 5,000 Hamas rockets could penetrate its expensive security shield with such precision.

In May 1987, an audacious German teenager, Mathias Rust, flew his Cessna aircraft from Helsinki and landed in Moscow's Red Square. The Soviet defence minister Sokolov and other top officials were forced to resign. The Israeli defence minister Yoav Gallant has no intention of going anywhere, except into the Gaza Strip, with a vengeance.

Netanyahu has told the residents of the Gaza Strip to leave before they are bombed into non-existence. It is a cruel warning, as callous as if the Nazis had called on the Jews living in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1940 to find alternative accommodation. The final death toll in that ghetto was estimated to be "300,000 killed by bullet or gas, combined with 92,000 victims of starvation and related diseases".

The two million trapped in the Gaza Strip have nowhere to go. Their exodus is not through a Red Sea parted by Moses. It has to be through once Pharaonic Egypt, or the Mediterranean patrolled by two US aircraft carriers, or into oblivion. The US, the UK and some European countries have leapt to Israel's defence. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken went overboard in Tel Aviv by declaring in Netanyahu's presence 'I am a Jew'. It was more than J.F. Kennedy's symbolic assertion: "Ich bin ein Berliner", and far beyond what Henry Kissinger would have admitted. Kissinger sublimated his Jewishness throughout his tightrope negotiations between the Arabs and Israel.

Russia has growled from its lair, warning the West that it too has interests in the area. The Iranian foreign minister has cautioned Israel that "violence could spread to other parts of the Middle East". The Iranians and the Saudis are holding talks "to prevent a broader surge in violence across the region". Interestingly, China has remained relatively silent. Is it waiting for the situation to deteriorate until its intervention as a peacemaker becomes inevitable? For once, public demonstrations in world capitals have supported the Palestinians that go beyond the token keffiyeh. The slogan 'Je suis Charlie' chanted in Paris has been replaced by 'Je suis Palestinien[n]e'.

Meanwhile, an Armageddon waits in the wings. Some who spot a comedy in every tragedy will have a field day on the predicament of Scotland's First Minister Humza Yousaf. His mother-in-law is trapped in Gaza, unable to escape. Forty years ago, the British cricketer Ian Botham remarked caustically that Pakistan was "the kind of place to send your mother-in-law for a month, all expenses paid". Humza Yousaf must wish his mother-in-law had chosen anywhere — even Pakistan — for her foreign trip.

Those who have a reverence for God in whichever form will recall the Bhagavad Gita's opening verses. In them, Arjuna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra expresses despair at seeing his kinsmen mixed with friends and honoured elders: "Some this side, some that side ranged; and, seeing those opposed, such kith grown enemies [...]. If we slay kinsfolk and friends for love of earthly power, Ahovai! What an evil fault it were!" Is the Gaza Strip to become a Semitic Kurukshetra, a battleground-turned-grave-yard for the warring seed of Abraham? — Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**PM encourages Chinese firms to explore Pakistan's vast potential**

Says govt taking steps to uplift agri sector; enhance processing, exports

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday encouraged China's corporate executives to explore the vast investment potential of Pakistan.

The prime minister said this in a meeting with a number of Chinese corporate executives on the sidelines of the Third Belt and Road Forum here.

The CEOs and executives of Chinese enterprises who called on the prime minister included Minmetals, MCC, China Communication Construction Company (CCCC), China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), COFCO, Amer International Group, China Energy, Power China and China Gezhouba Group.

The prime minister apprised the Chinese businessmen of Pakistan's initiatives for economic and financial stability.

Sharing Pakistan's vision for sustainable and inclusive development, he outlined Pakistan's investor-friendly policies;

including the establishment of Special Investment Facilitation Council, which will act as a one-window platform to facilitate foreign investment.

He encouraged the Chinese corporate executives to explore the vast investment potential of Pakistan, especially in ICT, agriculture, renewable energy, textile, digital economy and, mining and minerals sectors. Appreciating the measures taken by Pakistan to attract foreign investment, the entrepreneurs briefed the prime minister on their business portfolios in Pakistan. They also expressed their keen interest in working with Pakistani partners to expand their business footprint in Pakistan.

Prime Minister Kakar also invited the executives of Chinese companies to Pakistan to discuss their business interests with relevant ministers. Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday said that the government was taking measures.



BEIJING: CEO China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) Wang Haihui and Chairman China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) Du Fei called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.



ISLAMABAD: SAPM/MOS on Investment, Tahir Javed meeting with Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador of Republic of Turkey in Pakistan at his office.

