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dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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Ph: 0300-3898091

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PM stresses national dialogue on governance, economy & politics

Vows no fear or favor to any political party during electoral process; Says to control inflation in the country, the federal government taking concrete measures in collaboration with all provinces that would yield positive results in the days to come; Foreigners who had no legal documents had no legal or moral justification to live in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, stressing the need to hold national dialogue on important national issues including governance structure, politics and economy, said the parliament could play a leading role in this regard to ensure a healthy and prosperous society in the country.

In an interview with the digital media platform 'Talk Shock' on Sunday night, he said to control inflation in the country, the federal government was taking concrete measures in collaboration with all provinces that would yield positive results in the days to come.

To a question whether the caretaker government would allow all political parties to participate in general elections, he said this was a judicial matter and if the judiciary allows the PTI chairman, he would definitely take part in the electoral process.

On the decision regarding the deportation of foreign nationals, the prime minister said this was meant only for unregistered persons and without legal documents or forged documents.

The foreigners, he said, who had no legal documents had no legal or moral justification to live in Pakistan.

Asked if the government had taken the United Nations or the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHCR) in confidence on the expulsion of the illegal foreigners including Afghans, the prime minister said in this scenario, Pakistan was the only stakeholder, and different relevant domestic organizations and departments were made part of the consultative process.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on matters related to Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Parliament passed law to regulate top judge powers with 'good intentions,' CJP Isa observes

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has observed that parliament passed the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023 — the law seeking to regulate discretionary powers of the country's top judge — with "good intentions".

The CJP's remarks came as the Supreme Court's full court resumed hearing the petitions against the SC law on Monday. The hearing of the case is being broadcast live on state-run PTV. During the hearing, the CJP expressed displeasure after a petitioner cited the US court's verdict as precedent to challenge the

amendments in the SC law. CJP Isa-led full-court bench consists of 15 judges of the Supreme Court including Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Sayyed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A. Malik, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed and Justice Musarrat Hilali.

After hearing today's arguments, the CJP adjourned the hearing till

11:30am tomorrow and asked the lawyers to keep their arguments concise.

Can parliament correct CJP's mistake? At the outset of the hearing, the CJP told the petitioners' counsels to conclude their arguments early as the top court wanted to conclude proceedings of the case today.

"At least cite the decision of the US Supreme Court. Our standards have stooped so low that we are now citing a verdict of a New Jersey court," the CJP remarked after Supreme Court Bar Association President Abid Zuberi quoted a verdict to defend his objections to the law.

Nawaz's Oct 21 address to set direction for Pakistan: Shehbaz

LAHORE (Online): Former Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has said national address of Nawaz Sharif in Minar-e-Pakistan on October 21 will set national objective.

The spirit and ideological attachment of men, women and young workers to party is exemplary, he said this in a message to party workers here Monday.

Unity in Pakistan and its economic robustness is the need of hour in the emerging crisis in the region and world.

Return of Nawaz Sharif on October 21 will be an important step towards unity and economic progress in Pakistan.

We will once again repeat our golden tradition and steer the nation out of crisis, he reiterated.

PM, newly appointed CNS discuss matters of Pak Navy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The newly appointed Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here on Monday, the PM Office said. The meeting discussed the administrative and professional matters pertaining to the Pakistan Navy. The prime minister expressed confidence that under the supervision of the new naval chief.



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister, Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar in meeting with a delegation of Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) led by Dr. Fahmida Mirza, held at CM House in Karachi

Meets Governor, Caretaker CM Balochistan, discusses important matters: Governor Sindh terms development & prosperity of Balochistan essential for bright future of country & nation

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori has stated that the development and prosperity of Balochistan is essential for the bright future of Pakistan.

Mr. Kamran Tessori was speaking to the Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar whom he called here at the Governor House on Monday morning.

Mr. Tessori was on his first visit to Quetta after assuming the office of Governor Sindh.

During the course of meeting, the political situation of the country as well as matters regarding acquaintance with the ever new technology and utilization of the hidden potential of youth were discussed.

While the Governor Sindh termed development

and prosperity of Balochistan essential for bright future of the country and nation, the Governor Balochistan stressed the need to give priority to the collective nature interests.

He said that we all should give preference to the national interests remaining above the personal interests.

Meanwhile the caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the circumstances of Balochistan are quite different than other provinces where we are facing numerous challenges.

