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Nawaz Sharif not returning under deal, says PM

Government has no soft corner for any political party; Nawaz will have to face legal obstacles to contest polls; Govt finalising required measures for polls with ECP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday dismissed the impression that the decision of Pakistan Muslim League leader Nawaz Sharif to return to Pakistan was part of any deal with the interim government.

"The caretaker government has 'no soft corner' for PML-N or any other political party...How can a caretaker government strike such a deal," he said in an interview with digital media platform, WE (World Echo) News.

The prime minister was responding to a question relating to the PML-N chief's homecoming who flew from London to Saudi Arabia yesterday with his announcement to land in Pakistan on October 21. Kakar pointed out that

Nawaz Sharif left the country as per the court decision "under the nose of Imran Khan's government, and not the caretaker setup".

However, he said that if Nawaz Sharif returns and takes part in politics, he will have to face some legal obstacles. "The answers to these legal questions lie in legal remedies," he said.

Kakar said any leader be it Imran Khan, Asif Ali Zardari, or Nawaz Sharif, everyone would have to seek their legal remedy as per their case scenario.

He said Pakistan was facing the formation of "regimental camps" and the country had been turned into a fighting ground for political positions.

He rejected the notion

that the caretaker setup could be likened to the 90s 'Kakar formula' where both Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan were forced to quit on the proposal of then army chief General Waheed Kakar to make way for fresh election.

"This comparison is apples and oranges. It is out of context because in our case, the stint of the normal parliament led to its retirement and we are part of the constitutional continuation where leaders of the House and the Opposition agreed upon my name," he said. There has been no interference from any institution in our case, he said.

On general polls, he said necessary security and administrative arrangements were in place.

He said the caretaker government in collaboration with the Election Commission was in the process of the finalization of the required measures.

On the expulsion of Afghan refugees, the prime minister said the action was being taken only against unregistered foreign nationals and over one million illegal aliens. The government's objective, he said, was to regulate the movement of unregistered foreign nationals through proper process.

On relations with India, he said the radicalized RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) mindset of the ruling Indian party and the Kashmir dispute were the main hurdles in the maintenance of good ties.

"The situation between Pakistan and India needs to be improved, however, realistically at present, there is no such possibility," he said. PM Kakar said the indigenous designs of India needed to be curtailed as the country was turning into hell for its minorities, including Muslims, Sikhs, and others.

Asked about any possibility of recognition of Israel, he said, "There are no such deliberations going on." Pakistan considers Israel an "oppressor" and stands with the rights of Palestinians to their existence and return to their land, he said. On Pakistan's economic stability, he said the country for the first time witnessed a reversal of the value of the dollar with a consistent descent of about Rs 42-45.



ISLAMABAD: Special Envoy of the Secretary General of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation on Jammu and Kashmir H.E. Yousef M. Al Dobeay calls on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Pakistan calls for end to "inhumane" blockade of Gaza; UN's role for ceasefire

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Thursday strongly condemning the indiscriminate use of force by Israeli authorities in Gaza, called for an end to the "inhumane" blockade causing humanitarian situation, besides urging the United Nations' proactive role in facilitating a ceasefire to alleviate the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza.

"We are deeply concerned about the fast-deteriorating and dire humanitarian situation in Gaza due to the inhumane blockade and collective punishment by Israeli forces.

The decision to cut off electricity, fuel and water supplies is unjust and should be reversed, as it would severely impact the lives of the Palestinians residing in the enclave," Foreign Office spokesperson Muntaz Zahra

Baloch said in her weekly press briefing.

She said the unprecedented gravity of the situation demanded urgent intervention by the international community.

"We urge the United Nations to play a proactive role in facilitating a ceasefire to alleviate the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza," she said.

She called upon Israel to bring an immediate end to its campaign of indiscriminate bombing against the people of Gaza.

"It should fulfill its obligations as an occupying power under international law, lift the blockade and allow unhindered access to humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people," the spokesperson remarked.

She said the current

cycle of aggression and violence was a sad reminder and a direct consequence of over seven decades of illegal foreign occupation, aggression, and disrespect for international law, including UNSC resolutions that recognized the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinian people.

Pakistan has been constantly warning against serious consequences of Israel's escalatory and provocative actions in recent months, she added.

Spokesperson Baloch called for the international community's role for a just, comprehensive, and lasting two-state solution with a viable, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine on the basis of pre-1967 borders, with Al Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing convocation ceremony of Quaid-e-Azam University

Quality education, major requirement for country's development: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday stressed the universities to provide quality education to the students as it was the foremost requirement for the development of the country.

He directed the education ministry and Higher Education Commission (HEC) to support universities in designing the courses and departments in accordance with the demand of jobs in the market.

Addressing the Convocation ceremony of the Quaid-i-Azam University here, the president said Pakistan was passing through the economic crisis but hoped that the country would rise again soon by ensuring quality education, rule of law and justice.

"Pakistan has full po-

tential to develop and the sun of development and prosperity would rise in the country soon," he remarked.

During the ceremony, the president gave away medals to the top position holders and conferred degrees to the successful students in various departments of the university.

Referring to the shortage of professionals, especially in the medical field in the country, the president advised the female professional not to sit at home after completing their degree. He said women of the country were very hardworking and they could play key role in the development of the country by working shoulder to shoulder with the men. However, he

stressed the need to stop their harassment at workplaces so that they could work freely.

The president said the literacy rate in the country was alarmingly low as over 20 million of 40% of children were currently out of school.

He said to accommodate all the children at once, the government would need 55000 more schools that would be unaffordable for it. Comparing the regional statistics, the president highlighted that in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, around 98% of the children were enrolled in schools.

He feared that this huge number of out of school children could become burden for the country in future.

Peace in region to remain elusive till Kashmir dispute resolution: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday calling the Kashmir dispute the root cause of tension in South Asia, said peace in the region would remain elusive till the resolution of the issue.

The prime minister in a meeting with OIC Secretary General's Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir Yousef M. Al Dobeay, said Pakistan was committed to a just and peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

He welcomed the visit of the OIC delegation to Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

He lauded the sustained efforts of the OIC in support of the Kashmir cause, particularly in the

wake of India's unilateral and illegal actions of August 5, 2019 and stated that the people of Pakistan and Kashmir had high expectations of the OIC.

Highlighting the tremendous sacrifices of the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir for realization of their inalienable right to self-determination, the prime minister said that the Kashmiris had always looked towards OIC and Ummah for support.

Prime Minister Kakar also expressed serious concern over the rise of Islamophobia around the world, particularly in the form of Hindutva.

He said this constituted a serious threat to global peace and security and urged to step up efforts to counter these forces.

Royal system of police, patwari should be abolished: CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa on Thursday remarked that the institutions should be respected while the royal system of police and 'patwari' should be abolished.