**Dr Mehmood says: CPEC helps to build an enabling economic environment in Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Executive Director, Center for South Asia and International Studies (CSAIS) Islamabad, Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan on Thursday said the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had helped build an enabling economic environment in Pakistan as energy, education and the economy being among its key pillars.

China had invested US\$25.4 billion in direct projects in Pakistan, creating 236,000 jobs, generating 8,000 megawatts of electricity, and building 510 kilometers of highways and 886 km of the national electricity grid, said a press release issued here.

Also, about 28,000 Pakistani students were studying in China.

**Telenor solidifies resolve towards customers with Customer Day 2023**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Telenor Pakistan has successfully completed its annual Customer Day through extensive on-ground outreach into local communities and neighbourhoods across the country.

Valuable feedback from customers was gathered through market visits and surveys, and will be used for continuous improvement.

**Dr. Saif lauds Huawei's presence at GITEX 2023**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Dr. Umar Saif along with delegation had visited the Huawei pavilion at GITEX 2023.

The delegation included the Federal Secretary for IT & Telecom, Hassan Nasir Jami, Ambassador of Pakistan to the UAE, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, and Member IT, Junaid Imam, said a news release issued here on Thursday.

Dr. Saif was shown the latest technology and cutting-edge trends in innovative ICT infrastructure, cybersecurity and privacy protection and the Huawei Cloud which is leading the creation of infrastructure as a service for global accessibility.

The minister was keen on the latest CERT product and OIC CERT operations globally as well as Pakistan.

**Need urged for implementing fiscal, structural reforms to achieve sustainable growth**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Hitech Hybrid Rice Association (PHRSA) Shahzad Ali Malik Thursday urged the need for implementing sustained macro-fiscal and structural reforms, improving competitiveness, productivity and diversifying its agricultural exports to achieve sustainable economic growth and development.

Talking to a delegation of progressive farmers, he said Pakistan had huge potential to increase its exports of rice, sugarcane, and cotton products by diversifying its markets, enhancing its quality standards, branding its products, and complying with international trade regulations and requirements.

For example, Pakistan can tap into the lucrative markets of China, Turkey, Qatar, Kenya, Afghanistan, UAE, and Saudi Arabia by offering different varieties meeting their quality specifications and ensuring timely delivery, said a press release issued here.

**Exports increase by 25.54% to over Rs 2 trillion in Q1**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exports from the country in the rupee term witnessed an increase of 25.54 percent during the first quarter (Q1) of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

Exports during July-September (2023-24) were recorded at Rs.2,013,533 million as against Rs.1,603,869 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 25.54 percent, according to provisional data released by PBS.

On a year-on-year basis, the exports during September 2023 increased by 31.27 percent and were recorded at Rs. 737,295 million compared to the exports of Rs.561,643 million in September 2022.

On a month-on-month basis, the exports increased by 6.06 percent when compared to the exports of Rs. 695,136 million in August 2023. The main commodities of exports during August 2023 were commodities of exports during September, 2023 were knitwear (Rs. 103,029 million), readymade garments (Rs. 74,608 million), bed wear (Rs. 69,234 million), cotton cloth (Rs. 51,891 million), oil seeds, nuts and kernels (Rs.46,571 million), cotton yarn (Rs.33,815 million), rice others (Rs.32,324 million), towels (Rs.25,116 million), rice basmati (Rs.19,008 million) and madeup articles excluding towels and bedwear (Rs.16,922 million).

**Gold rates dip by Rs.200 to Rs.206,300 per tola**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.200 and was sold at Rs. 206,300 on Thursday compared to its sale at Rs.206,500 the previous day of trading. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.171 to Rs.176,869 from Rs. 177,040 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.162,130 from Rs. 162,287, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

**Chairman FBR holds E-Kachehri**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana held an E-Kachehri at FBR (HQs) on Thursday as part of FBR's drive to facilitate taxpayers in tax compliance and to address their tax-related concerns.

During the occasion, Chairman FBR directly received telephone calls from taxpayers and listened to their issues. The Chairman issued on-spot directions to relevant offices to resolve the problems of the taxpayers at the earliest, said a news release here.

Amjed Zubair also encouraged the taxpayers to visit their nearest Regional Tax Office and Collectorate of Customs for speedy resolution of their concerns pertaining to filing of tax returns.

He apprised that Field Formations have already been given instructions for maximum facilitation of taxpayers.



## CJ PHC issues warning against corruption, vows strict action

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court, Justice Mohammad Ibrahim Khan Tuesday administered the oath to the newly elected cabinet of the High Court Bar Association Bannu.

The newly elected cabinet of the High Court Bar included President Muhammad Naeem Khan Sadozai, General Secretary Peer Inamullah Shah, and cabinet members who participated in the swearing-in ceremony.

