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Caretaker PM says

No talks with TTP; state powerful enough to fight them even for 100 years

Vows to wipe out all anti-state elements from country

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday ruling out any talks with Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), said that state of Pakistan was powerful enough to fight them even for next 100 years. "Don't you see that their people are being killed on daily basis. Our people are also being martyred. So what kind of talks or impediments (you are talking about)? They are killing my children and I am killing them... The state of Pakistan is so powerful to fight TTP, not just one year rather 100 years," the prime minister told the media during his visit to Peshawar.

Caretaker KP Chief Minister Azam Khan and Governor Haji Ghulam Ali were also present.

Asked what were the impediments in talks with TTP, the prime minister said the biggest obstacle was that no one was willing to talk to them.

"We don't want to talk to them. Who told you that we have any intention to talk with TTP," he remarked.

Prime Minister Kakar, who earlier offered Fateha and laid wreath at the grave of former FC Commandant Shaheed Sifat Ghayur said, "If you want me to announce the same in North Waziristan or South Waziristan, take me there. Keep in mind, I may die but not Pakistan." Rubbishing the notions of any registered Afghan refugees being expelled from Pakistan, the prime minister said only the foreigners living illegally in Pakistan were being ousted.

He said through such measures, Pakistan did not want to undermine its relationship with Afghanistan rather desired to have the ties based on international standards in which the movement of the people would be subject to the visas.

He said as the illegal residents had no registration in Pakistan's database, the state was unable to distinguish between those playing a productive role in the society and the criminals.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar talking with mediemen and delegation of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



ISLAMABAD (Online): President Dr. Arif Alvi conferred Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) on newly appointed Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Friday.

The investiture ceremony was held at Awwan-e-Sadar in Islamabad. Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar ul Haq Kakar also participated in the ceremony.

OIC envoy on Kashmir visits LoC; supports Pakistan's stance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Envoy of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Secretary General for Jammu and Kashmir Ambassador Yousef Muhammed Saleh Aldobey on Friday visited Chakothi (Line of Control) and Muzaffarabad.

He was accompanied by a high level delegation from brotherly Muslim countries including Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Sudan.

Upon arrival at Muzaffarabad, the delegation laid wreath at J&K Monument. The delegation members also visited Mankpiyan Refugee Camp Muzaffarabad where they were briefed on elabo-

rate measures taken for socioeconomic well being of the inhabitants who fled from Indian atrocities in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (ILOJK).

The delegation interacted with the victims continued ceasefire violations (CFV) and was briefed on situation along the LOC.

The dignitary assured OIC's support for Kashmir cause and expressed his desire to visit Kashmir twice each year.

Besides, he supported Pakistan's stance on Kashmir issue and reiterated that OIC endorsed Pakistan's stance which was principally based on the UN resolutions.



MUZAFFARABAD: Special Envoy of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Secretary General for Jammu & Kashmir Ambassador Yousef Muhammed Saleh Aldobey laying floral wreath at J&K Monument during his visit to Chakothi (LOC) and Muzaffarabad along with High level delegation from brotherly Muslim countries including KSA and Sudan.

Saudi Arabia identifies 12,000 Afghans traveling on fake Pakistani passports

ISLAMABAD (INP): twelve thousand Afghans have been found traveling on fake Pakistani passports, prompting the Ministry of Interior to form a high-level committee to investigate the matter and take action against those involved.

According to media reports, Saudi Arabia has identified 12 thousand Afghans traveling on Pakistani passports, on which the Ministry of Interior has formed a high-level committee to investigate the matter by taking action on the issuance of fake passports to more than

The committee, which includes representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs, FIA, and sensitive agencies, will identify those issuing fake passports and prepare a list of those involved, following which action will be taken against all such elements.

Sources said that Pakistani passports have been issued to Afghans from passport centers across the country.

The investigation is ongoing, and further details are expected to be released soon.

Government appoints four army officers in NAB

ISLAMABAD (Online): Circle tighten against corrupt elements, serving military and military officers have been appointed in NAB.

After the approval of the Prime Minister, the Establishment Division has issued a notification.

According to the separate notification issued by Brigadier Muhammad Khalid has been appointed as Director and Lt. Col. Nadeem Muzaffar as Additional Director of NAB.

The notification for the appointment of the Establishment Division has been issued after the approval of the Prime Minister.

Likewise, Major Waleed Khalid, hailing from the Military Intelligence Corps, has taken on the role of Deputy Director in NAB.

Major Qais Kamran Syed, also from the Military Intelligence Corps, has been appointed as Deputy Director of NAB.

SC to take up appeals against fuel price adjustment on Oct 16

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) would take up appeals on October 16, pertaining to fuel price adjustment in electricity bills. The top court had issued the cause list on Friday. A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa would resume hearing on the said date.

General elections to most likely take place by end of January: Murtaza Solangi

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has expressed confidence that upcoming general elections will be held at the end of January.

He said this while participating in program of News and Current Affairs Channel of Radio Pakistan 'Lahore Insight' today.

Referring to the Election Commission of Pakistan the minister said the final list of constituencies will be finalized on 30th of next and the election date will be announced around this time.

He said it is clearly mentioned in the Election Act 2017 that all the parties will be given at least 54 days which is about

two months for election campaigns so it is hoped that the elections will be held at the end of January. Murtaza Solangi said the actual election activity starts only after the election schedule is announced.

In response to a question, the Information Minister said that Radio Pakistan requires innovation, modern technology and professional freedom in order to thrive.

Murtaza Solangi said caretaker government is taking forward the previous parliament's decision to re-launch the license fee for Radio Pakistan and there will be very good news soon regarding addressing the financial problems of the organization.

Sanjrani commends PN's exemplary professionalism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Friday emphasized that the indelible contributions of the Pakistan Navy in safeguarding the country's maritime boundaries would be etched in golden letters in the annals of the nation's history. He said this during a meeting with Rear Admiral Javed Iqbal (HI), distinguished with the Hilal-e-Imtiaz Military award, led the 53rd staff course delegation comprising faculty and administrative personnel from Naval War College Lahore during their visit to the Parliament House.

The meeting took place at the Parliament House where Sadiq Sanjrani

engaged with Rear Admiral Javed Iqbal in productive discussions concerning professional matters concerning the Pakistan Navy and topics of mutual interest. He, acknowledging the exemplary professionalism exhibited by the officers and personnel of the Pakistan Navy, commended their valour in creating enduring stories of bravery that resonate with the nation. He emphasized their immense value as vital assets to the nation, highlighting the steadfastness and resolve of the Pakistan Navy akin to the Army and Air Force, he underscored their historical response to enemy aggression, fortifying our maritime borders.