The CJP gave these remarks during hearing of a case pertaining to the 70 tola gold committee. During the hearing of the case, the top court expressed displeasure over the poor investigation into the matter.

The chief justice inquired that how much gold the arrested goldsmith had to give through the commit-

tee. The court was told that 70 tolas of gold was not given to the plaintiff.

The chief justice noted that no income tax had been paid on one and a half million worth of gold, where does this gold come from? What is its legal status.

He said that the real suspect in this case should be the police, adding that the policeman would ask for the gold only for his own benefit. The CJP observed that the committee was formed by the arrested suspect and the police investigated his family members.

Mushaal informs OIC's Special Envoy about HR abuses in IIOJK by India

ISLAMABAD (INP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick has informed the OIC's Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir, Yousef Aldobeay, about aggravating human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, particularly incarceration of the entire political leadership including Yasin Malik.

The OIC Secretary

General's Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir, Yousef Aldobeay along with a high-level delegation met Ms Mushaal Hussein Mullick in Islamabad, today.

Welcoming the OIC delegation for its visit to Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, she thanked the Special Envoy for OIC's consistent and unequivocal support to the oppressed people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir, particularly since India's illegal actions of 5th August 2019.



ISLAMABAD: Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Jammu and Kashmir, H.E. Yousef M. Al Dobeay calls on the Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Ms. Mushaal Hussein Mullick.



Chief of Qatar Armed Forces Lieutenant General Salem Hamad Eqail Al-Nabet meeting with Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir in Rawalpindi.

Pakistan values its brotherly relations with Qatar, COAS

RAWALPINDI (Online): Lieutenant General (Pilot) Salem Hamad Eqail Al-Nabet, Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed Forces called on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), COAS at GHQ, today.

During the meeting matters of mutual & professional interest and regional security situation were discussed.

COAS said that Pakistan values its brotherly relations with Qatar and Pakistan Army also looks forward for enhanced defence and security cooperation with Qatar Armed Forces.

The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan Army continuous efforts for peace and stability in the region and pledged to keep working for better relations between the two countries.

'Don't give up, time of trial to end soon': Imran's message to supporters

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Incarcerated chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Imran Khan has reiterated his resolve that he would not back down even an inch from the quest of 'Haqqeeqi Azadi' (real freedom), urging the nation to not give up, as this time of trial will end because whenever the election will be held the only destiny of this "unelected predatory group and their facilitators is defeat".

In his message to the "nation" from the jail, the former premier said: "Regardless of what prison they keep me in, whatever conditions they impose upon me, I will not back down even an inch from the quest of Haqqeeqi Azadi, for the upholding of the rule of law and the Constitution of Pakistan, at the core of

which is free and fair elections." In a statement released by PTI, Khan said: "Those suggesting that I leave the country, know that I will live and die in Pakistan, and I will not leave my land to go anywhere."

Talking about the cypher case, the official statement added, Khan stated that the bogus case was designed to protect former army chief General (ret'd) Qamar Javed Bajwa and US diplomat Donald Lu. "I was the elected prime minister of the country. Treason was committed against me and my government by General Bajwa, instead of investigating the foreign conspiracy in orchestrating a regime change, a case has been filed against me for informing the people of Pakistan, the real protectors of this country, about this treason," he added.

Second phase of CPEC in full swing: Sami Saeed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Thursday said the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was in full swing, reiterating the interim government's strong commitment to implementing the development projects in letter and spirit.

The minister made these remarks while speak-

ing at a seminar on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI): "Paving the Path to Shared Prosperity," organized here by the Centre of Excellence, CPEC, Quaid-e-Azam University (QUA).

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong was the chief guest at the conference, which was also attended by the Vice Chancellor, QAU, Project Director, CPEC and hundreds of policymakers and experts.

Caretaker PM bans unnecessary foreign visits of Ministers

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has banned the unnecessary foreign visits of care taker Federal Ministers and senior government officials.

New SOPs have also been issued regarding foreign visits of Ministers and government officials.

Sources told that a report was submitted to Prime Minister (PM) that some Ministers and Federal Secretaries and others are making unnecessary foreign visits.

In which it was said that due to these visits, the work in the federal ministries and the Pakistan Secretariat is being affected. The report also revealed that several top government officials went abroad to meet their children but these visits were declared official.

While expressing his displeasure Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has directed that only the most necessary foreign trips should be made, priority should be given to those foreign trips where the sponsor is the relevant country or organization and formal permission from the competent authority before foreign trips to be taken.

Afghan refugees issue Double standards of western countries exposed

Independent Report

QUETTA: The West exhibits a stark contrast by urging Pakistan to show compassion to Afghan refugees while failing to grant special visas to nearly 197,000 Afghans who fled the Taliban's rule in 2021. For more than 40 years, Pakistan has welcomed 1.95 million Afghan refugees, with an additional 600,000 finding shelter af-

ter Taliban took over. As of Sep 2023, the US has resettled fewer than 4,000 Afghans, despite promising to provide asylum to Afghans who had worked with the US in Afghanistan through their special visa programs. Similarly, the UK resettled only 3,000 Afghans but halted the program, citing COVID-19 as the reason.

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

DAYS REMAINING

18

in # f @GovtPakistan

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Last call?

Policy confusion, economic disarray, social upheaval, media clampdown and political persecution have cast a suffocating pall on Pakistan.

Amidst this feeling of desolation, a call for forgiveness and cooperation is a reminder that the way out is much simpler than what it has seemed to be.

What President Arif Alvi has said echoes what many politically astute minds believe is the only way for Pakistan to realistically turn the corner: the state must provide an outlet to the public's suppressed will with an election that is free of controversy and fair to all parties.

For a change, it should let the system work in the way it was originally intended to. The country's economic condition presents an unprecedented existential challenge for Pakistan.

No government can realistically expect to survive the difficulties that lie ahead if it comes to power on a stolen mandate. To break free of the past, we must break the mould.

Though the print and electronic media have not been allowed to dwell too long on the topic, the public knows well that it is being ruled by a regime whose priorities and policies are completely at odds with the aspirations of the majority.

The latter's discontent has been made worse by the state-sanctioned use of coercive tactics to restore 'stability', which have yet to yield any tangible dividends for the ordinary citizen.

Those who favour this style of 'political management' must realise that repression has never worked in the past and is unlikely to do so this time. In present conditions, holding an election whose fairness is widely doubted will further fracture the sociopolitical order.

This will not only imperil Pakistan's standing in a rapidly changing world, but the continuing instability is likely to set its economy back by decades. And, by the time the extent of the damage that has been wrought under the present regime is acknowledged, the country will have slumped lower in human development rankings.

The past cannot be undone, but the path we take forward is entirely up to our political, judicial, military and civil society leadership.