The swearing-in ceremony witnessed the presence of distinguished

judges like Justice Fazal Subhan and Justice Khurshid Iqbal, along with prominent officials like Commissioner Bannu Division Parvez Sabot Khel, Regional Police Officer Qasim Ali Khan, Deputy Commissioner Bannu Muhammad Nawaz, and District Police Officer Iftikhar Shah.

Justice Ibrahim Khan, while addressing the gathering, emphasized the need for the courts to proactively combat corruption within their ranks.

He issued a stern warning that if the courts

do not take necessary measures against corruption, they might face dismissal notices.

The chief justice stressed that judges should demonstrate their commitment to delivering justice through their actions and highlighted the importance of treating government officials and officers with respect and humility.

Peshawar High Court is set to modernize its facilities with the introduction of digital libraries and IT infrastructure, following the example of the

Mangora District Judiciary.

He announced the establishment of a Camp Court for the Service Tribunal in Bannu, aiming to improve access to justice in the region.

He said that the judicial complex in Bannu would undergo maintenance and restoration work to enhance its functionality.

In his closing remarks during the swearing-in ceremony, Ibrahim Khan made it clear that any form of misbehavior would not be tolerated in the district courts.



**PESHAWAR:** Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali presiding over a meeting with officials of Sui Gas regarding provision of gas to district Peshawar. Mayor Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali is also present.



**GUJJAR KHAN:** Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf addressing the Public Gathering after Inaugurating Solar Energy System at Gujjar Khan Bar Association.

## Feroze Jamal reviews reduction in transport fares in Peshawar

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: In an effort to assess the effective implementation of reduced transport fares in light of declining oil prices across the country, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Caretaker Minister for Information and Public Relations, Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel visited two transportation hubs: Peshawar Bus Terminal and Haji Camp Bus Stand.

During this visit, Minister Kakakhel engaged with passengers, preparing for their journeys to different districts and cities at various terminals, keenly inquiring about the

realized reductions in transport fares. Furthermore, he inquired from drivers and conductors regarding government-regulated fares.

The Commissioner of Peshawar Division, Muhammad Zubair, and Deputy Commissioner of Peshawar, Afaq Wazir joined the minister along with officials from the Regional Transport Authority during the visit.

Minister Kakakhel expressed his gratification upon receiving general positive feedback from the public concerning the fare reductions.

## ANF seizes 226 kg drugs in seven operations

**Independent Report**  
RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations managed to recover 226 kg drugs and arrested five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

He informed that over 2.8 kg Ice drug concealed in a passenger's bag was recovered at Islamabad Airport.

The accused, resident of Lahore, was leaving for Bahrain by flight number EK-613.

In another operation conducted in Faizabad, Rawalpindi, 135 narcotic (ecstasy) tablets were recovered from the possession of a passenger, resident of Khyber.

## Delegation of Sikh pilgrims calls on CM Naqvi

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: A delegation of Sikh pilgrims coming from America and other countries met with Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at CM office here on Thursday.

The Sikh pilgrims thanked CM Mohsin Naqvi on looking after religious places of the Sikh community at Lahore, Nankana Sahib, Hassan Abdal and Kartarpur.

The CM while taking to the delegation of Sikh

pilgrims said, "We are trying to provide visa on arrival to the Sikh pilgrims on arriving to Pakistan. I have talked with the federal government in this regard and will give you good news soon." A community centre will be established for the Sikh community at Nankana Sahib, he added.

He said, "We are introducing a special tours package in Punjab for the Sikh pilgrims," adding that Tourism Department is giving a final shape to this package in this regard.

## Govt taking steps for promotion of education in tribal districts: Dr Qasim

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Caretaker Minister for Elementary, Secondary and Higher Education Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Professor Dr Muhammad Qasim Jan has said that the provincial government was taking special steps for promotion of education in the newly merged districts of the erstwhile Federal Administered Tribal Area (FATA).

He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting of the Merged Areas Education Foundation here

on Thursday. Besides, Secretary, Elementary and Secondary Education, Muatassim Billah Shah, Managing Director (MD) Merged Areas Education Foundation, Abdul Karam and Deputy Managing Director (DMD), Dr Shaikat Hayat, other higher authorities of the department also attended the meeting.

The caretaker minister said that the provincial government has allocated hefty share from its budget to increase literacy rate in the tribal districts.

## Naqvi for timely completion of 34 priority projects

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has directed the timely completion of 34 priority projects of public importance, emphasizing round-the-clock dedication to meet project deadlines.

