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Pakistan takes up challenges confronting regional peace with Afghanistan

Foreign Minister Jilani meets Afghan FM Muttaqi in China; Reaffirms commitment to further strengthen bilateral ties; Not only Afghan refugees, action to be taken against all illegal immigrants: FO

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan and Afghan foreign ministers met in Tibet on Thursday amid tensions as the foreign office clarified that the crackdown against illegal immigrants was not against a particular nationality.

As tensions deepened between the two neighbours, Foreign Minister Jilani met his Afghan counterpart Amir Khan Muttaqi in China's Tibet Autonomous region. Both were there to attend an international conference.

A brief statement issued by the foreign office said the foreign minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthen bilateral ties with Afghanistan. He underscored that challenges confronting regional peace and

stability be addressed in collaborative spirit through collective strategies.

No further details were provided but sources said the issue of terrorist sanctuaries in Afghanistan was one of the main talking points. According to sources, Foreign Minister Jilani made it clear that Afghanistan will have to fulfil its commitment to deny terrorist groups including banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) a space to operate from the neighbouring country.

Sources said the Afghan foreign minister reiterated his government's stance claiming that Kabul would not allow anyone to use its soil against any country including Pakistan. Islamabad, however, is

far from convinced with verbal assurances of the interim Afghan government. Relations between the two countries have been strained in recent weeks because of lack of decisive action by the Afghan Taliban government against the TTP.

APP adds: Pakistan on Thursday said its recent decision to deport illegal residents was not targeted at Afghan refugees but was against all foreigners without having valid visa documents. Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch at a weekly press briefing said the national policy towards the Afghan refugees in the country "remained unchanged" and their safe repatriation was a separate issue.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addressing at the inaugural ceremony of National Emergencies operation Center established by NDMA.

PM inaugurates Emergencies Operation Center for coordination on disaster management

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday inaugurated the newly established state-of-the-art National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) to help in coordinated efforts to manage the natural disasters in the future. Established at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Headquarters, the Center would also help in disaster risk reduction and mitigation of damages.

The prime minister lauded the establishment of NEOC and emphasized the importance of disaster resilient infrastructure and policy framework. He said that despite being one of the least contributors of carbon emissions globally, Pakistan was one of the top countries affected by climate change. "Climate change is a real challenge that will keep haunting our

future generations unless we take such concrete steps," he reiterated.

The prime minister also praised the coordinated efforts of all state institutions during the devastating floods of 2022, especially NDMA. "Nearly one third of the population of the country was affected by floods in 2022 and USD 30 billion was estimated to be the economic losses," he said. The prime minister said that the world needed to step forward and help developing countries like Pakistan to cope up the adverse effects of climate change.

He also praised the role of NCOE both in COVID-19 and 2022 floods. In a briefing, Prime Minister Kakar was told that NEOC would serve as hub of all technological inputs related to climate change, disasters management and predictive modeling for national emergencies.

First of its kind in Pakistan and the region, this is Pakistan's indigenously conceptualized capability, which will evolve capacity to predict future disasters with credence and accuracy about likely locations, time of impact and damage intensity.

It would generate coordinated response, guiding lower tiers of provincial and district level disaster management authorities.

The need was felt for a platform which should perform the functions for developing a national collage of disasters monitoring, high end technology driven capability.

It can estimate vulnerable needs of the areas and determine the gap to be pre-coordinated support from global partner through all time ready holistic national outlook in the form of real time National Common Operating Picture.

CM for educating young generation on dialogue, criticism, creation basis

KARACHI (INP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (rt'd) Maqbool Baqar has said that only sermons and speeches will not work, but the young generation will have to be educated on the basis of dialogue, criticism, research, and creation.

"It is also important to remember that nation-building is possible through sustained perseverance and practical effort, for which each stakeholder has to fulfill his responsibility with seriousness and sincerity."

This he said while speaking at the World Teachers' Day program organized by the Directorate Private Institutions of School Education dept at a local hotel. The program was attended by Federal Education Minister Madad Ali Sindh, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Secretary

School Education Ms Shireen Narejo, Registrar of Private Schools Ms Rafia Mallah, and others. The Interim CM said that the progress and development of nations are competed in the classroom for which the best teacher is the biggest tool. "It shows that the map of the world is made and completed in the classroom, while the classroom purely depends on a good teacher," he said and added that today was the day to create good teachers to complete with world. Justice Baqar congratulated everyone associated with the education sector, especially the teachers.

Teachers' Day is celebrated all over the world on October 5, the CM said and added that on this occasion, the teachers were awarded the Academia Choice Award.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi paid a farewell call on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Pakistan intends to develop itself as progressive, democratic, peaceful nation: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Thursday said that Pakistan intended to move forward by developing itself as a progressive and democratic nation that desired peace within its frontiers and across the world.

Speaking at an international conference "Navigating Peace & Security in the Region and Beyond: Pakistan's Role," organised at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), he said: "We want to be a nation that wants to look after its people and intends to focus on the welfare of its masses."

The minister said now the Pakistan government had a clear vision to focus

on its people, and economic revival and it had recently taken several initiatives to bolster the economy and explore new prospects for trade and investment.

He said the countries and political leadership did make mistakes in the past and Pakistan also had its share of mistakes and adding "but now we want to move on". The minister said it was in Pakistan's interest to avoid the ongoing confrontation between major world powers. He said that Pakistan had some lessons from its role with regard to the confrontation of major powers in the past.

Solangi said now Pakistan was desirous of establishing good relations with its neighbours including India and Afghanistan.



Mr. Murtaza Solangi, Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting addressing on international conference titled "Navigating Peace & Security in the Region and Beyond: Pakistan's Role," in Islamabad.

Matter of people becoming missing brings bad name for country: IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice (CJ) Islamabad High Court (IHC) has remarked that matter of people becoming missing earns bad name for the country.

He further remarked the appeals are pending since five years. We feel ashamed of sitting this way.

He gave these remarks while presiding over two members bench of IHC during the hearing of case related to journalist Mudassar Naro and other missing persons Thursday.

Justice Miangul Aurangzeb remarked people go missing but state does nothing. The previous Prime Minister (PM) appeared and he too misled. When next PM comes he will have different priorities.

He remarked the mat-

ter of people going missing is matter of extraordinary nature. Missing persons cases are bringing black blot on the name of Pakistan. Court issues directives repeatedly but implementation is not being made.

He observed state is powerful but it says in missing persons case it can do nothing in this regard. People go missing here. Do you expect development of this country.

No country will give you dollars if your citizens are not safe. The courts should not tolerate the process of making the citizens missing at any cost. Attorney general should meet PM and inform the court about progress in this matter.

The court adjourned the hearing of the case for two weeks.



Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilani meets Afghan Acting FM Amir Khan Muttaqi in Tibet, China.

Inter-provincial Education Conference on October 16

KARACHI (APP): The Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindh said that inter-provincial education conference would be convened in Islamabad on October 16 to devise a national strategy to bring improvement in the education system across the country.

