

# Independent

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## Pakistan, Russia call for strengthening bilateral cooperation in diverse sectors

BEIJING, (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday met Russian President Vladimir Putin here where the two leaders reviewed bilateral cooperation with a special focus on trade, investment and energy.

In the meeting held on the sidelines of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, the two leaders expressed satisfaction with the steady expansion of Pakistan-Russia relations and stressed the need for enhanced cooperation in diverse fields.

Russian President Putin stressed the need for enhanced regional integration through rail, road and energy corridors.

Prime Minister Kakar stressed the need for enhanced regional integration

for the economic development of the entire region, and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further expanding and strengthening bilateral cooperation with Russia in the areas of trade & investment, energy, connectivity and counter-terrorism.

The leaders also exchanged views on regional and global developments, including the evolving situation in the Middle East.

In his opening remarks, Prime Minister Kakar said Pakistan and Russia had a

convergence of interests on the issue of terrorism, and called for enhanced cooperation and a common approach among the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan. He said the neighbouring countries should be the foremost to take the initiative and cooperate in the fields of intelligence, defence and counter-terrorism.

Coming to bilateral cooperation, Prime Minister Kakar said Pakistan was an energy-deficient country of 240 million population.

Pakistan's energy minister had recently attended an Energy Week event in Russia where he had a "fruitful and constructive engagement" with the Russian team.

The Russian team had come up with concrete proposals for enhancing energy cooperation, he added.

Citing his previous visit to Russia as a senator, the prime minister said he was "mesmerized" by the Russian architecture particularly representing Christianity and churches.



Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of 3rd Belt and Road Forum, Beijing



BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping and First Lady, Madame Peng Liyuan welcomed Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar upon his arrival at Great Hall of the People to attend the banquet hosted by President Xi Jinping in honor of the leaders of the countries participating in the 3rd Belt and Road Forum.

### PM Kakar attends President Xi's state banquet for world leaders

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday attended a state banquet, hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping for the world leaders participating in the 3rd Belt and Road Forum.

The prime minister was accompanied by senior ministers of his cabinet, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Held at the iconic Great Hall of the Peoples, the banquet was attended by the heads of state/government of Russia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Mongolia, Hungary, Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Papua New Guinea, Mozambique and Chile, among several other world leaders.

At the banquet, the prime minister was welcomed by President Xi and First Lady Madame Peng Liyuan.

On the occasion, Prime Minister Kakar also held informal interactions with the world leaders attending the event.

The prime minister arrived in Beijing on Monday to attend the 3rd Belt and Road Forum at the invitation of President Xi.

### For Pakistan, CPEC proved as 'catalyst of poverty alleviation, job creation': PM

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday during the landmark visit of President Xi Jinping to Pakistan in 2015, the project resulted in addition of 800 kilometres of roads, and creation of 8,000 mega watt electricity, and 0.2 million job opportunities.

He expressed confidence that as a project of socio-economic prosperity and sustainable development, CPEC would usher in a new era of development and regional prosperity.

The prime minister recalled that the Chinese vice president during his visit to Pakistan this August outlined five corridors of comprehensive development including growth, livelihood, innovation, greenness, and openness.

PM Kakar, who is in China on an official visit to attend the Belt and Road Forum, said the CPEC had transformed the socio-economic landscape of Pakistan, upgrading modern infrastructure, enhancing regional connectivity and en-

suring energy security.

He mentioned that since the launch of CPEC during the landmark visit of President Xi Jinping to Pakistan in 2015, the project resulted in addition of 800 kilometres of roads, and creation of 8,000 mega watt electricity, and 0.2 million job opportunities.

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### Pak Army vows support to end unlawful Israeli occupation of Palestine

Military leadership vows to support govt's strategic initiatives for economic revival; Resolves to fully support Govt's decision to repatriate illegal foreigners after Nov 1st

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Tuesday presided over the 260th Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held here at GHQ.

The Forum, during the meeting, resolved to fully support the Federal Government's decision to repatriate and deport all illegal foreigners from November 1st onwards, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The conference participants offered Fateha for the Shuhada of Mastung, Hangu and Zhob incidents during the Holy month of Rabi' al-Awwal.

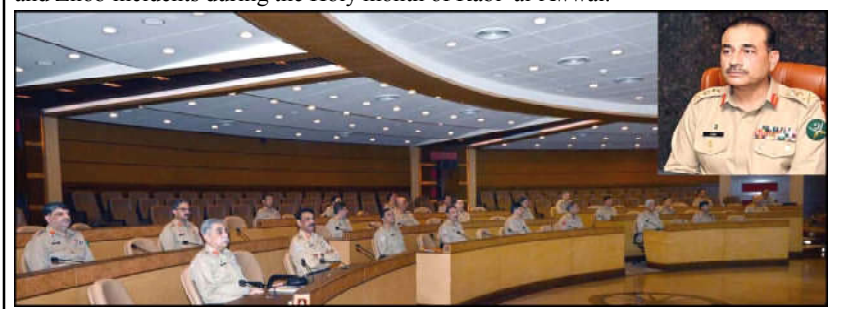
The Forum also paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices being continuously offered by the Security Forces and the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) for the defence of the motherland while fighting the menace of terrorism.

The participants resolved that all terrorists, their facilitators and abettors, working on the behalf of hostile forces to destabilise Pakistan, would be dealt with the unflinching resolve of the state.

The forum was briefed on prevalent geo-strategic environment, challenges to national security and own strategy in response to the evolving threat.

The Forum reiterated Pakistan Army's resolve to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan against all kinds of direct and indirect threats.

The Forum viewed with concern the developments taking place in Gaza-Israel War and the enormous human cost being imposed on innocent civilians due to the disproportionate use of force by Israel.



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### Constitution accords fundamental rights to citizens: SC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that the Constitution had accorded fundamental rights, covering political, social and freedom of expression to every citizen.

"The protection of legitimate rights of citizens is the constitutional responsibility of the state," the three-member bench observed in its 11-page order written by Justice Jamal Khan Mandukhel in a case against Imad Yusuf, vice president of a private TV channel.

The court also acquitted Imad Yusuf in the case, filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Shahbaz Gill.

The apex court, in its decision, observed that baseless actions against citizens should be avoided.

It noted that the misuse of the authority created fear and insecurity among the people. "An environment of fear creates hatred against the institutions of the state and the media also cannot function freely in such circumstances."

The court said that the critics and political opponents should not be considered as enemies. It added that the print and electronic media were the means of conveying information to the public.

The judgment further said that it was difficult to believe that public representatives, journalists and political workers could indulge in anti-state activities.

### Solangi reiterates caretaker govt's resolve for in time & transparent elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting over the demise of his mother-in-law and offered prayers for the departed

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### World Bank to provide \$150m to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): The World Bank has expressed its willingness to provide \$150 million to Pakistan, while \$135 million will be provided as a loan for the energy sector projects.

According to documents, the World Bank will also provide \$15 million as a grant. The energy sector plan aims to improve the efficiency of the energy sector. Commercial, industrial and residential buildings will be shifted from gas to electricity.

The implementation on the project is estimated to save Rs291.65 billion annually.