He was chairing a meeting at the P&D Board on Thursday which was also attended by Provincial Minister for P&D Bilal Afzal, chief secretary, SMBR, secretaries of finance, health, P&D, housing & urban development, local

government, higher education, school education, forests, fisheries & wildlife and aquaf departments, DG LDA, chairman PITB and others. There should be no delays and all allied matters should be promptly addressed; the CM stressed and vowed to regularly visit the P&D to review progress on development projects. A detailed review of progress on priority development projects was presented by the chairman P&D and concerned secretaries. The CM

reviewed construction activities through drone footage and commended the performance of the P&D Board on the efficient monitoring system.

The CM also inspected various sections of the P&D Board, including its daycare.

Meanwhile Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid a surprise visit to Nawaz Sharif Interchange Bedian Road Underpass late-night and Akbar Chowk Flyovers projects early morning.

## Dera police arrested 4 drug peddlers

**Independent Report**  
DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Dera police during a successful operation against criminal elements arrested four drug peddlers and recovered heroin and hashish from their possession in the limits of Paharpur and Cantt police stations here on Thursday.

According to the police spokesman, Police Station Cantt under the leadership of SDPO City Circle Muhammad Adnan along with SHO Gul Sher Khan, while taking action against drug dealers arrested.

## Minister lauds launch of MCMIS

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Agriculture Minister S.M Tanvir has said that launch of Market Committees Management Information System (MCMIS) is a revolutionary step for bringing innovation in agricultural marketing system. He said this while inaugurating the MCMIS here on Thursday.

The system prepared for digitalization of agricultural markets with the cooperation of the Agriculture Department and Punjab Information Technology Board.

SM Tanvir said the

annual income of Rs 2.9 billion was generated through agricultural markets in Punjab. He said that this new system would bring transparency in tax collection and end black marketing. Punjab Agriculture Secretary Nadir Chattha said, "We have to work with dedication to make this new system effective and successful." He further said that in the pilot phase of digitalization of agricultural markets, this system had been implemented in five agricultural markets.

# International News

## No place is safe in Gaza after Israel targets areas where civilians seek refuge, Palestinians say

**Monitoring Desk**  
DEIR al-BALAH: Even the "safe zones" of Gaza aren't safe for Palestinians.

Intense Israeli strikes Tuesday destroyed homes, hit a U.N. school sheltering the displaced and killed dozens of people in south and central Gaza.

"The situation is very, very difficult with artillery shelling and aerial bombardment on homes and defenseless people," said Abu Hashem Abu al-Husseini, who initially welcomed displaced families into his home in Khan Younis, but then fled to a U.N. school, where he hoped to find safety himself.

Israel had told Palestinians over the weekend to

evacuate northern Gaza and Gaza City in advance of an expected ground invasion of the territory following an attack by Hamas militants last week that killed at least 1,400 Israelis.

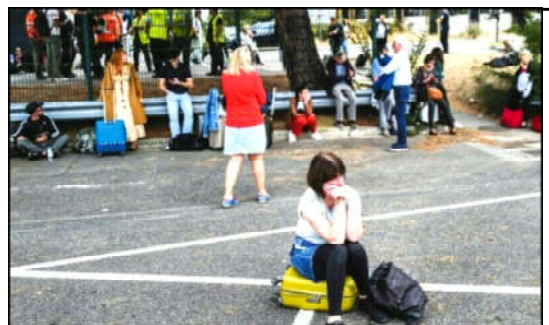
An estimated 600,000 people complied, packing what belongings they could and rushing to the south, where they squeezed into overcrowded U.N. shelters, hospitals, and homes in the approximately 14-kilometer (8-mile) long area south of the evacuation zone.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Hamas on Tuesday of preventing people from "getting out of harm's way," and he again urged Palestinians to head "south

to safe zones."

For some on Tuesday, there was no safety to be had there. After midnight Tuesday morning, an explosion shattered Moatze al-Zre'e's windows. He rushed outside to find his neighbor Ibrahim's entire home had been razed. The house next door was damaged also. At least 12 people from two families were killed, including three people from a family displaced from Gaza City.

"There was no (Israeli) warning," he said. Al-Zre'e's sister was gravely wounded and five of his paternal cousins were also injured following the attack. "Most of the killed were women and children."



**BLAGNAC:** Travellers wait outside the Toulouse-Bagnac Airport after the facility was evacuated.

## China is building up its nuclear weapons arsenal faster than previous projections, a US report says

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: A Pentagon report on China's military power says Beijing is exceeding previous projections of how quickly it is building up its nuclear weapons arsenal and is "almost certainly" learning lessons from Russia's war in Ukraine about what a conflict over Taiwan might look like.

The report released Thursday also warns that China may be pursuing a new intercontinental missile system using conventional arms that, if fielded, would allow Beijing "to threaten conventional strikes against targets in

the continental United States," Hawaii and Alaska.