However, we are determined to establish peace, make implementation on the decisions of APEX committee and provide basic facilities of health, education, water to

the people. The caretaker Chief Minister was speaking to the Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori who met him at the CM secretariat on Monday.

The Governor Sindh congratulated Mir Ali Mardan Domki on assuming the office of chief Minister Balochistan.

During the course of meeting, they discussed the trade and social matters besides other matters of mutual interests.

Speaking to the Governor Sindh, Chief Minister said that the provincial government is committed to hold free and fair elections in peaceful manner.

In addition to this, we also want timely completion of the ongoing development projects in the province so that general public may benefit from the fruits of development.



QUETTA: Governor Sindh Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Pakistan condemns UP CM's statement about taking back 'Sindhu'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Monday condemned the "highly irresponsible" remarks made by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh about taking back 'Sindhu' - the region around the Indus River in Southern Pakistan, saying that the provocative remarks were inspired by the gratuitous assertion of 'Akhad Bharat'.

"We condemn the highly irresponsible remarks made by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, a key member of India's ruling dispensation and a follower of the bigoted Hindutva ideology, at the National Sindh Convention

in Lucknow. It is equally condemnable that the so-called reclamation of the 'Ram Janmabhoomi' has been cited by the Chief Minister as a template for reclaiming the region that constitutes part of Pakistan," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a statement.

She said that history bore witness that a Hindu supremacist mob had brazenly demolished the historic Babri Mosque on 6 December 1992 to take back the claimed birthplace of Lord Rama in Ayodhya.

She said clearly, the

Major among two martyred, five terrorists killed in Zhub IBO

RAWALPINDI (APP): A Pakistan Army officer among a soldier embraced martyrdom while leading an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted in Sambaza area of Zhub District, Balochistan that resulted in the elimination of five terrorists amid intense fire exchange.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Monday, "On night [of] October 8/9, security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in general area Sambaza, Zhub District, on reported presence of terrorists."

During the conduct of operation, it said the terrorists were surrounded and after an intense exchange of fire, five terror-

ists were sent to hell. The martyrs were identified as Major Syed Ali Raza Shah (Age 31 years, resident of Sargodha District), who was leading the operation from the front, and Havaldar Nisar Ahmed (Age 38 years, resident of Vehari District), having fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced, Shahadat, in ensuring exchange of fire.

"Security forces of Pakistan are indebted & proud of our brave men and pay homage to their chivalry and sacrifices for the motherland, which further strengthens our resolve to uproot the menace of terrorism from the country," the ISPR said.

CM directs to inspect industrial units

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar presiding over a meeting has directed the industries department to start inspection of industrial units to check safety hazards, functionalize health facilities

in the industrial areas, digitalise the record of all the plots in SITE and small industrial estates and activate printing & stationary wing for the printing of textbooks.

He issued these directives while presiding over a meeting of the industries department here at CM House. The meeting was attended by Minister of Industries & Revenue Younis Dhaga, Chief Secretary Dr Fakhr Alam, Chairman P&D Shakeel Mangnejo, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Sec-

retary Industries Rasheed Solangi, Secretary Energy Fayaz Abbasi, Secretary Labour Shariq Ahmed, MD Sindh Solid Waste Management Imtiaz Shah, MD Water Board Salahuddin and others.

Minister Industries in the industrial areas, digitalise the record of all the plots in SITE and small industrial estates and activate printing & stationary wing for the printing of textbooks.

He pointed out that the Nooriabad Industrial Estate has no firefighting arrangement even it has no health facilities to carry the patients in case of any incident. At this, the CM directed the chief secretary to either connect the Rescue 1122 facility at Industrial Areas or provide them with fire tenders and establish health facilities at the industrial estates.



ISLAMABAD: The newly-appointed Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Zardari takes up level playing field issue with authorities concerned

Monitoring Desk KARACHI: The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has reportedly conveyed its reservations regarding the need for a level playing field in the run-up to elections, to the 'quarters concerned'. According to a report by a private media outlet, former president and PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari communicated his party's reservations to the authorities concerned.

PPP leader Qamar Zaman Kaira confirmed the development. "Zardari sahib has held some meetings about the level playing field and will soon brief the party about it," he was cited as saying in the news report.