Shehbaz Sharif says Nawaz Sharif ended menace of terrorism

SHEIKHUPURA (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif on Friday praised former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, saying the latter had ended the menace of terrorism.

Addressing the public gathering in Sheikhupura, Shehbaz said: "During the tenure of Nawaz Sharif, the prices of sugar were Rs52 per kg and petrol was Rs105 per litre."

Shehbaz Sharif recounted the ouster of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, saying, "Former president Gen Pervez Musharraf had toppled the government of Nawaz Sharif by enforcing the martial law."

CPEC project completes 1st decade, Pak-China eternal friendship

ISLAMABAD (APP): CPEC project, an eternal example of Pakistan-China friendship, has completed 10 years. Major projects are underway in Pakistan under CPEC, including Peshawar Karachi Motorway, Karakoram Highway Phase 2, Lahore Orange Line Metro and other projects. According to details, CPEC project was laid in 2013 to take China-Pakistan friendship to greater heights.

The year 2023 marks a decade of the CPEC project. Beijing has released a comprehensive document to review the historic BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) this year on the 10th anniversary of CPEC.

BRI is a long-term, international and systematic project of the 21st century.

From 2013 to 2022, the total value of imports and exports between China and various BRI partners has reached \$19.1 trillion, with an average annual growth rate of 6.4%. Sahiwal, Port Qasim in Pakistan under CPEC. Coal-fired power plants projects are operational at Thar and Hub. Rashkai Special Economic Zone has reached the stage of comprehensive development. Under CPEC, Gwadar Port in Pakistan is also making new progress. K2 and K3 units of Karachi Nuclear Power Plant have also been completed using China's Hualong nuclear technology.

Govt. warns illegal residents of 'no compromise' after deportation deadline

Bugti reiterates policy to expel illegal immigrants was not restricted to Afghan nationals

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti Friday warned illegal immigrants in Pakistan to leave the country by the November 1 deportation deadline or the state would show "no compromise" in taking action against them.

The interim government had earlier this month ordered all illegal immigrants, including 1.73 million Afghan nationals, to leave the country or face expulsion after revealing that 14 of 24 suicide bombings in the country this year were carried out by Afghan nationals.

"In the meetings about the expulsion of Afghan

refugees, all stakeholders were present. In that meeting, it was decided that a grace period should be given them," the minister said in a statement, claiming that some people also told authorities that some immigrants wished to return voluntarily.

The interim security czar reiterated that the policy to expel illegal immigrants was not restricted to Afghan nationals, but all those who do not have the required documentation for residing in Pakistan.

"People, no matter which nationality they belong to, will not be troubled if they have a valid visa and other required documenta-

tion."

"We're just [planning to] expel illegal immigrants," he added.

Thousands of Afghan nationals have started leaving Pakistan after the government announced the deadline, with some citing economic conditions behind their decision to leave.

The decision to ask illegal immigrants to leave is closely tied to the escalating violence in the country, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces, and the growing tension between the Pakistani government and the Taliban administration in Kabul, according to experts and officials.



CAIRO: Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr. Nadeem Jan met Minister of Health Iran Dr. Bahram Eynollahi on the sidelines of 70th Session of the WHO's Regional Committee for Eastern Mediterranean.

Health minister meets Iranian counterpart

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr. Nadeem Jan on Friday met Minister of Health Iran Dr. Bahram Eynollahi on the sidelines of 70th Session of the WHO's Regional Committee for Eastern Mediterranean in Cairo.

Dr. Nadeem Jan stated that historical relations between Pakistan and Iran were bound by common faith, history and culture. The leadership and people of Iran and Pakistan enjoy cordial relations.

The minister of Iran stated that Iran not only

view Pakistan as a neighbouring but also as a brotherly country.

The two ministers discussed the new challenges for the health sector and identified way forward to respond such challenges for the betterment of residents of the two countries and the region.

It was agreed to make joint efforts for ensuring better healthcare through adoption of best practices in each country.

The minister invited his Iranian counterpart to attend Global Health Security Summit at Islamabad this December.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi visit Radio Pakistan.

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

DAYS REMAINING

17

in # f @GovtOfPakistan

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Caretaker contracts

Are the lines blurring between the responsibilities of a caretaker government and the mandate of elected assemblies?

In August, the ECP banned the granting of NOCs to new housing societies in Punjab. It also reminded the interim chief minister that such policies exceed the authority of a caretaker set-up. But, two months later, the KP caretakers seem to have fallen out of line.

On Wednesday, the provincial interim government approved amendments to the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961, to include the "oath of finality of Prophethood [PBUH] in the marriage registration form".

The Lahore High Court issued directives for revisions in the nikah form during the hearing of a writ petition. Subsequently, a joint resolution by the provincial assembly solicited the insertion of the "Khatm-i-Nabuwat oath" in the nikahnama.

Caretaker governments are watched with scepticism so even a slight slip-up ignites flak. Their prime function is to hold the fort; from the dissolution of the assemblies, through the run-up to free and fair elections, and ending with the swearing in of a new, elected dispensation.

They should also execute routine governance and ensure smooth, impartial continuity in matters of the state. For this reason, interim systems impinge on the authority of an elected legislature when they engage with long-term issues.

Instead, the relevant authorities would do well to prioritise women-centric progress.

Take a diagnostic study of Punjab, which found that a resounding 60pc of nikahnamas, registered from 2016 to 2022, were incomplete, or that the bride's CNIC number was absent in 48pc of marriage contracts, 75pc of girls were 16 to 18 years old and the alimony section was blank in 39pc. Admittedly, this paints a grisly portrait for future generations.

Therefore, the time is now to steer away from policymaking and move towards emancipation and empowerment of women with a greater understanding and participation in the nikahnama so that their socioeconomic rights are unequivocally settled.

Deadly culture wars



Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

It has been almost 50 years since the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delivered a speech on the floor of the UN General Assembly imploring the world to end the Israeli occupation and deliver peace to all of the region's people.

It was a different world then. Colonised peoples in Asia and Africa were being admitted into the 'international community' after centuries of enslavement. The same UN in which Arafat made his plea also featured emergent Third World countries calling for a New International Economic Order to undo what Ghana's first president Kwame Nkrumah called economic neo-colonialism.