He was addressing the Academia Choice Award 2023 ceremony organized by All Sindh Private School and College Association in collaboration with Directorate of Private Institutions Sindh Education and Literacy Department here to mark the World Teachers' Day.

Madad Ali Sindh said that education ministers of all the provinces and other stakeholders would be invited to the conference to brainstorm on the issues facing the education system in the country and to find out consensus based solutions to address them.

Education is the only way to move the country ahead on the path of progress and prosperity and federal and provincial government have to sit together to envisage a reform agenda for enhancing the quality of education and expanding its access to all the citizens, he maintained.

ECP declares IPP as eligible to contest elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has given the green light to Jhangir Khan Tareen's Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) to participate in the upcoming elections across the country.

According to a notification, the Election Commission successfully completed the registration process for the new IPP party on Thursday.

Official registration of IPP has been granted by the Election Commission, invoking Sections 208 and 209 (3) of the Elections Act, 2017, in conjunction with sub-rule (2) of Rule 158 from the Election Rules 2017.

Pakistan, China reaffirm commitment to CPEC project

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have reaffirmed commitment to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

This came at a meeting between Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilani and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Tibet, China.

Emphasizing positive trajectory of bilateral ties, they pledged to enhance high level exchanges and strategic communication for continued cooperation.



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister Education Mr. Madad Ali Sindh presiding meeting with Board members of BISE Sindh.

Minister Dhaga assures small traders of addressing grievances

HYDERABAD (APP): Sindh caretaker minister for Revenue Yunus Dhaga on Thursday assured officials Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders of addressing grievances.

The minister while presiding over a meeting here emphasized the crucial role of small industries in improving the economic condition of any country.

During the meeting, he stated that the issue of the Hyderabad Chamber's grant would be presented to the Sindh government's committee for approval and expressed hope that following approval, the funding issue of the Chamber would be resolved.

The provincial minister further said that the appointment of an MD site may not be permanent but the employment period can be extended.

He indicated that he would try to make the appointment at the MD site for the maximum period. Yunus Dhaga directed Ghazanfar Ali Qadri, MD Site, to visit the site area and prioritize solutions for the area's issues.

He stated that Punjab established its industrial zone in 1980, however, Sindh's industrial zone was comparatively older, therefore more effective efforts were required to boost Sindh's industrial zone.

President lauds services of outgoing naval chief

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi paid a farewell call on President Dr Arif Alvi here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the President House said. The president lauded the services of the outgoing naval chief and his contribution to the country and the Pakistan Navy.

He wished Admiral Niazi the best for his future. Meanwhile outgoing Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi paid a farewell call on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here on Thursday, the PM Office said. PM Kakar lauded the services of the outgoing naval chief for his leadership of the institution and playing a key role in making the country's defence impregnable.

Export of 212 items to Afghanistan under Transit Trade banned

KARACHI (INP): The Ministry of Commerce has banned export of 212 items to Afghanistan under the Transit Trade agreement. The ministry has issued an SRO (Statutory Regulatory Order) in this regard under which all kinds of cloth, car tyres, tea leaves, cosmetics and toilet items have been banned to carry to Afghanistan. Under the SRO, nuts, dried and fresh fruits and home appliances like refrigerators, air-conditioners, juicers, etc., have also been banned.

Chinese CG Yang Yundong pays homage to Quaid-e-Azam

KARACHI (APP): Chinese Consul General in Karachi Yang Yundong along with the diplomatic staff visited the mausoleum of the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on Thursday and laid a wreath.

The Chinese Consul General paid tribute to the father of the nation and wrote his comments in the visitor's book.

He said that China and Pakistan share a common memory of founding a country and safeguarding national sovereignty, independence and dignity. The two countries have jointly cultivated a profound friendship on the foundation of pioneering work laid by the older generations of respective leaders he added. This time tested friendship is even to this day a precious wealth to the people of the two countries, which provides the inexhaustible impetus for the two countries to build a closer China-Pakistan relations with a shared future in the new era.



ISLAMABAD: UNFPA representative in Pakistan called on Dr. Nadeem Jan, Caretaker Federal Health Minister.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Targeting Afghans

The government has given all illegal immigrants in the country till the end of the month to return to their homelands or risk deportation.

This includes 1.73m Afghans, who, according to Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti, are undocumented. E-tazkiras — Afghan identity cards — will no longer be deemed valid after Oct 31, leaving only passports and visas as the acceptable form of identification. Mr Bugti said it is to ensure the “welfare and security” of Pakistanis. While security is paramount, one cannot help but question the real motive behind these plans.

The interior minister pointedly said that of the 24 suicide attacks that took place in Pakistan since January, “14 bombings were carried out by Afghan nationals”. This was a troubling statement to have made on TV and nothing short of ethnic profiling. Even more disturbing was his announcement of a web portal and a national helpline where anyone can report “illegal immigrants” in exchange for a reward. These decisions — seemingly targeting the Afghans — in addition to others taken in recent weeks suggest there may be more to it than meets the eye.

It bears mentioning that September saw an alarming rise in the rounding up of Afghans in the backdrop of renewed tensions between Islamabad and Kabul, which followed a TTP attack in Chitral. The Afghan embassy said more than 1,000 Afghans were detained in the past two weeks — half of them despite having a legal right to be in Pakistan.

Why was such treatment meted out to those who have sought refuge on our soil for four decades? And with what conscience, when we are so quick to urge the West not to close their doors on war-ravaged Syrians, Iranians, and the like? Was it to pressure the Taliban rulers in Kabul to ‘do more’ with the TTP?

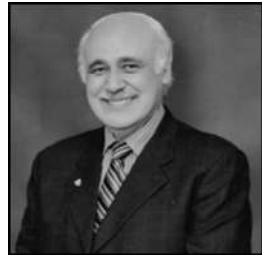
While Pakistan cannot allow such a large number of undocumented foreigners and must enact measures to properly register them, the West, which packed its bags and left Afghanistan in the lurch, must also bear responsibility for the ongoing fallout.

It must provide Pakistan assistance in this endeavour, monetarily as well as in terms of technical expertise. It must also help those migrants who came here with the hope of moving to the US or other Western countries under refugee resettlement programmes.

The migrants allege delays in the processing of their resettlement applications, lack of help from UNHCR and trouble securing an extension of their Pakistani visas. The UNHCR has belatedly offered to help Pakistan manage and register people in need of international protection.

The Afghans cannot be wished away. They are a part of the region’s sociopolitical fabric, and a compassionate, sustainable solution must be sought for their plight. Abandoning them in haste will only sow seeds of future discord.

Only time will tell



F.S. Aijazuddin

In war, truth is the first casualty. In Third World countries, truth all too often is smothered at birth. Never more often than when general elections are due.

The midwife of our elections — the Election Commission of Pakistan — has informed us that our general elections will be delivered in the last week of January 2024. The exact date is a secret to which we voters are not yet privy.

Traditionally, our Election Commission has always been headed by judges. We have had 16 in succession since 1969. For the first time since then, however, the chief election commissioner in 2020 was handpicked from amongst the bureaucracy.