Nearly a month ago on September 16, PPP's central executive committee had voiced apprehensions over the unfair treatment the party was being subjected to specifically by the caretakers in both the Punjab and Centre as well as the need for a level playing ahead of the upcoming general elections in the country. The PPP had held back announcing its electoral strategy at the time, with party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari stating that it was not possible to put forward the party's electoral strategy, since the CEC's reservations conveyed to Asif Zardari concerning a level playing field.

Solangi for boosting cooperation with Russia in diverse fields

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday underlined the need for boosting cooperation with Russia in various fields including media, drama, films,



The minister, in a meeting with Russian Ambassador to Pakistan Danila Ganich, also stressed that a formal invitation would be extended to his Russian counterpart for his visit to Pakistan. During the meeting, cooperation between the two countries in diverse fields including media and the modalities regarding the Russian information minister's visit to Pakistan were also discussed.

Possible signing of agreements between APP and TAAS News Agency, PTV and Russian Television and Russian Radio and Radio Pakistan during the visit of the Russian Minister also came under discussion during the meeting.

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

DAYS REMAINING

21

in f i @ GovtPakistan



HYDERABAD: Palestine students holding the protest against Israel outside press club.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Turned away

On Saturday, as UN agencies pressed Islamabad to consider the risks of forcefully repatriating Afghan refugees, a major earthquake in western Afghanistan resulted in over 2,000 deaths, according to the Taliban government, with thousands left injured and homeless. Reports of the devastation caused by the disaster served as a grim backdrop to the concerns raised by humanitarian agencies about the difficulties Pakistani authorities may condemn hundreds of thousands of Afghans to as they go ahead with a controversial plan to evict all 'illegal aliens' by the end of this month. The drive, which has been criticised for seeking to forcibly push those who had fled violence, persecution and impoverishment in Afghanistan back into that troubled country, has been pursued with unseemly eagerness by the caretaker government, with one ministry even running a countdown on X (formerly Twitter) to remind undocumented migrants about the number of days they have remaining in this country.

Meanwhile, reports abound of refugee settlements being shuttered, landlords being told to evict Afghan tenants, and Afghans — both documented and undocumented, men, women and children — being rounded up by police across the country.

The reaction from rights organisations and more hospitable Pakistanis to Islamabad suddenly turning its back on Afghan refugees has, understandably, been one of dismay and concern.

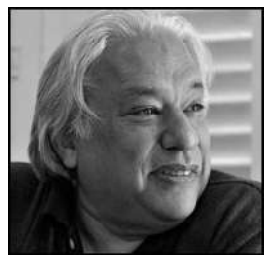
While the Pakistani authorities are well within their rights to demand that migrants and refugee seekers, especially those who are undocumented, return, is this really the right way to go about doing so? Uprooting hundreds of thousands of human beings who have scraped together a life in Pakistan and sending them back to an uncertain future defined by terror and turmoil seems unnecessarily cold, made all the more so by the short deadline given to them to pack up and leave.

The UNHCR and the International Organisation for Migration have both come forward to advocate for the rights of Afghan refugees; they must work proactively with the Pakistani government to find a quick solution to this issue. It appears from reports that the authorities here are unprepared for the task they have taken on.

At the bare minimum, the ongoing effort to deport all foreigners not holding a valid visa and passport requires international oversight to ensure that those being returned are not deprived of what little they possess in the process.

There have been complaints of unscrupulous individuals exploiting vulnerable Afghans by demanding bribes to ensure their safety; the Pakistani authorities have a responsibility to put an immediate end to such reprehensible practices.

Ideally, the entire exercise needs to be reconsidered, but even if the decision is non-negotiable, the returning Afghans need to be treated with compassion. They are owed that.



Arif Hasan

I have written earlier about the Pakistan Quarters when a proposal for its development was made in 2018 under very different political circumstances. At that time, the Sindh government had some control over land in the city. However, today, developers have completely taken over land-use decisions due to the policies of the previous government.

The Pakistan Quarters consist of Martin East, Martin West, and Jahangir Quarters. To avoid the misuse of land in the case of Bahria Town and to avoid creating homelessness and misery as in the case of the KCR-related evictions and the Gujjar nullah, Orangi nullah and Mahmoodabad nullah demolitions, a rehabilitation process should be guaranteed, that will not result in homelessness and hunger or force people to live under the sky without water, electricity, schools, and employment on the rubble of their homes for years.

