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Dream to polio-free Pakistan to be fulfilled at every cost: PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday, vowing to resist the individuals propagating against the polio vaccination, resolved to achieve the dream of a polio-free Pakistan by carrying forward the journey with unshakeable commitment. "I can assure that we gonna have it. We will realise this dream. We will never step back, may be an inch, may be a foot or may be a mile. This will always be a forth-going journey," the prime minister said addressing a ceremony to mark the World Polio Day.

The event was organized by the Pakistan Polio Programme to pay homage to the resilience and dedication of frontline workers on the World Polio Day, which is commemorated on October 24 every year.

Federal Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan, Federal Health Secretary Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, representatives of polio partners Rotary, World Health Organisation and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and frontline workers and their families were in attendance.

The prime minister said by opposing the polio vaccine, the anti-vaxxers, intentionally or unintentionally, were partnering with the forces of darkness. He emphasised the role of faith leaders and the society to make such people realise that they were actually

partnering with the destroyer of the humans. "This is unacceptable. We will resist this," he resolved.

He expressed his gratitude to the global partners who continued to supporting Pakistan in its endeavour of polio eradication.

Recognising the sacrifices of the polio workers and the security personnel guarding them, the prime minister said they had paid the highest price for the cause.

He said the frontline health workers were the heroes of Pakistan, who were working in challenging environments, facing social barriers and even threats to their safety without ever losing their dedication.

The prime minister recognised the services of three police constables who were martyred while on polio duty and to two vaccinators who were injured.

He also presented appreciation shields to the former coordinator of the Sindh Emergency Operation Cell (EOC) Fayyaz Abbasi and the family of Huma Ashraf, who was severely injured in a train accident while on polio duty in September.

The prime minister also announced to personally visit Huma as a gesture to recognise her services in the mission of a polio-free Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar distributes cheques among the families of martyred polio workers and polio workers who got injured in the line of duty.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Afghan media meeting with Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi

Achazkai asks anti-state elements not to make non-issue of repatriation of illegal immigrants an issue

Jan Achazkai warns anyone made attempt to create hurdle in government's plan to be dealt with strictly; asserts those politicising decision of national interest can't be loyal to State

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Minister for Information, Jan Muhammad Achazkai has asked the anti-state elements to avoid making non-issue of the repatriation of illegal immigrants an issue.

In an official statement issued here on Tuesday, the Minister Information said that the anti-state elements has always made attempts to harm the state.

The state knows how to handle such elements, and if anyone attempted to create hurdles in the government's plan would be dealt with strictly, adding he asserted.

He said that the decision of repatriation of illegal immigrants has been made in the larger national interest.

He said that protection of the national interests is the topmost priority. But, adding he regretfully pointed out that some political parties have been using the initiative of national interest for their vested political interests.

He said that the political parties have many other issues to make their narrative for the political gains in Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif leaving after his hearing at Islamabad High Court in Federal Capital.

World Polio Day observed: Polio workers & police awans embraced martyrdom in line of polio duty paid homage

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QUETTA: The polio workers and police personnel embraced martyrdom in line of polio duty were honoured and paid homage at a special ceremony organised at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIEMS) here on Tuesday.

The Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan was chief guest at the ceremony organized to mark the World Polio Day observed on Tuesday, 24th October every year.

The theme of the ceremony was: make polio history. In all 10 polio workers and police personnel who were martyred during duty.

The bereaved families of the martyrs were also awarded cheques.

The polio workers and health workers were especially invited to participate in the event.

The secretary Health, Asfandyar Kakar, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiq, Coordinator Emergency Operation Center, Syed Zahid Shah besides others also participated in the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary and other speakers paid tributes to the polio workers who are fighting on frontline for eradication of polio.

They said that it is because of their sincere efforts that we managed to control the virus.

Electricity of approved agri. sector tube wells be restored by Friday, Domki directs to QESCO

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QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has directed to the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) to restore electricity of the approved and legal tube wells of agriculture sector by Friday so that the zamindars may not face any agricultural loss due to power suspension right in season.

