

Independent

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Vol. XIII No. 299 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Monday October 23, 2023, Rabi-us-Sani 07, 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

Aneeq urges Muslim nations to halt Israeli commercial flights in their airspace

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Sunday urged the Muslim world to come together and take a stand for the cause of Palestine.

Addressing a conference titled 'Unity of Ummah and Palestine Issue', organized by the Ahl-e-Haram - a religious organization, he emphasized that true believers should unite and support the oppressed.

Minister Aneeq highlighted the importance of Muslim solidarity with the Palestinian people, as several Western leaders extended their support to Israel. He questioned where the Muslim world's unwavering commitment to justice had gone.

He said the European Union's decision to halt immediate aid to Palestine raised concerns about who would take a stand against Israeli aggression. He said seven hospitals in Gaza had been closed, and the rest lacked basic facilities.

Minister Aneeq called upon Muslim nations to immediately suspend Israeli commercial flights in their airspace, besides urging the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to go beyond condemnation and take decisive action.

Prominent religious leaders, including Mufti Gulzar Ahmed Naemi, Maulana Dr. Sher Muhammad Sialvi,

Maulana Kashif Gulzar Naemi, Ayesha Syed, Zubaida Khatoon, Pir Syed Saadat Ali Shah, and Allama Shabbir Maismi, stressed the need for Muslim countries to unite and support the Palestinian cause while setting aside their differences.

They commended the Palestinians' unwavering determination and resistance, as the oppressed people continue to fight for justice, not only for themselves but for the entire Muslim world. They called to boycott Israeli products and international organizations to take note of Israeli aggression echoed throughout the speeches.

Despite overwhelming media propaganda, Palestinian youth managed to expose the dark side of Israeli technology and the inhumane acts committed by Israeli forces, they added.

They asked the leadership of Muslim countries to put their extravagant lifestyles on hold and make all-out efforts to stop the ongoing Israeli aggression causing death and destruction in the Gaza Strip.

They emphasized the need for Muslim nations to set aside their personal interests and unite on a common platform in support of the Palestinian cause.

They said this renewed spirit of commitment and solidarity was reminiscent of the Prophetic era and served as a beacon of hope for justice and peace in the region.



Trucks carrying humanitarian aid entering Gaza at Rafah crossing

55 killed in late-night Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip

GAZA/JERUSALEM/WASHINGTON (Online): The Israeli army has announced to step up attacks ahead of the planned ground operation in Gaza.

At least 55 people were killed in late-night Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip, as the Israeli army issued a warning to Palestinians to move from northern Gaza to southern areas, warning them that they would become a "terrorist organization" if they stayed there they can be considered a companion of Hamas.

On the other hand, UN agencies have warned of the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza. According to media reports, after Israel announced the escalation of attacks on Gaza, Hamas has said that around 55 people were killed in late-night Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip.

In response to Hamas's attack on Israel on October

7, Israel has continued to carry out severe attacks on Gaza. Last night, more than 55 Palestinians were martyred as a result of Israel's bombardment.

The statement issued by the government added that more than 30 houses were destroyed in the Israeli attacks within a few hours after the Israeli army spokesman announced the increase in attacks.

Syrian state media, citing military sources, reported that Israeli strikes had disabled two of Syria's main airports, with the Ministry of Transport diverting flights to Latakia.

Sources said in a statement issued by the official news agency 'Sana' that in the morning, Israel's air strike targeted the international airports of Damascus and Aleppo, resulting in the death of a citizen at the Damascus airport. Another was injured.

Minister for National Health Services says

Govt announces three-pronged strategy to eliminate polio virus

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Health Services Dr Nadeem Jan has announced the three-pronged strategy to successfully interrupt the circulation of polio virus in the country and include in the ranks of the polio-free country.

Addressing a ceremony in Islamabad, he said localized operational hubs are being established in Bannu as three out of four polio cases have been surfaced over there. He vowed to make these hubs well-resourced by providing additional resources and health experts.

Highlighting the effectiveness of an integrated approach to combat the circulation of polio virus, the Health Minister said polio drops are being adminis-

tered to the children less than five years country wide with the supplementary doses of vital vitamins. Nadeem Jan said government has devised a communication strategy with the major focus to remove all the misconceptions in the minds of general public related to the inoculation of polio drops.

Paying rich tribute to the polio workers, who are offering voluntary services by putting their lives into the risk, he said their services will be used further in nutrition, family planning and Health Hygiene after the eradication of polio virus in the country. APP adds: An awareness walk was held on Sunday to end polio in connection with World Polio Day, which was observed on October 24 every year.

The walk brought together hundreds of participants from the Ministry of Health, students, civil society, the leadership of the Pakistan Polio Programme and polio eradication partners such as Rotary, WHO, UNICEF and BMGF. Addressing the participants, Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan said that children are our future, and the government will leave no stone unturned to ensure that the disability-causing poliovirus does not remain a threat to their wellbeing.

Dr Nadeem Jan said, "This walk is a testament to our commitment and the tireless efforts and resilience of our healthcare heroes who continue to immunize children, even in the most challenging circumstances."



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker federal Health minister Dr Nadeem Jan leads advocacy walk to end polio.

ECP enlists one million officers for upcoming general election duty

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is gearing up for the upcoming general elections and plans to enlist nearly one million individuals to fill essential roles for the elections.

According to preliminary estimates, "There will be approximately 700,000 polling staff members, and the count may increase to around 900,000 to 1 million when including security personnel. The final number will be confirmed once the Election Schedule is announced," the ECP sources told on Sunday.

A list of presiding officers, assistant presiding officers and polling staff has been compiled, with a total of 10,7361 officers set to be deployed nationwide. In Punjab, approximately 54,706 presiding

officers, 310,968 assistant presiding officers, and 160,445 polling staff will be assigned election duties. In the province, a sum total of 526,123 officers will be appointed. In Sindh, 20,315 presiding officers, 162,523 assistant presiding officers and 81,262 polling staff will be appointed, bringing the total number of officers in the province to 264,100.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 16,525 presiding officers, 100,085 assistant presiding officers and 50,045 polling staff will be appointed, making a combined total of 166,655 officers.

In Balochistan, a combined number of 50,491 officers will be designated, including 5,266 presiding officers, 30,150 assistant presiding officers and 15,075 polling staff.

Solangi clarifies about live coverage of PML-N rally by PTV

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Muratza Solangi on Sunday gave an explanation on the live coverage of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz public meeting in Lahore.

In a statement on the social networking site X, he said that PTV had only three days ago, on the 16th anniversary of the Karzai tragedy covered live the speeches of all the leaders, including Bilawal Bhutto.

It should be noted that Nawaz Sharif's address from the rally last night was broadcast live by almost all TV channels, including PTV.

However, PTV's live broadcast of Nawaz Sharif's rally was criticized by some persons on social media.

NCSW urges CJP to initiate effective measures to combat violence against women

ISLAMABAD (INP): Nilofar Bakhtiar, the chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), has urged the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) to take action to prevent the increasing incidents of violence against women.