The Pakistan Quarters on which the government wishes to construct apartments consist of about 335 acres and have a population of around 90,000, or 13,000 households. There are five types of residents in the Quarters: i) there are the original allottees. Most of them are probably dead; ii) there are the children and grandchildren of the allottees; iii) there are those who have rented out their homes to others; iv) there are those who have not paid their dues to the state; v) there are those who have sold their houses and have

left.

All these categories need to be identified, and their numbers worked out so that a just and equitable system of rehousing, relocating, or removal can be worked out. This work could be handled by a Karachi-based academic institution of architecture and planning, as it will lead to a better understanding of design and planning-related problems of rehabilitation for low-income and lower-middle-income settlements for students and their teachers.

All these categories and their needs and numbers should be identified, and their financial status and housing needs worked out so that a just, equitable, and transparent system of re-allotments or removal can be worked out. This, as a survey, is not difficult to do.

So far in Karachi, the 'rehabilitation' processes have been very poor and court judgements have supported the demolition of homes and settlements, saying that rehabilitation should be provided one year after the demolition. The problem of where the residents would live after the demolition of their homes has been ignored. Even then, after more than four years the rehabilitation of demolished homes, there has been no programme for rehabilitation, and the courts have failed to force the government to comply with their judgements.

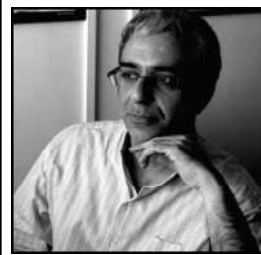
If a programme of such a large nature as the proposed Pakistan Quarters is undertaken, it can be an asset to the city if it is aesthetically planned and executed. For this, it is necessary that there should be no nepotism in the appointment of the architect. I would even suggest that a national or international competition for the design be held and judged by an international jury.

Martin Quarters also contains the first

residential accommodation that was built for the lower-income government employees in Karachi after partition; therefore, it also has historic importance. Apart from very important cultural importance for the city as a whole, it has also been a part of many political movements, often reactionary.

Knowing the nature of government administrative systems, the management and construction work for the redevelopment of the quarters will probably be given to a developer. This is the trend today. It might even be given to a foreign developer. In both cases, our experience has been terrible. So it is suggested that a committee consisting of well-known and public-spirited citizens be created to oversee the project. Such a committee would also contain a representative of the developer and technical persons appointed by the committee.

It should be understood that over the past 74 years, the residents of Pakistan Quarters have created various communities and strong identities. In the process, they have created sports clubs, religious associations (mosques and imambargahs), libraries, and protected land; for these activities. These should be identified, and spaces for them allocated next to the communities who operate and use them. Funds for their survival should also be allocated. It is hoped that for once we will be able to build something that is of benefit to the poor and lower middle-income groups of Karachi and not create a development that is ugly, unattractive, and exploitative and which provides the market the opportunity to extract maximum value out of land at the cost of the city's built and social environment. -- Courtesy Dawn



Zarrar Khuhro

The Indian Ocean has been a critical trade route but has arguably never been of the same strategic importance as, say, the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The latter two have been the staging grounds for many a war and superpower rivalry and, by virtue of having the US sandwiched between them, have always loomed large in the public imagination. But the rise of China, and the ongoing efforts to contain that rise, has increasingly made the Indian Ocean a playground for regional strategic rivalries and indeed a centre of gravity in overall strategic terms.

For China, this ocean is the route that critical raw materials and energy supplies take, travelling through the chokepoint of the Malacca strait.

Another equally critical chokepoint is the Strait of Hormuz and then there's the Djibouti strait, which connects the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean. The Indian Ocean region is also home to a rising number of military and naval bases, with the US base on Diego Garcia and the Chinese presence in Djibouti being just two. And then, of course, there are the critical ports that span all the way from Myanmar's Kyaukpadaung port to Sri Lanka's Hambantota to Gwadar in Pakistan, and beyond.

Truly, the developments of the past few years have proven the sagacity of American naval strategist Alfred Thayer Mahan who said over a century ago that "whoever controls the Indian Ocean will dominate Asia; the destiny of the

In the middle

world will be decided on its water". It is in this context, and specifically in the context of the Sino-Indian tug-of-war, that the recent political developments in the Maldives — an island nation of 500,000 souls — must be viewed.