The present CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja joined the DMG/PAS in 1987. His last posting was as federal secretary/Chairman, Pak-Istana Railways, in 2018. After 14 unsung months there, he was appointed CEC in January 2020 for a period of five years.

According to the ECP website, the only election he has ever conducted was in Azad Jammu & Kashmir, where in 2016 as chief secretary AJK “he ensured peaceful, free and fair elections”. (AJK has 2.7 million registered voters; Pakistan has 127m.)

The last ‘free and fair’ elections in Pakistan were conducted in 1970, under president Gen Yahya Khan. The CEC at the time was a Bengali, Mr Abdus Sattar. The political maelstrom that followed left Sattar stranded in West Pakistan. Eventually, he

returned to Bangladesh, where in time he became its seventh president.

Under our Constitution, the CEC enjoys the status of a judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. That did not prevent CEC Raja, however, from flouting the orders of his judicial brethren in the Supreme Court, when on March 22, 2023, he postponed the provincial elections. Some fear that, sometime before the last week of January 2024, the bureaucrat CEC will revert to the lessons he absorbed during his training. He will follow precedent — this time, his own.

The CEC’s tenure will end in January 2025. Like his predecessor CEC Abdus Sattar in 1970, he might have to manage the aftermath of the elections, should there be a controversy over the results. The political parties — especially the PPP — are already in a state of apprehensive agitation about the unevenness of the playing field. It is not unlikely that the PPP leadership (father, aunt and son) may refuse to accept the results of the 2024 elections, just as Mr Bhutto did in 1970.

The PML-N — its former coalition partner and again its main opponent — has promised Oct 21 (the scheduled date of supreme Nawaz Sharif’s return to Pakistan) as the ‘Day of Deliverance’. Considering that the PML-N has been in power on three occasions in the past, it is approaching the next elections as Britain’s ruling Conservative party is before its own polls — as political ‘underdogs’. This disheartening admission was made by the chairman of the Conservative Party Greg Hands. He told delegates at the party conference a few days ago that (1) everyone praised Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, (2) no one trusted the Labour party, and (3) whenever Labour opposition runs the country, it does the job badly.

It could have been a

script tailored for the PML-N’s penchant for hero worship and its condescending dismissal of every opposition.

There are still four months to go before our elections. Although there is a quasi-em-bargo on news about the PTI leader Imran Khan, the little news secreted into the media indicates that he has accepted the te-dium of incarceration, like some schoolboy after his first homesick days at boarding school.

It has taken Imran Khan some time to adjust. He has, sooner than expected. That became apparent when he was informed that he was being transferred to the comparatively more congenial Adiala jail. He told his captors that he preferred to remain where he was.

The longer his imprisonment, the stronger his resolve. When he is released — as he shall, when the patience of his captors runs out — he might like to recall the words of an Olympian athlete Louis Zamperini: “All I did was pray to God, every day. In prison camp, the main prayer was, ‘Get me home alive, God, and I’ll seek you and serve you’. I came home, got wrapped up in the celebration, and forgot about the hundreds of promises I’d made to God.”

From his tenure as prime minister, Imran Khan learned the same lesson. Winston Churchill had, after the unexpected surrender of Singapore in World War II. Churchill wrote of that debacle: “My advisers ought to have known and I ought to have been told, and I ought to have asked.” Other leaders, if elected, should remember to remain “connected to the political class, the bureaucracy, the media, the wider public, and of course the establishment. To be isolated ... is to be doomed to impotence”. — Courtesy Dawn

Crop challenges



Khurram Zia Khan

That Pakistan is a land of opportunities, is not mere rhetoric but a reality. Unfortunately, flawed planning, misplaced priorities, the weak writ of governments and thoughtless actions to attain short-term gains have pushed this country into a state of disarray.

Pakistan’s agricultural hands form nearly 42 per cent of its entire workforce and consume almost 90pc of water. This sector is a major support base for the textile industry, which forms the backbone of Pakistan’s exports. Maize, cotton, rice, sugarcane and wheat are our five major crops; these consume a major portion of land, labour and water in the agrarian sphere. But, despite this, their growth rate is negligible — just 1.1pc in the last two decades.

A low crop yield, non-availability of seeds, inadequate storage facilities, lack of infrastructure and the minimal to virtually non-existent use of technology are key issues that plague the country’s farming belt. The regular and forceful impacts of the relatively new climate change phenomenon have also emerged as formidable challenges for this vital zone.

Furthermore, government intervention regarding some of the crops is also proving detrimental for agriculture. Wheat is a glaring example of the state’s intrusion as it is the only crop that the authorities purchase from farmers. The government did set a support price of wheat

to benefit the agriculturalists but, unfortunately, due to the powerful presence of middlemen, the real farmers remain deprived of the value they deserve. Hundreds of billions of rupees are borrowed by the government to obtain and store wheat, which is then sold to flour mills so that the poverty-stricken can get cheap flour. Additionally, the government subsidises flour further at the utility stores level. Therefore, such excessive intervention from the administration has led to a wheat yield that is stagnant at around three tonnes per hectare, which is a fraction of global quantities. On the other hand, the maize and rice produce are free of direct executive interference and these are turning out to be the jewels of Pakistan’s agriculture zone as their high growth rate surpasses that of the other crops.

A deep dive into the farming sector reveals that cultivators in most parts of the country use seeds of poor quality, which is regrettable as the result is a low yield and an inability to withstand harsh weather conditions. Moreover, growers have limited or no access to modern techniques. As for water, much of this precious commodity goes to waste in the absence of any serious effort to introduce solutions that will help reduce its consumption.

To turn around the fortunes of Pakistan’s agriculture sector, the corporate world must come forward to play an active part by investing in the acquisition of high-quality seeds and provide the needed finances and support to upgrade equipment and machinery. Corporate participation will also free this sector from feudal clutches, and

close coordination with the farmers will contribute significantly to an increase in the yield as well as ensure the well-being of those tilling the soil. Major organisations can also help restructure the sector and aid the government in generating revenue in the form of taxes. They will also create better storage facilities so that farmers can store the harvest as opposed to throwing it into the river when the desired prices are denied.

The involvement of corporates in dairy farming can serve as a benchmark — packaged milk companies working closely with dairy farmers collaborate with both large herd owners and those with two to three milk-producing dairy animals. Hence small herd owners can earn from the excess milk produced by their domestic animals, instead of having to dispose of it due to the lack of storage. This sector also contributes to the national exchequer and is set to export dairy products. The induction of corporates is one solution, but I am sure there are numerous others too. Globally, agricultural land is shrinking because of the rise in population and increased industrialisation. Many countries are now buying land in Africa and other places to cultivate crops for their people.

As the food crisis is expected to climb, Pakistan too has the potential to evolve into a leader in global food supplies by revamping its food production. The time is ripe for those at the helm of affairs to recognise the importance and benefits of making Pakistan a food-surplus country and lawmakers should strive on a war footing to achieve this goal. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

High-Level meeting strengthens economic ties between Pakistan, Kazakhstan

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a move towards enhancing economic cooperation and bilateral trade, Pakistan’s Minister of Commerce and Industry, Dr. Gohar Ejaz, engaged in a Zoom meeting with the Minister of Trade and Integration of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Shakkaliyev Arman.