The China report comes a month before an expected meeting between Chinese leader Xi Jinping and President Joe Biden on the sidelines of next month's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco.

The annual report, required by Congress, is one way the Pentagon measures the growing military capabilities of China, which the U.S. government sees as its key threat in the region and America's primary long-term security challenge.

## Egypt rejects any displacement of Palestinians into Sinai, says Sisi

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said on Wednesday that Egyptians would reject the forced displacement of millions of Palestinians into Sinai, adding that any such move would turn the peninsula into a base for attacks against Israel.

The Gaza Strip is effectively under Israeli control and Palestinians could instead be moved to Israel's Negev desert "till the militants are dealt with", Sisi told a joint news conference in Cairo with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

The border between Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip is the site of the only land crossing from the Palestinian territory that is not controlled by Israel.

Israel's unprecedented bombardment and siege of Gaza has raised fears that its 2.3 million residents could be forced southwards into Sinai.



**Protesters hold a demonstration in Quezon City, Philippines, condemning the blast at the Ahli Arabi hospital in Gaza; members of the US Jewish community protest in the US Capitol in Washington against Israeli attacks; and Lebanese security forces use water cannons as they clash with protesters outside the US Embassy in Awkar, east of Beirut, during a pro-Palestinian demonstration.**

## Protests across Muslim world after hospital strike

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: Thousands rallied across the Arab and Muslim world on Wednesday to protest the deaths of hundreds of people by an Israeli attack on a Gaza hospital.

The strike provoked outrage and condemnation from around the world, with protests on the streets of Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkiye, Yemen and the Occupied West Bank.

"Death to America, death to Israel," hundreds of Hezbollah supporters chanted at a rally in Beirut's southern suburbs. "The Israelis will try to target more hospitals, rescue workers, civil defence volunteers and Gaza's residents without flinching, in order to push Gaza's people out," senior Hezbollah official Hashem Safieddine told the demonstrators.

Protesters took to the streets of the West Bank city of Ramallah and

Nablus, shouting "Free, free Palestine."

While in Tunisia, thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters rallied outside the French embassy, condemning Western support for Israel. Some waved Palestinian flags while others demanded the ambassador be expelled, accusing France of being among the Western "allies of the Zionists", AFP journalists reported.

Some 5,000 Jordanians gathered outside the Israeli embassy, demanding the expulsion of Israel's diplomatic mission. Security forces blocked off roads leading to the embassy but the size of the demonstration looked set to swell due to the anger in Jordan, which is home to many Palestinian refugees.

In the Syrian capital Damascus, hundreds of people with Palestinian flags gathered near parliament, many wearing T-shirts bearing the image of President Bashar al-Assad.

"Martyrdom or victory," one banner read.

In Tehran in the early hours of Wednesday, protesters gathered outside the British and French embassies, an AFP correspondent said. "Death to France and England," protesters shouted, throwing eggs at the walls of the French embassy compound in the Iranian capital. The gatherings ended peacefully.

Several thousand people also gathered in Palestine Square in central Tehran to voice their anger, according to an AFP photographer. Overnight Turks marched with Palestinian flags and chanted slogans denouncing Israel in at least a dozen Turkish cities, including outside the Israeli embassy in the capital Ankara. Police used pepper spray and water cannon to disperse thousands of protesters who tried to enter the compound of Israel's consulate in Istanbul, Turkiye's largest city.

## Russia's Lavrov meets North Korea's Kim, slams 'dangerous' US policy

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov met with North Korea's Kim Jong Un on Thursday, after slamming US policy towards the nuclear-armed state as "dangerous".

Lavrov hailed North Korea as a "close neighbour and long-time partner" in a meeting that lasted a little over an hour, Russia's foreign ministry said in a statement.

The veteran envoy's two-day visit is expected to lay the groundwork for a trip to the country by Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was invited by Kim last month at a high-profile summit in Russia's

far east.

Earlier in the day, Lavrov lashed out at what he termed a "dangerous" US policy towards North Korea while touting the "new, strategic level" of relations between Moscow and Pyongyang.

"Like our North Korean friends, we are seriously worried about the intensification of military activity of the United States, Japan and South Korea in the region and by Washington's policies," Lavrov told journalists, according to Russian news agencies.

"We oppose this unconstructive and dangerous line," he said.



**German Chancellor Olaf Scholz shakes hands with Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in Cairo.**

## Lebanon's Hezbollah says it is stronger than before as border clashes rage

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: Lebanon's Hezbollah warned its adversaries on Wednesday it was "thousands of times stronger" than before, as its fighters exchanged fire at the border with Israeli forces in violence fuelled by the war between Hamas and Israel.