According to sources, private sector investment will also be promoted in the energy sector, while the construction of energy-efficient buildings will also be encouraged.

### Pakistan to raise serious concerns at OIC over Gaza situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Jilil Abbas Jilani will raise Pakistan's serious concerns about the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza and emphasize the urgent need for ceasefire as he attends the Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee.

The urgent open-ended Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee being held on October 18 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia has been convened by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to discuss the crisis in Gaza and the humanitarian situation of the besieged civilians there.

"In his statement at the Ministerial Meeting, Foreign Minister Jilani will present Pakistan's serious concerns about the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza and emphasize the urgent need for ceasefire, lifting of the siege and provision of relief assistance to the people of Gaza," a statement from the Foreign Office said.

On the sidelines, the Foreign Minister will also hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts from other OIC member states.

### Martyrs of Karsaz created history: Bilawal

KARACHI (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the martyrs of the Karsaz tragedy created an unforgettable story in history by sacrificing their lives, which is also proof that the Pakistani nation is determined to face and win every challenge for the sake of the democracy.

The PPP Chairman, in his message issued on the 16th anniversary of the Karsaz tragedy, said that the grief and anger of the most horrible and bloodiest tragedy is still fresh in the minds of the nation. He said that on this day we pay tribute to the 180 martyrs of the tragedy and pray for them, and added: "I, on behalf of the Party, also extend solidarity to families of the martyrs and pay tribute to them for showing unparalleled patience and courage."

Bilawal said that the Karsaz tragedy will continue to remind us that the nexus of dictatorship and terrorism is the enemy of civilization and humanity. "October 18, 2007, in the form of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's return from exile, was actually the rebirth of democracy in the country," he said, adding that Shaheed Bibi's mission was to make Pakistan a democratic and economic power in world by providing basic rights and employment opportunities to poor people.

### Maulana Azad urges unity, harmony in Muslim world

ISLAMABAD (APP): Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khair Azad emphasized the dire need for unity and harmony in the Muslim world.

He expressed these views in a meeting with the Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed. Dur-

### Govt takes serious notice of issuance of CNICs, Passports to Afghans

ISLAMABAD (Online): Ministry of Interior on Tuesday taken a serious notice regarding the alleged issuance of CNICs, Passports to Afghans.

According to a press release by the Ministry of Interior, Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) to Afghan nationals who have, in some instances, obtained Pakistani passports and subsequently traveled to Saudi Arabia.

In a significant development, Royal kingdom of Saudi Arabia has dispatched 12,096 Pakistani passports from the procession of Afghan nationals to the Pakistan Embassy Riyadh in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

As a result, a high-level committee, chaired by the Director General of Immigration & Passports is constituted to conduct a detailed probe and investigation regarding issuance of fake / forged CNICs and Passports to Afghan Nationals traveling to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

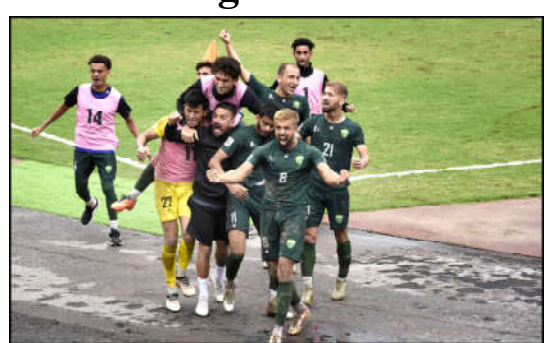
### Sami Saeed says BRI plays pivotal role in fostering regional economic development

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Sami Saeed has highlighted Pakistan's national pride in being a significant contributor to the success of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and emphasized the pivotal role of the BRI in fostering regional connectivity and economic development.

During the meeting with Chinese technology enterprises, the minister underscored Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening its partnership with China with a focus on infrastructure development and sustainable growth.

He further said that Pakistan's active involvement in the BRI reflected the country's steadfast dedication to fostering mutually beneficial relationships and enhancing global cooperation, CEN reported on Tuesday.

### Pakistan make FIFA WC qualifying history by beating Cambodia



ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan created history on Tuesday as they defeated Cambodia 1-0 at the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifier first round match, Harun Hamid scored the winner for the host at Jinnah Stadium, Islamabad.

The team was playing their World Cup qualifier at home after 12 years and this was also the first international match that Pakistan played at home in eight years, the last one being in 2018, a friendly against Afghanistan.

The England-born Hamid scored the winner in the 68th minute as he slipped the ball smoothly through the Cambodian goalkeeper.

Pakistan pulled off an upset of sorts as they, ranked 19th in the world, defeated Cambodia, ranked 177.

The men in green played a goalless draw in the first leg earlier, and with the 1-0 win in the second leg, they won the tie 1-0 on aggregate.

With this win Pakistan also broke their miserable losing streak of in their last 13 matches out of which eight were played from November 2022 June this year. Throughout this period they conceded 18 goals and scored only one, which was against Djibouti in a friendly.

### Govt files appeal against NAB law amendments case verdict

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Government on Tuesday filed an appeal against the Supreme Court's decision in the NAB law amendment case.

Naming the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and PTI chairman as respondents, it prayed the top court to set aside its judgment and restore the amendments in NAB law.

The government pleaded that the NAB law amendments were not in violation of fundamental rights and that the legislation was the mandate of the Parliament.

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KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori briefing the new Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf in the Governor House about historical items used by the Fathers of the Nation

### CEC for utilization of all available resource to ensure free, fair elections

KARACHI (APP): Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, Tuesday stressed on utilization of all available resources for the peaceful conduct of elections and said that free, fair, and impartial polls will guarantee the strengthening of democracy in the country.

The CEC while chairing a meeting held here at Sindh Secretariat to review arrangements regarding upcoming general elections also directed to prepare a special polling plan for the flood-affected areas of Sindh, said a statement issued here.

Member Election Commission Sindh Nisar Durrani, Member Balochistan Shah Muhammad Jatoti, Member Punjab Babar Hassan Bharwana, Member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (retd) Ikrumullah Khan, Secretary ECP Umar Hameed Khan and Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh Ijaz Anwar Chauhan attended the meeting.

**REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

**13 DAYS REMAINING**

**13**

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## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Two rules

Having accepted unquestioningly political objectives dictated by unelected quarters, the entire apparatus of our state has been acting with all the subtlety of a bulldozer.

Nowhere is this more obvious than in the federal and provincial capitals, whose respective interim administrations have remained unapologetic about the duplicity apparent in their decisions as they go about enforcing a stricter set of rules for the PTI while allowing other parties freer rein.

Just last week, a dozen PTI supporters were arrested outside the National Press Club in Islamabad, where they had gathered to express support for the Palestinian cause.

The party and its supporters had a right to react angrily: no other religious or political entity seems to have faced similar treatment in recent days as they have gone about conducting political outreach activities or organising rallies for the people of Gaza. To deny one party the privileges being enjoyed by others seems petty and smacks of victimisation.

More recently, the enthusiasm that the Lahore administration has shown for the PML-N's plans for a grand rally at the Minar-i-Pakistan even as it simultaneously denied the PTI a similar gathering at Liberty Chowk has made it abundantly clear why the PML-N's political rivals fear there will be no 'level playing field' before the upcoming general election.