While constituting a sub-committee headed by secretary Energy department and Commissioner Quetta Division, the Chief Minister also directed to prepare viable proposals for action against the illegal tube wells as well as settlement of payment of arrears and installation of meters between QESCO and zamindars.

The Chief Minister was chairing an emergent meeting of the officials of QESCO, Finance department and administrative officers here on Tuesday.

Those present in the meeting were included the caretaker Minister Information, Jan Achazkai, Chief Executive of QESCO, Abdul Karim Jamali, Secretary Finance, Zahid Saleem, Commissioner Quetta, Hamza Shafiq besides other concerned high ups.

Briefing the meeting, the CEO QESCO informed that a total of Rs. 437 billion are outstanding against agricultural consumers while Rs. 32 billion are payable against private consumers in the province.

As a result of which, the QESCO is facing financial crisis, he added.

In a meeting with Afghan media delegation, problems of Afghan journalists, visa issues and other important issues were discussed. He said it was the responsibility of the media to identify the enemies of peace so that the state could defeat them.

Murtaza Solangi held out the assurance that the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would be contacted on the visa issues of Afghan journalists.

As a responsible state, Pakistan will ensure that all foreigners enter the country through legal channels, he added.

The delegation of Afghan journalists thanked the Federal Minister of Information for the assurance to redress their issues.

If security can't be provided to a person, how can elections be held: ECP

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has summoned the interior secretary for being unable to produce PTI Chairman Imran Khan in the case of defamation of the ECP.

The commission was hearing a defamation case against the PTI chief, Asad Umar and Fawad Chaudhry. A four-member commission headed by Nisar Durrani adjourned the hearing till November 13.

Fawad Chaudhry and Asad Umar appeared before the commission, while Imran Khan was not brought to the election commission from Adiala Jail. PTI lawyer Shoaib Shaheen said the real insult to the election commission has taken place.

The operations assistant inspector general of police (AIG) submitted a report regarding the appearance of Imran Khan. It said Rawalpindi was a densely populated area, which is not without dangers. PTI Chairman Imran Khan has himself said there are threats to his life, the report stated.

Armed Forces of Pakistan adhere to the principles of the United Nations charter: Army Chief

RAWALPINDI (Online): Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir has reminded the United Nations of its pledge on Kashmir as he expressed his best wishes for the world body on its 78th foundation day on Tuesday.

Those present in the meeting were included the caretaker Minister Information, Jan Achazkai, Chief Executive of QESCO, Abdul Karim Jamali, Secretary Finance, Zahid Saleem, Commissioner Quetta, Hamza Shafiq besides other concerned high ups.

Pakistan participated in 48 joint missions with more than 230,000 troops in 29 countries around the world. As many as 170 soldiers including 24 officers sacrificed their lives in UN peacekeeping missions.

In his message on this occasion, General Asim Munir expressed his best wishes on the occasion of the 78th foundation day of the United Nations, saying Pakistan has a unique history of serving under the UN flag for a more peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

The Army Chief said on this day the international community must not forget the shared responsibility to fulfill the collective commitment to the principles of the United Nations charter. The Army Chief further said "We are striving to make the world a better place for future generations as per the vision of our elders no matter what the cost."

To ensure good governance Governor calls for promoting pleasant & useful relations among all institutions

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stressed that it is necessary for good governance to promote pleasant and useful relations among all the institutions, based on the mutual respect.

The Governor was presiding over the review meeting of representatives of the federal government departments operating in the province about Pakistan Citizen Portal, here on Tuesday.

The heads of federal government departments and vice chancellors of the public sector universities were also present on the occasion.

The meeting reviewed public complaints regarding performance of federal departments and steps taken for resolving them.

Addressing the heads of federal departments, the Governor said that it is an honour for them to head the institutions but at the same time, heavy responsibility rests on them to perform in befitting manner keeping in view the state of people of the province.

This is necessary to benefit the people from development projects, he added.

The Governor said that it is responsibility of the federal departments to resolve the public complaints and improve their performance.

IHC rejects PTI chairman's plea against jail trial

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday rejected the plea of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman to stop his jail trial in the cipher case.