In a letter to the CJP, the NCSW chairperson appealed for immediate and effective measures to reduce gender-based violence. Bakhtiar emphasised the need to protect the lives

of the victims of these atrocities, mentioning incidents like the murder of Noor Muqaddam as a serious concern for women's safety and well-being in Pakistan.

She also stressed that the only way to end this cycle of violence and atrocities was by ensuring immediate judicial accountability and delivering swift justice. A transparent judicial system and timely justice were crucial for women and their families, added Bakhtiar.

Pakistan suggests reforms in UNSC to end Gaza, other global clashes

NEW YORK (INP): Pakistan has stressed the need to revive the two-state solution to the Palestinian crisis for durable peace in the region at the United Nations.

Speaking in a debate on the contributions of regional mechanisms for peace and security in the Security Council, Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN, Munir Akram said the two-state solution is the only option for a durable peace in the Holy Land.

He expressed the hope that after the Security Council's failure, the General Assembly will take action and demand an immediate ceasefire; full, unhindered, and sustainable humanitarian access to the suffering people in Gaza, and ensure that they are not

displaced within or outside Gaza.

Speaking about the Security Council's shortcomings, Munir Akram said these arise mainly due to the veto power of the five permanent members.

He said the Security Council, which has the primary responsibility to promote world peace, has failed to "stop the slaughter in Gaza", as it also failed in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Pakistani envoy said the Security Council's failures can be addressed by making it more representative and democratic, by enlarging the voice of the majority of small and medium-sized states, and more accountable through the democratic method of periodic elections.

Bilawal pays tributes to Nusrat Bhutto

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that Madar-e-Jamhuriat Begum Nusrat Bhutto was a metaphor of compassion, patience and courage, who never hesitated to sacrifice for the sake of Pakistan's democracy and the people.

According to a press release, he, in his message on the 12th death anniversary of Begum Nusrat Bhutto, paid tribute to her and said that Madar-e-Jamhuriat is a visionary women leader, who led a historic movement against a dictator to restore political and democratic rights to the people of Pakistan.

Sanjrani to attend Int'l Symposium in Beijing

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has been specially invited by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China to attend the International Symposium to commemorate the 10th anniversary of China's Principle of Amity, Sincerity, Mutual Benefit, and Inclusiveness in Neighborhood Diplomacy proposed by President Xi Jinping.

The event, to be held on October 24, 2023, at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, will feature Chairman Senate as a distinguished Chief Guest.

Sadiq Sanjrani will grace the opening ceremony and address the gathering, contributing to the discourse on strengthening diplomatic ties among neighboring nations.

The Senate Chairman's presence at this Symposium is expected to strengthen the bonds of friendship, mutual trust, and mutually beneficial cooperation between Pakistan and China. In addition to his participation in the Symposium, the Chairman Senate will meet his counterpart in China, the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

Furthermore, during this visit, Sadiq Sanjrani will engage in meetings with the heads of various Chinese state-owned companies.

SC to hear Civilian's military trial case today, Federal govt file separate petition

ISLAMABAD (Online): The hearing of the case against the trial in the military courts will be held on Monday.

A five-member larger bench headed by Justice Ejaz-ul-Ahsan will hold a hearing today at 11:30 on Monday. Registrar's Office has issued notices to all parties. A five-member bench consisting of Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Syed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Ayesha A. Malik, headed by Justice Ejaz-ul-Ahsan, will hold the hearing. Federal government, On the other hand, filed a separate petition in which it has been stated that the trial of civilians has started in military courts.

In the miscellaneous application of the federal government, it has been stated that 102 persons were arrested in the light of

the incidents of May 9 and 10 and trial was started in the military courts for the right of justice of these persons, while the trial is being conducted keeping in mind the interest of the detained persons.

The miscellaneous petition further states that those found not guilty during the trial in the military courts will be acquitted and the trial in the military courts will be subject to the judgment of the pending case in the Supreme Court.

The petition further states that those who are found guilty after a trial in military courts will receive minor punishments, those involved in the incidents of May 9 and 10 who have been imprisoned according to the crime will be released, while those who have been sentenced to prison after a military trial will be released according to law.



ISLAMABAD: Activists of Youth Council Pakistan hold a peaceful protest to show Solidarity with Palestinian people in front of NPC.

General elections in 90 days: Three-member bench led by CJP to hear case today

ISLAMABAD (Online): A three-member bench headed by the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) will hear the case regarding holding general elections in 90 days in the Supreme Court from Monday (Today).

Notices have also been issued to the parties in this case.

Remember that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Jamaat-e-Islami and the Supreme Court Bar Association filed applications in the Supreme Court for the date of holding general elections within 90 days of the dissolution of the National Assembly.

President of the Supreme Court Bar Association Abid Shahid Zuberi had also challenged the decision of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) to conduct the general elections within 90 days and conduct elections under new constituencies in the petition filed under Article 184/3 of the Constitution.

In the petition filed in the Supreme Court, it has been argued that the notification issued in the light of the decision of the Council of Common Interests should be declared illegal.

Nine suspects of May 9 tragedy approaches SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): The matter of trial of civilians in the military court, the nine suspects of the May 9 incident have approached the Supreme Court.

Written petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court.

In the petitions, the stand has been taken that the accused in the custody of the military authority became disgusted with the Supreme Court proceedings.

The military detainees have requested the Supreme Court for a trial in a military court. The case of the military courts is pending in the Supreme Court. After the May 9 incident, the accused are in the custody of the military authorities.

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

10 DAYS REMAINING

08

in WhatsApp Telegram YouTube

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Closer to midnight

For a world already in flames, a fresh nuclear arms race would be an unmitigated catastrophe. Yet the growing gulf between Russia and the US — fuelled primarily by the Ukraine crisis — means that cooperation on nuclear arms reduction has practically stalled, with both states eyeing each other with suspicion. A significant recent development in this regard came in the shape of Russia's State Duma voting to revoke Moscow's ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. As the name of the 1996 document suggests, it seeks to prevent the testing of atomic weapons worldwide. All nuclear powers have largely respected the status quo, with no tests in decades, with the exception of North Korea, which tested devices in 2017. Russia has not tested nuclear weapons since the end of the Soviet Union. But with growing tension between Moscow and Washington, there is a danger that either state could alter its nuclear posture. Russia is believed to possess the world's largest stockpile of nukes, followed by the US. However, Washington has little moral ground to criticise the Russians on the CTBT move as unlike Moscow, it never ratified the treaty. Earlier this year, Russia also withdrew from the bilateral New START treaty it had signed with America.

While there is no need for panic, both Russia and the US need to give top priority to maintaining the nuclear status quo, and preferably one day reducing their massive stockpiles. During the Cold War there were too many instances where a nuclear exchange was closely averted.

The current global situation is just as — if not more — unstable, which means that efforts at arms control and preventing the resumption of nuclear testing should be redoubled by the international community. Pakistan also lives in a 'nuclear neighbourhood', and renewed arms tests may further vitiate the situation in South Asia. Therefore, instead of rolling back nuclear protocols, these must be strengthened by all states.