The virtual meeting served as a platform for both nations to explore opportunities for a mutually beneficial partnership and to foster greater economic collaboration, said a press release issued here.

Minister Shakkaliyev Arman began the discussions by highlighting the deep-

rooted friendship and the untapped potential for trade between Kazakhstan and Pakistan.

He emphasized the need for expanding cooperation in various sectors and increasing the trade volume between the two nations.

Minister Arman expressed particular interest in exploring trade opportunities in agricultural products and the potential for transit trade and logistics through the Pakistani ports of Gwadar and Karachi, facilitating access to South Asian markets.

Dr. Gohar Ejaz, Pakistan’s Minister of

Commerce and Industry, reciprocated the enthusiasm for closer economic ties, acknowledging Kazakhstan’s remarkable progress as a regional player.

He lauded Kazakhstan’s progress as its GDP has reached \$250 billion and international trade stands at \$150 billion.

Minister Ejaz stated, “While Pakistan’s international trade stands at \$100 billion, with a GDP of \$350 billion, our mutual trade with Kazakhstan stands at a mere \$100 million. Our vision is to increase exports by \$100 billion in five years, and we welcome Kazakhstan to be part of this journey.”



ISLAMABAD: Country Head of World Bank Waleed called on Federal Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hasan Fawad.

Fawad expresses resolve to privatize loss-making entities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Privatization Fawad Hassan Fawad on Thursday expressed the firm resolve of the government to privatize major loss-making state-owned enterprises to avoid a substantial financial drain of national resources as well as enhancing their working efficiencies.

The minister held a meeting with the Country Head of the World Bank Najy Benhassine and discussed the caretaker government’s strategic agenda for privatization, with specific attention to privatizing Pakistan

Owned Enterprises (SOEs) which are already on the privatization list.

He said that the PIA has emerged as the foremost priority for privatization due to its persistent and staggering financial losses, amounting to billions of rupees annually, adding that privatizing PIA is considered imperative to remove these losses and improve its operational efficiency.

Fawad Hasan Fawad explained the outlines of the PIA privatization plan, expressing the government’s intention to engage the World Bank.

International Airlines (PIA) and optimizing the performance of Distribution Companies (DISCOs). This concerted effort aims to rectify substantial financial losses incurred by these entities and thereby alleviate the fiscal burden on the government, said a press release. The Minister said that the federal government including the Apex committee of SIFC, comprising civil bureaucracy, military leadership, and political stakeholders, have unanimously agreed to undertake the privatization of major loss-making State-

Owned Enterprises (SOEs) which are already on the privatization list.

He said that the PIA has emerged as the foremost priority for privatization due to its persistent and staggering financial losses, amounting to billions of rupees annually, adding that privatizing PIA is considered imperative to remove these losses and improve its operational efficiency.

Fawad Hasan Fawad explained the outlines of the PIA privatization plan, expressing the government’s intention to engage the World Bank.

TDAP Chief Executive visits SCCI

SIALKOT (APP): Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Chief Executive Muhammad Zubair Motiwala and Secretary TDAP Dr. Fareed Iqbal Qureshi, along with their team visited Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) for an engagement with the business community. Upon their arrival, they received a warm welcome from the SCCI Senior Vice President Wahub Jahangir and Vice President Amer Majeed Sheikh.

The meeting centered on addressing various industry-related concerns and TDAP (Trade Development Authority of Pakistan) assured their full commitment to promptly resolve these issues. Addressing the business community, TDAP Chief Executive Muhammad Zubair Motiwala said that Sialkot was a place which had diversified and whatever you were doing was truly required for the country. The TDAP Chief Executive said that FIFA World Cup Football was played with Sialkot made football while ‘Your Karate’ was one of the top most productions in the world.



ISLAMABAD: PTCL and Ufone 4G Group Chief Marketing Officer, Atif Raza presents a memento bat signed by Babar Azam, Pakistan Cricket Team captain t Hatem Bamatraf, President and Group CEO PTCL and Ufone 4G, during a TV commercial reveal event, held at Ufone Tower (PTCL Group Headquarters) in Islamabad

Rs.295.6m fine imposed on 2383 power pilferers

FAISALABAD (APP): The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (Fesco) caught 2,383 pilferers during last 28 days and imposed a fine of over Rs 295.6 million in various areas of the company during an ongoing special anti-power theft drive. Spokesman Tahir Sheikh said on Thursday that over 6.527 million detection units were charged. A sum of over Rs 119 million was also recovered from defaulters. He said that 2,300 cases

were registered against accused in various police stations whereas police also arrested 1,838 pilferers so far. He said that the teams detected electricity theft at 840 points in Faisalabad district and imposed a fine of Rs101.5 million on them under the head of 2.247 million detection units. In Jhang district, teams caught 225 electricity thieves and imposed a fine of Rs 35.7 million under 823,000 detection units.

Dr. Umar saif efforts to boost IT exports to \$4 bln

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Dr. Umar Saif expressed the hope that the decision to allow IT companies to retain 50 percent of their export proceeds in special foreign currency accounts will increase IT exports to \$4 billion.

This groundbreaking move fulfills a longstanding demand of the IT sector and underscores Dr. Saif’s unwavering commitment to the industry’s growth.

Previously, IT companies were permitted to retain only 35 percent of their export proceeds in special foreign currency accounts,

making this decision a pivotal step toward streamlining financial operations and bolstering the industry’s potential.

The inclusion of “digitization and enhancement of forex retention for IT companies” on the agenda of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) meeting marked a significant milestone.

Following the directives of the SIFC, SBP is now set to revise foreign exchange regulations, permitting IT exporters and companies to retain 50 percent of their export proceeds in these specialized foreign currency accounts.



ISLAMABAD: Newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E Mr. Jiang Zaidong, called on Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue & Economic Affairs at Finance Division.

Diversifying economic activities stressed to protect Pak economy from global uncertainties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Meher Kashif Younis on Thursday said diversification of economic activities across various sectors including technology, renewable energy, agriculture, healthcare and manufacturing can shield Pakistan from the uncertainties of global markets.

The agreement, which aims to improve the lives of millions of people currently living with diabetes, was signed by LCCI President Kashif Anwar and Chairman Dilawar Hussain Foundation Hassan Zubair Sheikh in the presence of other dignitaries from both organizations.

economy, diversification can prove to be a pivotal strategy for sustainable growth and resilience, said a news release here.

He said in today’s interconnected world, economies are increasingly interdependent. By investing in diverse sectors, we can mitigate risks associated with economic downturns in specific industries. He said more over, diversification fosters innovation and entrepreneurship. Encouraging a wide range of industries not only creates job opportunities but also nurtures a culture of creativity and adaptability.

CM KP chairs Sehat Card Scheme meeting KP Govt, SLIP agree for regular monthly payments through installment

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government and State Life Insurance Pakistan here Thursday agreed that payment will be made to the latter on regular monthly installments for Sehat Card scheme.