The IHC bench comprising Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Razaftar Intiaz, which heard the intra-court appeal along with the objections of Registrar Office, observed that it could not grant interim relief to the petitioner as the admissibility of the appeal was yet to be decided.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb remarked that they could give interim relief as after the removal of objections a new bench might be formed for further proceedings.

He said they were removing the objections on the petition.

The PTI chairman's lawyer Salman Akram Raja said that his client had challenged the notification of September 29 for the his jail trial. It was issued by the Federal Government instead of the Commissioner's Office, he added.

The lawyer said that the single bench had declared that the Federal Government had the authority to appoint judges of its own choice.

Punjab govt suspends sentence of Nawaz Sharif in Al-Azizia reference

LAHORE (Online): Caretaker Punjab government has suspended sentence of former Prime Minister (PM) Nawaz Sharif in Al-Azizia reference.

Nawaz Sharif had requested Punjab government for suspending sentence in the light of Islamabad High Court (IHC) decision.

Upon it Punjab care taker cabinet suspended the sentence in Al-Azizia reference.

Government sources said Punjab care taker cabinet has accorded approval to suspend the sentence under section 401 of criminal procedural code.

The care taker cabinet is authorized to suspend the sentence under section 401 of Criminal Procedural Code (CPC).

In 2019 the sentence of Nawaz Sharif was suspended under section 401 before his departure to London.

Reacting to suspension of sentence of Nawaz Sharif in Al-Azizia reference former Attorney General (AG) Ashtar Ahsan said IHC was resorted to in connection with suspension of sentence of former PM Nawaz Sharif. Former

Pakistan successfully conducts training launch of Ghauri Weapon System

RAWALPINDI (APP): Pakistan on Tuesday successfully conducted Training Launch of Ghauri Weapon System aimed at testing the operational and technical readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command. The launch was witnessed by Commander Army Strategic Force Command (ASFC), senior officers from the strategic forces, scientists and engineers of strategic organization, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

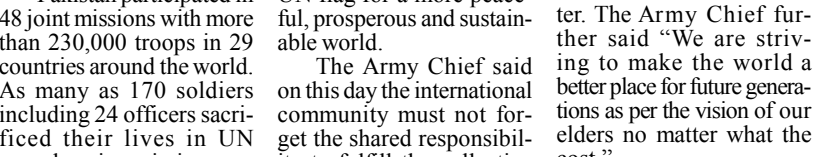
The Commander ASFC appreciated the standard of training and operational preparedness of Army Strategic Forces, which was reflected by proficient handling of Weapon System in the field and achievement of operational and technical objectives.

He also appreciated the scientists and engineers for their contributions towards enhancement of Pakistan's strategic capability.

The President, Prime Minister of Pakistan, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCJCS) and Services Chiefs congratulated the participating troops, scientists and engineers on successful conduct of training launch.



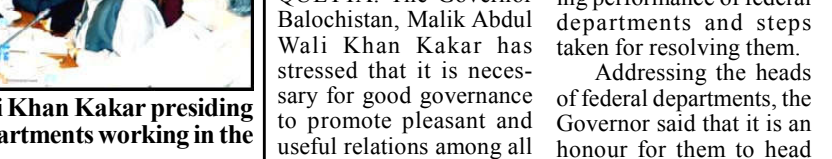
QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar presiding over a meeting to review performance of federal departments working in the province



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan addressing a ceremony on eve of International Polio Day



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PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam addressing a ceremony on eve of International Polio Day at Nishtar Hall.

CM Mohsin Naqvi pushes for expedited completion of Lahore CBD Project

Independent Report LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid a visit to the Lahore Prime Central Business District (CBD) in the Quaid District Project. During his visit, the Chief Minister conducted an extensive inspection of the ongoing road construction from CBD Punjab Quaid District to Walton Road, closely assessing the project's progress.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi emphatically directed the commencement of construction on the overhead bridge project spanning the Walton railway track, urging swift execution. He keenly observed the ongoing construction activities

leading up to the bridge site and emphasized expediting the completion of the Walton Overhead Bridge project. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi remarked that this endeavor would chart a new trajectory for Lahore's development. Once completed, the linkage between Center Point and Walton Road will be traversable in a mere three minutes. He also anticipated an influx of substantial investments, totaling in the billions of rupees, upon the culmination of the entire CBD project.