Both the PTI and the PPP have been questioning the circumstances in which Nawaz Sharif has 'agreed' to return to the country from his self-imposed exile. Both parties believe that the elder Sharif's homecoming is happening thanks to an alleged covert deal with the 'concerned quarters', ie, the security establishment.

Both parties are also right in asking why an individual who is a proclaimed offender, who has been on the run from the Pakistani justice system, is being 'welcomed' by the state upon his long-delayed return with pomp and pageantry rather than a solemn reckoning with the law. Unless the state immediately backs down from its manipulation of the political domain, there is a good chance that the upcoming elections will be preceded and followed by the kind of intense controversies that will never allow a civilian-led set-up to stand on its own feet. The 2018 elections are a case in point. If the country is to be run by a political leadership that lacks a democratically acquired mandate, and is partnering with an unaccountable elite that has no tangible, lasting solutions for the country's problems, we should stop thinking about progress.

The only way forward is to let the people choose the leaders they think can best lead them and for non-political forces to stop interfering in this process. Finally, the ECP and the caretaker governments should take stock of their mistakes. They have constitutional duties to fulfil, which they seem to be failing in quite spectacularly.



**By Qamar Bashir**

*Former Press Secretary to the President; Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC*

As the Press Minister at the Embassy of Pakistan in France, I was acutely aware of the sensitivity and significance of handling confidential ciphers. Almost every day, the Ambassador and trusted staff sent ciphers to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, addressing matters of utmost confidentiality.

On numerous occasions, ciphers related to the Press Section were shared with me in person, and I ensured they were safely returned to maintain their confidential status.

At that time, I had no inkling that these routine embassy ciphers would become so perilous, putting the lives of the former Prime Minister and former Foreign Minister at grave risk, particularly following the amendment of the Official Secrets Act in 2023, which now imposes the death penalty for violations of the official secrets.

In general, government correspondence is often classified into different levels of sensitivity, such as "Top Secret," "Secret," "Confidential," or other designations. The highest levels of classification, such as "Top Secret," are reserved for the most sensitive information. Access to classified information is typically granted on a "need-to-know" basis. This means that only individuals who require access to specific classified information for their official duties are

granted that access.

In the context of diplomatic communication, the term "cipher" is commonly used to refer to a coded or encrypted message.

Diplomatic ciphers are employed to protect sensitive or confidential information from unauthorized access or interception during transmission. These codes are usually complex and may involve various cryptographic techniques to ensure security. Diplomatic ciphers are essential for maintaining the confidentiality of diplomatic correspondence. They are employed when discussing matters of national security, sensitive negotiations, confidential information, or any communication that needs to be shielded from prying eyes.

Though, typically the heads of the state or government are authorized to declassify the cipher information but they can do so after following an elaborate procedure which may involve, seeking formal recommendations and views from the concerned ministries, the agencies, departments or institutions of national security and safety and other relevant departments before declaring any cipher subject matter as declassified. Even when the head of state and government take such decision he is required to remove any sensitive parts of the cipher which can jeopardize national security or could potentially harm the relationship with another friendly or important country.

If the head of state or government discloses classified or cipher information in a public meeting without following the established protocol and proper declassification procedures, it can have serious legal, political, and national security implications. It can potentially harm national security by revealing sensitive intelligence, military operations, or diplomatic negotiations. It can lead to political backlash, undermining the leader's credibility

and reputation. Opposition parties, lawmakers, and the public may demand accountability and investigations.

In some cases, a head of state or government who engages in such behavior may face calls for resignation or impeachment, the severity of the response depends on the nature of the disclosed information and the political climate, erode trust within the government and among intelligence and security agencies, career professionals may lose confidence in the leader's ability to protect sensitive information, can strain diplomatic relations with other countries, potentially leading to diplomatic crises.

The consequences of such actions can be significant; however, the specific outcome may depend on the legal and political systems in place in a given country and the extent of the breach. Legal processes, investigations, and, if necessary, legal action can follow such incidents to ensure accountability.

According to one legal opinion, the Prime Minister or Finance Minister of Pakistan were not authorized to disclose the cipher to the public as the Official Secrets Act 2023 clearly states that any classified information, including diplomatic correspondence, cannot be disclosed to the public without the prior approval of the appropriate authorities. It is a serious crime, and the consequences can be punished with imprisonment for up to 14 years, or with the death sentence in certain cases.

The next important question is, who is the proper authority for seeking permission to disclose the cipher matter to the public? In the case of the Prime Minister or Foreign Minister, the proper authority for seeking permission to disclose classified information, including cipher matter, to the public is the National Security Council (NSC), a high-level body that is respon-

sible for advising the Prime Minister on matters of national security.

The NSC meets regularly to discuss matters of national security and to make recommendations to the Prime Minister. If the Prime Minister or Foreign Minister wishes to disclose classified information to the public, they must first seek the approval of the NSC. The NSC when making the decision will consider the factors such as the sensitivity of the information, the potential impact on national security and the public interest.

If the NSC approves the disclosure of the information, the Prime Minister or Foreign Minister will then need to obtain the approval of the Cabinet. The Cabinet is the highest decision-making body in the government, and it is responsible for approving all major decisions.

Once the Cabinet has approved the disclosure of the information, the Prime Minister or Foreign Minister can then make the information public. If official procedure is not followed, the provision of the amended Official Secret Act 2023 can be evoked.

The original section of the Act, Section 9, states that anyone who discloses classified information without authorization can be punished with imprisonment for up to 14 years. The amended section adds a new subsection, Subsection (3), which states that anyone who discloses classified information with the intent to injure the interests of Pakistan or to benefit a foreign power can be punished with death.

The amended section also expands the definition of classified information to include "any secret official code or password." This means that anyone who discloses a secret official code or password without authorization can now be punished with death. This is a significant increase in the severity of the punishment for this offense.

The amended section of the Official Secrets Act has not yet been tested in court. It is possible that the courts will interpret the amended section in a way that limits its scope.

However, it is also possible that the courts will uphold the amended section in its entirety, which would mean that anyone who is found guilty of disclosing classified information with intent to injure the interests of Pakistan or to benefit a foreign power could be sentenced to death.

In many countries, the heads of the state or government are immune from prosecution during their time in office. Therefore it is exceedingly rare for heads of state or government to be punished for disclosing the content of diplomatic ciphers to the general public.

Disclosure of diplomatic ciphers would typically be an action taken while in office and is often a matter of national security and foreign relations, subject to legal and political processes that differ from those applied to ordinary citizens therefore, the legal actions related to disclosures of classified information are generally directed at lower-ranking officials or employees.