The leaders of the different parties must sit together — or be persuaded to if they are not amenable — to agree to some ground rules for the upcoming election. In negotiating these rules, the parties can create the 'level playing field' that each of them has been seeking separately. Meanwhile, the state ought to consider diverting its energies away from the less-than-effective policies it has been pursuing and allocate them, instead, towards ensuring that the political parties have an equal incentive for participating in the talks. This seems like the only 'positive role' it can play at this point. Realistically, and given present conditions, this seems to be the most reasonable path forward.

How can PTI become Relevant Again???



By Qamar Bashir Former Press Secretary to the President, Former MD, SRBC, Former Minister Press, Embassy of Pakistan to France

In the context of PTI's relevance to the elections and to the politics of the country, the challenge lies in PTI's current confrontational stance towards the powerful Army, which plays a significant role in Pakistan's politics. PTI is perceived as actively seeking favor from the public and institutions to establish its superiority over army and its leadership by cultivating its retired and serving officers and by maligning, weakening and discrediting the army as an institution and its leaders.

Whereas, the army as an institution has decided to vehemently frustrate all such efforts by all means at its disposal and at all costs. The ongoing struggle between PTI and the Army became evident through a PTI-sponsored survey indicating strong public support for Imran Khan, with a 61% positive opinion. Regionally, 29% from Punjab, 28% from Sindh, and 14% from KP had a favorable view of Imran Khan. However, 37% expressed a negative opinion. Notably, Nawaz Sharif and Bilawal Bhutto also garnered far less public support, with 36% having a positive opinion of both. Shehbaz Sharif, on the other hand, faced a 65% negative rating, with only 32% expressing a positive opinion.

In my official capacity, I had close associations with both PTI and PML(N) leadership during their respective times in government. It's common for the party in power to conduct surveys to boost their ratings, often through friendly agencies. As a counter strategy, the parties in opposition conduct counter surveys to validate their higher rating and prove the earlier survey as biased. However, this time around neither the PML(N) nor PPP conducted the counter surveys, but intriguingly the army did. The Army conducted its own survey, titled "National Public Opinion Poll Report," which received an impressive 88% rating. This survey, conducted between June 10 and June 30, gathered responses from 3,500 participants across all four provinces of Pakistan.

Some critics argued that assessing the Army's popularity was unnecessary, as such surveys traditionally focus on public figures rather than the military. However, it's worth noting that similar surveys are commonplace in advanced democracies, including the UK and the USA.

For instance, the Pew Research Center conducted a survey in 2018, revealing that the military is the most trusted institution in the United States, with 72% of Americans expressing a great deal of trust and confidence in it. Similarly, a 2022 YouGov Survey found that 62% of Britons have a favorable view of the British Army, while only 16% held an unfavorable view.

The significance of the two surveys conducted in Pakistan lies in their timing, reflecting a prevailing perception that PTI and the Army were engaged in a contest for gaining popularity against each other. This perception, whether rightly or wrongly held, carries profound and far-reaching consequences. In national discourse, it's not uncommon for political parties to compete with each other. However, when the perception arises that a political party is competing for popularity against the country's most sensitive and critical institution, and vice versa, it raises serious and troubling concerns.

The stark reality is that the Army, as the most powerful institution, has historically held control over political, economic, and financial discipline in Pakistan. It often remains neutral while vigilantly monitoring the direction each aspect of discipline takes. It has established upper and lower limits of tolerance or acceptable behavior, and when any of these boundaries are breached, it intervenes to bring them back within acceptable bounds. Seasoned and traditional political parties have learned these limits and, no matter the circumstances, strive to operate within them, fully aware of the consequences of deviating from the established norms.

However, PTI, being relatively new to the political landscape and facing the formidable influence of the establishment for the first time, miscalculated the extent of support it could muster through street protests and massive public backing to challenge the Army's overarching role in national politics. If the PTI had previously encountered the establishment's "smart power" with full force, it might have refrained from exceeding the established limits of tolerance.

PTI, along with its public supporters and alleged involvement of retired and serving army officers, had underestimated the extent to which the Army would take action against them, particularly after the disturbing, violent, and unlawful events of May 9.

The Army employed a meticulously coordinated combination of kinetic and soft power to effectively remove PTI from the national discourse. It utilized its coercive power to silence PTI's chairman and leaders, preventing them from conveying the party's perspective through national media. High-profile PTI figures and supporters were apprehended, effectively muting their presence in national discussions. It employed fear-mongering tactics to dissuade public support for Khan and PTI. This included arbitrary arrests and detentions, often incommunicado for extended pe-

riods. Detainees suspected of involvement in attacks faced alleged torture and ill-treatment. Allegedly, families of detainees were threatened with reprisals if they didn't confess to their alleged involvement.

Concurrently, a highly successful strategic communication campaign was launched to undermine PTI and its leadership. It leaked stories to the media while disseminating propaganda and information about Imran Khan and PTI. Released footage showcasing violence involving PTI workers clashing with the police and damaging property was employed to shape public opinion. Journalists were briefed on the violence, and provided with their own version of events to sway the narrative. Engaged with political parties, civil society, and community leaders to discourage support for mass protests, while cautioning the public against participating in protests with threats of consequences.

It employed sophisticated technique of narrative framing consistently negative and unfavorable towards Imran Khan and PTI. For instance, Khan was portrayed as a divisive and dangerous figure. Techniques such as priming were employed, repeatedly accusing Khan of corruption and incompetence. A repetition of negative messages about Khan and PTI was used to create an adverse public image. A bandwagon effect was created, giving the impression that the majority of the public opposed Khan and PTI, with claims that most supported the military establishment and the government.

Most likely the PTI leadership and its advisors did not have any idea to face such a massive, sophisticated combination of hard and soft power. But so far the PTI leadership has not learnt the crucial lesson and is continuing to directly confront the army leadership or the institution itself which is a highly risky and perilous undertaking. It is not ready to learn the bitter lesson that the army

had a history of successfully achieving its objectives, often reducing opposing parties to insignificance, regardless of their popularity or public approval ratings.

Despite enduring significant trials and tribulation, PTI seemingly failed to grasp this lesson. Recent social media posts from PTI leaders who have evaded the law and their supporters openly challenging the army's authority are unwise and provocative. Such confrontational behavior provides the army with justification to respond assertively and decisively. This confrontational stance likely accelerates the use of smart power against the PTI, further diminishing its prospects for a fair and equitable contest in the upcoming elections.