This was decided during an important meeting regarding Sehat Card Scheme held here at Chief Minister's House with Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan in the chair.

Matters related to the implementation of reforms approved by the provincial cabinet to run the scheme on sustainable basis, and payment of outstandings to

the implementing partner i.e. State Life Insurance Company came under discussion. Advisor to the Chief Minister for Health Dr. Riaz Anwar, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Chief Executive Officer of the State Life Insurance Company and other concerned authorities attended the meeting. It was agreed in the meeting that in future, payment will be made to State Life Insurance Company on regular monthly installments. Relevant authorities of health department were directed to ensure implementation of newly approved reforms in the minimum possible time. Talking on the occasion, the caretaker

Chief Minister said that his government was not only committed to run Sehat Card Scheme on sustainable basis but also taking concrete steps to this effect. He said that the provincial government was facing financial crunch due to non-payment of due shares by the federal government on time, and that's why the provincial government was facing difficulties in paying the dues to State Life Insurance Company, and added that despite the financial crunch, it was the top most priority of the caretaker provincial government to continue the provision of free healthcare facilities under the Sehat Card Scheme.



LAHORE: Durmus Bastug, newly appointed Turkish Consul General in Lahore called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

Pakistan and Turkiye enjoy close historical & friendly ties: Baligh

Independent Report
LAHORE: Durmus Bastug, the newly appointed Turkish Consul General in Lahore, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore. The Governor of Punjab expressed his best wishes for the Consul General. During the meeting, bolstering bilateral relations between Pakistan and Turkiye and enhancing cooperation in the fields of education, trade, and tourism were discussed in detail.

Speaking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Turkiye is a brotherly country. Pakistan and Turkiye enjoy close historical and friendly ties. He said that there should be maximum exchange of educational and trade delegations between Turkiye and Pakistan.

The exchange of delegations at the public level will further promote bilateral relations in the field of trade and tourism, he added.

Governor Punjab said

that a large number of Pakistanis go to Turkiye for the purpose of tourism, and a large number of Pakistani students are also studying in Turkish universities. He said that there are opportunities for foreign direct investment in Pakistan for Turkish investors. Governor Punjab said that the government is grateful to Turkiye for helping the flood victims in Pakistan last year.

He said that the Pakistani government and people came forward to help the earthquake victims in Turkiye.

US Consul General calls on CM Naqvi

Independent Report
LAHORE: US Consul General Ms. Kristin K. Hawkins deputed in Lahore met with the Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi here on Thursday in which matters pertaining to mutual interests, promotion of bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation in various sectors were discussed.

The American Consul General lauded steps being taken by the Punjab government under the leadership of CM Mohsin Naqvi with regard to restoration and renovation of religious places especially of historical buildings. The American Consul General stated that

the Punjab government is doing an appreciable work in order to safeguard and protect the religious and cultural heritage.

CM Mohsin Naqvi while talking with the American Consul General underscored that all citizens including the minorities enjoy equal rights in Pakistan according to the constitution. "We have chalked out a comprehensive plan for the restoration of religious and historical buildings." CM Mohsin Naqvi outlined that the Punjab government is vigorously pursuing its uniform agenda of progress by making the welfare and prosperity of the people as its focal point.



KARACHI: Police officials carry out the grand combing search operation against criminals as security has been tightened in city due to security reasons at different areas of Old Golimar area in Karachi.

Minister stresses measures to reduce medical treatment cost

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Dr. Jamal Nasir has stressed the need to lower the cost of medical treatment, especially medicines' prices, in the light of the country's current economic challenges. Speaking at the Provincial Drugs Quality Control Board meeting on Thursday, he highlighted Pakistan's economic constraints and the need to control rising treatment costs.

Dr. Nasir called upon the government institutions, pharmaceutical companies, and stakeholders to

collaborate on a comprehensive strategy to lower medicines' prices. He emphasised the importance of safeguarding Pakistan's prosperity and economic growth by ensuring accessible healthcare for all. He urged medical-related businesses to prioritise public welfare over personal profits.

Highlighting the humanitarian aspect of medicines, Dr. Nasir said that quality medication was a fundamental right of people and encouraged the local pharmaceutical industry to produce internationally acclaimed medicines.



PESHAWAR: Police display a huge quantity of smuggled liquor, recovered during an operation.

Forests jewel of earth: ACS South

MULTAN (APP): Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab, Saqib Zafar has said that the forests were the beauty of the universe and jewel of earth.

He expressed these views during the inauguration of the tree-plantation drive at Lal Sohanra National Park Bahawalpur as 2500 saplings were planted on the first day. Secretary Forest and Wildlife South Punjab Sarfraz Khan Magasi was also accompanied by him.

Secretary Livestock Nasir Jamal Hotiana,

Secretary Services Amjad Shoaib Khan Tareen, Secretary Irrigation Abdul Khaliq Razaqi and others also took part in the campaign and planted saplings.

ACS South Punjab while addressing the ceremony said that Pakistan was facing adverse effects of climate change and that last year's flood due to heavy rains was also the result of climate change. He said the global temperature was increasing which poses serious threats to the whole world.

Islam is religion of peace: VC

SUKKUR (APP): Vice Chancellor (VC), Arora University Sukkur Engr Zahid Hussain Khand has said Islam is a religion of peace and Allah dislikes Shirk and clashes which can be avoided by following the teachings of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). Addressing a ceremony here Thursday, he said that we must form a society on the basis of justice, which must be irrespective of any kind of biases and differences. The VC said that the biggest problem of the world was to establish peace in the world and the problem could be solved by preaching the teachings of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). Other speakers said that the life of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) was the best example for us and it was the responsibility of parents and teachers to transfer our love with Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) to the next generation.

They said that Islamic literature was being removed from curriculum books under a conspiracy and the West was making progress by following some of the principles of Islam.

Minister highlights significance of teachers in society

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Provincial Caretaker Minister for Primary, Secondary and Higher Education, Dr. Muhammad Qasim Jan has emphasized the significant role of teachers in society stating that their contribution in nation building cannot be undermined. He expressed these views as a special guest at an event commemorating International Teachers Day at Government Higher Secondary School No. 1 in Peshawar. The event featured speeches, national songs, and tributes by students to their teachers. He expressed gratitude to teachers for their services

and highlighted their pivotal role in the country's development. He also urged students to honor and respect their teachers, recognize their role in nurturing society and shaping the future generation. The minister assured that economic challenges would be addressed and teachers' issues including their upgradation would be resolved soon. He encouraged teachers to focus their energies on providing quality education and assured them that the government is committed to addressing their concerns and providing them with necessary support.

Two person, girl killed

FAISALABAD (APP): Two persons including a girl were killed in different incidents near here on Thursday.

According to Rescue-1122, Javeria (8) suffered fatal electric shock from a water pump at her home in Chak No 627-GB and died on the spot.

Separately, a man was shot dead over the suspicion of illicit relations in the limits of Garh police station. According to a spokesperson, the victim Tanveer of Thatha Doka wanted to marry a girl of his own choice but the alleged accused Muhammad Sabtain, Fared and Javed, brothers of the girl Rukaiya shot him dead and fled.