Return of Nawaz Sharif, a day of hope



By Qamar Bashir
Press Secretary to the President (Rtd); Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC

The tables turned swiftly and unexpectedly against Imran Khan and the PTI. Nawaz Sharif, who had been in self-imposed exile in London for over four years, was transformed from a declared absconder and disqualified for life from electoral contests into a free man. His arrival was marked with grand receptions by associates, loyal followers, and the public, symbolizing a night of celebration and a day of hope across the country. In a remarkable public address, he assured the establishment that he harbors no intentions of seeking political revenge. While outlining his economic agenda, he pledged to continue with his prior policies, likely with the same team. When discussing foreign policy, he emphasized the futility of maintaining an antagonistic stance toward neighboring nations. Instead, he advocated for breaking the cycle of dependency and harnessing Pakistan's abundant natural, divine, and human resources for progress and prosperity. Although not explicitly stated, he alluded to the consequences of those responsible for his downfall three times and warned against a repeat scenario for the fourth time. His confident demeanor, the warm reception at the airport, official protocols, and exuberance conveyed a resounding message: Nawaz Sharif has returned to the political

arena with renewed vigor, especially with his potential challengers neutralized.

In a remarkable turn of events, a fate that appeared nearly impossible just a few months ago was transformed into a potential reality. The same strategy that was once employed to turn the judiciary, laws, and constitution against Nawaz Sharif was now used in reverse, effectively altering the constitutional landscape and institutions to his advantage. This remarkable shift allowed him to return from exile, fully energized and free of any charges, akin to a rebirth.

Nawaz Sharif, who had been a vocal and staunch opponent of the Establishment, had consistently held them responsible for engineering his removal in 2017. He accused them of colluding with the judiciary to convict him in multiple corruption cases, leading to his lifetime disqualification from politics and subsequent exile in London. Surprisingly, the enduring animosity was set aside, and both sides forgave and forgot. The Establishment, despite its longstanding enmity, became Nawaz Sharif's proponents, facilitators, and supporters in his journey back to power. This once again exemplifies that, much like in international relations, in domestic politics, there are no permanent friends or permanent enemies. This seemingly implausible turn of events was achieved through the unwavering determination, resilience, intelligence, and leadership of Maryam Nawaz, and none other. Her steadfast narrative, echoed by all PML(N) leaders without exception, maintained that their leader had been innocent from the very outset. They contended that during Nawaz Sharif's tenure, the country had made significant progress and was poised for remarkable growth. They argued that a dubious plan was concocted as an experiment to elevate Imran Khan to power. To pave the way for his ascent, baseless and frivolous cases were fabricated against Nawaz Sharif. Ultimately, through collu-

sion and subjugation of the judiciary, he was unseated, imprisoned, and disqualified for life on charges that belied constitutional and legal principles, effectively casting aside the foundations of justice.

Their demand is straightforward: the reversal of all unconstitutional, unlawful, and arbitrary actions that had been used to remove Nawaz Sharif from power. They seek to rectify the injustices committed against him and the nation, restoring him to the same position from which he was ousted. Moreover, they call for an examination of all omissions and commissions that facilitated the rise of the PTI and the placement of Imran Khan in power. This once seemingly impossible and unattainable narrative was gradually woven into reality through the sheer merit of Maryam Nawaz Sharif, who displayed remarkable grit, tenacity, courage, and determination even in the face of daunting and formidable adversity. She orchestrated the political landscape with exceptional finesse, strategically positioning her power players and leveraging them effectively and intelligently. Her moves were marked by mastery, precision, and creativity, all executed at the right moments with strength and meticulous calibration to achieve the desired outcomes.

First, she succeeded in fully exonerating her father, Nawaz Sharif, while confining Imran Khan to a political cage, dismantling his party, removing him from the mainstream media, ensnaring him in numerous legal entanglements, and rendering his return seemingly impossible — much like how Nawaz Sharif's return appeared infeasible just days ago.

Once she had silenced Imran Khan, she adeptly shaped public opinion, maintained the core party leadership largely intact with a few notable exceptions, managed to keep the establishment content, curtailed her father's outbursts against the establishment, adroitly manipulated the media landscape, and kept potential contenders for the

premiership at bay.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif was well aware that her father's once-impossible return to Pakistan was riddled with uncertainties and complicated by legal issues, with a looming risk of his arrest shortly after setting foot in the country. This apprehension was explicitly articulated by the caretaker interior minister, who initially stated that Nawaz Sharif, being a convicted individual, was likely to be apprehended upon his return. However, following a stern rebuke from PML(N) leadership and reprimand from the establishment, the minister promptly retracted his initial statement.

One of the primary challenges Maryam Nawaz Sharif faced was gaining the support of a truncated parliament, which consisted of numerous parties, some of which had a history of intense rivalry with the PML(N), particularly the PPP. Maryam strategically utilized parliament to pass crucial laws, including the Supreme Court Practices and Procedure Act of 2023, which provided her father with an opportunity to appeal his conviction and lifetime disqualification. She was well aware that these laws could not supersede or bypass the constitution, but this was a necessary step to pave the way for Nawaz Sharif's return. Collaborating closely with the establishment, Maryam secured a safe return for her father, facilitated his protective bail, and set the stage for his reentry into politics and a potential fourth term as Prime Minister.

In exchange for this favor, the PML(N) granted the establishment an extensive range of powers, legitimizing their involvement in civilian matters. This involved appointing both active and retired military officers to key civilian positions and providing legal cover for their roles in financial and economic disciplines. The Official Secrets (Amendment) Act, 2023 broadens the definition of national security breaches and grants intelligence agencies the authority to conduct raids and detain indi-

viduals. The Pakistan Army (Amendment) Act, 2023 allows the military's intelligence agencies to search individuals or places without a warrant and criminalizes defamation of the armed forces. The National Security Act, 2023 establishes a National Security Council and provides the government with the power to detain those deemed threats to national security. The amendments to the Board of Investment Act, 2023 include involving the army chief in trade and investment decisions, and the National Logistics Corporation Act, 2023 gives the army a monopoly on logistical support. The E-Safety Bill, 2023 addresses online offenses, while the Cantonments (Amendment) Bill, 2023 refines existing frameworks. In tandem with these efforts, Maryam successfully lobbied for a significant softening of the Accountability Law, leading to the dismissal of numerous NAB cases against her family, including allegations of financial corruption, money laundering, and misuse of public funds. This led to the exoneration of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the dismissal of a seven-year prison sentence and a substantial fine for Maryam herself, and the clearance of Suleman Shehbaz in a money laundering case. A reinvestigation by the FIA also found Shehbaz Sharif and his son Hamza "innocent" in another money laundering case. These calculated moves were instrumental in achieving her objectives.

Simultaneously, while skillfully negotiating with the establishment, Maryam engaged in a determined campaign against a non-compliant judiciary. She openly defied the Supreme Court's directive to hold Punjab Assembly elections within 90 days of dissolution, effectively sowing divisions among Supreme Court judges and emboldening other stakeholders to disregard the court's orders. This strategic maneuver created a pretext for delaying the elections, ensuring that the PML(N) could participate

when fully prepared and in a position of strength, aligning with Maryam's political objectives.