Until the early 1990s, the oppressed peoples of the world were still relatively unified and hopeful. In 1994, South Africa's brutal apartheid regime was tossed into the dustbin of history, Nelson Mandela — once branded a 'terrorist' in the 'civilised world' — made the leader of a new multi-racial polity.

But the 1990s also marked the end of 20th-century socialism and the onset of 'culture wars' afflicting almost every part of the world today. Put simply, ideas of liberation and emancipation have become increasingly limited to the concerns of one's own specific identity groups rather than the cause of all oppressed peoples.

The Palestinians are amongst the biggest victims of this rightward shift. Today, they are subject to an ever more genocidal

policy of apartheid, while the narrative of the intellectual and political mainstream is framed almost exclusively around Israeli 'victims' and Palestinian 'terrorists'.

The 'war on terror' is a big reason for why such framing is commonplace. While such binaries have animated the logic of empires throughout history, the 'us versus them' story that was widely propagated after 9/11 has shaped an entire generation of people everywhere. This is the same generation that has come of age through globalised, digital networks and the entirely distinct modes of political communication and ideological contestation that such networks have ushered in.

In effect, then, many ordinary young people have become foot soldiers for the dominant narrative around 'terrorism'. Indeed, notwithstanding the announcement made that the so-called war on terror ended in August 2021 when American troops pulled out of Afghanistan, the truth is that wars of terror led by contemporary states are endless.

The language is always the same: the scourge of terrorism will be eliminated at all costs. The forces of evil will never be allowed to overwhelm us. The rhetoric is timeless by design so as to suppress inconvenient historical truths about state terror.

What we should have learned from the 'war on terror' is that violence perpetrated by the state — it can be Israeli, American, Pakistani, Indian, Russian, Ukrainian, French, Saudi Arabian, Iranian, Turkish or any other contemporary nation-state — cannot solve political conflict. In fact, what has happened due to the deadly culture wars and the relative retreat of the progressive left is the rise of hate-mongering right-wing forces that ostensi-

bly target one another.

The prime minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, for instance, has more than once made clear that he prefers the continued influence of Islamist groups like Hamas than to give an inch to progressives of any stripe. The PLO has lost all the legitimacy it once had because it surrendered so many fundamental demands of the Palestinian movement.

There is an analogy in how many who would call themselves progressive in our part of the world were either supportive or silent about the 20-year US occupation of Afghanistan, and ultimately this benefited the militant right wing (whether the Taliban or IS or whoever else).

Ultimately, if there is ever to be peace and justice for Palestine, and an end to the cycle of hate that engulfs all identity groups, it will require us to rejuvenate a wider, universal anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist politics.

It is the same in Pakistan — the Baloch and other ethnic peripheries, feminists and those who speak for oppressed genders, religious groups and all others who decry majoritarianism, must do so together around a left-progressive political-economic project. Crucially, they must try and win over as many who presently support majoritarian tyranny to their side.

Remember that successful national liberation projects all over Asia and Africa took decades to win over even those brown and black subjects of empires that were more loyal than the king.

The challenge for the Palestinians is to preserve their own humanity, and, indeed, that of their oppressors, and thereby transcend deadly culture wars. — Courtesy Dawn

Rapid growth



Amin Valliani

Most developed nations are worried about their dwindling populations, along with the growing number of seniors. They see their future as uncertain. Therefore, they have embarked upon the path of solving the problem of their stagnant or dwindling populations by various means. Many countries have eased their migration/immigration laws, allowing work visas to outsiders who fulfil their criteria. Contrary to this, Pakistan is facing the problem of rapid population growth. This has been termed a ticking time bomb, having a high risk of imminent explosion. Others have declared rapid population growth as the mother of all problems. Feeding their entire population is amongst the greatest challenges every government faces. In the Global Hunger Index, Pakistan is ranked 99th out of 121 countries due to the rapid growth of its population. This condition is likely to get worse with unbridled and unplanned population growth.

Population is a valuable resource of a country, provided its growth is planned. Unchecked growth has been responsible for many of our economic and social issues. The youth segment is considered to be the driving force of a country. But young people are in search of greener pastures overseas, sometimes falling victim to human trafficking. Not too long ago, hundreds of people lost their lives in the open sea when an overloaded boat sank off the Greek coast. Many of the victims were from Pakistan and were

trying to make it to Europe illegally.

Many experts suggest that the government should focus on population control, otherwise, all developmental efforts would prove futile. Moreover, the youth need to be nurtured via skill-oriented education. They have a passion to acquire new skills and pursue higher education. The government should, therefore, engage them in nation-building. But unfortunately, our performance in educating our population and providing employment has remained dismal. Many youths are disappointed with the recent economic meltdown. The promise of jobs has remained a pipe dream. Increasing population at the present speed might foil our entire planning efforts. In order to make Pakistan a country of opportunity, where our youths may find an attractive future, with jobs of their choice, the government should reset its focus on engaging the youth and controlling the excessive population. The Holy Quran says "Verily! Allah does not change a people's condition unless they change their inner selves" (13:11).

The government may guide people about the ideal size of a family and make them realise the importance of smaller families. It should start a fully fledged drive to convince the masses that an unbridled increase in population numbers is not in the interest of the country. In an ideal family setting, children get enough attention, quality time, love, guidance and patronage. But when the family size is large, the parents may not be able to pay the required attention to each child. Consequently, young ones feel alienated and develop behavioural problems. The Holy Quran directs believers to ward off their families from a fire whose fuel is men and stones (66:6).

As experts have noted, "families are self-stabilising systems, with members interacting and exerting influence to preserve and maintain stability in the face of perturbation". But when the family size is large and parents do not pay the required attention to their offspring, there are chances of children developing negative traits. Sometimes, they turn recalcitrant and create problems in society. Uncontrolled population growth needs to be tackled jointly by the government and the people on a war footing. A country becomes developed when the government and its people jointly work on a national agenda. Here, uncontrolled population growth is the main hindrance in our national development. Large-size families may devour familial and national resources with little contribution. They tend to create immense pressure on the food supply as well as health and educational facilities. The rapidly growing population also contributes to scarcity and depletion of natural resources including water, forests, clean air, etc. Recently, the government constituted a national health and population advisory committee to deal with health- and population-related matters and reforms. The committee will play a role in bringing funding for population control. This is a laudable effort. Just as the government is distributing laptops to the youth or paying money under BISP to the poor, it can also encourage people to adhere to a smaller family size and get monetary rewards. Besides, it should make family planning clinics active and contraceptives widely available, as well as increase awareness about this key issue. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Stabilization measures start yielding results: SBP Governor

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Jameel Ahmad said on Friday that stabilization measures had started yielding results with inflation coming down and position of external account improving.