PTI should change its posture sooner the better from its belligerent relationship with the powerful armed forces and should actively seek avenues for constructive and open dialogue with the military leadership. This dialogue should aim to understand the concerns and goals of the armed forces. PTI must maintain transparency about its intentions, policies, and objectives, addressing any misconceptions held by the military. Finding common areas of interest and collaboration for the betterment of the nation is crucial. Respecting the constitutional framework and ensuring that the party's actions align with the laws governing the military's role is imperative. In cases of specific grievances or conflicts, engaging in conflict resolution processes such as mediation or negotiation to reach mutually acceptable solutions is a wise approach. Building trust over time through consistent, responsible actions and a commitment to conflict resolution is a fundamental step. Above all, the PTI should avoid any actions or statements that may provoke the armed forces or create unnecessary tensions.

Simultaneously, it should change its posture towards other political parties. Rather condemning them of corruption and refusing to engage with them for national construction efforts, it should work on building a consensus with them through collaboration and dialogue which can lead to a more stable political environment.

It should prioritize good governance, addressing economic and social issues effectively, and plans of action to fundamentally improve the public service delivery to the people in all sectors and disciplines.

It should fundamentally change its narrative from negativity against the army and political parties to positivity through policies and actions that resonate with the population, addressing their concerns and needs while maintaining transparency in its actions and decisions to build trust with the public and institutions. Above all, PTI needs to strike a balance between pursuing its political agenda and collaborating with key institutions to ensure stability and progress in Pakistan's political landscape.

It's anticipated that with such concrete, honest, and conviction-driven actions, a change of hearts within the establishment may occur. Deep down, they also recognize that excluding a major political party from participation could significantly compromise the credibility of elections.

In democratic systems, it's crucial for elections to be inclusive and allow fair competition among various political parties. The exclusion of a major party could be perceived as undemocratic, raising concerns about the legitimacy and fairness of the election. Perhaps the establishment is waiting for the right signals and movements from PTI to allow PTI's leadership and the party to launch an election campaign against other political parties rather than against the military.

Commerce News

Koto Hydropower to add its share in national grid by April 2024: Minister

DIR LOWER (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa caretaker Minister for Mines, Minerals and Energy, Sarfaraz Ali Shah has said that Koto Hydropower Project would start power supply to the national grid from April 2024.

He said this mini-power project would prove an accomplished megaproject for the provincial government due to its efficient power addition to the national grid. The minister added that problems of people related to mines and minerals would be addressed on priority.

The minister said this during his daylong visit to Dir Lower district on Thursday. The minister visited Chakdara Minerals and Mines and Asif Minerals and Mines Talaash. He inspected various sections of the sites and expressed satisfaction with their performance.

On the occasion, he listened to the problems of the people associated with minerals and mines and issued directives to the deputy commissioner and DPO to address the same.

Later, the minister visited the under-construction Koto Power Project and inspected various sections of the project.



Secretary Railways Syed Mazhar Ali Shah is chairing a meeting at Islamabad.

Poultry Industry playing important role in economic development: Ibrahim Hasan

RAWALPINDI (APP): He was informed that the Poultry Research Institute Rwp was established in 1985 and the institute was playing an important role in developing the poultry industry at commercial and rural levels.

Along with the economic benefits from the sale of chicken meat and eggs, about 150,000 people are associated with the poultry industry.

It was told in the briefing that there are various labs in the institution for research. The vaccination of birds is also done at the institute. One-day, one-week, 3 and 6-month poultry courses are organized for the public free of charge.

Director of Poultry Research Institute Rawalpindi, Dr. Syed Kamal Nasir briefed the provincial minister regarding the performance of the institution.



Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the policy board on development of shipbuilding in Pakistan, in Islamabad.

CPEC boosts development of industries in Pak: Report

BEIJING (APP): The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has boosted the development of industries such as energy, infrastructure, agriculture, and textiles in Pakistan, making significant contributions to Pakistan's economy.

The report titled "10 Years of Belt and Road Initiative-China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)" was released as China and Pakistan are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and also the 10th anniversary of

the launch of CPEC, a BRI flagship project. Since the launch of CPEC in 2013, China has become the largest source of investment for Pakistan for 10 consecutive years with \$25.4 billion investment in direct projects in the country. Among them, investment in the energy sector accounts for 68%, making it one of the areas with the largest investment, the fastest progress, and the most significant achievements under CPEC, CEN reported on Thursday.

As of the end of 2022, completed power projects under CPEC account for 1/4 of Pakistan's power generation, and the compound growth rate of power generation has jumped from 2.7% in pre-CPEC period to 7% during post-CPEC period. CPEC Power plants provided cheaper electricity by utilizing Thar coal reserves. This reduced Pakistan's oil and gas import bill burden.

In terms of transportation infrastructure, over 90% of Pakistan's passenger traffic and around 96% of freight movement are primarily dependent on road transport. The mileage of completed and ongoing motorways under CPEC is 1622 kilometers, accounting for approximately 40% of the total mileage of Pakistan's motorways.

The Motorway network in Pakistan links different parts of the country to the three main ports which include Karachi Port, Port Bin Qasim, and Gwadar Port, improving Pakistan's cross-border trade efficiency.

The Commerce Minister welcomed the positive developments in bilateral trade and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to facilitate an environment conducive to robust economic cooperation.

SBP clarifies Blue, Green Rs 75 commemorative banknotes are legal tender

KARACHI (APP): State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), on Thursday, clarified that both blue and green colour commemorative banknotes of Rs. 75 are legal tender, eligible to be used as medium of exchange and acceptable at all the banks across the country. The central bank, in a statement issued here, stated that "under Section 25 of the State Bank of Pakistan Act, 1956, all banknotes including commemorative notes issued by SBP.

During the session, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to fostering stronger cooperation with the aim of increasing the volume of bilateral trade. This commitment reflects the shared interest in fortifying the enduring friendship and economic partnership between Pakistan and Russia. As of the fiscal year 2022-23, the total trade between Pakistan and Russia amounted to US\$ 920 million. Pakistan's exports to Russia during this period totaled US\$ 74 million, while imports from Russia reached US\$ 846 million.

Russian Envoy, Minister pledge to strengthen bilateral trade ties

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Russian Ambassador to Pakistan, Danila V. Ganich, called on the Minister of Commerce, Dr. Gohar Ejaz, at the Commerce Ministry today. The meeting centered on discussions surrounding the enhancement of bilateral trade relations between the two nations. During the session, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to fostering stronger cooperation with the aim of increasing the volume of bilateral trade. This commitment reflects the shared interest in fortifying the enduring friendship and economic partnership between Pakistan and Russia. As of the fiscal year 2022-23, the total trade between Pakistan and Russia amounted to US\$ 920 million. Pakistan's exports to Russia during this period totaled US\$ 74 million, while imports from Russia reached US\$ 846 million.

PM directs to accelerate development of more shipyards in country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday directed the authorities concerned to accelerate the development of more shipyards in the country.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting of the policy board of shipbuilding, also called for keeping in view the environmental impacts of the shipyard building projects.