CEO Imran Amin provided a comprehensive briefing on the progress of the Lahore Prime CBD Punjab Quaid District project. He assured that the

infrastructure work, encompassing road networks, sewerage systems, water supply, electricity grids, and communication networks, would be concluded soon. A dedicated area for green spaces has been incorporated into the Lahore Prime CBD Punjab Quaid District, ensuring a balanced urban environment. The CBD Punjab to Walton Road stretch, spanning 4.2 kilometers, is being constructed using cutting-edge Blue Road technology. Upon completion, CBD Punjab will facilitate uninterrupted travel from Quaid District to Walton Road with three lanes and a strategically positioned flyover.

Pakistan values its relations with Korea: Governor Punjab

Independent Report LAHORE: The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Park Kijun, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman here on Tuesday at the Governor House Lahore.

In the meeting, promotion of bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade and tourism was discussed. During the meeting, the overall situation of Palestine was also discussed.

Speaking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Israel's bombing of children, women and innocent

civilians in Palestine Gaza is a crime against humanity. He said that the world should raise its voice against the ongoing atrocities on Palestinians and play its role in stopping it. He said that Pakistan values its relations with Korea. He said that Pakistan's government and people are grateful to the Korean government and companies for extending help to the flood victims in Pakistan last year. Governor Punjab said that economic, technological, defense, cultural cooperation and people to people contact between Pakistan and Korea need to be further promoted.

CM stresses collective efforts to eradicate polio

Independent Report LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday said that every segment of society must play its role in dealing with the challenge of poliovirus.

In a statement on International Polio Day, the CM said that the poliovirus has been defeated globally, but it still exists in Pakistan and Afghanistan, which is a matter of concern. It is the primary duty of every Pakistani to make

the country free of poliovirus, he added and appealed to parents to get polio drops administered to their children to save them from the disease.

The CM also saluted the polio workers and organizations working against the poliovirus and said that the virus could be controlled with joint efforts so that future generations could be saved from the disease. We pledged to eradicate this disease, he added.

Governor KP highlights role of women staff in polio eradication

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali on Tuesday highlighted the role of women workers in polio eradication and said that we should liaise to fight polio with the same commitment that helped us to defeat corona.

He was the Chief Guest in a ceremony held in Nishtar Hall to mark World Polio Day. The ceremony was organized by UNICEF, WHO, Rotary International and KP Elimination Program and attended by Director General Health, Dr. Shoukat Ali, Commissioner Peshawar, Muhammad Zubair, Deputy Commissioner, Afaq Wazir, Director EPI Program, Dr. Arif and polio workers.

Addressing the

ceremony, KP Governor underscored the services of media, medical professionals, ulema, teachers and civil society in polio eradication and said that Pakistan and Afghanistan are the focus of the world after the elimination of crippling disease from the rest of the countries situated on the globe. He said that the government is working on a war footing to wipe out polio and we desire that polio should be eliminated from all over the country. Highlighting the sacrifices of polio workers, he said that they should be respected for their efforts rather than targeted for a cause that would impact the future of the next generation.

He also distributed

prizes and certificates among polio workers of D I Khan and other far-flung areas and cash prizes among heirs of polio workers who were killed in the line of duty.

The governor also met with a nine-member delegation of Islamia College senior alumni in the Governor House. The delegation was led by Engineer Muhammad Arif and included Abdullah Khan, Arbab Daud, Naem Afridi, Syed Bilal and Mateullah. The delegation informed the governor about the condition of Islamia College's historic masjid urging him to take steps for its revamping. Haji Ghulam assured cooperation to the delegation and offered to bear the revamping expense personally.

Two-day free medical camp held

By Aijaz Mughal

UMER KOT: A two-day free medical camp was organized by the social organization. Doctors specializing in various diseases provided free medical examination and medicines to more than 2000 patients.