The Pakistani government employed a multi-faceted approach to manipulate the media landscape in favor of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) (PML-N) and against Imran Khan. This strategy included media censorship through various coercive tactics, offering financial incentives to compliant outlets, appointing PML-N sympathizers to key media positions, legally harassing critical journalists, and even resorting to violence and intimidation. As a result, the media's bias in favor of the PML-N was palpable in their coverage of Imran Khan, often depicting him negatively while downplaying or ignoring stories critical of the PML-N.

Having brought her father back safely, Maryam has now set the stage for Nawaz Sharif to make his move. However, the path ahead is riddled with complexities, and the outcome remains uncertain. Nawaz Sharif, who has had a tumultuous history with the Pakistani military, having been ousted from power on three occasions, will need to tread carefully and find common ground with the military if he aims to secure a fourth term as Prime Minister. Addressing Pakistan's pressing economic challenges, including high inflation and a growing debt burden, will be paramount in improving the lives of ordinary citizens. The deeply divided political landscape in Pakistan necessitates Sharif to build a broad coalition, reaching out to opposition parties and finding consensus on a range of issues. Moreover, considering his age and past health issues, Sharif's physical well-being will be a critical factor in managing the demands of the office. In the face of these multifaceted challenges, Nawaz Sharif's future as Prime Minister hinges on his ability to unite the nation and effectively navigate these complexities. Failure to do so could once again lead to his removal from office by the military, mirroring his past experiences.

Commerce News

Businessmen for easing import as Afghan transit trade thru Pak rises to \$7.3b

LAHORE (INP): The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has suggested the government to reduce the tariff rates on smuggling prone items to the lowest level to curb smuggling, as Afghanistan's imports through Pakistan under the transit trade facility has gone up nearly two-thirds to \$7.3 billion in the last fiscal year.

The FPCCI former

president and Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar observed that the total elimination of smuggling only through administrative measures at the borders was difficult and the remedy lies in reducing incentive for smuggling by reducing tariff rates.

Smuggling is eating vitals of Pakistan economic fabrics and needs to be curbed through fiscal and administrative measures.

It renders industrial products uncompetitive and discourages legal imports thus make colossal losses to the trade, industry and government exchequer.

Despite efforts of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) with limited resources cannot control smuggling form boarders of Iran and Afghanistan.

This will result in higher government revenue, provide impetus to local trade/ industry and

generate employment opportunities.

He said that elimination of smuggling, which is causing loss of billions of dollars to the national exchequer, could help reduce dependence on debts. Mian Anjum Nisar said that the government could save billions of dollars annually by eradicating the menace of smuggling. Then there would be no need for dependence on loans to meet the budget deficit.



ISLAMABAD: New elected acting President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce presenting a shield to Secretary General Central Tanzeem Tajir Pakistan Syed Abdul Qayyum Agha during his visit of Chamber.



HYDERABAD: Flour Mills Owners Social Welfare Association leader, Haji Muhammad Memon addresses to media persons during press conference held at Hyderabad press club.

Ali Sheikh terms counter steps vital as debt escalates rapidly to Rs64tr

ISLAMABAD (INP): Presidential candidate of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) for the upcoming polls of 2024 Muhammad Ali Sheikh has called for taking corrective measures as rapid escalation in debt is widely seen as unsustainable, yet serious steps are now vital to curb this alarming trajectory, by keeping check on government

expenditure and high cost of debt servicing, as the federal government debt has surged to a staggering Rs64 trillion.

Quoting the State Bank of Pakistan report, the FPCCI Presidential candidate nominated by the BMP, said that the federal government's debt has soared by Rs14.5 trillion, constituting a substantial 29.2% rise compared to the same period last year.

Authorities directed to make Rawat vegetable & fruit market functional

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chhatta has directed the authorities to make vegetable and fruit market in Rawat fully functional on October 23, Monday.

He said the land had been allocated for establishment of vegetable and fruit market in Rawat.

LC CI, carpet association ink MoU to improve relations

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) and Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster stronger trade relations, here at PCMEA office on Sunday.

The agreement was signed during a visit by LCCI President Kashif Anwar to the PCMEA where the association's Senior Vice Chairman Usman Ashraf welcomed him. Kashif Anwar also

visited the Carpet Training Institute (CTI) and observed the intricate process of handcrafting carpets. During the visit, LCCI President Kashif Anwar highlighted the importance of robust trade relations between various trade organizations and chambers.

He emphasized the need for effective collaboration in an ever-evolving global economic landscape.

Kashif Anwar noted the increase in business costs, particularly related to utilities.

IFC goes operational at Hattar SEZ

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC) inaugurated an Industrial Facilitation Centre (IFC) at Hattar Special Economic Zone (SEZ) to facilitate industrialists and investors in resolution of their problems.

The IFC was inaugurated by the KP Caretaker Minister for

Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Dr Aamir Abdullah, the other day, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

Besides, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) KP-EZDMC Javed Iqbal Khattak, members Board of Director (BoD) and officials of the company, a large number of industrialists and local investors were also present on the occasion.

Pakistani delegation to visit Kyrgyzstan, fostering bilateral trade and collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Kyrgyzstan Trade House Meher Kashif Younis on Sunday said a high-level Pak delegation of pharmaceutical and surgical instruments will visit Kyrgyzstan on November 6 for three days to explore the possibilities of investment avenues, joint ventures, promotion of bilateral trade and collaboration.

Talking to a delegation of exporters led by Ms Maheen he said this

initiative signifies our commitment to enhancing economic cooperation and fostering meaningful relationships, said a news release here.

He said he firmly believed that by working together, we can tap into the immense potential that exists in the pharmaceutical and surgical instruments sectors.

Collaborative efforts in these areas can lead to the exchange of knowledge, technology, and resources,

ultimately benefiting both our economies.

He said an upcoming significant event holds the promise of strengthening the ties between the two Muslim countries and fostering mutual prosperity.

The delegation comprises exporters and investors who are eager to engage with Kyrgyz counterparts to identify synergies and establish fruitful partnerships, he added.

Al-Raziq Trust oath-taking at SCCI

SIALKOT (APP): An oath-taking ceremony of the "Al-Raziq Trust" Sialkot, a charitable organization established for public welfare, was held at the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI).

Vice President (VP) Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Amer Majeed Sheikh and Chairman (BoD) Amir Majeed Sheikh participated in the swearing-in ceremony as the special guests.

Banking Mohtasib provides Rs 972.33 million relief to banking customers

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Banking Mohtasib Pakistan provided monetary relief of an amount of Rs 972.33 million to the banking customers by disposing 18,431 complaints during the first nine months of the current calendar year.

From 1st January to 30th September, the Mohtasib received 21,852 complaints, including 5,810 from Prime Minister's Portal.

With a view to protecting the people from fraudulent activities which are rampant now a days, Mohtasib, Sirajuddin Aziz emphasized upon the banking customers not to disclose their personal and financial credentials to any third person. On receipt of suspicious calls, they should immediately approach the nearest branch of their bank or contact the helpline of the bank, he added.