For example, Daniel Ellsberg, a former military analyst, leaked the "Pentagon Papers" to The New York Times in 1971. The Pentagon Papers were a classified Department of Defense study of U.S. political-military involvement in Vietnam from 1945 to 1967. Ellsberg faced charges under the Espionage Act but was not ultimately convicted. Chelsea Manning, a former U.S. Army intelligence analyst, leaked classified documents to WikiLeaks in 2010, including diplomatic cables and military information. Manning was convicted of multiple charges under the Espionage Act in 2013. Edward Snowden, a former National Security Agency (NSA) contractor, leaked classified information in 2013, revealing extensive surveillance programs. Snowden faced charges un-

der the Espionage Act but was granted asylum in Russia. It is relatively uncommon for former heads of state or government to be sued and punished for disclosing diplomatic ciphers after leaving office. Diplomatic secrets are typically subject to the authority and discretion of the sitting government or head of state. Once out of office, former leaders often enjoy certain legal protections or immunity from prosecution for actions taken during their time in power. However, the extent of legal protection varies by country, and the political circumstances surrounding the disclosure play a significant role. Laws and legal systems differ, so it is possible, albeit rare, for legal action to be taken against former leaders. The former Prime Minister of Pakistan does not have immunity from charges related to the disclosure of cipher content under the Official Secrets Act 2023. This law does not provide any special protection for former government officials, including former Prime Ministers. Parliamentary privilege, which shields members of Parliament from prosecution for statements made within Parliament, does not extend to disclosures made outside of parliamentary proceedings, such as the release of cipher information. Consequently, the former Prime Minister is subject to the same legal provisions as any other Pakistani citizen and could face prosecution for revealing classified information, carrying penalties of up to 14 years in prison or even the death penalty. While the former Prime Minister argues that his actions were justified in the public interest and that his previous immunity protects him, these arguments await judicial determination. It's essential to emphasize that the former Prime Minister is considered innocent until proven guilty and retains the right to a fair trial and the opportunity to mount a legal defense against the charges.

## Cipher a hanging sword

## Commerce News

### Pakistan's to learn from Malaysia's innovative approach, policies regarding rollout of 5G: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecom, Dr. Umar Saif, on Tuesday, expressed Pakistan's intention to learn from Malaysia's innovative approach and policies regarding the rollout of 5G.

"Malaysia has rolled out 5G at a lightning pace using a very innovative Spectrum Sharing policy. We will work with our Malaysian counterparts to

learn about their innovative approach and policies" the minister said.

He was talking to a high-level delegation led by Fahmi Fadzli minister for IT, Communication & Digital Economy of Malaysia here in Dubai at the GITEX-23 Sidelines meeting. The meeting encompassed crucial technology topics with the objective of strengthening

collaboration between the two nations.

During the meeting, Dr Umar Saif explored the realm of financial technology (Fintech) and touched upon Starlink, the satellite internet company, making inroads into Malaysia.

The discussion extended to the potential implementation of LYNC, with a commitment to sharing experiences and

knowledge.

Dr. Umar Saif drew attention to Pakistan's network coverage challenges, underscoring the importance of adopting best practices from the Malaysian Regulator.

Both ministers engaged in a dialogue regarding Pakistan's path to adopting 5G technology and the challenges impeding this transition.



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Investment/ Minister of State, Muhammad Tahir Javed meeting with a delegation of Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA) at BOI office.

### SAPM Tahir Javed says Pakistan, world's leading manufacturer, exporter in pharmaceutical sector in 90s

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Investment, Tahir Javed Tuesday said that Pakistan was the world's leading manufacturer and exporter in the pharmaceutical sector in the 1990s.

At one time, Pakistan Pharmaceuticals was the leading exporter of Europe and America, whose exports held a special place in the important markets of the world, he said.

He said this while addressing to meeting with Pakistan Pharmaceutical

Manufacturing Association (PPMA) delegation led by its Chairman, Mian Khalid Misbah-ur-Rehman here in BOI office.

The SAPM said that the pharmaceutical sector was a major player in the country's exports and the trend of investment in the special economic zone was increasing and pharmaceutical companies should come and invest in it.

He said that the government would support the pharmaceutical sector in every aspect and Ease

of Doing Business was the priority of the Board of Investment.

The SAPM said that problems of the pharmaceutical sector would be resolved to make the country's economy strong and increase its exports.

He said that providing quality and affordable medicines to the people was the first priority of the government, for which the government and pharmaceutical manufacturers would try to work together.

### Jafri assures APTMA of solving textile industry issues on priority

LAHORE (APP): Large Tax Office (LTO) Lahore, Chief Commissioner Syed Mahmood Hussain Jafri has assured the APTMA (All Pakistan Textile Mills Association) members of solving the textile industry issues related to sales tax refunds, deferred claims, adjustment of pending refunds and liabilities and exemption certificates on priority.

In a meeting of textile millers here at APTMA House on Tuesday, he said the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has established the LTOs to

address the issues of large taxpayers while acknowledging their role in revenue generation. He appreciated APTMA role in export and employment enhancement. He said the FBR has paid Rs 10 billion refunds since July 2023 including the deferred ones. However, he sought a list of APTMA members not able to receive refunds so far for speedy processing.

To a suggestion that LTO should allow tax adjustment, he said, the FBR is already processing inter-tax adjustments to facilitate the taxpayers.

### CCP approves Bank Alfalah acquisition of shares in Qistbazaar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the entry of a financial institution into the consumer market of "Buy Now Pay Later Service."

CCP received an application for acquisition from QistBazaar (Private) Limited for the subscription of 7.2% of its shareholding by Bank Alfalah Limited. The Phase-I competition assessment of this transaction revealed that

the proposed acquisition would not lead to the dominance of the Acquirer in the relevant market post-transaction, said a press release issued here.

Therefore, CCP granted its authorization under Section 11 of the Competition Act, 2010, and CCP's Merger Regulations, 2016.

QistBazaar sells white goods, electronics and home goods online on the "buy now pay later" model.



Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, is presenting the commemorative shield to H. E. Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador of Türkiye in Pakistan. Mr. Muhammad Sulaiman Chawla, SVP FPCCI; Engr. M.A. Jabbar, VP FPCCI; Mian Anjum Nisar & Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo, former Presidents FPCCI; Mr. Amjad Rafi, Chairman of FPCCI's Pakistan - Türkiye Joint Business Council (PTJBC); top diplomats of Türkiye and other prominent business leaders were also present on the occasion.

### 'Look Africa' a good initiative by Pakistan govt, says Nigerian HC

LAHORE (APP): High Commissioner of Nigeria Mohammed Bello Abioye has said that Nigeria is the most populous and biggest economy in Africa and 'Look Africa' by the government of Pakistan is a good initiative for the enhancement of mutual trade and economic ties.

Addressing the business community here at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), the High Commissioner, who was on his farewell visit, said that Pakistan is his second home and he would continue to facilitate Pakistani

businesses in Nigeria. He said, "We are introducing medium of communication between Pakistani and Nigerian business people in order to increase trade opportunities and the Nigerian High Commission has eased visa processing."

The HC said that facilitating and fast tracking business activity is what they are working for, and they were trying to encourage investments in Nigeria, in his welcome address, LCCI President Kashif Anwar appreciated the High Commissioner for keeping regular interaction with the LCCI.

### Institutional economic reform's credit goes to Army Chief: RCCI

RAWALPINDI (APP): The credit of Pakistan's economic recovery, institutional economic reforms has steered the country out of economic uncertainty, and the establishment of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) goes to the Chief of Army Chief (COAS).

Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Saqib Rafiq in a statement said that meetings and consultations with the industrial community and elimination of gray zones.

### PTCL Group posts double-digit revenue growth of 26.3%

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), the leading provider of telecom and ICT services in the country, has announced financial results for nine months ended September 30, 2023 registering double-digit growth of 26.3 per cent.

The announcement was made during the Board of Directors' meeting held in Dubai on Tuesday said

a news release.

In the first nine months of 2023, PTCL Group has maintained its strong performance, strengthening its status as Pakistan's top integrated telecom service provider.

Despite the challenging economic environment, the Group has achieved an impressive 26.3% increase in revenue compared to the same period last year.

### PSX loses 200 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Tuesday, losing 200.34 points, a negative change of 0.40 per cent, closing at 49,531.01 points against 49,731.35 points the previous day. A total of 368,340,627 shares valuing Rs 10,404 billion were traded during the day as compared to 467,383,787 shares valuing Rs 14,119 billion the previous day.

As many as 347 companies transacted their shares in the stock market.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman addressing a ceremony held in connection with International White Cane Safety Day organized by Blind Professional Association.

## Baligh underlines need to improve social attitudes towards special people

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended a ceremony organized by Blind Professional Association of Punjab in connection with White Cane Day at Al Hamra Lahore today as chief guest.

Addressing the ceremony, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Allah Almighty has given special abilities to special people and these people set an example for many people due to their courage and determination. He said that whether it is in the field of education or sports, these differently abled persons are not less than anyone.

Governor Punjab said that it is the duty of every individual in the society to help the visually impaired to face the challenges. Governor Punjab said that for the first time, the historic building of Governor House is being made suitable for the needs of special persons.

The facilities, including ramps for wheelchairs, and lift facilities are being provided. The elevator will also have Braille instructions for the visually impaired persons, he added. Governor Punjab underlined the need to improve social attitudes towards special people in society. He said that he has also issued a letter to the Vice Chancellors of the universities in this regard. He urged the teachers, especially school teachers, to work on improving social behaviour towards differently abled persons. He said that the Punjab government's departments should provide wheelchair ramps and other facilities to cater to the needs of the special people in the buildings. In particular, the construction department should take special care of the special persons during the construction work.

Governor Punjab said that different libraries across Punjab should also have audio based books and headphone facilities for visually impaired people so that these people can connect and access the whole world. Governor Punjab while appreciating the role of Blind Professional Association Punjab said that he was extremely happy to know that the Blind Professional Association of Punjab is a strong network of highly qualified and educated visually impaired people who are actively contributing to solving the problems of blind people.

## Governor KPK directs varsities to appoint visually impaired persons on allocated quota

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here on Wednesday directed universities to employ visually impaired and disabled persons on their quota and announced to provide them free education in universities.

He said this as a chief guest in a ceremony organized by the Pakistan Blind Association in connection with World White Cane Day. He said that visually impaired persons are part of our society and people must play a role for their empowerment and facilitation.

He said that visually impaired persons are being confronted with many difficulties and the social welfare department should take steps to provide them needed assistance and financial help. The governor also sought a comprehensive report from concerned departments and welfare organizations about problems of visually impaired people and said that we must identify flaws in our system that are impacting these people.

## Minister visits Social Welfare Department

**Independent Report**  
KOHAT (APP): Caretaker Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Justice Irshad Qaiser on Tuesday paid a detailed visit to the Social Welfare Department Kohat here.

On arrival she was welcomed by District Social Welfare Officer, Amjad Afridi and Superintendent Welfare Home Kohat Rizwanullah. The minister visited Darul Aman, Nishtar Special Education Center and Welfare Home Kohat.

District Social Welfare Officer Amjad Afridi gave a detailed presentation regarding the activities and mandate of the department.

## In a first: Punjab cabinet holds meeting in Faisalabad; makes key decisions

**Independent Report**  
FAISALABAD: For the first time in the district's history, a special meeting of the Punjab cabinet was held at the divisional commissioner office here on Tuesday.

Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi presided over the 30th meeting of the Punjab cabinet.

Commissioner Siltaw Saeed briefed the meeting about the ongoing development projects across the division.

CPO Faisalabad Cap (Retd) Muhammad Ali Zia briefed it about law and order and actions taken against criminals. The Punjab cabinet accorded approval for appointing commissioners at all departments for redressing public complaints. The commissioners will listen to citizen's complaints and take measures for redressing them.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali and others during Celebrations of International White Cane Safety Day organized by Pakistan Association of the Blind (PAB) held in Peshawar.

## Govt wants speedy, equal uplift in newly merged districts: Dr Aamir

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) Dr Aamir Abdullah has said that the purpose of the establishment of the steering committee for the region was to include the region in development process on equal basis and to speed up the government's initiatives and get awareness about problems of the tribal areas.

He expressed these views while presiding over the first high-level steering committee formed by the provincial government for the merged districts here on Tuesday.

The meeting held in the committee room of the Home & Tribal Affairs Department.

## 200 Afghan refugees leave for Afghanistan

**Independent Report**  
HARIPUR (APP): In a significant development, 176 unregistered and 24 registered Afghan refugees from camps in Haripur have returned to Afghanistan.

The news was disclosed by the Security In-charge of Haripur and Mansehra Afghan Refugee Camps, Muhammad Naveed, while talking to APP.

## Durrani inaugurates solarise tube-wells

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Caretaker Minister for Local Government Elections and Rural Development Department (LGE&RDD) Engineer Aamer Durrani inaugurated three tube wells here on Tuesday.

In an attempt to harness solar energy and reduce dependency on the national grid, Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP) on Tuesday converted three tube wells with financial assistance from the Islamic Relief.

The solarized tube wells located in Audit Colony, Gullay Baba, and Bahadar Kalay.

The company has also installed an automated water testing machine to check and analyze the water quality.

The company installed the SCADA system on 87 more tube wells, taking the tally of tube wells with the SCADA system to 133 in localities under its administrative jurisdiction.

## Commissioner Bannu for enhanced disaster preparedness

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR (APP): Commissioner Bannu Division, Pervaiz Sabat Khel Tuesday underscored the pivotal role of all departments in reducing losses caused by climate induced natural disasters emphasizing the need for preparing effective plans to cope situations in case of disasters. He was addressing the inaugural session of a one-day consultation workshop regarding provincial disaster management.

## CM Naqvi sets example by travelling in coach

**Independent Report**  
FAISALABAD: Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi set a new example by travelling in a coach with members of the Punjab cabinet and officers here on Tuesday.

He travelled from the office of commissioner to hotel with the Chief Secretary, IG police, Advocate General Punjab and Secretaries. The Chief Minister also held separate meetings with representatives of the Pakistan Flour Mills Association, Karyana (Merchant) Association and Punjab Bar Council.

In a meeting with the Pakistan Flour Mills association, the matter of curtailing flour prices was discussed after the cut in petroleum prices. The Chief Minister said that people should get relief from reduced prices of flour. Wheat release policy would also be announced soon, he said.