International News

Putin says West has lost touch with reality, Russia had to push back

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that the United States was seeking to impose its crumbling hegemony across the world and that the war in Ukraine showed how far the West had lost touch with reality.

"We did not start the so-called war in Ukraine. On the contrary - we are trying to finish it," Putin told a meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

The West had caused the war because the United States was a "hegemon"

which considered itself the only arbiter of truth on the planet, said the Kremlin chief. Putin said the leaders of the West had lost "a sense of reality" because of what he cast as Washington's "colonial thinking". He questioned what right the United States had to lecture any other country. Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 unleashed a war that has devastated swathes of eastern and southern Ukraine, killed or injured hundreds of thousands of men and triggered the biggest rupture in Russia's ties with the West

for six decades.

The West casts the war as Moscow's biggest strategic blunder since the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and Western leaders say they want to defeat Russia on the battlefields of Ukraine. A Ukrainian counteroffensive has so far failed to yield major territorial success.

Putin, though, presents the war as part of a much bigger struggle with the United States which the Kremlin elite says aims to cleave Russia apart, grab its vast natural resources and then turn to settling scores with China.



House Judiciary Committee Chairman Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), a prime contender in the race to be the next Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, arrives for a meeting with the Texas Republican House delegation, at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Russia-Ukraine war: Moscow's missile strike kills at least 49 in Kupiansk grocery store, cafe

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukrainian officials said on Thursday that 49 people had died as a result of a Russian attack on a grocery store and cafe in Kharkiv's eastern region, where Moscow's forces have been pushing to recapture territory they lost last year to Ukrainian troops.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said the strike had slammed into the Kupiansk district of the war-battered region bordering Russia.

"The brutal Russian grocery store with a rocket is a completely deliberate crime of hitting an ordinary

Ukraine downs 24 drones launched by Russia - military

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine's air defences downed 24 of 29 Russian drones launched in attacks on its territory overnight, the Ukrainian general staff said on Thursday.

Ukraine's Air Force said the drones were destroyed over southern Odessa and Mykolaiv regions, as well as central Kirovohrad region.

Biden to build new border wall touted by Trump, in policy reversal

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden's administration said on Thursday it will build additional sections of border wall to stave off record migrant crossings from Mexico, a policy reversal that embraces a signature measure of former President Donald Trump.

Trump is the frontrunner for the Republican Party nomination to challenge Biden, a Democrat, in the 2024 presidential race. Trump made building border barriers a central tenet of his first campaign for president with the rally

chant, "Build That Wall."

One of Biden's first actions after taking office in January 2021 was to issue a proclamation pledging "no more American taxpayer dollars be diverted to construct a border wall" as well as a review of all resources that had already been committed.

Trump was quick to claim victory and demand an apology.

"As I have stated often, over thousands of years, there are only two things that have consistently worked, wheels, and walls!" Trump wrote on social media.



Indian army personnel conduct a search operation for the missing soldiers in north Sikkim.

At least 14 dead, 102 missing in India glacial lake burst

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Indian rescue teams searched on Thursday for 102 people missing after a devastating flash flood triggered by a high-altitude glacial lake burst killed at least 14, officials said.

Violent flooding from glacier lakes dammed by loose rock has become more frequent as global temperatures rise and ice melts, with climate scientists warning it poses an increasing danger across the wider Himalayan mountain range.

"The number of human lives lost is 14 so far, and the number of missing is 102," Prabhakar Rai, director of the Sikkim state disaster management authority, told AFP a day after a wall of water rushed

down the mountainous valley in northeastern India. Authorities said roads had been "severely" damaged and 14 bridges had been washed away.

Rescuers were battling to help those hit by the flood, with communications cut across large areas, and 25 relief camps set up for those forced to flee their homes.

"Floodwaters have caused havoc in four districts of the state, sweeping away people, roads, bridges," Himanshu Tiwari, an Indian Army spokesman, told AFP.

Twenty-two soldiers are among the missing, the army said. One previously missing soldier was rescued. The army was working to reestablish telephone



Activists from various local and foreign NGOs gathered around the Tolerance Monument in a park in Jerusalem.

UN warns global economic growth on verge of stalling

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations has warned that the world economy is headed for a protracted slowdown without reform of the global financial architecture, better policies to combat inflation, inequality, sovereign debt and stronger market regulation.

Economic growth is forecast to stall, slowing to 2.4 percent in 2023, from 3 percent in 2022, across most global regions with little prospect of a rebound in 2024, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said in a report released on Wednesday.

The UN trade body, which is based in Geneva, said that the global economy is at "a critical juncture", with some economies thriving and expanding, while others falter and slow down.

Rebecca Grynspan, UNCTAD Secretary-General, emphasised the need to avoid past policy errors.

"We need a balanced policy mix of fiscal, monetary and supply-side measures to achieve financial sustainability, boost productive investment and create better jobs. Regulation needs to address the deepening asymmetries of the international trading and financial system," she said.

Senators say they hope to meet with Xi during China trip

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: A bipartisan group of U.S. senators hope to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping during a trip to China this month, two of them told NBC News, as a whirl of diplomatic activity builds expectations for a meeting later this year between the leaders of the world's two largest economies.

"I don't think that that's clear yet whether it will happen," Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, said of a potential meeting between the senators and Xi.

"We want to meet with a number of the officials there as well as the American business community there as well, and we would like to meet with President Xi."

Crapo and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., will lead the delegation, which also includes Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La., Sen. Maggie Hassan, D-N.H., Sen. John Kennedy, R-La., and Sen. Jon Ossoff, D-Ga. They will also visit U.S. allies South Korea and Japan during the 10-day trip.

Poland election turns Germany into punching bag, straining Western alliance

Monitoring Desk
WARSAW: Fighting to win an unprecedented third term in office, Poland's nationalist government has seized on a target close to home: Germany, its NATO ally and biggest trading partner.

In a tight race ahead of Poland's Oct. 15 election, leaders of the ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party have accused Germany of trying to dictate Polish government policy from Berlin on anything from migration to gas.

The feud has frayed Europe's broadly united front supporting Ukraine against Russia's invasion, shredding a plan for a joint Polish-German tank repair plant for Kyiv's benefit.

The populist PiS leadership also says Germany is plotting to install the party's main electoral opponent, the liberal former prime minister Donald Tusk, back in power.

PiS has tapped into a mistrust towards Germany that still runs high in part of the electorate.

Biden thanks Qatar's emir for prisoner swap deal

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: US President Joe Biden called Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to thank him for Doha's mediation that resulted in the release of a number of Americans from Iran, the Amiri Diwan and the White House said on Tuesday. Last month, with Doha's mediation, Iran freed five Americans as part of a prisoner swap for five Iranians held in the United States and the transfer of \$6 billion in Iranian funds, marking a rare deal between the long-time antagonists.



WASHINGTON: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan visits US Foreign Service Institute, interacts with designated US diplomats for Pakistan. Underscores the need for promoting diplomats' exchanges, fostering strong economic partnership.