The meeting reviewed the current position of the development of shipyards in the country. In the briefing, the meeting was told that the shipyards could be developed in Surbadd, Eastbay, Kappar and Pishu Khan areas of Balochistan.

The prime minister also instructed the relevant authorities to formulate a comprehensive strategy to curb illegal trawling in coastal areas.



ISLAMABAD: Russian Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Danila V. Ganich meeting with the Caretaker Minister of Commerce, Dr. Gohar Ejaz at the Commerce Ministry to discuss bilateral trade relations.

SCCI president, Chief CC discuss issues of custom clearing agents, traders

PESHAWAR (APP): A businessmen's delegation led by the President of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Fuad Ishaq on Thursday held a meeting with Chief Collector Customs Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Saeed Akram. At the meeting, the SCCI chief in detail apprised chief collector custom KP, Saeed Akram about customs clearing agents and gave a number of proposals for their amicable resolution.

The delegation consisted of the Frontier Customs Agents Association (FCAA) president Ziaul Haq Sarhadi, General Secretary Wahid Bacha and other members of the association along with traders, exporters and importers, said in a press release here.

Earlier, FCAA delegation headed by its president Ziaul Haq Sarhadi held a meeting with SCCI chief Fuad Ishaq at the chamber house.

CM gives keys of 312 new vehicles, uniforms to PHP Police

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi gave keys of 312 new vehicles and uniforms to Punjab Highway Patrol (PHP) Police at a ceremony held at his office here on Thursday. Addressing the ceremony, the CM said that the incumbent government had given new vehicles to the Punjab Highways Patrol Police after a hiatus of 19 years. Only 47 vehicles were provided to the patrolling police after 2003-04, he

said and maintained that the government was bound to give two uniforms to the policemen every year. From now on, every jawan and senior police officer would be given two uniforms besides the provision of additional funds, he said. Punjab Highway Patrol police had been given the responsibility of checking the axle load. If the police performed this responsibility in a befitting manner, it would take a lead to Punjab police and traffic police, he remarked.



LAHORE: Police officials restore baton charge and arrest protesters during protest demonstration of Punjab Teachers Union against the ongoing privatization of government schools, amendments to pension regulations and the issue of leave encashment, outside Civil Secretariat in Lahore.

Commissioner for strict action to prevent smog

MULTAN (APP): Environment department to conduct thorough investigation before reporting in the construction plan. Aamir Khattak has ordered action against those who burn crop residues around motorways and highways. He directed transport department to raid against smoke emitting vehicles along with traffic police. Director environment Mahar Shamshad, while giving briefing, said that inspection of nine units spreading environmental pollution was conducted and notices were served on three units, two FIRs lodged and two units sealed. Likewise, inspection of 46 brick kilns was made and 11 sealed. 4 FIRs registered three notices issued and over Rs eight lac.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Council of Pakistan Newspapers' Editors (CPNE) led by its Senior Vice President Anwar Sajidi, Secretary General Aijazul Haq meeting with Principal Information Officer Dr. Tariq Mehmood Khan.

AJK PM calls for teachers' fair, healthy role to produce quality future architects

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while acknowledging the overall healthy role of teachers in nation building, has said that teachers were the real heroes and true architects of a healthy society. While talking to a teachers' delegation that called on him at Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis late Wednesday, the PM said that the responsibility of the refinement of society rests on the shoulders of

teachers who serve as key actors in shaping the future of the nation by nurturing young minds, imparting knowledge and unlocking intellectual potential. Describing teaching as a prophetic profession, he said that teachers must play their proactive role to improve the standard and quality of education in the region. "Teachers must perform their duties honestly, give hundred percent results, and make sure that the future of children is bright", he said.

PIO assures CPNE's delegation of resolving print media's issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Principal Information Officer (PIO) Dr. Tariq Mehmood Khan on Thursday assured a delegation of the Council of Pakistan Newspapers' Editors (CPNE) that the issues faced by print media would be resolved on priority. The delegation, led by CPNE's Senior Vice President Anwar Sajidi and Secretary General Aijaz ul Haq, was called on the PIO here at his office, said a news release. The delegation felicitated the PIO on assuming the new responsibilities and



HYDERABAD: Participants are showering rose petals in Indus River on the eve of World Food Day organized by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations held in Hyderabad.

PITB monitoring system proving effective in dengue surveillance

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) has been at the forefront of innovative technology solutions to address the public health challenges. It introduced the Smart Dengue Monitoring System, which has been playing a pivotal role in efficiently measuring the performance of anti-dengue surveillance activities, ultimately aiding in control of the dengue epidemic. This emerged during a progress review meeting, chaired by PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf, according to a press release, issued here on Thursday. The participants in the meeting were apprised that a total of 77,000 Android users were registered on the Dengue Tracking System, actively participating in monitoring and performing anti-dengue activities. On average, 45 million Android-based activities are registered quarterly, with an average of 650,000 daily registrations, showcasing the system's robust capabilities. Faisal Yousaf said, "The PITB Smart Dengue Monitoring System stands as a remarkable example of how technology can be harnessed to address pressing public health concerns efficiently and effectively."

Naqvi inspects expansion project of Bibi Pak Daman shrine

LAHORE (APP): The renovation and expansion project of the Bibi Pak Daman shrine will be completed by the middle of next month as around 80% of the work has been completed. Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi reviewed the ongoing activities at Bibi Pak Daman shrine early in the morning. Both secretary C&W and architect Nawayar Ali Dada apprised him about the pace of work and the steps taken to improve the interior of the shrine.

Journalists hold protest for arrest of Maher's killers

Independent Report
MIRPUR MATHELO: On the call of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists to arrest the killers and facilitators of journalist Shaheed Jan Muhammad Maher of Sukkur, the journalists on behalf of Ghotki Union of Journalists led by President Aamir Chana, General Secretary Taj Tanwari, in the district headquarters, journalists organized a protest at press club. While protesting in front of the protest, they raised slogans for the arrest of the killers and facilitators. In the protest, senior vice president of Ghotki Union Hakim Khan Abro, president of DHQ Press Club Saqib Nasir Gadani, president of Jarwar Press Club Ali Gohar Gabol, senior journalists Mumtaz Arain, Riaz Arain, Tanveer Ahmed Soomro, Zaheer Wasir, Muhammad Ali Sheikh, Naveed Chughtai, Ghazi Wasir, Abdul Majeed Shar, Sherbaz Shar, Naem Akram Mashoori, Farid Malik, Asad Ghanio, Rizwan Bhutto and others participated. The protesters said that even after two months have passed since the murder of Shaheed Jan Muhammad Maher, the killers and facilitators have not been arrested, which is an example of the great incompetence of the police and the government. If the killers of journalist Jan Muhammad Maher and their facilitators are not arrested immediately, a strong and decisive protest will be held in Sindh Bahr on the call of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists.