The governor was briefing international investors during events organized by global banks, including Barclays, JP Morgan, Standard Bank and Jefferies on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank meetings in Marrakech, Morocco.

He said, inflation had come down to 31.4 percent in September 2023 after peaking at 38.0 percent in May 2023 and was expected to continue its downward trajectory over the coming months,

whereas the external account had improved considerably and foreign exchange buffers were being built up.

Jameel shared that with the policy rate at 22 percent, the SBP assessed the real interest rates turning substantially positive on a forward-looking basis, as inflation was expected to come down significantly during the second half of this fiscal year.

Going forward, the Stand-By arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is expected to support the ongoing policy efforts to stabilize the economy.

The governor briefed the investors about the recent macroeconomic developments, policy

responses to current challenges, and the outlook of Pakistan's economy, and also answered their questions.

He informed the investors that the current policy mix adopted by the government and the Central Bank was geared towards achieving stabilization through addressing macroeconomic imbalances.

He apprised that the SBP was among the first central banks that began to tighten monetary policy in the wake of the rising inflation globally.

However, certain domestic challenges, most notably the unprecedented floods in the beginning of the previous fiscal year, complicated SBP's efforts to bring down inflation.

Measures being taken for economic stability: Shahid

Pakistani trader must focus to enhance trade in Central Asian region, Umar

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Communications, Railways and Maritime Affairs Shahid Ashraf Tarar has said that measures are

attract large-scale trade that will change the fortune of our country. He visited FPCCI Capital Office, Islamabad and he was also accompanied by the Customs Collector Asif

working on the IT sector, which have great potential to provide opportunities to a large number of youths to work and earn.

In order to save the time of people of KP, it was



being taken for economic stability. Efforts are also being made to attract local and foreign investments. On the proposal of establishing tunnel at Wah Khan Corridor, he expressed that it will connect Pakistan with Central Asia and

Hargan. The Minister further said that steps are also being taken to improve the performance of Commercial Consulars in Pakistani missions abroad. Federal Minister Shahid Ashraf Tarar said that the caretaker government is

proposed that a separate connectivity on motorway may be constructed for KP people to enable them direct access to Islamabad airport, the Federal Minister assured that this proposal is under consideration of his ministry.



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of France HE Nicolas Galey called on Federal Minister for Privatization Fawad Hasan Fawad.

Jehanzeb highlights GB's investment-attraction potential

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission (PC) Dr Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan has highlighted the potential of Gilgit-Baltistan in attracting investment for the uplift and sustainable development of the region.

Addressing the GB Investment Roadshow held here the other day, he underscored the significance of the GB region as the 'Land of Opportunities,' presenting a compelling case for investment by highlighting its strategic geographical location, natural resources, and rapidly evolving infrastructure.

Dr Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan presented three fundamental aspects including 'people, nature

and value, commending the GB government's investment in its people and stressing the importance of respecting the distinct culture and values of the region.

He emphasized the need for sustainable and nature-sensitive development, advocating for community-led and nature-oriented tourism to preserve the pristine ecology of the region.

Addressing the challenges of development, Dr Khan emphasized the critical role of digital connectivity and urged investment in digital infrastructure to unlock the region's full potential.

French envoy calls on Privatisation Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Nicolas Galey, French Ambassador to Pakistan on Friday met with Caretaker Minister for Privatisation, Fawad Hasan Fawad, and discussed matters related to mutual interest.

Both sides expressed their firm resolve for the enduring bilateral relationship, as well as an in-depth discussion aimed at expanding collaboration in essential sectors, including education and agriculture economic cooperation. The meeting embodied the unwavering dedication of Pakistan and

France to intensify their strategic partnership and explore new frontiers for economic and cultural exchange. Speaking on the occasion, the envoy expressed keen interest in gaining insights into Pakistan's privatization strategy and was provided a comprehensive overview of the privatization plan.

The French Ambassador extended valuable suggestions regarding French Advisory Services and prospective firms and corporations that could possibly participate in these initiatives.

Tokyo markets end lower

TOKYO (APP/APP): Tokyo stocks closed lower on Friday, extending falls on Wall Street as US inflation data renewed concerns over higher interest rates.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index was down 0.55 percent, or 178.67 points, to end at 32,315.99, while the broader Topix index lost 1.44 percent, or 33.74 points, to 2,308.75.

The dollar stood at 149.70 yen, against 149.79 yen in New York late Thursday. A forecast-topping US inflation report revived fears the Federal Reserve will hike interest rates again before the end of the year.

Shamshad holds meeting with top leadership of Deutsche Bank

ISLAMABAD (Online): Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar held a meeting with the top leadership of Deutsche Bank, on the sidelines of annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Morocco on Friday. The discussions were marked by a constructive exchange of ideas and insights, focusing on fostering economic cooperation and financial stability.

Both parties expressed their commitment to strengthening ties and highlighted the potential

for mutually beneficial initiatives in the financial sector.

Meanwhile, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar also met her Iranian counterpart and discussed strengthening economic cooperation and exploring avenues for bilateral trade and investment.

Both Ministers expressed their commitment to further strengthen economic ties for advancing mutual interests.

Besides, the Finance Minister held a meeting with CEO Islamic Trade Finance Cooperation Hani Salem Sonbol.



SUKKUR: Sukkur Electric Power Supply Company (SEPCO) Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Saeed Ahmed Dawach addresses to media persons during press conference, at his office in Sukkur.

Turkish CG, LCCI President discuss SIFC, see good results

LAHORE (APP): Consul General of Turkiye Durmus Bastug said here on Friday that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was a good step for both investors and countries as the embassy of Turkiye was closely monitoring the activities of the SIFC and was hopeful that the initiative would produce good results.

"We want to solve the problems being faced by the investors," said Durmus Bastug, adding that "we are monitoring the PTA with Pakistan and will move to the second phase which is FTA after the results of PTA".

He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry during a meeting with LCCI President Kashif Anwar.