According to the details, a two-day free medical camp was organized by the social organization Share for Care Trust in collaboration with the Nizamuddin Foundation in Umerkot, Dhoranaro and Choor, in which more than forty doctors of various diseases from London-based Pakistan Najat Patriot. Specialist Dr. Muhammad Yunus Bagha, General Surgeon Dr. Syed Amar Hussain, while specialist doctors from Dubai including rheumatologist and general physician Dr. Syed Arshad Hussain, dermatologist Dr. Manzoor Memon and Gynecologist Dr. Nausheen Qadri from Karachi examined more than two thousand patients suffering from various diseases in the free medical camp and provided them with free medicines delivered from foreign countries.

The visiting doctors said that we felt very happy that they have also participated in this good work. It is a pity that even in the modern era of the 21st century, the people here are deprived of basic facilities like health.



LARKANA: Residents of Ghulam Hussain Butt village are holding protest demonstration for recovery of missing young boy Ali Haider Butt, who was missing few days ago, at Larkana press club.

Collective efforts stressed to eradicate polio from country

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Commissioner of Dera Ismail Khan, Zafarul Islam Khattak, emphasized the need for collective efforts to eradicate polio from the country. He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony held on Tuesday at Gomal University in connection with World Polio Day.

International News

24 hours, 320 strikes, 436 dead bodies

Monitoring Desk GAZA: On a day when Israel's army reported strikes on at least 320 targets within 24 hours, Gaza's health ministry said on Monday that at least 436 people had been killed in bombardments over the past 24 hours, while the overall death toll had climbed above 5,000.

In addition, about a dozen trucks carrying desperately needed aid — the third convoy in three days — arrived inside Gaza from Egypt on Monday through Rafah, even as PM Mohammed Shтайyeh accused Western nations of giving Israel a "licence to kill".

"What we hear from the mouth of the occupation (Israeli) leaders on

preparations for a land invasion means more crimes, atrocities and forced displacement," Shtayyeh told the start of a Palestinian Authority government meeting.

"We condemn the statements that constitute a licence to kill and give Israel political cover to commit massacres and spread destruction in Gaza," he added.

On Monday, Hamas also announced the release of two more elderly women prisoners in response to Egyptian-Qatari mediation efforts.

A spokesman for the group said in a statement: "We decided to release them for humanitarian and poor health grounds." An American mother and

daughter, Judith and Natalie Raanan, were earlier released on Friday.

"Hello from Gaza — I'm still alive", it's a message many Palestinians trapped in the besieged and bombed territory send each morning to their loved ones outside the coastal enclave.

With utter destruction around them, solemnity and despair often fill the messages Gazans post on social media to friends, colleagues, and the outside world.

Israel cut the electricity supply to Gaza as part of the "total siege" it launched on October 9, seriously hindering communications between the Palestinian territory and the rest of the world.

US forces targeted in Syria, no casualties

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: American and allied forces in Syria were targeted on Monday in an attack that did not cause casualties, a US official said, after a group claimed to have launched drones at Washington's troops.

"An attack against US and coalition forces occurred early this morning in Syria. There were no injuries or damage," a US defence official said.

The US official did not provide specifics on the attack, but a group calling itself the Islamic Resistance in Iraq said earlier in the day that it had launched drones against American forces at Al-Tanf and Al-Malikiyah in Syria.

The United States has some 900 troops in Syria and 2,500 in Iraq as part of efforts to combat IS, which once held significant territory in both countries but was pushed back by local forces supported by international air strikes. Meanwhile, Iraq on Monday condemned as "unacceptable" attacks against bases on its territory housing US.



Palestinians transport the body of a victim from the rubble after Israeli strikes in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

UN chief warns that the risk of the Gaza war spreading is growing as situation becomes more dire

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations chief warned at a high-level U.N. meeting Tuesday that the situation in the Middle East is growing more dire by the hour with the risk of the Gaza war spreading through the region increasing as societies splinter and tensions threaten to boil over.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for an immediate humanitarian cease-fire to deliver desperately needed food, water, medicine and fuel. He appealed "to all to pull back from the brink before the violence claims even more lives and spreads even farther."

Guterres told the U.N.

Security Council's monthly meeting on the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict—which has turned into a major event with ministers from the war's key parties and a dozen other countries flying to New York—that the rules of war must be obeyed.