Aneeq stresses eternal legacy of Holy Prophet, emphasizes learning, unity among Muslims

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Thursday the era of Prophethood had concluded, yet the everlasting legacy of the Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him persevered. Addressing the third annual 'Seerat-un-Nabi Conference' organized under Auqaf Islamabad here at Faisal Mosque as special guest, he opined that a single life was not enough to gain a profound comprehension of the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him)'s exalted and virtuous character. Minister Aneeq further emphasized that the Holy Quran instructed us to follow the path shown by the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) raising question whether we had learned from his life and incorporated it into our own lives. He highlighted the success in following the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him)'s teachings, stating, "True believers are those whose character and conduct reflect the qualities of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him)." He said, "If our way does not align with the noble path of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), it is a complete failure." Speaking about the value of knowledge, Minister Aneeq said, "Knowledge is the essence of fear of God, and those with knowledge hold a profound reverence for Allah," adding that a true believer was one whose ethics and actions reminded others of Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him.



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister Education Madad Ali Sindhji is being presented with memento during the "Academia Choice Award 2023" organized by all Sindh private School & College Association.

Economic team to reach Morocco Sunday to attend annual meetings of WB, IMF

ISLAMABAD (Online): Economic team of ministry of finance will reach Morocco on Sunday to attend annual meetings of World Bank (WB) and IMF. According to ministry sources the economic team will be led by caretaker finance minister. Finance secretary and governor state bank will accompany caretaker finance minister. Meetings of economic team are scheduled with MDI IMF, President World Bank and Asian Development Bank authorities. The caretaker finance minister along with economic team will hold talks for sale of bonds in international market. The schedule for meetings with Chinese finance minister, Saudi finance minister and Modis official. According to sources loan program will be discussed with MDI IMF in the sidelines meetings. The annual meetings of world bank and IMF are going to commence from October 9 as per schedule.



KARACHI: Police raid on gutka factory at Golimar locality and seal the local factory.

World Teachers' Day observed in Sukkur

SUKKUR (APP): Teachers and education specialists on Thursday observed the "World Teachers Day" urging the nation to pledge respect and dignity of teachers in society as ordained by our religious, social, and cultural values. They emphasized measures to restore the dignity, honour, and respect of the teachers in society to promote education in a real sense. Accordingly, all children aged 5-16 are entitled to have access to free, quality, and compulsory education. The education sector, however, continues to be plagued by chronic challenges of quantity, quality, and equity. Speaking on the occasion, a renowned educationist and Principal of the New London Cambridge School Sukkur, Rubia Kayani in her speech said that knowledge was a must for respectable survival in the world and it could not be achieved without the help of teachers. She said that teachers played a vital role in the development of the nations, which should be recognized in its true manner. She encouraged competitive, intelligent, and hardworking people to join this profession and demanded the leadership take appropriate steps for them. In Sukkur's Rotary Public School, all administration and teaching powers are handed over to the pupils of the school to observe World Teacher Day. Students presented gifts to their teachers to mark the day.

SECP to host Int'l Insure-Impact Conference 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) is set to host the International Insure-Impact Conference 2023 (IIC 2023), a two-day event in Karachi on December 13 and 14, 2023, with the theme "Journey to an Insured Pakistan". Through the IIC 2023, the SECP aims to boost the insurance sector by promoting inclusivity, innovation, and resilience through discussions and presentations, highlighting key issues and potential prospects, said a press release issued here Thursday. The conference will focus on raising insurance product awareness, utilizing technology for innovation, enhancing resilience through crop and disaster risk insurance, establishing reinsurance pools.

China invites PM Kakar to BRI ceremony

ISLAMABAD (INP): China has invited Pakistan Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar for participating in a Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) ceremony. The invitation was extended during a meeting between the foreign ministers of China and Pakistan which was held in Tibet on Thursday. The meeting between FM Jilili Abbas Jilani and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi focused a raft of issues including the ongoing Hamalya Region Conference being held in Tibet. Jilani thanked Wang Yi for the warm welcome accorded to him in China. "The relations between Beijing and Islamabad are of great significance."

10 Afghan immigrants held

KARACHI (APP): As many as 10 illegal Afghan immigrants were arrested by the Sir Syed police station on Thursday. Arrested were identified as Mehmoodullah, Muhammadullah, Gulam SaKhi, Wali Khan, Gul Khan, Amanullah, Ibrahim, Inayatullah, Lal Muhammad and Gulam Shamsi, according to an official. Cases had been registered and further investigations were underway.

Six street criminals injured, held after police encounters

KARACHI (INP): Six street criminals were injured and arrested during separate incidents of fire exchange with police in different localities of the metropolis on Thursday. According to spokesperson of police, the encounters between police and outlaws took place at Shahrah-e-Faisal, Site Super Highway, Mochko and Saeedabad areas. During exchange of fire, six street criminals were injured and held along with their two facilitators. Weapons, snatched cell phones and motor-cycles were recovered from possession of the detainees and they were shifted to hospital.

Woman dies as 'fall' off residential building

KARACHI (INP): A woman died after she fell off a residential building near Saddar Taj Complex in Karachi, rescue sources said on Thursday. According to details, the woman whose identity has not been confirmed died after she fell down from residential building of Karachi. The body was shifted to hospital for postmortem.

WB director, Planning minister discuss rehabilitation projects in flood-hit areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): World Bank (WB) Country Director for Pakistan Najy Benhassine Thursday called on Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed and discussed the progress and implementation of the rehabilitation and reconstruction projects in the flood-affected areas. Secretary Awais Manzoor Sumra and senior officials of the Ministry also attended the meeting that reviewed the current status of the projects' implementation, a news release said. The two sides discussed the WB-funded projects related to infrastructure development, energy, environment and other flood-affected rehabilitation. The WB country director appreciated the work of the caretaker government especially the Ministry of Planning for early implementation of projects, assuring his institution's continued support for Pakistan in future. The Planning minister expressed his gratitude for the WB support, being provided in the flood-damage recovery efforts and mitigating the sufferings of the flood-affected people.

Govt to file review petition against SC verdict on NAB amendments

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government on Thursday decided to file a review petition against the Supreme Court (SC) verdict in the NAB amendment case. The Supreme Court of Pakistan on September 15 struck down amendments made to National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws as it announced its reserved verdict on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman's plea. In a majority 2-1 verdict, the top court approved Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief against Khan's petition challenging amendments made to the country's accountability laws during the tenure of the previous Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)-led government. Sources say that the review petition will be filed in the top court next week. The law ministry has also started preparing a draft of a review petition. The three-member bench, headed by then CJP Umar Ata Bandial, and comprising Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Ijazul Ahsan had reserved judgment on September 5. Ex-CJP Bandial and Justice Ahsan declared Imran's plea to be maintainable while Justice Shah disagreed with the verdict. The top court also restored graft cases against public office holders that were closed down following the amendments to NAB laws. Following the verdict, the references against some of the country's political bigwigs will once again land in the accountability courts.



KARACHI: Jamal-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Hafiz Naem-ur-Rehman addresses to media persons during press conference, at Idara-e-Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi.