The United States has warned Iran, which backs Hezbollah and the Palestinian group Hamas, against getting involved in the crisis, and deployed two aircraft carriers which it says aim to deter any state or non-state actor seeking to escalate the war.

Hezbollah official Hashem Safieddine, in a speech to thousands of supporters, said US President Joe Biden, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and "malicious Europeans" should be careful.

"The response to the mistake you might make with our resistance will be resounding," he said.

"Because what we have is faith, and God is stronger than you, all your battleships, and all your weapons," he said, speaking at a rally called in response to a strike that killed hundreds of people at a Gaza hospital.



## Ali Madad asks Balochistan govt to take measures to reduce huge number of out-of-school children

QUETTA (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindh on Thursday said that Balochistan has the highest number of out of school children and asked the provincial government to take measures for reducing the huge number of out-of-school children in the province. He asked the provincial government to take maximum efforts to promote quality education and increase the literacy rate in the province.

Addressing the ceremony of distributing laptops to students in Sardar Bahadur Khan (SBK) Women's University, he said that it was a great pleasure for him to visit the only women's

university in Balochistan and realized the problems of the students of Balochistan.

Vice-Chancellor of Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University Professor Dr. Sajida Noreen, Director General NAVTTC Ali Bakhs Magsi, Director General Higher Education Professor Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Bazi were also present on the occasion.

The minister said that the education was not a priority of the previous governments which was why it did not allocate sufficient funds for the purpose.

Madad Ali said that more efforts had been taken to resolve the problems of public sector universities in Balochistan.

The federal government will fulfill its responsibility to ensure the provision of quality education in Balochistan, he said and added that the federal government resolved to bring massive reforms in education sector in all provinces to educate maximum numbers of out-of-school children and ensure quality education for every child in the country.

He said that the problems of 50 years could not be resolved in a short period but it can be reduced.

Madad Ali said that fewer opportunities were provided to female students for quality education and it would be difficult for them to work in the practical field.



QUETTA: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindh poses for a group photo with students after awarding laptops at Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University Quetta.

## APC pleads for practical steps by Muslim Ummah to mitigate Gaza people's miseries

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Conference (APC) on Thursday called for practical steps and measures by the Muslim Ummah to ensure full support and assistance to the war-affected Palestinian people, who are undergoing unprecedented agony and turbulence in the wake of Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip.

The APC participants stressed upon the Government of Pakistan to play a proactive role in order to champion the Palestinian cause and clearly convey

the anger and anguish of the entire Muslim Ummah over the injustice and Israeli brutalities with the Gaza people.

They called for a leading role of Pakistan at the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to bring the Israeli reign of terror on the Gaza area to an end.

They also condemned the international human rights organizations for keeping silence instead of playing their due role to uphold the rights of Palestinian people.

## Pakistan regrets US veto on UN Security Council action on Israeli-Palestinian conflict

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan Wednesday expressed regret over the United States veto on a U.N. Security Council resolution earlier in the day that would have called for "humanitarian pauses" to deliver life-saving aid to millions of traumatized people in embattled Gaza.

The resolution, sponsored by Brazil, had wide support and would have also condemned all violence against civilians. The vote in the 15-member Council was 12 votes in favour to one (United States) against, with Russia and China abstaining.

"Pakistan supports an immediate ceasefire," Ambassador Munir Akram, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told an emergency meeting of the Security Council, which followed the vote. China, Russia

and the UAE convened the meeting to discuss the worsening situation in the Gaza. Referring to today's vote, Ambassador Akram said, "Although the Brazilian resolution needed considerable improvement in our view, we were surprised at the Council's inability to adopt it due to the veto cast by a permanent member."

He added, "A heavy responsibility rests on those who have contributed to the prolongation of consistent bombing of Gaza's citizens that is taking place."

The Pakistani envoy also regretted that the Security Council was unable to issue a call for a ceasefire, due to the opposition and insufficient support for the resolution proposed by the Russia a day before, and for the Russian amendments to the Brazilian resolution call-

ing for a ceasefire this morning. "Today is the eleventh day of relentless, catastrophic Israeli attacks on Gaza. All of Gaza is under military siege, and electricity, water, and all humanitarian aid channels have been cut off. The entire population of Gaza - women, children, and elderly - are being collectively punished by the indiscriminate Israeli attacks," Ambassador Akram said Pakistan, he said, strongly condemns Israeli air strikes and military incursions into Gaza, the killing of civilians, and the large-scale displacement of an already occupied and battered people. "The laws of war and the international humanitarian law, especially the Geneva Conventions must be strictly observed."