International News

Biden warns Iran to 'be careful' about actions in region

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden on Wednesday issued a stark warning to Iran to "be careful" around its actions in the region following Hamas' attack on Israel. During a roundtable with Jewish community leaders on the administration's efforts to provide support for Israel, Biden stressed the assistance that the US is providing, adding that he's been frequently speaking to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The US is "surging additional military assistance to the Israeli Defense Force including ammunition, interceptors to replenish the Iron Dome, we moved the US carrier fleet to the eastern Mediterranean and are sending more fighter jets there, to that region, and made it clear, made it clear to the Iranians - be careful," Biden said. Meanwhile, Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman held their first phone call since both countries renewed diplomatic ties, an Iranian presidential aide said Wednesday. During the call, both leaders discussed the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, "the need to end war crimes," as well as Islamic unity, Raisi's deputy for political affairs,



GAZA CITY: Palestinians look for survivors under the rubble of a building following an Israeli air strike as bombing of the besieged enclave continued for the fifth consecutive day.

Russia, Kyrgyzstan to create joint air defence system

Monitoring Desk
BISHKEK: Kyrgyz-zstan's parliament on Wednesday ratified an agreement for a common air defence system with Russia, a day before a planned visit by Russian President Vladimir Putin to the Central Asian country. The agreement provides that a land plot of 12 acres at the Kant Russian military base in Kyrgyzstan will be used for the joint programme. "Lawmakers examined and adopted the bill on the ratification of the agreement between the Kyrgyz Re-



Russian veteran human rights campaigner Oleg Orlov talks to the media after a court hearing in which he was found guilty of discrediting Russia's armed forces, in Moscow, Russia.

Over 338,000 Palestinians displaced in Gaza: UN agency

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: The United Nations has released a harrowing report on the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, revealing that over 338,000 people have been forced to flee their homes in the Gaza Strip. The UN's humanitarian agency, OCHA, described the situation as a "mass displacement" as heavy Israeli bombardments continue to pound the densely populated Palestinian enclave. The crisis deepened as Israel intensified its attacks on Hamas targets in response to the militants' surprise Saturday assault. Israeli forces reported that approximately 1,200 people, the majority of them civilians, have tragically lost their lives during this devastating onslaught, marking it as one of the most severe in the country's history. In Gaza, officials reported over 1,000 casualties due to Israel's sustained campaign of air and artillery strikes. OCHA's statement highlighted that nearly 220,000 of the displaced individuals, which make up two-thirds of the total, have sought refuge in schools run by the UN agency that supports Palestinian refugees, UNRWA.

Russian foreign ministry calls for Gaza ceasefire to allow in food and medicine

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia's foreign ministry urged Israel on Thursday to agree to a ceasefire in Gaza to allow in food and medicine and said it was unacceptable that what it called the "indiscriminate" bombing of the Gaza Strip was causing so many civilian casualties. Moscow stated after Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov spoke to Hussein Al-Sheikh, secretary general of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), by phone. Israel said earlier on Thursday there would be no humanitarian exceptions to its siege of the Gaza Strip until all its hostages were freed after the Red Cross pleaded for fuel to be allowed in to prevent overwhelmed hospitals from "turning into morgues". The Russian foreign ministry said Bogdanov and Al-Sheikh had agreed on the need for a ceasefire and for the opening of human corridors to deliver food and medicine to Gaza's population.

130 countries to take part in Belt and Road Initiative celebrations next week

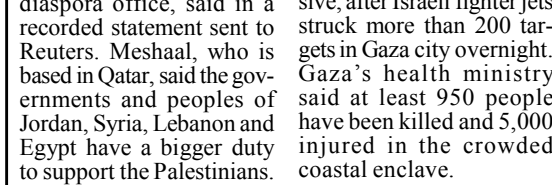
Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China announced on Wednesday it will host a gathering of foreign leaders next week to celebrate a decade of its Belt and Road Initiative project, with Russian President Vladimir Putin expected to attend. The Belt and Road Initiative is a landmark project in President Xi Jinping's bid to expand China's clout overseas, with Beijing saying this week it had now inked over two trillion dollars in contracts across the world. Representatives from over 130 countries are due to take part in the event, scheduled for Oct 17 and 18, with Xi set to deliver an opening speech and hold a welcoming banquet for foreign leaders. It is the third forum of its kind since China launched the vast investment initiative, with events previously held in 2017 and 2019. Russian President Putin has said he will attend the event, in what will be his first visit to China since the Ukraine war began last year. Top Russian diplomat Sergei Lavrov will also attend and hold talks with Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, Moscow said. China and Russia describe each other as strategic allies, frequently touting their "no limits" partnership and economic and military cooperation. China has refused to condemn the war, and has tried to position itself as a neutral party, while at the same time offering Moscow a vital diplomatic and financial lifeline. "We welcome countries and partners actively participating in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to come to Beijing to discuss cooperation plans and seek common development."

Canadian senate speaker to skip G20 event in New Delhi amid killing row

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Canada's Senate speaker will not attend a two-day G20 event in New Delhi this week, India said on Thursday, as ties remain frozen after Canada said it is investigating allegations linking Indian agents to the killing of a Sikh separatist leader. Speaker Raymond Gagne will not be present at the two-day parliamentary speakers' summit that starts on Friday, as part of India's year-long presidency of the Group of 20 (G20) major economies, which expires in November. "We invite all members for G20 events. Participation is their decision and subject to a number of factors," said Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi. "I'll have to check whether anybody is actually attending from Canada because the parliament speaker could not attend." The Canadian senate did not immediately respond to a request for comment from Reuters.

Former Hamas chief calls for protests, neighbours to join war against Israel

Monitoring Desk
DOHA: Former Hamas chief Khaled Meshaal called for protests across the Muslim world on Friday in support of the Palestinians and for the peoples of neighbouring countries to join the fight against Israel. "[We must] head to the squares and streets of the Arab and Islamic world on Friday," Meshaal, who currently heads Hamas's diaspora office, said in a recorded statement sent to Reuters. Meshaal, who is based in Qatar, said the governments and peoples of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt have a bigger duty to support the Palestinians. "Tribes of Jordan, sons of Jordan, brothers and sisters of Jordan... This is a moment of truth and the borders are close to you, you all know your responsibility," Meshaal said. Jordan and Lebanon are home to the largest number of Palestinian refugees. His rallying call came as Israel vowed to escalate its response to an attack by Hamas with a ground offensive, after Israeli fighter jets struck more than 200 targets in Gaza city overnight. Gaza's health ministry said at least 950 people have been killed and 5,000 injured in the crowded coastal enclave.



PM for resolving issues of newspapers on priority

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday directed the ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the finance ministry to resolve all issues of newspapers on priority. Talking to a delegation of Council of Pakistan Newspapers' Editors (CPNE) led by its president Irshad Arif here, the prime minister said the newspapers should play their role in promoting such an environment in which everybody should listen to the differences of opinions.