The secretary-general said the grievances of the Palestinian people cannot justify "the horrifying and unprecedented Oct. 7 acts of terror" by Hamas in Israel and demanded the immediate release of all hostages. But Guterres also stressed that "those appalling attacks cannot justify the collective punishment of the Palestinian people."

He expressed deep concern at "the clear violations of international humanitarian law," calling Israel's constant bombardment of Gaza and the level of destruction and civilian casualties "alarming."

France's Macron says 'fight must be without mercy, but not without rules'

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: French President Emmanuel Macron, speaking after meeting Israel's prime minister on Tuesday, proposed a coalition to fight terror groups in the region "that threaten all of us."

He compared the proposal to the international coalition fighting the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria. He was referring to the Iranian-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon, Iran itself and the Houthis in

Yemen, among others, saying they must not take the risk of opening a new front.

Macron, on a two-day visit to the region, met with families of hostages held captive in the Gaza Strip by Hamas, and said "we will neglect nothing" to obtain freedom for French citizens. Nine French citizens are being held or have disappeared. Macron said he would visit Ramallah later Tuesday and several regional leaders on Wednesday.

Kremlin rejects speculation that Putin is ill and uses body doubles

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: The Kremlin on Tuesday rejected speculation about President Vladimir Putin's health, saying he was fit and well. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, in a regular call with reporters, also denied suggestions that the president was using body doubles, calling that an "absurd hoax". Reporters asked Peskov about Putin's health following an unsourced report by a Russian.

'Enough is enough': Qatar emir takes aim at Israel's backers

Monitoring Desk DOHA: The Qatari ruler hit out at Israel's backers Tuesday, charging they had given it "free licence to kill" in its war with Hamas and questioning what the conflict would achieve.

Major powers, including the United States, Britain and France, have rallied to support Israel and affirmed its right to defend itself after this month's deadly attack by the Palestinian Islamist group. Hamas fighters stormed into Israel from the Gaza Strip on October 7, killing at least 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and taking 222 hostages, according to Israeli officials. More than 5,000 Palestinians, mainly civilians, have been killed across the Gaza

Strip in relentless Israeli bombardments in retaliation for the attack, according to the territory's Hamas-run health ministry.

"We are saying enough is enough," Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani told a meeting of the Shura Council, Qatar's legislative body, according to a translation released by the royal court. "It is untenable for Israel to be given an unconditional green light and free licence to kill, nor is it tenable to continue ignoring the reality of occupation, siege and settlement." Qatar, a US ally which hosts a large US military base, also hosts an office of Hamas which doubles as the main residence of its self-exiled leader Ismail Haniyeh.



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, center, and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield, left, talk with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres before a Security Council meeting at United Nations headquarters.

At least 24 dead, including 12 police officers, in southwest Mexico

Monitoring Desk ACAPULCO: Three separate armed attacks in Mexico on Monday left at least 24 people dead, including a dozen police officers, authorities said about the latest violence to hit regions plagued by drug trafficking.

In the deadliest incident, unidentified attackers targeted a security patrol in Guerrero state's municipality of Coyuca de Benitez, prosecutor Alejandro Hernandez said.

At least 13 people were killed and two others wounded in that attack, the state prosecutor's office said in a statement, with Hernandez earlier having confirmed that at least 11 of those killed were members of the municipal police force.

A senior state security official was traveling in the convoy when it was attacked, authorities said, without confirming media reports that he was murdered along with police bodyguards.



Industrial engineer and former lawmaker Maria Corina Machado reacts to the vote count, after Venezuelans voted in a primary to choose a unity opposition candidate to face Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro in his probable re-election bid in 2024, in Caracas, Venezuela.

Biden and Pope Francis discuss Gaza carnage by Israel in a call

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden spoke with Pope Francis and discussed the ongoing conflict in the Middle East between Israel and Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, the White House and the Vatican said in separate statements.

They discussed "the need to prevent escalation in the region and to work toward a durable peace in

the Middle East," the White House said.

The Vatican earlier said the call, which lasted about 20 minutes, "focused on conflict situations in the world and the need to identify paths to peace."

Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, killing over 1,400 people. In retaliation, Israel has killed more than 5,000 Palestinians in Gaza Strip.