During a meeting with the Karyana (Merchant) association, the Chief Minister directed to cut edible items prices to provide relief.

## International News

## World leaders make feverish attempts to secure ceasefire

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin entered the fevered diplomatic fray of the Middle East, speaking to five of the major players including Iran and leading Arab powers in an attempt to secure a ceasefire in the region.

The Kremlin said Putin had spoken to his Syrian, Egyptian and Iranian counterparts as well as Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas. Kremlin foreign policy aide said Putin also speak to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The Kremlin statement said Put-in had voiced concern in his calls about "a catastrophic increase in the number of civilian victims and the aggravation of a humanitarian crisis in Gaza".

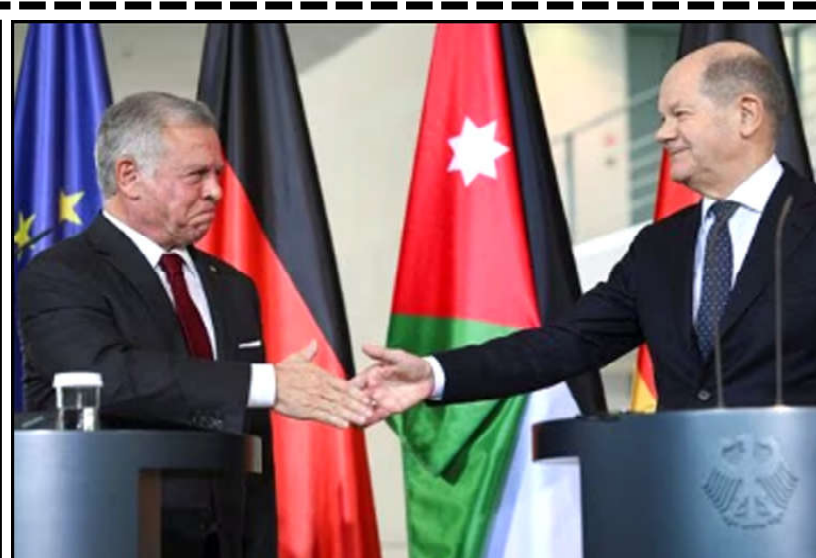
All the leaders called for "an immediate ceasefire and the establishment of a humanitarian truce to provide urgent assistance to those in need," it said. Putin said he was ready to "coordinate efforts with all constructive partners to put an end to hostilities and stabilise the situation as quickly as possible". The Russian leader repeated his call for the creation of a sovereign Pales-tinian state as the only way for lasting peace.

Putin expressed "his sincere condolences to the families and friends of the deceased Israelis," Kremlin said in a statement after Putin spoke to Netanyahu.

He also told the Israeli president of the steps Russia has taken to "promote the normalisation of the situation, prevent a further escalation of violence and prevent a humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip."

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Monday called for a ceasefire to halt the bloodshed in Israel, at a meeting with his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov. The two diplomats discussed the ongoing conflict ahead of a visit this week by Putin to China.

"It is imperative that a ceasefire be put in place, that the two sides be brought back to the negotiating table, and that an emergency humanitarian channel be established to prevent a further humanitarian disaster," Wang told Lavrov, according to a Chinese transcript of the meeting.



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Jordan's King Abdullah II go to shake hands, as they attend a press conference, at the Chancellery in Berlin, Germany.

## Gaza families ordered south return home, say nowhere is safe from Israeli bombs

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA: The Abu Marasa family are returning to Gaza City, having fled on Friday after Israel ordered all civilians to go south or face bombardment, saying they would rather die at home after an air strike hit the house next to where they were sheltering.

Bombing in the south of the tiny, crowded Gaza Strip killed scores of people overnight, local authorities said, and the Abu Marasa family is one of several Reuters spoke to that have concluded they may as well go back to their homes in the north.

More than a dozen members of the family were crowded into a car on the edge of Khan Younis, the main city of southern Gaza, their belongings strapped to the roof for the perilous journey back north through the bombardment.

"Why should we be martyrs in Khan Younis? We would better die as martyrs in our houses. Let the whole building fall on our heads," said Saleem Abu Marasa, preparing to drive back.

Israel began its most intensive ever bombardment of the Gaza Strip, a 45km-long (25 million) enclave home to 2.3 million people, after the militant Palestinian group Hamas rampaged through Israeli towns killing 1,300 people on Oct. 7. The Israeli military said last week all civilians should leave the northern half of the enclave, including the main Gaza City, as it prepares a ground assault to wipe out Hamas. Israeli bombing has killed 2,800 Palestinians in 11 days.

Even without the bombardment, a humanitarian disaster is unfolding across the enclave as Israel blocks off all power, water, medicine, food and fuel. The evacuation order has stirred fears in Gaza, where many inhabitants are refugees, that they will never be able to return home. The United Nations human rights office warned on Tuesday that the demand could breach international law.

The United Nations said heavy bombardment was taking place across the enclave, with strikes hitting Khan Younis and other parts of the south where Israel had told people to go.

## Iran's Khamenei says Israel must halt assault on Palestinians in Gaza

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has described Israel's assault on Gaza as a genocide of Palestinians and said it must stop immediately, state TV reported on Tuesday.

A senior commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) also warned of further action by Tehran-backed militant groups against Israel if it did not cease its attacks.

Israel has bombed the Palestinian territory of Gaza with air strikes since Hamas fighters burst into Israel from the enclave on Oct. 7 and killed 1,300 people, most of them civilians.

It has vowed to annihilate the Tehran-backed Hamas, which rules Gaza. But the Israeli retaliatory strikes have killed more than 2,800 Palestinians, a quarter of them children, and driven around half of the 2.3 million Gazans from their homes. Israel has also imposed a total blockade on the enclave, preventing food, fuel and medical supplies from getting in.

"No one can confront Muslims and the resistance forces if the Zionist regime's (Israel) crimes against Palestinians continue. The bombardment of Gaza must stop immediately," Khamenei told a group of students in Tehran.

"The world is witnessing the Zionist regime's genocide of Palestinians in Gaza," he said to chants of "Death to Israel".



Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg is escorted during an Oily Money Out and Fossil Free London protest in London, Britain.

## Polish opposition looks set to oust ruling nationalists in major political shift

**Monitoring Desk**  
WARSAW: Poland's liberal, pro-EU opposition on Monday looked on track to form the next government after official partial results and exit polls showed the ruling nationalists losing their parliamentary majority in the nation's most pivotal election in decades.

The incumbent Law and Justice (PiS) party has repeatedly clashed with the European Union over the rule of law, media freedom, migration and LGBT rights since it swept to power in 2015. Opposition parties have vowed to mend ties with Brussels and scrap reforms they say have eroded Polish democracy.

An Ipsos exit poll published early on Monday gave PiS 36.6% of the vote, which would translate into 198 lawmakers in the 460-seat lower house of parliament. Opposition parties, led by the former European Council president Donald Tusk's liberal grouping Civic Coalition (KO), were projected to win a combined 248 seats.

## Climate activist Greta Thunberg detained by police in London

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: Climate activist Greta Thunberg was detained by police in London on Tuesday, a Reuters witness reported, after she addressed protesters at a demonstration against oil and gas companies in the centre of the city.