The consul general said that the SIFC initiative would bring new investment

Naqvi inaugurates Nankana Sahib Safe City project with 136 cameras

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated the newly established Safe City Project at Nankana Sahib's Model Police Station Sadar on Friday. During his visit, he toured the Safe City Center, where he personally reviewed the city's surveillance through modern camera systems. He also monitored traffic movement and surveillance on the screens at the Safe City Centre, said a handout issued here. The Chief Minister further inspected the Integrated Command and Control Room, Operation and Monitoring Room, and

Data Room. Taking time to acknowledge the dedication of the Safe City staff, Mohsin Naqvi encouraged them to continue their hard work. The CM praised both the Punjab Safe Cities Authority and the police team for their collaborative efforts in establishing the Safe City Center in Nankana Sahib. During the briefing, it was revealed that the Punjab Safe Cities Authority installed over 136 cameras in Nankana Sahib, along with the implementation of six checkpoints at the entry and exit routes. This significant project, costing a total of Rs 350 million, was completed in a span of just one and a half years, saving

approximately Rs 50 million in costs. The Nankana Sahib Safe City Project was a joint endeavor involving local and international companies, which will also take on the responsibility of operation and maintenance for the next three years. As part of the Nankana Sahib Safe City project, a total of 30 kilometers of optical fiber has been laid throughout the city. This project has been seamlessly integrated with the Lahore Safe City network. Notably, cameras have been strategically installed to enhance security at Sikh places of worship, Ashura routes, religious sites, and government buildings.



LAHORE: A group photo of Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi with Radio Pakistan Staff.

LHC disposes of PTI's plea for permission to hold rally at Liberty Chowk

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday disposed of a petition, filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), seeking permission for holding a rally at Liberty Chowk on October 15. Justice Raheel Kamran heard the petition, filed by PTI Lahore President Azeemullah Khan. During the proceedings, a law officer stated that the request of the petitioner for holding a rally at Liberty Chowk had been declined

through an order by the deputy commissioner Lahore in view of the security threats posed at the proposed venue. However, the request of the petitioner will duly be considered, if he approaches the deputy commissioner for holding rally at another venue, he submitted and added that the petitioner could visit the office of the deputy commissioner along with an application for the purpose.

Five arrested for issuing illegal SIMs on Afghan passports

PESHAWAR (APP): The officials of Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) have arrested five accused for issuing illegal phone SIMs on Afghan passports. FIR spokesman told media on Friday that action was taken at Kohat Road, Peshawar from where five accused were arrested from a franchise of a mobile phone company.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali and the Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Azam Khan call on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

CM Aide urges campaigns to curb vehicle emissions in KP

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Zafar Ullah Khan Umarzai, the Special Assistant to the Caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Transport and Housing, has instructed the relevant authorities within the transport department to initiate campaigns in various cities across the province aimed at reducing the harmful emissions from vehicles. He emphasized that all department officers should collaborate as a team to enhance the performance of the transport department. Umarzai issued these directives during a meeting held at the Directorate of Transport, which was attended by the Secretary of Transport, Director General, Secretary of the Provincial Transport Authority, and other officials.

BRT operator fears suspension of bus service from Oct 19

PESHAWAR (APP): The private operator of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) bus service in the provincial capital had urged the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to release Rs 560 million outstanding dues fearing suspension of service from October 19 in case of non-payment. In a letter written to the transport department and Trans Peshawar, the operator of the BRT bus service said that the company was already facing losses and it was hard to meet the expenses including payment of salaries to the staff and others.

Health minister warns of glaucoma's silent threat to sight on World Sight Day

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Dr. Jamal Nasir emphasised the importance of raising awareness about glaucoma, a condition he referred to as the "silent killer of sight." Speaking at a seminar in observance of World Sight Day, organized by the Al-Mustafa Trust here on Friday, Dr. Jamal Nasir underscored that glaucoma is not only the most dangerous eye disease but also the leading cause of blindness worldwide. Dr. Nasir revealed alarming statistics, stating that over seven million people worldwide are affected by glaucoma, and tragically, about one million individuals in Pakistan have lost their sight due to this insidious disease. He stressed that to combat eye diseases effectively, it is imperative to control diabetes, blood pressure, and air pollution, as these factors have a detrimental impact on vision. Dr. Nasir highlighted that individuals with diabetes and high blood pressure are more susceptible to developing glaucoma.

Five people killed in a road accident

KOT ADDU (APP): Five people died in a collision between a car and a trailer on Noor Shah Talai Road in Kot Addu on Friday. Rescue 1122 sources said that the vehicle collided with the trailer coming from behind standing on the road. According to information, the occupants of the car were killed on the spot. The deceased were heading to their home in Kot Addu from Multan and were identified as Muhammad Iqbal (32), Ghulam Qasim (50).

KP Caretaker CM takes notice of MTIs' financial issues

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan has taken notice of financial issues being faced by the Medical Teaching Institutions (MTIs) of the province in a meeting with his advisor on health Dr. Riaz Anwar and Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry who called on him to discuss the matters related to the financial issues of MTIs here at Chief Minister's House on Friday. CM directed his advisor on health and the Chief Secretary to take immediate appropriate steps to arrange the required funds for these hospitals on a priority basis. He said that all kinds of emergency services at MTIs should not be affected in any way, adding that required funds should be arranged on priority so that uninterrupted emergency services must be ensured in these hospitals. The Chief Minister said that it was the top priority of the caretaker provincial government to keep uninterrupted healthcare facilities continued for the public, and added that despite financial crunches, the provincial government would make no compromise on the provision of treatment facilities to the masses.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan in a meeting with Governor Gilgit Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah at his office.

10 dead, 1,391 injured in Punjab road accidents

Independent Report
LAHORE: At least 10 people were killed and 1,391 others injured in 1,289 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 692 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 699 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams. The data analysis showed that 670 drivers, 44 undergar drivers, 169 pedestrians, and 559 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics showed that 296 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 327 persons, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by 96 in Multan with 97 victims, and at third Faisalabad with 89 accidents and 97 victims. According to the data, 1,125 motorbikes, 89 auto-rickshaws, 132 motorcars, 31 vans, 15 passenger buses, 31 trucks and 126 other types of vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the road accidents.