That archipelago state has seasawed between India and China for over a decade now, with former president Abdullah Yameen who ruled the Maldives from 2013 to 2018, tilting towards Beijing. Yameen's tenure saw the Maldives move closer to Beijing's orbit, with investment flowing in from China and India being kept at a relative distance. This changed dramatically when Yameen lost power to Solih in 2018 and championed an India-first policy. While China did continue to try and woo Solih, his inclination towards New Delhi — which has historically had close relations with the Maldives — was pronounced.

But now, Solih has lost to Muhammad Muizzu, a close ally of the former president Yameen, who was jailed on corruption charges late last year. The mayor of Malé, Muizzu took advantage of a split in Solih's Maldivian Democratic Party, to sweep into power and almost immediately announced that he would force all foreign military personnel to leave the Maldives.

That, of course, means India, which maintains a very small military presence on the islands. This presence is linked to the gift of a few reconnaissance aircraft and helicopters by the Indian government to the Maldives, which also included the stationing of 75 or so Indian troops purportedly to assist in the operations of the aircraft. This was adroitly turned into an election issue by Yameen's party, that launched an 'India Out' campaign, playing on nationalistic feelings and the fear of losing sovereignty

to India. But while a small Indian presence may not have been enough of a rallying point, concerns were also raised about India signing a deal with the Maldives to construct and maintain a critical naval facility, a move that was hailed by then Maldivian defence minister as a 'significant milestone' in defence cooperation between the countries.

Now, with Muizzu's victory, the future of this cooperation is in doubt, but this doesn't necessarily translate into a sweeping victory for Beijing. The proximity of India, and its cultural links and diaspora in the Maldives mean that Beijing will always have trouble making inroads beyond infrastructure and possibly defence deals.

In times of crisis, the geographical proximity of India will also prove an advantage; in 2014 when a major water treatment plant in Malé caught fire, leaving the residents of Maldives' capital without drinking water. While India was able to immediately ferry in fresh water, it took China two to three weeks to arrive with aid. So despite Muizzu's election rhetoric, there will be no major cooling off of relations and the Maldives will likely continue to see-saw between the two regional heavyweights.

As for the Indian Ocean, it will become increasingly militarised as India boosts its fleet in an effort to keep China out; the target is to have 175 warships by 2035 along with other military assets such as aircraft, drones and helicopters dedicated to the Indian Ocean region. The rivalry is moving beyond South Asia to Southeast Asia as well, with increased military cooperation between Vietnam and China, along with other states that have a stake in the seas surrounding China. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Commerce Minister, Spanish envoy discuss bilateral trade relations

ISLAMABAD (Online): Spanish Ambassador Jose A. de Ory called on the Minister for Commerce and Industry, Dr. Gohar Ejaz at the Commerce Ministry today. The meeting was convened to discuss bilateral trade and investment relations.

Minister Ejaz expressed popularity of football in Pakistan, with a particular interest in La Liga, and support for renowned clubs like Real Madrid and FC Barcelona. He emphasized Pakistan's growing sports industry and importance of Pakistani branded sports goods exports to

Spain. Minister Ejaz appreciated Spain support for EU GSP Plus.

Spanish Ambassador Jose A. de Ory stressed importance of a mindset shift to boost exports, drawing from Spain's own successful experience. He highlighted Spain's support for its businesses to expand abroad, particularly in South America, and emphasized that Pakistan needs to emulate this policy to assist businessmen in going global. Ambassador de Ory proposed facilitating trade by providing Pakistan with a list of essential Spanish imports, allowing Pakistani

businesses to focus on meeting those demands effectively. Minister Ejaz shared Pakistan's interest in collaboration with Spain to establish solar manufacturing facilities in Pakistan, given Spain's leadership in solar technology. Furthermore, the Ambassador encouraged Pakistan to explore renewable energy opportunities, citing Spain's expertise in wind power.

Spanish Ambassador invited Minister Ejaz to lead a business delegation to Spain to further strengthen bilateral trade and economic ties.



ISLAMABAD: Spanish Ambassador H.E. Jose A. de Ory meeting with the Minister for Commerce and Industry, Dr. Gohar Ejaz at the Commerce Ministry to discuss bilateral trade.