Ambassador Akram also "strongly and un-

equivocally" condemned Israel's cowardly and criminal attack on the Al-Ahley hospital in Gaza on Tuesday, killing hundreds, mostly sick and wounded Palestinian children, women and men. "This willful atrocity, an attack on a hospital, which enjoys explicit protection under international law, is clearly a war crime and a crime against humanity," he said, adding those responsible must be held accountable through an international inquiry and accountability process.

Despite the paralysis in the Security Council today, Ambassador Akram hoped that the General Assembly and the UN Secretary-General and the UN agencies will be able to halt the conflict, secure the opening of humanitarian corridors to ensure food, water and medi-

cines, fuel and other essential supplies to the Palestinians in Gaza and prevent the displacement of the Palestinian population of Gaza.

He urged the UN to give urgent consideration to OIC's proposal for an international protection force to protect innocent lives from the ongoing attacks by the occupation forces and extremist colonialist settlers. The root cause of this latest violence is the prolonged and illegal occupation of Palestine and the usurpation of the lands and properties of Palestinians and the accompanying oppression and massive violations of human rights committed with impunity by Israel, he said, noting that illegality of Israel's occupation has been reaffirmed by the International Court of Justice.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over a meeting regarding Balochistan Education Sector Plan and Health Screening.

## Govt determined to implement existing laws for protection of rights of all segments: Domki

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the government is determined to implement the existing laws for protection of rights of all segments of the society including women, children and labourers in the province.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the delegation of Balochistan Commission on Status of Women, who called on him here on Thursday.

Also present on the occasion was the Advisor to Chief Minister for Social Welfare and Women Development, Ms Shania Khan.

The chairperson of

Commission on Status of Women, Ms Fauzia Shaheen briefed the Chief Minister about the working of the Commission.

The Chief Minister said that the women hold special status based on the respect and honour in the province.

He on the occasion assured that implementation would be ensured on the rules of business of the pending laws related to the human especially women rights.

He also welcomed the recommendations of Commission on the Status of Women and assured to dispose of the pending matters related to the Commission.



ISLAMABAD: His Excellency Ahmad Jawad Rabei, Ambassador, State of Palestine addressing during All Parties Conference to express solidarity with the people of Palestine at Embassy of the State of Palestine.

## PM lauds CPC's role to cement Pak-China ties, fostering greater understanding

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday appreciated the role of the Communist Party of China in cementing the Pakistan-China relationship and fostering greater understanding between the two countries.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC) Liu Jianchao here, also lauded CPC's contribution in the development of modern China.

The prime minister noted that the goodwill between the peoples of Pakistan and China was at the heart of the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative

Partnership. Both Prime Minister Kakar and Minister Liu discussed promotion of people-to-people contacts, including exchanges between parliaments, political parties, academia, media, youth, women and think tanks.

These exchanges would help advance the exceptional friendship between Pakistan and China that endures from generation to generation, they viewed.

Liu stated that the prime minister's visit to China was in keeping with the time-honoured tradition of the special friendship between Pakistan and China.

He reiterated IDCPC's commitment to further strengthen Pakistan-China relations.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat inspecting ongoing works of Sariab Road and other projects under Quetta Development Project

## Domki calls for implementing law of free compulsory education in Balochistan

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki has stressed the need to ensure implementation on the law of free compulsory education in the province.

The Chief Minister chairing a meeting of the Education Sector Plan and Health Development Partners here on Thursday.

He said that the 5-year education sector plan is very important for increasing the literacy rate in the province.

He also stressed that we have to bring out of school children in the educational institutions of the province.

The Chief Minister directed to all the district education officers to visit high and middle schools once in a week.

He also directed to form KPIs for review of performance of the DEOs.

Moreover, comprehensive plan should also be devised for professional training of the teachers.

## Significant progress for purchase of oil from Russia

ISLAMABAD (Online): An important progress has been made in the purchase of cheap oil from Russia; between Pakistan and Russia for the long-term purchase of oil.

Sources told that agreement was made on commercial basis, local refineries will buy oil directly from Russia, and regular supply will be followed by government-to-government agreement.

Sources of the Ministry of Petroleum say that the first cargo of the commercial agreement with Russia will reach Pakistan in December, the first oil tanker will contain one hundred thousand metric tons of crude oil, and Russia will deliver the oil to Pakistan at the port.

According to the sources, the price of Russian oil will be 60 dollars per barrel; this commercial agreement takes into account the limit of the price of Russian oil of the G7 countries.

Sources have said that Russian crude oil is ten dollars per barrel cheaper than the normal market even after taking out the rent and premium, and in the first test cargo, Pakistan saved 4 million dollars.