He said currently an organized propaganda campaign was being launched

against the state. He said during his visit to the US, an organized campaign of false news and undue criticism was launched against him.

He said he accompanied a very short delegation during his visit to the US where he effectively presented the Pakistan's case of climate change.

The prime minister pointed out that he presented the cultural aspect of climate change to the world by referring to the holy Qur'an.

With respect to smuggling of foreign currency, he said strict measures were being taken to stop smuggling of dollars in the short

term. The rising value of the rupee against the dollar is a testament to the success of this campaign, he said adding that the Managing Director International Monetary Fund (IMF) had also appreciated the government's measures to stop smuggling and illegal transaction of foreign currency. The prime minister said the smuggling of petroleum products also continued to cause serious damage to the country's economy. Likewise, he said steps were being taken across the country to prevent power theft.

He said Pakistan had billions of dollars of trade potential with Central

Asian states, adding "I am trying my best to take such measures during the short period by which we can use out trade's capacity."

Speaking about his upcoming visit to China, PM Kakar informed that Pakistan-China strategic relations, bilateral trade, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and tourism promotion would be discussed during the visit.

Similarly, he said plans to take full advantage of the potential of tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan would also be part of the discussions.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a group photo with CPNE delegation.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan, Chairman of the Arbitration Law Review Committee convening the third meeting of the Committee today at the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad.

Shehbaz Sharif emphasizes economic, political stability for Pakistan's progress

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President and former Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, delivered a significant address to traders here on Thursday, highlighting the crucial importance of both economic and political stability for Pakistan's prosperity.

He discussed the nation's journey towards stability and development while referencing historic milestones.

Shehbaz Sharif began by emphasizing the pivotal role of a stable economy in driving Pakistan's progress. He stressed that achieving economic stability is intricately linked

with political stability, making both factors of paramount significance.

October 12 marks a significant date in Pakistan's history, as Shehbaz Sharif pointed out. On this day in 1999, the government of Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif was overthrown through a martial law. He recalled the time when Pakistan achieved nuclear power status on May 28, 1998, and Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's visit to Pakistan on February 20, 1999.

During Vajpayee's visit, the desire to resolve the Kashmir issue on fair grounds was expressed.

However, history witnessed the government's overthrow on October 12, 1999, and the Lahore Declaration on Kashmir was labeled as a 'sell-out of Kashmir' by the then government.

Shehbaz Sharif praised the achievements during Nawaz Sharif's third term in power, acknowledging the challenges faced, such as 20-hour power outages. Despite these hurdles, significant projects like the Lahore Metro and the Orange Line train were completed.

The latter project faced legal challenges from PTI, leading to a three-year delay, he said.

PTI submits a 25-point CoD to ECP for holding free, fair polls

ISLAMABAD (INP): A three-member committee of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) consisting of Senator Ali Zafar, Dr. Babar Awan and Barrister Gohar Khan attended the meeting held at Election Commission of Pakistan, presented a 25-point charter of demand and called upon the commission to fulfill the same in order to ensure free, fair and credible elections in the country within the timeframe of 90 days from the dissolution of the National Assembly fixed by the constitution.

The charter of demand is as under: Former Prime

Minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan is currently incarcerated as a Prisoner of Conscience. Our Leaders mentioned in the list of attendees for the ECP meeting have not been allowed to attend, PTI being victimised and perse as a political entity. ECP is delaying issuing the written order of PTI's Election Symbol case, 'Enforced Staged Encounters' of PTI Leadership staged to force them to renounce PTI, Enforced Disappeared leaders have been forcefully made to give interviews/statements and leave PTI. No level playing field for PTI.

Chinese CG visits APNS office BRF will provide opportunity for progress and development of region and globe: Yang

ISLAMABAD (PR): The Consul General (CG) of the Peoples Republic of China Yang Yundong visited the office of All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS). The President Mrs. Nazafreen Saigol Lakhani and Mr. Sarmad Ali Secretary General welcomed the honorable guest and stated that Mr. Yang Yundong was the first diplomat to visit APNS House.

Mr. Yang Yundong thanked APNS for inviting him to their head office and said that the 3rd Belt and Road Forum (BRF) will be held in Beijing on October 17 and 18 in which more than 130 countries and over 30 International Organizations are expected to participate.

The Chinese Consul General said the belt and road forum under the theme of High-quality Belt and

Road cooperation, together for common development and prosperity will provide an opportunity for progress and development of the region and the globe. The Consul General added that 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of BRI.

Over the past decade, the BRI has established more than 3000 cooperation projects and galvanized nearly USD 1 trillion of investment, creating an array of livelihood projects and milestones of cooperation.

Referring to China Pakistan Economic Corridor projects, Mr. Yang Yundong said this is a pilot project of the BRI and the land mark project for China-Pakistan cooperation in the new era. He said the Chinese Media sector have made several advancements according to the needs of the modern age.

Yousef Aldobeay says Kashmir issue is not only of Kashmiris, Pakistan but of entire Islamic world

ISLAMABAD (INP): Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) of Jammu and Kashmir, Yousef Aldobeay, while reiterating OIC's constant support for the Kashmir cause, said that the issue of Kashmir is not only of Kashmiris and Pakistan, but of the entire Muslim world.

Yousef Aldobeay expressed these views during a conversation with the delegation of All Party Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter, which met him, today, at the Foreign Office.

He said Kashmiris need patience and hope, adding the OIC stands by their side in their just struggle for right to self-de-

termination. He further said Pakistan's efforts against Islamophobia are valuable and the fact is that the massacre of Muslims, the destruction of mosques and the desecration of the Holy Quran in India and India's illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir is Islamophobia, which India is committing.

Yousef Aldobeay said the OIC has rejected the actions of August 5, 2019 in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir by Modi-led Indian government and has been demanding that India withdraw its unilateral and illegal actions.

APHC-AJK chapter Convener Mahmood Ahmad Sagar on the occasion briefed Yousef Aldobeay and other members of the OIC delegation

about the latest situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and also informed them about the various aspects of India-Israel collusion against Muslims.

Other APHC-AJK leaders Muhammad Farooq Rahmani, Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Syed Yusuf Naseem, Mir Tahir Masood, Altaf Hussain Wani, Syed Faiz Naqshbandi, Muhammad Rafiq Dar, Sheikh Abdul Mateen and Sheikh Mahmood Yaqoob also appreciated the OIC delegation members of the political, diplomatic and economic aspects of the Kashmir liberation movement, the Indian state terrorism on innocent Kashmiris and the plight of the illegally detained Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders and activists.