Thunberg, who became the face of young climate activists worldwide after staging weekly protests in front of the Swedish parliament in 2018, has this year been detained by police or removed from protests in Sweden, Norway and Germany.

Video footage showed Thunberg, wearing a badge with the slogan 'Oily Money Out' standing calmly as two police officers spoke to her. One was seen holding her arm. London's Metropolitan Police did not immediately provide a statement when contacted by Reuters. Environmental group Greenpeace said two of its activists scaled the Intercontinental Hotel in Mayfair and unfurled a giant banner over its entrance reading.

## Taliban representative arrives in Beijing to attend Belt and Road Forum

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: The Taliban's acting commerce minister Haji Nooruddin Azizi arrived in Beijing on Tuesday to attend the Belt and Road Forum, the Afghan embassy said, which is among the highest-profile summits it has been invited to since taking power in 2021.

Beijing has sought to grow its official ties with the Taliban administration ever since U.S. and other foreign forces withdrew from the country two years ago, despite its lack of formal recognition by any government. The impoverished country could offer a wealth of coveted mineral resources.

## Germany's Scholz warns Iran, Hezbollah not to enter Middle East conflict

**Monitoring Desk**  
BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Tuesday called for preventing an escalation in the Middle East and warned Hezbollah and Iran against intervening in the conflict between Israel and Hamas.

## Czech Republic in talks to buy Embraer military cargo jet

**Monitoring Desk**  
PRAGUE: The Czech Republic said on Tuesday it had started talks with Embraer (EMBR3.SA) on the possible acquisition of two C-390 Millennium military transport aircraft, lifting shares of the Brazilian planemaker.

The move comes after neighbouring Austria tapped the C-390 Millennium to refresh its fleet in a possible joint order with the Netherlands, underscoring demand for the new aircraft aimed at replacing Lockheed Martin's (LMTN) Hercules C-130s.

Embraer shares rose more than 1.5% on the news, among the top advances on Brazil's benchmark stock index, which was near flat.

"The ramp-up of C-390 deliveries are an important aspect of our overweight-rating on Embraer," analysts at JPMorgan said. "Moreover, the increased backlog bodes well for our expected margin improvement in the segment during the coming years."

Embraer and the Czech government did not provide details on pricing, but JPMorgan estimated the potential order to be worth around \$240 million.

The Czech Defence Ministry said it wanted to negotiate the shortest possible delivery time for the aircraft, which it noted could be used for evacuations from crisis areas.

The Czech Republic, which is ramping up defence spending to meet its NATO commitments, currently lacks aircraft in the niche for medium and long haul flights.

Embraer had been long courting the country for an order as the company's defence unit aims to expand its footprint abroad.

"The C-390 Millennium is drawing the attention of several nations around the world."

## PM seeks Kenyan president's facilitation over investigation of journalist Arshad's murder

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday sought facilitation from Kenyan President Dr William Ruto over the finalization of the investigation into the murder of Pakistani journalist Arshad Sharif.

Journalist and news anchor Arshad Sharif was shot dead last year on October 23 during his stay in Kenya.

"The prime minister requested the Kenyan President for facilitation and finalization of the report of Special Joint Investigation Team in the murder case of

late Pakistani journalist Arshad Sharif," the PM Office said in a statement following the meeting of the two leaders in China.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 3rd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation being held in Beijing, China.

PM Kakar and the Kenyan president discussed bilateral cooperation in diverse fields and reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing bilateral relations in areas of trade, investment, education and people-to-people contacts.

Both leaders emphasized the importance of economic cooperation and agreed to enhance engagement to realize the true potential of bilateral trade.

PM Kakar said as a fellow member of the Belt and Road Initiative, Pakistan would like to enhance collaboration with other BRI member countries including Kenya to identify and develop new projects and initiatives. "This commitment underscores Pakistan's dedication to furthering development and shared prosperity through increased cooperation and partnerships," he said.

President Dr. William Ruto echoed the sentiments and expressed his country's interest in learning from Pakistan's expertise in sectors like agriculture and healthcare. PM Kakar extended an invitation to the President of Kenya to visit Pakistan at an early date, which was accepted by him. He also invited the Prime Minister to visit Kenya at his earliest convenience. It was agreed that the visits would be finalized through diplomatic channels.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Central Information Secretary, Mr Rauf Hassan, and Barrister Umair, called on President Dr Arif Alvi.

## Nawaz to restore the dignity of vote: Asif

SIALKOT (APP): Former Federal Defence Minister and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) central leader Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said Nawaz Sharif will become the Prime Minister for the fourth time by restoring the dignity of the vote.

He expressed these views while addressing a worker convention organized by Union Council Rangpura in a local market last night. He said that a large number of workers will reach Lahore on October 21 to welcome Nawaz Sharif. "In the 2018 elections, the dignity of the vote was violated, but now Nawaz Sharif will restore the dignity of the vote by becoming the Prime Minister," he added.



BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets President of Kenya Dr. William Ruto on the sidelines of 3rd Belt and Road Forum.

## Foolproof security being ensured at Diplomatic Enclave

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), Dr Akbar Nasir Khan the Islamabad Capital Police is ceaselessly dedicated to preserving law and order within the federal capital, a public relations officer said.

Establishments, diplomatic missions, and other vital assets, necessitating an unwavering focus on their safeguarding.

Citizens entering the diplomatic enclave are now mandated to display their identification cards. Additionally, individuals with private business within the diplomatic enclave are urged to carry their requisite documentation and extend their full cooperation to on-duty personnel. Senior officers have directed the personnel on duty to uphold the highest standards of diligence and professionalism, cultivating a positive rapport with citizens. Citizens are also urged to promptly report any perceived suspicious activity or individuals to the helpline "Pucar-15."

He said that, to fortify the security of the Diplomatic Enclave, police personnel stationed at different entry gates diligently executing their responsibilities, meticulously verifying the particulars of individuals accessing the diplomatic enclave and meticulously documenting vehicle information.

The diplomatic enclave encompasses pivotal government and private es-

## Indictment of PTI chairman in cipher case postponed till Oct 23

ISLAMABAD (APP): A special court on Tuesday provided copies of challan to PTI chairman and vice chairman and postponed their indictment in the cipher case till October 23.

Special Court Judge Abul Hasanat Muhammad Zulqarnain held the case, registered against the two accused under the Official Secrets Act, at the Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi.

At the outset of hearing, the defence lawyer informed the court that they had yet to receive the copies of case challan. On this, the judge directed for provision of the documents to the defence lawyers and postponed the indictment of the accused till next date.

The PTI chairman requested the court to grant permission for provision of home food and a cycle for exercise in jail.

The judge observed that it was the responsibility of the jail administration to provide food to the accused. He, however, instructed the administration to provide exercise machines to the PTI chairman PTI as per the jail manual.

## APCFA, Chinese embassy collaborate for Friendship Festival

ISLAMABAD (APP): All Pakistan-China Friendship Association (APCFA), in collaboration with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan on Tuesday organized the Pakistan-China Friendship Festival to celebrate the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the 10th anniversary of the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and "Belt and Road" (BRI) initiative. The event featured activities such as Chinese calligraphy classes, culinary training sessions, workshops on Chinese calligraphy, musical band performances, and various stalls showcasing traditional items from both countries to promote bilateral culture.