BEIJING: Liu Jianchao, Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

## SAPM Mushaal Mullick urges global action to halt humanitarian crisis in Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick called upon international community, the UN bodies and OIC to adopt a proactive and unequivocal policy approach to prevent the looming humanitarian catastrophe, as the war frenzy Israel put the war-battered Gaza under total siege, halting food, water and fuel to 2.3m people.

Speaking at a Roundtable titled "Gaza Under Siege: Humanitarian Catastrophe of Israel Aggression" organized by Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Mushaal pointed out that the inhuman Israel

was hell-bent on annihilating the entire Palestinian population after forcibly and unlawfully occupied their land.

The SAPM on Human Rights and Women Empowerment lamented that the Zionist regime had no respect for the international laws, as it was targeting hospitals, residential areas and shelter homes with complete impunity, as Gazans were being subjected to genocide. She recalled that like Hindutva Indian government, the brutal Israeli government also adopted similar coercive and inhuman tactics to muzzle the dissenting voices by unleashing a reign of terror, besides cutting the besieged Gaza from the rest of the world.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki visiting BMC hospital

## Jan Achakzai condemns incident: Caretaker Minister Home takes notice of firing on women, orders probe

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has taken serious notice of the firing attack on the women in Hazar Ganji area on Thursday morning.

According to an official hand out issued here on Thursday, the Minister Home sought report of the incident from concerned high ups and ordered to constitute a special team for investigation into it.

He said that it is a sorrowful incident and is just contrary to our traditions.

He directed to arrest the culprits involved in the attack on women in Hazar Ganji.

He also directed to provide medical facilities to the injured women.

Meanwhile, the Minister Information Jan Achakzai condemned the incident of firing targeting women in Hazar Ganji area.

In a separate official statement issued here, Jan Achakzai said that the concerned high ups have sought report from the concerned authorities.

He also directed them to present the report at the earliest so as to take the culprits involved in it to task. Moreover, he also directed the law enforcement agencies to play effective role in prevention of such upward incidents in future.

## Noted lawyer S.M. Zafar passes away at 93

LAHORE (INP): Renowned lawyer and former federal law minister S.M. Zafar passed away after a protracted illness on Thursday. He was 93.

S.M. Zafar was the father of known advocate and Senator Barrister Ali Zafar. The late Zafar also remained a senator.

Born on Dec 6, 1930, in Rangoon, Burma, S.M. Zafar was a senior advocate and a former law minister. He was also an accomplished author and penned numerous books. His family hailed from the town of Shakargarh in Punjab. Following the Japanese occupation of Burma, his family returned to their native village in 1944. He began his career as a lawyer in the 1950s.

He played an important role during the 1958 imposition of martial law in Pakistan and again in forcing amendments to the Constitution of Pakistan of 1962, which at first did not have sufficient protections for basic human rights.

## Caretaker CM grieved over death of eminent lawyer SM Zafar

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has expressed grief and sorrow over death of the eminent lawyer SM Zafar.

In a condolence statement issued here on Thursday, the Chief Minister paid rich tributes to late SM Zafar on the meritorious services rendered in the law sector.

He said that late SM Zafar was a thorough law professional.

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

## Minister Information visits women directorate Women are more active in govt. departments than men counterparts: Jan

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has categorically stated that the women are more active in the government departments than their male counterparts. The Minister Information was speaking on occasion of visit to the Women Development Directorate here on Thursday.

Also present on the occasion were the senior officials of the

Women Development Directorate.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister Information appreciated the overall functioning of the women Directorate saying that it is taking steps for prevention of the harassment of women and violence against them.

In view of the performance of the women civil servants, Jan Achakzai remarked that the women are more active in the government departments than men.



QUETTA: Former Provincial Minister Mir Umar Khan Jamali meeting with caretaker Home Minister Balochistan Captain (retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali

## Balochistan govt to ensure completion development projects in Quetta on deadline

QUETTA (APP): Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat on Thursday said that the government is paying special attention and strict monitoring of development projects initiated under Quetta Development Program to ensure its completion on the final deadline.

He visited the ongoing road construction and expansion projects in the city under the Quetta Development Project.

On the occasion, he reviewed the progress of work on Sariab Road, Link Badini Road, Link Shahwani Road, Sabzal Road and Ansoomb Road projects.

He said that the government is serious about expediting the work on the projects to facilitate the local people.

He said that various development projects have been initiated in order to improve road conditions and ensure public facilities in the city.

He said that despite various challenges and problems, significant progress has been made in the construction of roads in the city.

He said that the completion of roads and public facilities projects of Quetta city will improve the living standard of citizens and also get rid of traffic problems.