Govt's initiatives strengthening rupee against \$US: Atif Akram

KARACHI (INP): President Candidate FPCCI, Atif Iqbal Akram has said that the efforts of the government are continuously strengthening the rupee against the dollar, which is a great achievement. In a statement issued here on Monday, he said that due to the initiatives of the government, the prices of various commodities were decreasing in the market, which was providing relief to the public and the business community.

Atif Iqbal Akram, who has also served as VP FPCCI,

Chairman PVMA, and President ICCI lauding the efforts of the government said that the only way to stabilize the rupee on a permanent basis was to increase exports and discourage unnecessary imports. Remittances bring huge foreign exchange to the government, but they also encourage unnecessary consumption, he said.

The business leader said that consumerism has also been on the rise for decades, and investors have been attracted to non-productive sectors.

Federal Committee on Agriculture to meet on Wednesday

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Committee on Agriculture (FCA) will meet on October 11 (Wednesday) to review the output of major and minor crops during the Kharif season and fix the production targets of Rabi crops 2024 for fulfilling the local dietary requirements as well as exports.

The high-powered committee is mandated to oversee strategic measures for ensuring food safety and security in the country and will be held under the chairmanship of the Minister of National Food Security and Research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik, said a senior official in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research.

Talking to APP here on Monday, he said that among others, the meeting would also be attended by the senior officials of the provincial food and agriculture departments, State Bank of Pakistan, Zaria Taraqiatie Bank Limited, National Fertilizer Development Center.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy Mr. Muhammad Ali calls on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

NBG says: Electricity should be cheaper for people, industries in winter

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Monday that the production capacity of electricity in the country is 40 thousand megawatts while consumption is only 10 to 12 thousand megawatts in winter.

Zong launches Z-Verse to transform enterprise communications

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's leading telecommunication network Zong 4G has launched Z-Verse — an innovative, all-encompassing solution for enterprises to streamline customer interactions, ensure performance elevation, and conquer the market like never before.

Z-Verse offers a diverse range of solutions that seamlessly integrate all your digital platforms, including Meta and X 'Twitter', as well as emails, SMS, and more — all within a user-friendly interface. It empowers businesses to effortlessly

People and businesses are forced to pay even though some industries are shut down in the winter and do not use electricity.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that instead of shutting down the electricity-generating plants during the four or five months of winter, they should be operated, and this electricity should be sold to cover operating costs only.

Speaking to the business community, the veteran business leader

said that cheap electricity should be provided to the public, commercial establishments, and agricultural and industrial sectors to increase economic activity.

Providing cheap power to industries will increase production, employment, and export earnings, improve foreign exchange reserves, and thereby provide additional resources to the government for capacity payments.

Dollar continues to fall

ISLAMABAD (Online): US dollar continued to depreciate against the Pakistani currency in the currency market.

According to currency dealers, the value of dollar in Inter Bank has further reduced to RS 9 on the first day of business week and the price of dollar has become RS 281.80 paise. It is pertinent to say that during the last business week, the interbank depreciation of the US dollar against the Pakistani rupee was recorded by more than 5 rupees.

The price of dollar has reduced to RS 5.5 paise in Inter Bank during Business week. US Currency has closed to RS 281.80 paise in Inter Bank.

Mian Zahid calls for low-cost electricity for people, industries in winter

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that the production capacity of electricity in the country is 40 thousand megawatts while consumption is only 10 to 12 thousand megawatts in winter.

In a statement on Monday, Mian Zahid Hussain said that people and businesses were forced to pay even though some industries were shut down in the winter and do not use electricity.

Instead of shutting down the electricity-generating plants during the four

or five months of winter, they should be operated, and this electricity should be sold to cover operating costs only, he added.

He said that low-cost electricity should be provided to the public, commercial establishments, and agricultural and industrial sectors to increase economic activity. Providing cheap power to industries will increase production, employment, export earnings, improve foreign exchange reserves, and thereby provide additional resources to the government for capacity payments. The business leader said that supporting the industrial sector will increase production and reduce the price of various commodities, which will benefit the people.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power Muhammad Ali called on Federal Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hasan Fawad.

Railways earn over Rs 6m from saloons

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has generated revenue worth Rs 6,340,156 million through utilizing its 23 saloons and inspection coaches for commercial purposes, during the last three and half years.

At present, Pakistan Railways has only 23 saloons and inspection coaches with different dignitaries of the country who are entitled to use these saloons when needed," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

Giving the details, he said, "Two highly luxurious coaches have been allocated for the Prime Minister's

Secretariat while four coaches have been allocated for the Minister for Railways, Secretary/Chairman of Railways, and another senior official in the ministry."