Akbar Chowk flyover project to be open for traffic in November: CM Naqvi

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, during a visit to Akbar Chowk flyover project here on Sunday, announced that the facility would be opened for traffic by mid of November.

The CM inspected various sections of flyover. One side of the flyover has been completed. Naqvi inspected the construction work on the project and ordered for early completion and restoration of the College Road as well. He ordered for completing the asphalt work on the bridge at the earliest.

Commissioner Lahore/DG LDA gave a briefing about the project.

The contractor apprised about construction activities and completion of the project. Later, talking to the media, he said all political leaders were being provided security according to the police standards operating procedures (SOPs). Security was also being provided at Zaman Park, he added. The PTI chairman was also provided required security, Naqvi said.

The caretaker CM said that teachers had been released across Punjab and no one would be allowed to close educational institutions. To engage students in protest demonstrations was inappropriate and wrong,



LAHORE: Begum Governor Punjab Ayesha Baligh in a group photo with women living in the Old Age Home at Governor House

CM orders completing civil works by Dec 31

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Agriculture, Food & Drug Authority's head office on Sunday and inspected finishing work, being carried out at different sections on various floors of the building.

He also inspected the equipment purchased for the labs and directed to complete civil work on the building with a high quality.

Mohsin Naqvi assigned a deadline to complete 100 per cent work on the whole building by December 31. He also presided over a meeting at

the Authority's Head Office and was given a briefing about matters pertaining to human resource and purchase of machinery.

Mohsin Naqvi ordered to constitute a committee under the leadership of Chairman Planning & Development Board. The committee would take prompt steps with regard to resolving affairs of the Authority.

Secretary Communication & Works gave a briefing to the CM regarding civil works. Additional Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary (Home), Secretaries of C&W, Health, Information,

ANF seizes 106 kg drugs in 11 operations

Independent Report
RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations across the country managed to recover over 106 kg drugs and arrested 13 accused including a woman, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Sunday.

He informed that 504 grams heroin was recovered from the possession of a passenger, arrested at Islamabad International Airport. The accused, a resident of Wahari, was leaving for Bahrain by flight number GF-771.

Govt to focus on technical, experimental education

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa caretaker Minister for Sports, Youth Affairs, Science, and Information Technology, Dr. Najibullah Khan Marwat, said on Sunday that teachers of scientific subjects should focus on technical and experimental education away from traditions.

Through this, the students can enlighten the name of the country and the nation in science and technology, he added. Without the hard work of teachers in educational institutions, students cannot play a significant role in learning science and technology, which are essential for students to acquire in today's era.

In the current race for technology, it is imperative to give special attention to science and information technology education, he said. He said science and technology education have become the backbone of the economic stability and development of the country.

Caretaker Provincial Minister expressed these views while addressing the ceremony of a two-day capacity-building training workshop for teachers and lecturers of different educational institutions of science subjects at Roots Millennium School Peshawar.



PESHAWAR: Employees of reading Hospital are demonstrating outside the press in support of their demands.

PEDO a major source of income as billions annually for province

Independent Report
PESHAWAR (APP): The energy projects will have proved to be a game changer for the stability and development of the economy in the province, KP Caretaker Advisor for Power, Energy, and Mineral Development, Dr Sarfaraz Ali Shah, said while chairing a high-level meeting.

Dr Syed Sarfaraz Ali Shah said that the energy sector in the province is very important. The subsidiary of the Energy and Power Department, Pakistan Peoples Energy Development Organization (PEDO), is a profitable organization in the province, he added.

It is a major source of annual income of billions of rupees, he said. Under the supervision of PEDO, work is currently underway on 42 energy projects for transmission lines, including hydro and solar power, he said.

After the completion of these projects, they will prove to be a game changer for the stability and development of the province's economy in the future. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Transmission and Grid Development Company (KPT&GC) has been established for the first time in order to improve the electricity system in the province.



GILGIT: VC Karakoram International University Attaullah Shah and Director Gilgit Institute of Nuclear Medicine Oncology and Radiotherapy Dr. Asif Jilani signing MOU between KIU and GINOR at KIU.

All set to celebrate 76th Founding Day of AJK govt on October 24

Independent Report
MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): All is set to celebrate the 76th Founding Day of the emergence of Azad government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir on October 24, Tuesday, with a great enthusiasm and devotion coupled with the renewal of pledge to continue Kashmir freedom struggle till it reaches its logical end through liberation of the Indian Illegally occupied part of the internationally-acknowledged disputed

PDMA prepares winter contingency planning

Independent Report
PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Disasters Management Authority is preparing a winter contingency plan, Director General Planning PDMA, Jannat Gul Afridi said here on Sunday. The purpose of preparing a comprehensive strategy is to reduce the risk of disasters and provide timely response, the Director General told media men.

District administration, provincial line departments, federal departments, golf program, humanitarian partners are being included in the plan, DG PDMA said. Planning is being done to deal with the possible threats of snowfall, rains, landslides and other natural calamities in winter and to reduce the losses, he said.

PDMA is providing funds and relief materials to all district administrations, DGP PDMA Jannat Gul Afridi informed.

The responsibilities of all institutions including PDMA have increased more than before, Jannat Gul Afridi said.

Actors, celebrities express solidarity with Palestinians on social media

Independent Report
LAHORE (APP): Pakistani and international actors and celebrities on Sunday expressed their support for Palestinian people and children on social media.

Showbiz stars of Pakistan, including Armeena Khan, Dananeer Mobeen, Saba Qamar and Yumna Zaidi took to social media and expressed solidarity with Palestine. Taking to X, formerly Twitter, Pakistani star Saba Qamar wrote, "From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be free! InshaAllah".

In her social media post, actor Armeena Khan said Palestinians are the bravest people on planet earth. "Zero support and the entire world against them. My God, I am terrified for the little children about to lose their lives", she wrote on X. The most popular singer of Pakistan music industry, Atif Aslam, won the hearts of his fans by donating Rs15 million to the victims of Gaza.

However, prominent Pakistani actress Mahira Khan faced the consequences of her unwavering support for Palestine, as her Instagram account was "shadow-banned".

Mayor Inaugurates new carpeted road in Qasimabad

Independent Report
HYDERABAD (APP): Mayor of Hyderabad Kashif Ali Shoro has inaugurated the construction work of a new carpeted road from Al Raheem Villas to Suleman Pathan Goth of UC-147 Qasimabad.

According to the information provided by the municipal department, a cost of 923.11 million rupees will be spent on the project.

Kashif Shoro on the occasion, said that the journey of development will continue following the advice of Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and we will continue to lay the net of more development works.