PDMA, IOM sign MoU

KARACHI: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Sindh and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) officially sealed their partnership in a momentous Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing event here on Thursday.



This MoU cements the collaborative alliance between IOM and PDMA Sindh, with a focus on flood rehabilitation efforts across Sindh Province's districts of Jacobabad, Dadu, and Khairpur, ensuring a unified and coordinated approach to all ongoing activities. Mr. Imdad Hussain Siddiqui, Director (Operations) PDMA Sindh and USAID officials witnessed the MoU Signing ceremony.



LARKANA: Jeay Sindh Mahaz (JSM) Chairman, Riaz Chandio addresses to media persons during press conference, at Larkana press club.

Solangi, Turkish envoy agree to enhance cooperation in diverse fields

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Turkiye on Thursday agreed to promote bilateral cooperation in diverse fields including economy, trade, culture, tourism, media and people to people contacts. This was decided in a meeting between Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi and Ambassador of Turkiye Mehmet Pacaci who called on the minister here. Murtaza Solangi said that Pakistan highly valued its relations with the brotherly country Turkiye. "Pakistan and Turkiye have always supported each other in difficult times," Murtaza Solangi added. Strongly condemning the recent bomb blast in Turkiye, the minister said Pakistan had faced the scourge of terrorism and Turkiye was also suffering from the same menace.

"We are a strong country and incidents of terrorism cannot weaken us as a nation," reiterated Murtaza Solangi. In the meeting, the need to expand cooperation in the fields of media, drama and films was also emphasized. "Film and drama can play a key role in improving the global image of any country," Murtaza Solangi said adding Turkish plays were very popular in Pakistan. Expressing the desire to co-produce movies with Turkiye, Murtaza Solangi said that Turkish filmmakers could benefit from tax amnesty given the film industry in Pakistan. "Northern parts of Pakistan are rich in natural beauty and Turkish filmmakers can utilize these beautiful tourist areas," Murtaza Solangi remarked.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister AJK Chauhdary Awar ul Haq calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Mumtaz Chana posted as Chief Administrator Auqaf Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Mumtaz Ali Chana, an Ex-PCS officer in BS-19, presently posted as Additional Secretary Auqaf, Religious Affairs and Ushr Department was transferred and posted as Chief Administrator Auqaf Sindh. According to the notification issued on Thursday, Mumtaz Ali Chana was posted as Chief Administrator Auqaf Sindh vice Ali Gul Sanjrani who was transferred and posted as Member Chief Minister's Inspection, Inquiries and Implementation Team with immediate effect and until further orders.

PTI announces public rally in Lahore on Oct 15

LAHORE (INP): As the nation gears up for the upcoming general elections, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Thursday requested permission from the district administration to hold a public gathering at Liberty Chowk in Lahore on October 15. In a written application, the Central Punjab wing of the party approached the Lahore Deputy Commissioner to seek approval for the public gathering.

MQM-P leader Haider Abbas Rizvi's vehicle snatched

KARACHI (INP): The vehicle of Mu'tahida Qaumi Movement - Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Haider Abbas Rizvi was snatched from his driver outside a private hospital in the limits of Gulshan-e-Iqbal police station. Police have registered a case on the complaint of Haider Abbas Rizvi's driver. According to the FIR, the driver said he parked the vehicle outside a private hospital in Gulshan-e-Iqbal after dropping off Haider Abbas Rizvi's family. The driver further told the police that two unidentified armed men tortured him and drove away from the vehicle after taking him hostage.

Police arrest four drug peddlers

HYDERABAD (INP): Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs, police on Thursday arrested four drug peddlers and recovered marijuana from their possession. On the directives of SSP Hyderabad Amjad Amed Shaikh SHO Sub Inspector Bashir Ahmed Chandio under supervision of DSP Market Police Siraj Lashari acting on a tip-off conducted raids in his territorial jurisdiction, arrested four drug peddlers and recovered huge quantity of marijuana from their possession. In first raid drug peddler Mazhar Qureshi was arrested possessing 1350 kg marijuana while in another drive police arrested.

ECP orders withdrawal of protocol facilities for former Sindh cabinet members

ISLAMABAD (APP): The election commission of Pakistan (ECP) has directed the chief secretary and Inspector General of Police Sindh (IGP) to withdraw protocol facilities of former provincial cabinet members and others within the next three days. According to a notification, the ECP has instructed Sindh Chief Secretary Dr. Muhammad Fakhare Alam Irfan and IGP Riffat Mukhtar to promptly submit a compliance report upon the completion of the task. The ECP observed that former cabinet members were still benefiting from protocol privileges. The Commission reminded that it had previously directed provincial authorities on August 15 to ensure the removal of official accommodations, vehicles, and other perks from former prime ministers, chief ministers, cabinet members, and other individuals.

Commissioner visits health Centers, inspected performance of polio vaccinating teams

HYDERABAD (APP): Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Syed Muhammad Sajjad Haider paid a surprise visit to Taluka Daur and went around Taluka Hospital Daur, Rural Health Center Bandhi and EPI Center set up at Basic Health Unit Karim Bux Dahri and inspected the performance of polio vaccinating teams. Transit and fix points on the consecutive second day of the National Anti-Polio Campaign. The commissioner visited other areas of the taluka Daur and collected information about polio teams from the area residents. Instructing the officials of the health department, the Commissioner said that special attention to be given to vaccination of non-present children at their houses on the coverage day, birth of new babies, refusal cases and children of mobile families so that no child is left without administration of polio drops during the campaign. He said that a report regarding coverage of refusal cases and vaccine target of the day achieved shall be submitted. The commissioner appealed to parents to cooperate with polio teams visiting house to house for polio vaccination. District Health Officer Dr. Asadullah Dahri, Information Officer Sher Muhammad Jamali and other officials were present on the occasion.



KARACHI: Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) President, Dr. Sonia Naqvi along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at PMA House in Karachi.

DC Larkana visits various villages to Monitor 7-day National Polio Campaign

LARKANA (APP): The Deputy Commissioner Larkana Jaweed Ahmed Kumbhar along-with Additional Deputy Commissioner-II Larkana and District Health Officer Larkana on Thursday visited the various villages of Larkana and Rotodero Talukas in order to monitor the 7-Day National Polio Campaign. The campaign would be started from Monday till Sunday in Larkana District. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner was briefed that the officials of the Health Department with the assistance of WHO, UNICEF, setup 890 teams, who were visiting door-to-door to administer Anti Polio Drops to 0-5 years old children in Larkana district. The DC Larkana urged upon the parents, Teachers, representative of NGOs and the members of community that they should come forward play their role to success the 7-Day Anti Polio Campaign which is being started from Monday, in the district, so that no any child 0-5 years may be deprived from Oral Polio Drops. The Deputy Commissioner also said that in order to monitor the Anti Polio Campaign in Larkana district at District and Taluka level the control rooms have already been set up. He also directed the health teams to realize their responsibilities and visit door to door in the remote/rural areas and rain affected areas throughout Larkana district and administered the Oral Polio Drops to 0-5 year's children in the district and to save the new generation from this crippling disease.