International News

Countries urge Israel to hold off on Gaza assault with civilians in firing line

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Countries urged Israel on Friday to hold off on plans for an all-out assault on northern Gaza, where more than a million civilians largely defied its order to evacuate before it goes after Hamas militants who slaughtered Israelis a week ago. Hamas, which controls the densely populated Palestinian territory, vowed to fight until the last drop of blood and told residents to stay put after Israel said they should move to the south within 24 hours. While some heeded the call to leave, by Friday afternoon there was little sign of a mass exodus. "Death is better than leaving," said Mohammad,

20, standing in the street outside a building reduced to rubble in an Israeli air strike two days ago near the centre of Gaza. "I was born here, and I will die here, leaving is a stigma." With power supplies cut and food and water in the Palestinian enclave running short after a week of retaliatory air strikes and a full Israeli blockade, the U.N. said Gaza's civilians were in an impossible situation. "The noose around the civilian population in Gaza is tightening. How are 1.1 million people supposed to move across a densely populated warzone in less than 24 hours?" U.N. aid chief Martin Griffiths wrote on social media.

White House national security spokesman John Kirby said such a huge evacuation was a "tall order," but that Washington would not second-guess its ally's decision to tell civilians to get out of the way. "We understand what they're trying to do and why they're trying to do this—to try to isolate the civilian population from Hamas, which is their real target," he said on MSNBC. The northern half of the Gaza Strip includes the enclave's biggest settlement Gaza City. The U.N. said it had been told that Israel wanted the entire population to move across the wetlands that bisect the enclave.



Protesters hold Palestinian flags during a demonstration in Paris.

US, Qatar to halt Iran's access to \$6bn fund, says Post

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States and Qatari officials have agreed to prevent Iran from using a \$6 billion humanitarian assistance fund, according to the Washington Post. The money had been transferred to Iranian accounts in Qatar, in a US-Iran prisoner swap deal announced in recent weeks where five US detainees were released by Iran. But Washington Post reported on Thursday that a decision was made to halt access to the funds, while President Joe Biden faces rising pressure on the matter given Iran's declared support to Hamas. "We have strict oversight of the funds and we retain the right to freeze them," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told a press conference in Tel Aviv on Thursday. The White House added in a separate briefing that "every single dime of that money is still sitting in a Qatari bank." "Not one dime of it has been spent," according to National Security Council spokesman John Kirby.



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) leaders' summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

7 killed in suicide attack on Afghan Shia mosque: official

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: At least seven people were killed and 15 more wounded when a suicide blast tore through a Shia mosque in northern Afghanistan on Friday, the Taliban government said. The number of bomb blasts and suicide attacks has reduced dramatically since the Taliban ended their insurgency after seizing power in August 2021, ousting the US-backed government. However, a number of armed groups—including the regional chapter of the Islamic State organisation—remain a threat. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast, which rang out as Shia worshippers gathered for Friday prayers at the Imam Zaman mosque in Pol-i-Khomri, the capital of Baghlan province. "Security and investigative forces went to the area of the incident to investigate how this heartbreaking incident happened," said provincial information and media chief Mustafa Asadullah Hashimi. "Investigations are still ongoing," he said in a statement confirming the casualties. A source at Baghlan Provincial Hospital—who asked to remain anonymous—put the tally higher, saying 19 bodies and 40 wounded patients had been brought to the facility so far. "Some of the dead and wounded were taken to other private hospitals as well," he told AFP. Local resident Abdul Hamid said he heard a "terrible sound" as the bomb detonated. "After the explosion, a large number of martyrs and injured people were transferred to the hospital," he said.

Local resident Abdul Hamid said he heard a "terrible sound" as the bomb detonated. "After the explosion, a large number of martyrs and injured people were transferred to the hospital," he said.

Putin says civilian losses from Israeli ground operation in Gaza would be 'unacceptable'

Monitoring Desk
BISHKEK: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday said an Israeli ground operation in Gaza would result in a level of civilian casualties that would be "absolutely unacceptable." Putin was speaking after Israel's military called for all civilians of Gaza City, more than 1 million people, to relocate south within 24 hours, as it amassed tanks ahead of an

expected ground invasion in response to a devastating weekend attack by the militant group Hamas. Putin said that using heavy weaponry in residential areas was "fraught with serious consequences for all sides." "And most importantly, the civilian casualties will be absolutely unacceptable. Now the main thing is to stop the bloodshed," he said.



A rescuer looks on amid debris in the aftermath of Israeli strikes, in Gaza City.

In Beirut, Iran's foreign minister warns war could spread if Israeli bombardment of Gaza continues

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Iran's foreign minister warned Friday that if Israel's attacks on the Gaza Strip don't stop immediately, the violence could spread to other parts of the Middle East. He also met with Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, as well as caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati and the speaker of parliament. There have been concerns that the war could spread to Lebanon's border where Hezbollah fighters have been on alert following Hamas' attack on southern Israel on Saturday that left hundreds of people dead.

Amirabdollahian spoke to reporters in Beirut after a meeting with his Lebanese counterpart, during which the two officials called for an end to Israel's attacks on Gaza. He also met with Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, as well as caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati and the speaker of parliament. There have been concerns that the war could spread to Lebanon's border where Hezbollah fighters have been on alert following Hamas' attack on southern Israel on Saturday that left hundreds of people dead.

Ecuador to elect a president amid bloody gang war

Monitoring Desk
QUITO: Shell-shocked by the eruption of a bloody drug war that has spilled from the country's prisons into the streets, Ecuadorians will vote for a new president Sunday just weeks after a popular candidate was assassinated in public. A climate of fear hangs over the campaign in which the two finalists—socialist Luisa Gonzalez and banana empire heir Daniel Noboa—have both vowed to address the escalating violence. Whoever wins will be elected to only 16 months

in office—completing the term of incumbent Guillermo Lasso, who called a snap vote to avoid possible impeachment for alleged embezzlement. The main concerns of Ecuadorians, according to recent polls, are crime and insecurity, followed by unemployment. Long a peaceful haven between major cocaine exporters Colombia and Peru, the South American nation has exploded in violence in recent years as enemy gangs with links to Mexican and Colombian cartels vie for control.