International News

US dispatches Mideast military assets, Israel pounds Gaza, targets in Syria, Lebanon

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: Concerns about the risk of the Israel-Hamas war mushrooming into a wider Middle East conflict rose on Sunday with the U.S. sending more military assets to the region as Israel pummelled Gaza overnight and hit Hamas supporters in Lebanon and Syria. Gaza's Health Ministry said 266 Palestinians, including 117 children, had been killed by Israeli air strikes in the past 24 hours in the enclave, to which Israel laid "total siege" after a deadly mass infiltration into Israel by Hamas gunmen on Oct. 7. In neighbouring Syria - where Hamas's main regional backer Iran has a military presence - Israeli missiles hit Damascus and

non-U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken cautioned Lebanon's caretaker prime minister that the Lebanese population would be affected if his country were drawn into the Israel-Hamas war, the State Department said. With violence around its heavily guarded borders increasing, Israel on Sunday added 14 communities close to Lebanon and Syria to its evacuation plan in the north of the country.

Israel began unrelenting air strikes on Gaza to its southwest after Hamas militants breached the border and carried out a shock rampage through nearby communities, killing 1,400 people, mainly civilians, and taking 212 hostages back to Gaza.



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas delivers a speech during the summit in Cairo.

China, Philippines trade accusations over South China Sea clash

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China and the Philippines traded accusations over a collision in disputed waters of the South China Sea as Chinese vessels blocked Philippine boats supplying forces there on Sunday in the latest of a series of maritime confrontations.

The two countries have had numerous run-ins in the South China Sea in recent months, especially in the disputed Second Thomas Shoal, part of the Spratly Islands.

The Philippines has sent supplies to troops stationed on a rusted World War Two-era transport ship used as an outpost on the shoal, prompting China's coastguard to repeatedly deploy vessels to block the resupply missions.

In the incident early on Sunday, China's coastguard said there had been a "slight collision" between one of its ships and the Philippine boat while the coastguard was "lawfully" blocking the boat from transporting "illegal construction materials" to the warship.

Manila responded by condemning "in the strongest degree" the "dangerous blocking manoeuvres" of the Chinese vessel.

China's "dangerous, irresponsible and illegal actions" were "in violation of

China says it uncovered another spying case in US

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China's top spy agency said on Sunday a Chinese citizen who worked for a defense institute had been accused of spying for the United States and his case had been transferred to a court in the southwestern city of Chengdu for trial. The case is the latest to underscore Beijing's heightened commitment to national security, its expanded anti-spying laws and crackdown on domestic corruption.

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said in a television report that a man surnamed Hou who worked at an undisclosed defense institute was sent

in 2013 as a visiting scholar to a U.S. university, where he was coerced into revealing Chinese state secrets.

China's Ministry of State Security released a statement with the report on its WeChat social media account on Sunday, saying "espionage activities go hand in hand with deception, temptation, and conspiracy." The university was not named in the statement or media report. CCTV said a U.S. professor close to Hou introduced him to someone who claimed to be an employee of a consulting company, but was actually an American "intelligence officer" using the company as his cover, CCTV said.



A couple and their dog are rescued by a coastguard team from a flooded street in Brechin, Scotland.

US, UK back Canada in dispute with India over diplomats

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States and Britain have urged New Delhi not to insist Canada reduce its diplomatic presence in India and expressed concern after Ottawa pulled out 41 diplomats amid a dispute over the murder of a Sikh separatist.

Canada has alleged Indian involvement in the June murder in a Vancouver suburb of Canadian citizen and Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, whom India called a "terrorist." India denies the allegation.

Trump fined \$5,000 for violating gag order

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: The New York judge presiding over Donald Trump's civil fraud trial fined the former US president \$5,000 on Friday for not complying with a partial gag order and threatened him with possible jail time for future violations.

Judge Arthur Engoron ordered the 77-year-old Trump to pay the fine within the next 10 days to the New York Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection.

"Make no mistake: future violations, whether intentional or unintentional, will subject the violator to far more severe sanctions," Engoron said in a court filing. "(These) may include, but are not limited to, steeper financial penalties, holding Donald Trump in contempt of court, and possibly imprisoning him pursuant to New York Judiciary Law," the judge added.

Engoron slapped a limited gag order on the former president on Oct 3 after he insulted the judge's principal law clerk in a social media post.

India says relations with Canada passing through difficult phase

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India on Sunday said its relationship with Canada is passing through a difficult phase and there had been "continued interference" by Canadian personnel in New Delhi's internal affairs.

The Indian government is angry that Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau last month suggested Indian agents might have been involved in the June murder of a Sikh separatist leader in British Columbia. India denies the allegation. "The relationship right now is going through a difficult phase. But I do want to say the problems we have are with a certain segment of Canadian politics and the policies which flow from that," India's foreign affairs minister S. Jaishankar said at an event.

Canada had to withdraw 41 of its diplomats from India on Thursday as New Delhi decided to unilaterally revoke their official diplomatic status.

Russia's FM Lavrov to visit Tehran on Monday - RIA

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will visit Iran's capital Tehran on Monday, state-run RIA news agency reported, citing ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova.

Lavrov said on Thursday there was serious risk that the Gaza conflict will become regional, and Russia is in contact with Turkey over the matter, the Interfax news agency reported.



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese speaks to the media during a press conference at Parliament House in Canberra.

Turkiye sends humanitarian aid plane to Egypt for Gaza

Monitoring Desk
ISTANBUL: Turkey sent a plane with a medical team and supplies to Egypt on Sunday carrying humanitarian aid for Gaza, Turkish Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said.

"Our plane took off to help Gaza. The presidential plane filled with medicine and medical supplies, carrying 20 specialist doctors, departed from Ankara to Egypt," Koca said in a post on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter. The footage shared by the minister showed boxes marked with their contents being loaded onto a Turkish presidency plane.

"Our team will determine the necessary medicine, medical supplies and devices for the people of Gaza and carry out feasibility studies of field hospitals to be set up at Egypt's El Arish Airport and Rafah Border Crossing," Koca said in a post late on Saturday.

Rafah is the main route in and out of the Gaza Strip that is not controlled by Israel, which has said it will allow no aid to enter from its territory until Hamas releases the hostages it took during its attack on Oct. 7.

It says aid can enter through Egypt provided supplies do not end up in the hands of Hamas.

Ashrafi calls for global support for Palestine, unity among Muslims

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi unequivocally expressed support for Palestine and called on the global community to acknowledge the rights of the Palestinian people.

He, addressing a recent conference organized to express solidarity with Palestinian people under the auspicious of Pakistan Ulema Council here, raised questions about the alleged military aggression in Syria and Lebanon and said Pakistan stood with Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, and Syria, in case of any aggression from Israel.

Ashrafi hinted that if this war continued, it would not be confined to Egypt and Lebanon, it would ultimately engulf the entire world.

He called on the Organization of Islamic Coop-

eration (OIC) to provide a roadmap for the Palestinian cause urging everyone to break their silence, warning that "if Palestinian children are targeted today, it may be children from other regions tomorrow." With the Presidency of the OIC now in the hands of Saudi Arabia, he expressed hope that it would take concrete steps to support Palestine.

He mentioned that Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir reiterated Pakistan's position in the Corps Commander Conference the other day, reemphasizing their unwavering support for Palestine. Highlighting the enduring blockade of Gaza, he said it had been a prison for sixteen years raising questions about the incident on October 7, which he attributed to the denial of Palestinian due rights.