ECP advises voters to enroll, correct electoral lists for accuracy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has advised people to enroll, rectify errors in the electoral lists, aligning them with their Computerised National Identity Cards (CNIC) data by October 25, 2023.

According to the spokesperson, the Election Commission invoked the Elections Act, 2017 to freeze the voter lists on July 20, 2023. In order to simplify the process for the public, the lists were then unfrozen from September 28 to October 25, 2023, allowing all eligible individuals to either register, withdraw, or rectify their information.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Charged Affairs at the embassy of the state of Qatar, Mr. Issa Bin Muhammad Al-Dasam Al-Kubaisi, at Parliament House.

CEO Zong 4G, PTA Chairman discuss future of digitalization in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The CEO and Chairman of Zong 4G (CMPak), Huo Junli Thursday met with Chairman of Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Major General (Retd.) Hafeez ur Rehman and discussed matters related to growth of Pakistan's telecom industry.

The leaders of Zong 4G and PTA discussed the future of digitalization in the country and the mutual efforts that could go into furthering innovation and growth.

The discussion was centered around creating an environment of social and digital inclusion, striving to develop an extensive network that covers the length and breadth of the country, giving life to a new era of connectivity through the widespread adoption of technology.

Junli also stressed the importance of digital enablement through innovative technologies.

The chairman expressed PTA's resolve to strengthen the digital ecosystem and to equip it to become an inclusive stage for the country to prosper.

The meeting was a fruitful exchange of ideas that will ultimately result in the progress of the entire industry as both players aligned their collective visions for the future of the country.

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Ethiopian ambassador calls on Education Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Jemal Bekar called on the Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Minister Mr. Madad Ali Sindhi here on Thursday.

Madad Ali Sindhi welcomed the Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan Jemal Bekar and said that the two countries have religious, cultural and historical people to people who love each other.

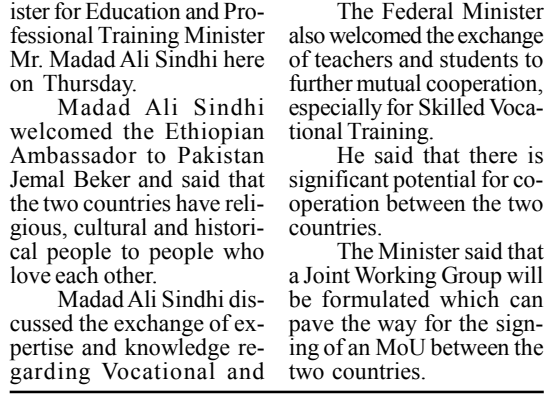
Madad Ali Sindhi discussed the exchange of expertise and knowledge regarding Vocational and

Technical Training. He said that the two countries can benefit from the experience of each other.

The Federal Minister also welcomed the exchange of teachers and students to further mutual cooperation, especially for Skilled Vocational Training.

He said that there is significant potential for cooperation between the two countries.

The Minister said that a Joint Working Group will be formulated which can pave the way for the signing of an MoU between the two countries.



Islamabad airport gets modern facility to check trafficking

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) with the support of the European Union (EU) and International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) inaugurated a 'second line' border control office at Islamabad International Airport. Director General (DG) FIA, Mohsin Hassan Butt, inaugurated the office at a ceremony held at FIA Academy Islamabad. Established with support from the European Union and ICMPD, the modern facility is equipped with cutting-edge forensic and IT tools to detect irregular migration, smuggling, and trafficking of human beings detected at the airport.

ARDU arrests bike thief gang member, recovers bikes

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Anti Robbery and Dacoity Unit (ARDU) of the Islamabad Capital Police recently made a significant breakthrough by apprehending a wanted member of a notorious bike theft gang and recovered stolen bikes from him.

Under the explicit directives of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has undertaken robust measures to fortify security within the federal capital, a public relations officer said.

He said that, the Capital Police has introduced a high-tech entry and exit system at High-Security Zone and across various precincts and localities in the city. With the implementation of an advanced system the High-Security Zone, police stations, and city-wide key areas security have become more efficient and effective.

This system was integrated with the data from different government de-

ICP enhances security with high-tech entry and exit system

partments, allows real-time checks on individuals and vehicles, thus enhancing not only Capital security but also monitoring suspicious activities. During the last month, the verification of 2,950 citizens has been done who visited different offices and areas. To date, over 85,861 individuals have been verified through this system. Additionally, this modern system identified 147 suspicious individuals, who were shifted to relevant police stations for legal action. ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan emphasized that ensuring security for all governmental institutions, diplomatic missions, offices, and residential areas within the High-Security Zone and city remains a top priority.



ISLAMABAD: National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) held a Two-Day Stakeholders' Conference on Ending Child Marriage.

QAU award degrees to 7,738 graduates in convocation

ISLAMABAD (APP): As many as 7,738 graduates including 298 PhD, 3359 M.Phil, 1198 M.Sc, and 2883 BS were conferred degrees in the 10th Azam University (QAU) held here on Thursday.

The Chancellor of QAU, Dr. Arif Alvi, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan awarded the degrees to graduates.

Addressing the degree awarding ceremony, Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi said the government was promoting education at every level. He said he had directed to provide all basic facilities to the schools in Islamabad as without basic facilities.



ISLAMABAD: Deserving people stand in long queue to take free food from van during launch time outside Pakistan Institute of Medical Science in Federal Capital.

Bilawal expresses grief over tragic accident near Babraloibypass

ISLAMABAD (APP): PPP Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Thursday expressed his heartfelt condolences and sorrow over the tragic accident near the Sukkur Babraloi Bypass involving a bus and van.

The accident has resulted in the loss of 12 precious lives, causing deep distress and sadness.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in a statement conveyed his deep sympathy for the families who have lost their loved ones in this unfortunate incident. He emphasized that he shares in the grief of those families who are now in mourning due to the tragic loss of their dear ones.

MoIT issues notification for CERT Rules 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoIT) here on Thursday issued a notification for the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) Rules 2023.

Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Dr. Umar Saif, said that the initiative aimed to enhance Pakistan's cyber security measures, prevent potential cyber threats to the country's data, and ensure swift responses in case of cyber attacks.

Under these rules, both National and Sectoral-level Computer Emergency Response Teams will be established and the teams are tasked with the responsibility of monitoring and

safeguarding Pakistan's cyberspace 24/7, including during holidays, he said.

The minister said, the National CERT, funded by the Ministry of IT, will maintain close coordination with various Sectoral CERT teams, providing timely assistance when needed.

This coordinated approach, he said, will ensure a robust defence against cyber threats.

He said, as part of these new rules, the National Security Operations Center will also be established to facilitate the practical implementation of these regulations.

Dr. Umar Saif announced that the notification for the establishment of the IT CERT Council will be issued in the coming days.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Saleem Mandviwalla Convening Sub-Committee of the Senate Standing Committee on Aviation presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.