Egypt facilitating aid flights to Sinai for besieged Gaza

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Egypt said on Thursday it was directing international aid flights for Gaza to an airport in northern Sinai, though delivery of relief into the Palestinian enclave has so far been hampered by Israeli bombardments around the border. The Rafah crossing between Sinai and Gaza remained open, the Egyptian foreign ministry said, adding that Egypt had asked Israel to avoid tar-

200 evacuees arrive in India from Tel Aviv

Monitoring Desk
DEHLI: India's first chartered flight brought over 200 Indian nationals back home from Tel Aviv on Friday, nearly a week after the latest Israel-Hamas war erupted. "Everyone is scared. We have no idea what would happen there. We had to move to shelters when there were missile attacks. This was not normal," said Deepak Sharma, a 20-year-old student who was studying physics at a college in north Israel. There are about 18,000 Indian citizens living in Israel, a small percentage of them students.

Senate body seeks world intervention to end Israel aggression in Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights on Friday unanimously passed a resolution to condemn Israel's indiscriminate bombardment and killing of innocent Palestinians, along with the deprivation of their basic human rights.

The Committee that met here with Walid Iqbal in the chaired called upon the international community and the United Nations to immediately intervene to put an end to Israeli aggression.

The Senate Panel emphasized that durable peace would only be ensured upon the establishment of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine on the basis of pre-1967 frontiers, with Al-Quds as its capital.

Senator Walid Iqbal thereafter informed the Committee that, in the last few days, he had been flooded with written and oral communications, saying that the Senate Standing Committee on Interior had recently approved a private member's bill calling for public execution of certain capital offenses,

without proper deliberation and without appreciating the seriousness of the matter from a human rights perspective.

He announced before the Senators present that while one Senate Standing Committee could not interfere in the legislative business referred to another Senate Standing Committee, the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights would be taking up and thoroughly examining in its next meeting, with proper expert advice, the subject of public executions generally. The Committee thereafter deliberated on the rising trend of domestic violence in the country, with special reference to the case of the minor girl, Rizwana, in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani, the mover of the matter, applauded the National Commission for Rights of the Child (NCRC), as well as law enforcement agencies, for their effective response to the incident, and maintained that while there is a dire need for legislation criminalizing domestic child

labor in the country, it would be a real tightrope act keeping in mind that poor and indigent families would deem it an existential threat to their livelihoods.

The Chairperson of NCRC, Ayesha Raza Farooq, apprised the Committee that hazardous child labor has already been criminalized in ICT, but our provinces have failed to legislate effectively towards the prevention of child labor in the country.

The Committee was of the view that besides preventing domestic child labor, Article 25A of the Constitution should also be implemented in letter and spirit, which makes it obligatory for every citizen to acquire the necessary education. Senator Dr. Humayun Mohmand argued that current economic constraints have made it difficult for parents to feed their children, let alone provide education. Chairperson of NCRC remarked that her Commission was working on effective legislation involving the matter and that the bill preventing domestic child labor will be tabled in the Senate quite soon.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Pakistan Cleft Lip and Palate Association and British Plastic Surgery Team, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President emphasizes need to raise awareness about children born with cleft lips and palates

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi on Friday emphasized the need to raise awareness about children born with cleft lips and palates, said that treatment for cleft lips and palates could significantly improve the quality of life for children.

He was talking to a delegation of the Pakistan Cleft Lip Association and the British Plastic Surgery Team which called on him here.

The delegation was

led by Chairman of the Association Dr. Ejaz Bashir while officials from the Federal Ministry of Health were also present in the meeting.

During the meeting, the president said addressing current health issues and adopting latest technology to meet future needs would be crucial.

The delegation briefed the president on the work and activities of the Pakistan Cleft Lips and Palate Association.

President Alvi was informed that the Association was providing free and international level treatment facilities to the deserving communities in Gujarat.

The meeting was informed that besides issues of eating and speaking, the affected children might also face discriminative attitude in the society. The president highly praised the efforts of the Association in the treatment and surgery of children with cleft lips and palates.

Dr. Qibla flays Israel's expansionist policies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Council of Islamic Ideology (CI) Chairman Dr. Qibla Ayaz and its members on Friday strongly condemned Israel's expansionist policies, as they were using the recent conflict to further their reprehensible colonial objectives. He, in a statement, said last week's attacks on Gaza by Israel had blatantly violated international laws and United Nations resolutions.

He said it was imperative for the world to understand that Israel had been occupying Palestine aggressively for nearly 75 years, depriving Palestinians of their rights and disregarding international laws and United Nations resolutions. He said the council asserted that a viable solution to this issue was impossible without the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

He called for an emergency meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to initiate effective diplomatic actions.

policy regarding Palestine was still considered relevant by the Pakistani people.

He said it was imperative for the world to understand that Israel had been occupying Palestine aggressively for nearly 75 years, depriving Palestinians of their rights and disregarding international laws and United Nations resolutions.

He called for an emergency meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to initiate effective diplomatic actions.

President has no powers to pardon Hudud crimes: IIC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamic Ideological Council (IIC) has made it clear that president is empowered under article 145 of the constitution to pardon or reduce the punishment but according to the Holy Quran and Sunnah he is not authorized to pardon punishment of Hudud crimes.

According to IIC spokesperson the statement attributed to Dr. Qibla Ayaz regarding the constitutional powers of the president for pardoning punishment is being presented on certain news channels, websites and in what's app groups out of context.

Sami chairs meeting of Oversight Board on post-flood 4RF activities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Friday chaired the 2nd meeting of Policy & Strategy Committee/Oversight Board on post-flood Resilient, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework (4RF) activities.

This meeting was attended by high officials including the Gilgit-Baltistan Minister for Planning, Secretary of Planning, Secretary of Economic Affairs Division, GB Chief Secretary, the World Bank Country Director, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Country Director, European Union Islamabad Country Director, UNDP Deputy Resident Director and representatives from National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), a news release said.

Additionally, Chief Minister Baluchistan and Secretaries from all provinces actively participated via video conference.

The meeting addressed several significant aspects of the 4RF projects,

focusing on streamlining project implementation and evaluating the status of approved projects from provinces.

Secretary Planning Awaiz Manzoor Sumra provided a comprehensive overview of the progress, emphasizing the importance of fast-tracking implementation and financing arrangements under the 4RF initiatives.

Planning Minister Muhammad Sami Saeed highlighted the government's commitment to supporting and facilitating donor agencies throughout the implementation and completion of these important projects.

He urged all relevant institutions to ensure that pending PC-Is of the 4RF projects were promptly approved.

During the meeting, donor agencies commended the Ministry of Planning for its diligent oversight and monitoring of 4RF projects and their execution.