Ashrafi called for international human rights orga-

nizations to investigate the hospital attack in Gaza, stressing that the suffering of Muslim children remained unseen. He emphasized that children were children, regardless of their origins expressing concerns over America's intention to cover up this disastrous incident.

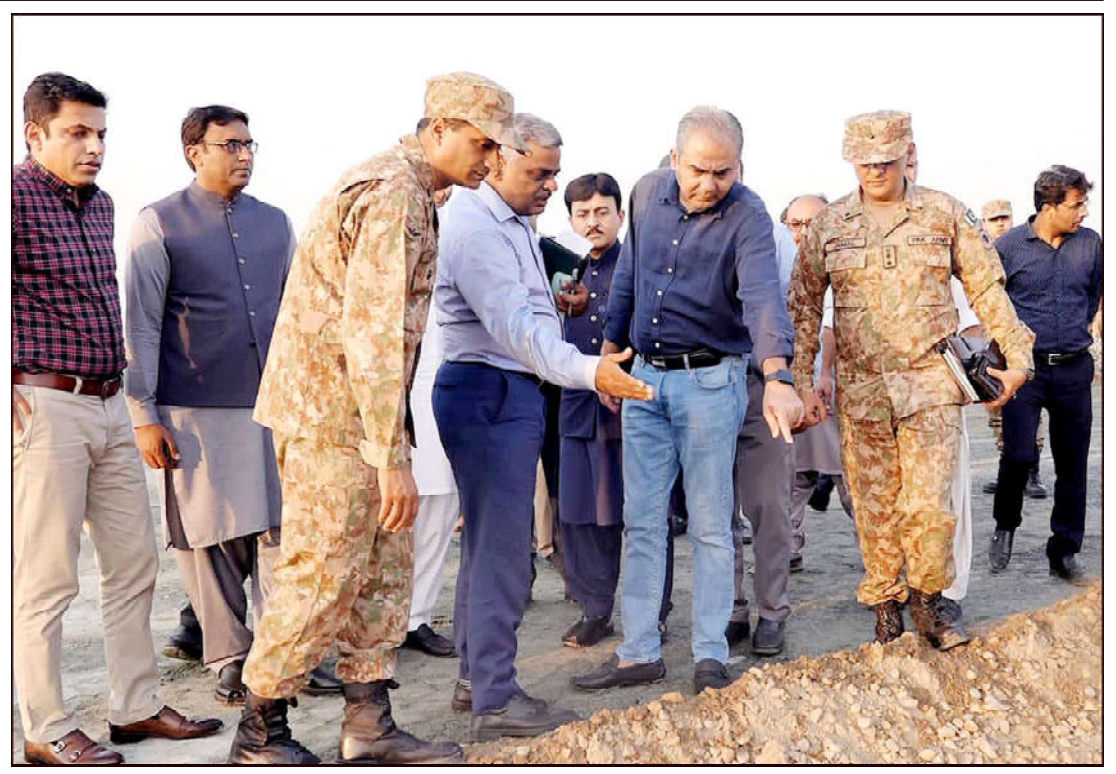
He acknowledged improved relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran and Syria and Arab nations. He reaffirmed the commitment to maintaining unity within the Ummah, rejecting any sectarian division. "We will not allow anyone to divide the Muslim Ummah based on the Shia-Sunni divide," he stated. He emphasized the importance of global unity among Muslims and discouraged any division, highlighting the need to stand up against imperialism and extremist groups that aimed to divide and weaken the Muslim

Ummah.

Ashrafi warned that colonial powers sought to establish extremist organizations to disrupt the unity of Islamic countries, referencing bomb blasts and terrorist attacks as part of this conspiracy.

He shared insights into past attempts to incite religious tensions in Pakistan, noting that the national security institutions and scholars had worked together to thwart such nefarious designs.

In his closing remarks, Ashrafi called for a boycott of Israeli products and expressed that Muslim nations should come together to protest the violence against Muslims in various regions including Kashmir, Palestine, and other parts of the world.



LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi inspecting the under construction dual road to link Gujranwala with Lahore-Sialkot Motorway

282 MW clean, green energy to be added to national grid by 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least 282 megawatts (MW) of clean and green energy will be added to the national grid system through solar, wind, and biomass by 2024.

Sharing details of the projects, official sources said that out of a total of 282 MW, 150 MW would be added to the system through solar, 100 MW through wind while remaining 32 MW from biomass.

They said that 150 MW through three solar projects including 50 MW Meridian Energy (Pvt) Ltd,

HND Energy (Pvt) Ltd, and Helios Power (Pvt) Ltd was likely to start supplying electricity in the next month. Similarly, 50 MW each Independent Power Producers (IPPs) wind projects - Western Energy (Pvt) Ltd and Transatlantic Energy (Pvt) Ltd were in different stages of development, they said.

They said that 32 MW Shah Taj Sugar Mills Ltd based on biomass would start generating by January 2024.

Palestine envoy lauded China for promoting peace in Palestine, Israel talks

ISLAMABAD (APP): Acting Ambassador of Palestine Nader Al Turk has lauded China for showing its readiness to play a constructive role in easing tensions between Palestine and Israel and promoting peace talks.

Addressing a webinar titled, "War Crimes Gaza: The impact, consequences, and international response & responsibility", the envoy called out the "double standards" of the so-called civilised world and international organisations responsible of ruthless killings of innocent children, women and elderly men living in Gaza, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

The webinar was jointly hosted by the Center of South Asia and International Studies (CSAIS) Islamabad and the Institute of Legal Studies Lahore.

Nader shared the perpetual miseries of Palestinians and called for immediate justice in terms of two state solution, guarantor of durable peace and stability in the Middle East a rest of the world.

He urged to regional countries and the Muslim

world to come forward to stop Israel from state terrorism and indiscriminate bombardment on civilian society and installations in Gaza.

Interestingly he maintained that his country did not have any religious or ethnic issue with Jews but facing lots of onslaughts from the fanatic Zionists, creating serious issues for humans and humanity.

He rightly highlighted the biased stance of the USA, UK and some western countries strongly supporting Israel's and ironically honoring their false, fake and fabricated propaganda and tall claims like assignment of children and attack on hospital in Gaza by Palestinians themselves. Furthermore, he shared that in persuasions of naked aggression Israeli forces attacked on Orthodox Church showing no respect to other religions. Nader the DHM was confident that patience, determination, and plight of Palestinians will be awarded very soon and they will be free in their actions and homes. Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan in his speech elaborated the historic mis-

eries of Palestinians people starting from 1947.

Dr Khan was of the opinion that the land of unlimited prophecies, holy personalities and places was under fire again because of indiscriminate bombardment of Israel air force even on civilian population. Unfortunately Gaza has become the biggest modern day jail for the 2.6 million helpless Palestinians he added.

While mentioning the sufferings of Palestinians he said that "Gaza is besieged and bleeding and more than 4500 people have so far been killed. Immense collateral damage has been done converting buildings and apartments into debris".