The official said, "Only one saloon has been allocated to the federal government while one each has been allocated to the Governors of Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab, and the provincial governments." In addition, eight saloons had been allocated for the Railway Headquarters Lahore, in which one each would be marked to Chief Executive Officer/General Manager (BS-22).

Role of Christian community in creation of Pakistan unforgettable: Governor

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended a ceremony as a special guest today under the auspices of IMRF (Implementation of Minority Rights Forum) at Governor House Lahore regarding the "S.P Dewan Bahadur Singha Award 2023".

Addressing the ceremony, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the role of the Christian community in the creation of Pakistan is unforgettable. After the establishment of Pakistan, the Christian community rendered valuable services in various fields including health, education and law. He said that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had said that the rights of minorities will be protected in Pakistan. He further stated that the minorities have full protection and equal rights as per the vision of Quaid-e-Azam and the Constitution of Pakistan.

He said that among the heroes who played an important role in the establishment of Pakistan, the name of SP Dewan Bahadur Singha is worth mentioning, adding he said that the government of Pakistan had also issued S.P. Dewan Bahadur Singha commemorative stamp in recognition of his services.

Governor Punjab said that minorities have equal rights and opportunities in the country, adding he said that Senator Kamran Michael was the first finance minister belonging to the minority who presented the budget of Punjab. Governor Punjab said that the minority community played a great role in the formation of Pakistan and they are actively participating in the development and prosperity of the beloved country even today. Governor Punjab further said that we have to promote love, tolerance and brotherhood in the society. Chairman IMRF Samuel Payara, Sister Anna Bakshi and many other guests were present in the function.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with participants of IMRF (Implementation of Minority Rights Forum) at Governor House regarding the "S.P Dewan Bahadur Singha Award 2023".



HYDERABAD: Students are performing tableau on stage during public gathering meeting arranged by Quami Awami Tehreek (QAT) held at Hatari Bypass in Hyderabad.

Dr Jamal calls for stronger ties with Saudia Arabia

Independent Report
RAWALPINDI: Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare, Dr. Jamal Nasir, called on the Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Maliki, on Monday and discussed issues pertaining to mutual cooperation in the health sector with him.

Dr. Jamal added. Dr. Jamal informed that the Punjab Government has simplified the procedure for getting ex-Pakistan leave for senior nurses for overseas employment and now their applications for proceeding abroad for jobs are being decided within four days only.

The health minister said that the possibility of starting Arabic language courses for medical staff being employed by Arab countries could also be considered for developing their proficiency in Arabic conversation. He said that apart from Pakistani labour, Saudi Arabia could also get the services of professionals in engineering, IT and other areas.

Dr. Jamal informed that the Punjab Government has simplified the procedure for getting ex-Pakistan leave for senior nurses for overseas employment and now their applications for proceeding abroad for jobs are being decided within four days only.

According to a handout issued here, Dr. Jamal Nasir said that Pakistani doctors were competent and hardworking while Saudi Arabia can utilize their services to provide quality healthcare facilities to its citizens.

"Saudi Arabia could also get the benefit of services of Pakistani nurses and paramedical staff for this purpose", he added.

Gas cylinder explosion injures 2 in Karachi

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (APP): At least two persons were critically injured when a gas cylinder exploded in a shop located in Karachi's Maskan Chowranghi on early Monday.

As per initial report, police sources said that two cylinders exploded inside a fast-food shop, which was closed. Due to the intensity of the blast, two passersby were injured. Several vehicles, shops and motorcycles were also damaged in the blast, a private news channel reported.

Four killed in road accident in Muzaffargarh

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (APP): Four persons were killed and two others injured when two motorcycles were hit by a tractor-trolley in Shehar Sultan near Muzaffargarh in the wee hours of Monday.

A tractor-trolley coming from behind ran over the motorcyclists, killing four of them on the spot and injuring two others, private news channels reported.

Police and rescue teams reached the site and shifted the dead bodies and injured to hospital.

Naqvi visits Govt Pilot School Wahdat Road, inspects condition

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid a visit to Government Pilot Higher Secondary School Wahdat Road on Monday.