The guest of honor for the event was Zhang Heqing, who serves as the Cultural Counselor and Director of the China Cultural Center in Pakistan.

During his address at the event, he conveyed his sincere gratitude to APCFA for their diligent efforts in arranging this important gathering and for their active involvement in various cultural promotion activities.

## AIOU extends admissions deadline for ODL programs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University, Prof. Dr Nasir Mahmood, has approved the extension in admission date till November 07, for open distance learning (ODL) programs offered in phase 2 of autumn semester 2023 due to the hundreds of applications received from interested students. According to the AIOU, the programs offered in this phase include Associate degree in Arts (BA General).

## Israel must lift illegal blockade on Gaza, allow aid to Palestinians: Pakistan

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has called on Israel to lift its inhumane blockade on the Gaza Strip and allow unhindered access to humanitarian aid for the Palestinian people suffering under the relentless Israeli bombardment that has ravaged the enclave.

At a debate on the Palestinian question in a UN panel, Ambassador Muhammad Usman Iqbal Jadoon, the Pakistani deputy permanent representative to the UN, said that the Tel Aviv regime must fulfill those obligations as an occupying power under international law.

"The Palestinian people need protection, immediate and urgent humanitarian aid, and an end of the mass displacement," he told the General Assembly's Second Committee, which deals with economic and financial matters, on Monday.

In the Committee's ensuing debate, 34 other speakers condemned Israel's actions, with the Observer for the State of Palestine, Sahar Nasser-Abushawsh, warning that the conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip, have witnessed a horrific and unimaginable deterioration due to Israel's destructive practices.



BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets President of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe on the sidelines of 3rd Belt and Road Forum.

## Pakistan, Sri Lanka express support for establishing independent Palestinian state

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Sri Lanka have called for establishing a viable and contiguous Palestinian state with pre-1967 borders and Al-Quds Al Sharif as its capital.

The understanding to this effect came at a meeting between Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and President Ranil Wickremesinghe today on the sidelines of 3rd Belt and Road Forum.

During the meeting, the two leaders expressed deep concern over the grave humanitarian situation in Gaza caused by the ongoing Israeli attacks. They further urged for establishing a humanitarian corridor to provide aid to the besieged people of Gaza.

## National Palestine Conference

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Siraj-ul-Haq addresses during the National Palestine Conference held in Islamabad.

## Afghan education delegation visits IIUI

ISLAMABAD (APP): An official Afghan delegation headed by Dr. Nazir Muhammad Irfan, Director of Foreign Affairs and Scholarships, Ministry of Higher Education, Afghanistan, visited International Islamic University (IIU) on Tuesday where it discussed bilateral cooperation in education and also met with Afghan students.

The delegation also included Dr. Rafiullah Ata, Chancellor of Afghan International Islamic University (AIU), Abdul Hai Kaiwaan, Dean of Engineering Faculty AIU, Nisar Ahmed Zahid Dean of Agriculture Faculty AIU who was accompanied by Jehanzeb, Project Director

## Senate body urges Saudi reconsideration of reduced HGOs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on Tuesday held a thorough discussion on the reduction of Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs) from 905 to 46, following directives from the Saudi government relayed through the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah.

The meeting of the committee was held at the Parliament House which was chaired by Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri.

The committee included distinguished members such as Senators Gurdeep Singh, Molvi Faiz Muhammad, Professor Sajid Mir, Naseebullah Bazai, Hafiz Abdul Karim, and Haji Hidayatullah.

In attendance were

## Investors show strong interest in diverse plot auction by CDA

ISLAMABAD (APP): The investors are demonstrating a strong interest in the auction of residential and commercial plots in Islamabad organized by Capital Development Authority (CDA).

The four-day open auction of residential and commercial plots of various sizes and categories is set to run until October 20 here at the Jinnah Convention Centre.

The primary objectives are to increase revenue for the department and encourage investor participation in the auction.

During the auction's inaugural day, a plot identified as 53F, covering an area of 666.67 square yards in I-8 Markaz, was successfully auctioned for an impressive Rs 1.42 billion. Plot number 53D located in I-8 Markaz was sold at the auction for an amount totaling Rs 1.09 billion. During the auction, plots located in the Blue Area and Northern Strip of E-11 will also be up for bidding.

## Hungarian Air Chief admires PAF personnel's professionalism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Commander Hungarian Air Force, Brigadier General József Koller along with his delegation called on Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu during his visit to Air Headquarters here on Tuesday.

The Hungarian Air Chief expressed his admiration for the professionalism of PAF personnel and praised the remarkable progress made by Pakistan Air Force (PAF) through indigenization, a PAF news release said.

The first-ever visit by the Hungarian Air Chief to Pakistan marks a significant milestone in the bilateral relations between the two countries and a new opening in Air Force to Air Force relations.

The historic event highlights the growing cooperation and friendship between Pakistan and Hungary, particularly in the realm of defence industry and military partnership.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister GB Haji Gulbar Khan presenting a souvenir to Khazar Farhadov Ambassador of Azerbaijan in GB House.

## Islamabad transport authority crackdown on overcharging vehicles

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a crackdown on overcharging vehicles, the Islamabad Transport Authority (ITA) and a team of magistrates seized sixteen vehicles and issued warnings to several others on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon.

The team inspected various transport routes and bus stands to ensure that the recently announced fare reduction was being implemented.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the ITA said that the seized vehicles were found to be overcharging passengers at rates higher than the notified rates of the district administration.

The ITA has warned all transport operators to adhere to the notified fares and to refrain from overcharging passengers. Failure to do so will result in strict action, including the seizure of vehicles.

The crackdown on overcharging vehicles is a welcome move by the ITA and the district administration.

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## Former CNS conferred with honorary award of Malaysian Armed Forces

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Navy's former Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Anjad Khan Niazi has been conferred with "Honorary Award of Malaysian Armed Forces Order for Valour (First Degree) - Gallant Commander of Malaysian Armed Forces (Panglima

King Abdullah of Pahang at an impressive investiture ceremony held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, a Pakistan Navy news release on Tuesday said. The Award has been bestowed in recognition of untiring efforts and dedication of Admiral Muhammad Anjad Khan Niazi to strengthen bilateral



Gagah Angkatan relationship and mutual cooperation between the Armed Forces of Pakistan and Malaysia.

## Two days road safety workshop organized for HEC drivers

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police is seamlessly ensuring smooth flow of traffic in the federal capital, a public relations officer said.



He said that, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) delegation of drivers visited Traffic Headquarters, and met with Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad, where the Islamabad Capital Police organized a two days road safety workshop for them.

During the workshop, the HEC drivers were educated about road safety and traffic laws. The drivers appreciated the initiative taken by the Islamabad Capital Police.

The Islamabad Capital Police officials also provided awareness to the participants about the benefits of seat belt usage, the dangers of using mobile phones while driving, the hazards of over-speeding, lane violations, overloading, and other traffic laws.