"The Israel forces have been waging unstoppable human siege, brutality, drastic demographic decomposition, social and political marginalization, alienation, and ruthless killing" he further said. He labeled the so-called Century Deal or Abraham Peace Deal as total disasters. It has undermined the basis of a two-state solution and to cut off the continuity of the old state of Palestine he added.



MULTAN: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Siraj-ul-Haq along with others addresses to media persons during press conference, held in Multan.

Sirajul Haq questions government's response to Turbat killings

SHUJAABAD (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami chief Sirajul Haq expressed deep concern over the alarming surge in crimes across Pakistan on Sunday, stating that incidents involving shedding the blood of the weak, burning the houses of the vulnerable and kidnapping anyone's daughter had become disturbingly common in the country.

The JI chief conveyed these views during his visit to the residence of a victim of the Turbat shooting.

He argued that there was a severe lack of protection for the rights of the vulnerable in the country,

and questioned the government's response to the Turbat killings.

On Oct 14, unidentified gunmen killed six construction workers and injured two others in a pre-dawn attack on their camp near Turbat in Balochistan's Kech district.

Police said the labourers were sleeping in an under-construction house when they were attacked, resulting in six instant deaths.

The JI chief expressed regret that no government representative had offered condolences to the grieving families of the shooting victims.

He lamented the absence of visits from the president of Pakistan, the chief minister or the governor to condole the impoverished families who had lost their loved ones.

He said that these labourers had gone to Balochistan to make a living, not to engage in political activities or commit robberies.

The JI chief also criticised the police and media, accusing them of favouring the rich over the poor. He claimed that when the mother of a poor person cried out for justice, they seemed to turn a blind eye to her pleas.

NCHR, IOM Pak sign MoU to protect human rights of migrants

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Pakistan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) here Sunday to strengthen the cooperation and collaboration on initiatives relating to the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants, especially those in vulnerable situations.

The MoU signifies the commitment of both organizations to prioritize the well-being and human rights of migrants, recognizing that while migration in the context of globalization brings significant opportunities, it is critical to facilitate the safe, orderly, and regular movement of people.

Under the MoU, the NCHR and IOM Pakistan will engage in joint activities aimed at generating evi-

dence and research, improving awareness and outreach and providing policy advice in line with the priorities of the Government of Pakistan.

Rabiya Javeria Agha, Chairperson NCHR, highlighted the lack of rights for migrants and the dangerous journeys they undertake stated, "The Greek migrant's boat disaster was a heart-wrenching reminder of the risks people take in their desire to seek a better future."

She said with over 2,000 lives lost in the Mediterranean this year alone, irregular migration demands our immediate attention. Through collective efforts, we can work towards a safer and more compassionate approach to migration, one that upholds the well-being and dignity of those in search of a better future.



A 29-member delegation of Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research led by Executive Director Karamat Ali called on Chief Minister Sindh Maqbool Baqar in Karachi today.



ISLAMABAD: Visitors look at cars and scooters during cars and bikes show at lake view Park in Federal Capital.

ISSI to inaugurate 'ASEAN Corner' today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) has established an 'ASEAN Corner' which will be inaugurated in a formal ceremony by the Foreign Minister and ASEAN Envoys on Monday.

The inauguration would be followed by a Roundtable Discussion, titled: "Forging Partnerships: Exploring the Future Prospects of Pakistan-ASEAN Relations. The event is being organized by ISSI's China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSIC).

The establishment of 'ASEAN Corner' at ISSI is based on the conviction that a deeper understanding of ASEAN and its role, place and relevance in the region and the world is of crucial importance.

The initiative, agreed between ISSI and ASEAN Committee in Islamabad (ACI) during their structured interaction in January 2023, is part of the efforts to forge a closer partnership between Pakistan and ASEAN.

ASEAN and Pakistan share a long-standing and growing relationship, built on the pillars of economic cooperation and regional stability.

HEC-World Bank project achieves tremendous physical, financial targets

ISLAMABAD (APP): Mr Awais Ahmed termed the project a key investment for higher education supported by the World Bank and said that, like every project, this project also has yearly financial and physical targets.

"I am glad to share that the project has a good standing in achieving more than 80% of its physical targets and more than 70% of its financial targets," he underlined.

He explained that all the six components are progressing well on their deliverables, called performance-based conditions - may it be research grants, quality assurance cells, IT initiatives, capacity building and financial autonomy.

He expressed his satisfaction that despite financial, procurement and procedural challenges, the project stands at good financial and physical progress.

Fawad Chaudhry meets Tareen

LAHORE (APP): Former information minister Fawad Chaudhry met Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) Patron-in-Chief Jahangir Khan Tareen on Sunday.

IPP Information Secretary Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan told APP that Aun Chaudhry was also part of the meeting discussed political situation in the country and the upcoming general election. Sources said Fawad Chaudhry would become active in politics from the IPP platform now after keeping in low profile for many months. To a query, Dr Firdous said her party would continue extending unwavering support to democracy in the country, and added that the party leadership was dedicated to addressing problems and issues of the public.

Islamabad fogging drive in full swing to control dengue

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, health teams under the supervision of the Director Health Services Metropolitan Corporation are continuing the anti-dengue fogging process in various areas of the city.

In a recent drive, fogging was carried out in Government Schools G-7/3, G-7/4, G-7/1 and G-7/2 of Islamabad, which includes DHS, DHO Office, Additional Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners and Magistrates, Health Department teams,

MCI, UAS teams and other departments.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner Islamabad said that all possible resources will be used to control the deadly virus in Islamabad.

He added that the rural area of Islamabad is among their priorities and every possible step to protect the lives of the citizens is their priority.

The Deputy Commissioner further said that due to the increasing dengue fever in Islamabad, it is also necessary to follow precautionary measures to prevent the dengue virus.

Campaign of Islamabad police to register tenants in full swing

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: The campaign of Islamabad Capital Police - Knock the Door - for the registration of employees and tenants in full swing and teams are visiting door to door for the purpose.

According to police spokesperson, the teams from the police department are actively engaged in door-to-door visits to ensure the registration of tenants and domestic workers and to address any issues faced by the residents.

The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Islamabad has successfully registered data for 210

house servants from 435 houses within the jurisdiction of the Bara Kahu Police Station as part of this campaign during last 24 hours.

The primary objective of this initiative is to enhance security measures and maintain law and order in the federal capital. The registration of tenants and domestic workers is intended to enable close monitoring of potential miscreants and prevent any suspicious activities.

Citizens are encouraged to ask for the identity of any person visiting their homes in civilian attire for data collection purposes.

Three wanted members of burglar's gang held; cash recovered

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police Sumbal police team arrested three wanted members of a burglar gang involved in numerous burglary activities and recovered cash from their possession, a public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police officer (ICPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate

the crime from the city.

Following these directions, the Sumbal police team used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending three wanted members of a burglar gang involved in numerous burglary activities in various areas of the Sumbal police station jurisdiction.

The accused were identified as Mubeeb Sultan, Shehroz and Shoaib. Police team also recovered cash from their possession. Cases were registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway.



ISLAMABAD: Picnickers are enjoying Sunday holiday at Shahdara picnic point during pleasant weather in Federal Capital.