Furthermore, they expressed their commitment to continue providing support for these projects in the future.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanging views with Shahid Ashraf Tarar, Caretaker Minister for Maritime Affairs during meeting held at Naval Headquarters.

MoITT to introduce standardized quality test in universities: Dr. Saif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT), Dr. Umar Saif, has announced that his ministry will introduce a standardized quality test across universities in Pakistan to ensure job opportunities for fresh graduates. In a statement, he said, "We have made significant decisions to revamp IT education in universities in collaboration with HEC, the National Computing Accreditation Council, the Examination Testing Council, the Pakistan Software Export Board, and the Pakistan Software Houses Association."

Dr. Umar Saif emphasized that students who pass the test will be offered job opportunities through the Industry Placement Program. He added, "We will allocate funds to support special industry courses in universities, designed to prepare students for current industry trends and needs." The minister further explained that the National Computing Accreditation Council will consider the pass rate of students to determine a university's rating and the permissible enrollment of IT students.

IHC instructs custom office to release containers of auto parts

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday directed the customs office to release all containers, containing old auto parts, from Islamabad dry port after collecting taxes and fines.

The court instructed the department to impose the tax and fine as per the running policy before the introduction of the Finance Amendment Act 2023.

Justice Sardar Ijaz

Ishaq Khan issued a three-page judgment on a petition moved by the Auto Parts Association (APA) against the imposition of heavy fines on old auto parts.

In its judgment, the court instructed the FBR and federal secretary to hold meetings with the association. The court directed to also include secretaries of commerce and secretaries of industries in the meeting.

Delegation from NACTA visits Safe City Islamabad

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) visited Safe City Islamabad, a public relations officer said.



He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the CPO Safe City/ Traffic gave an overview of the Safe City Islamabad operational duties to the delegation. The delegation visited the command and control center, data hub unit, modern technology-equipped cameras, and the Police operations center hall. They were fully briefed about the procedures and its effectiveness.

Furthermore, the delegation was also briefed that Safe City Islamabad is playing a significant role in various sectors through modern techniques, including the Police Operations Center, Emergency Control Center, Data Hub, Dispatch Control Center, E-Challan System, and the "Pukar-15" helpline. Face recognition cameras have been installed at the entry and exit points of the city which are playing an important role in identifying suspicious elements. The delegation was also apprised of the functionality and benefits of the Safe City cameras.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar offers Feteiha and lays floral wreath at the grave of Shaheed Sifwat Ghayur, Former Commandant of FC during his visit, in Peshawar.

Chairperson BISP says: BISP supports poor segments; not promoting beggary or charity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib on Friday said that BISP had been contributing immensely towards supporting the poorest segments of the society through financially empowering them, not promoting beggary and charity.

He was speaking as a guest of honor in a training workshop titled "Social Protection Course Pakistan" held here at a hotel.

The remarkable initiative organized by German Cooperation, Oxford Policy Management, the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für

Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), brought together thoughtful leaders, policymakers, and change-makers to discuss and explore the crucial role of social protection in shaping a more equitable society.

Addressing the participants, Dr. Amjad Saqib underscored the significance of a welfare state, emphasizing that the government of such a state makes life easier for its citizens.

He reminded that nobody realizes that Pakistan is the biggest welfare state in the world as it has been supporting 9.3 million families by providing them financial assistance, benefiting overall around 60 million people.

He said that countries

like Sweden, Norway and Denmark are welfare states but these countries do have not much population and they might not support as much number of families. However, with meager resources and much poverty, Pakistan is supporting over nine million families financially.

"No doubt BISP is providing a very modest amount to the families but still this is a great step towards turning this country into a welfare state in true spirit", Dr. Amjad Saqib said.

"Despite our financial constraints, we are extending financial support to the people with compassion and love in a country where tax to GDP ratio is only 8 to 9 percent", he said.



ISLAMABAD: The 2nd meeting of Policy & Strategy Committee/Oversight Board on post flood Resilient, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework (4RF) activities held under the chairmanship of the caretaker Federal Minister for P&D and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed.

Financial assistance to anti state elements case: Court issues notice to respondents

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) while hearing petition of former MNA Ali Wazir seeking quashment of the case registered in Bhara Kahu police station on the matter of providing financial assistance to anti state elements has issued notice to the respondents.

The court has sought reply from them.

The court has clubbed the case with Ali Wazir pending petition. The case came up for hearing before

single bench of IHC led by Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb Friday.

Atta Ullah Kundi counsel for the petitioner appeared in the court and took the plea already an other application of Ali Wazir for quashment of FIR is pending hearing.

Ali Wazir application seeking quashment of terrorism case is fixed for hearing on November 30.

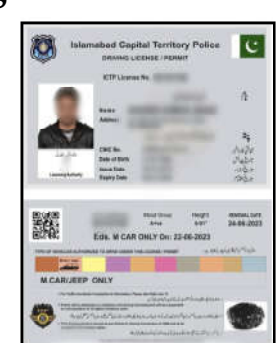
The court issued notice to the respondents for arguments.

ICP to issue internationally standardized dual-language driving license

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: In compliance with the vision of Prime Minister of Pakistan and following the directions of Federal Interior Minister, Sarfraz Bugti, the fundamental reforms have been enacted within the Islamabad Capital Police, a public relations officer said.

He said that, these reforms include the enforcement of an internationally standardized dual-language driving license, which will also be recognized on an international level.

Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan emphasized that the driving license issued by Islamabad Capital Police will be internationally recognized.



Additionally, to ensure the convenience of citizens, the traffic office will remain open from 09 am to 04 pm on Saturdays, providing all necessary facilities to the public. This measure allows individuals due for license renewal on Saturdays to complete the process seamlessly.

IRSA releases 110,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 110,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with an inflow of 74,300 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1529.20 feet and was 131.20 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 38,900 cusecs and 45,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1215.45 feet, which was 165.45 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.

Famous writer, playwright Imtiaz remembered

ISLAMABAD (APP): Renowned writer, researcher and playwright Syed Imtiaz Ali Taj was remembered Friday on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

Born in Lahore on October 13, 1900 in a family of artists and literary scholars, his father Syed Mumtaz Ali was a writer, journalist and religious scholar. His father had started an educational magazine for children Phool which became a household name, running successfully for over forty years.



ISLAMABAD: Youngsters participating in a rally while thousands of people protested across the country after Friday prayers against Israel's siege and fierce bombing on the Gaza Strip in retaliation to Hamas attacks.