During his visit, he personally inspected the classrooms and engaged with the students. He also made a significant decision, prohibiting teachers from engaging in other duties, including elections, during school hours.

CM Naqvi emphasized that teachers should solely focus on their responsibilities within school hours, ensuring that students receive uninterrupted education.

To a request from the students, the CM announced plans to enhance the school's canteen facility. Additionally, he declared that students would be provided with discounted travel options through the Speedo Bus service.

Mohsin Naqvi issued directives for the enhancement of classroom conditions, as well as improvements to the school grounds and lawn.

New appointments were made for teachers responsible for instructing students in the 11th and 12th grades, a move that was met with joy from the student body.

Furthermore, he expressed his commitment to transforming the pilot school into a model educational institution. He also took the opportunity to review the implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for managing conjunctivitis.

Sardar Attique says Dedication to ideology is imperative to recover national strength

Independent Report
MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said the deliberate weakening of his ideological Muslim Conference party platform by some hidden hands has lent the cohesive political space of AJK to societal chaos.

It was, he reminded, the weakening of the mother party of Pakistan, the Muslim League, in 1971 that resulted in the disastrous break-up of Pakistan, a loss that cannot be recouped, he maintained in a statement issued here yesterday.

Azad Jammu Kashmir and Pakistan's strong ideological identification is

a guarantee of national unity and territorial security, Attique, who also heads All Jammu Kashmir Muslim Conference, said. Our national ideology is a formidable citadel of geographic solidarity from Gwadar to Karachi to Khyber to Kashmir. Our known enemy India is on the lookout to vitiate the internal environment of our national society, he warned.

During his day-long visit Saturday to various rural localities of Dhirkot subdivision he cautioned that anti-inflation sentiments should in no way negatively affect the national demographic and institutional cohesion.



LAHORE: SAPM on Human rights and Women empowerment Mushaal Hussain Mullick offering Fatcha on the grave of National Poet of Pakistan Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

General polls to be held in mid-February, Nawaz Sharif to lead PML-N: Raja Riaz

Independent Report
FAISALABAD (APP): Former opposition leader in the National Assembly Raja Riaz Ahmad Khan on Monday said that Nawaz Sharif would lead the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) election campaign and the general elections would be held in mid-February.

Addressing a press conference at his 'Dera' here, he said that he had joined the PML-N after thorough consideration and deliberation because Pakistan was facing multifaceted crises and

only the PML-N supremo could drag the country out of prevailing situation. He said that general elections would be held in mid-February and the PML-N was ready to contest it. The PML-N was a pro-people party and it would emerge as victorious with thumping majority during upcoming elections, he added. He said that Pakistan Tehreek-Insaf (PTI) had enjoyed the power for about four years but failed to deliver and if PTI government was not ousted,

52 smoke emitting factories sealed in one month

Independent Report
FAISALABAD (APP): Deputy Director (DD) Environment Muhammad Nawaz Khan said that environment protection laws were fully implemented in the district to control smog and environmental pollution and an environment squad sealed 52 factories in Faisalabad on charge of emitting excessive smoke. In a statement on Monday, he said that teams of environment protection department had inspected 305 factories during last one month and issued warning to 87 factory owners.

International News

Israel imposing 'total' Gaza blockade as dozens of Palestinians killed in strikes on refugee camp

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: Israel is escalating measures against the Gaza Strip to a "total blockade" including a ban on admitting food and fuel, Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said on Monday, after Hamas stunned Israel with surprise offensive.

Gaza Strip rose to 560 on Monday, the health ministry in the Palestinian enclave said. The Hamas-controlled ministry said "570 people were killed and another 2,900 injured" in the fighting that began on Saturday after Hamas fighters fired thousands of rockets in Israel in a surprise dawn offensive. More than 123,000 people have been displaced in the Gaza Strip since fighting began, the United Nations said. "Over 123,538 people, have been internally displaced in Gaza, mostly due to fear, protection concerns and the destruction of their homes," said the UN's humanitarian agency, OCHA.

More than 73,000 are sheltering in schools, OCHA said, some of which have been designated emergency shelters.

Adnan Abu Hasna, a spokesman for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), said he expected the numbers to rise further. "There's electricity in these schools, we provide them with a meal, clean water, psychological support and medical treatment," he told AFP.

Gaza is home to 2.3 million Palestinians, who have lived under a crippling Israeli blockade imposed after Hamas took power in 2007.

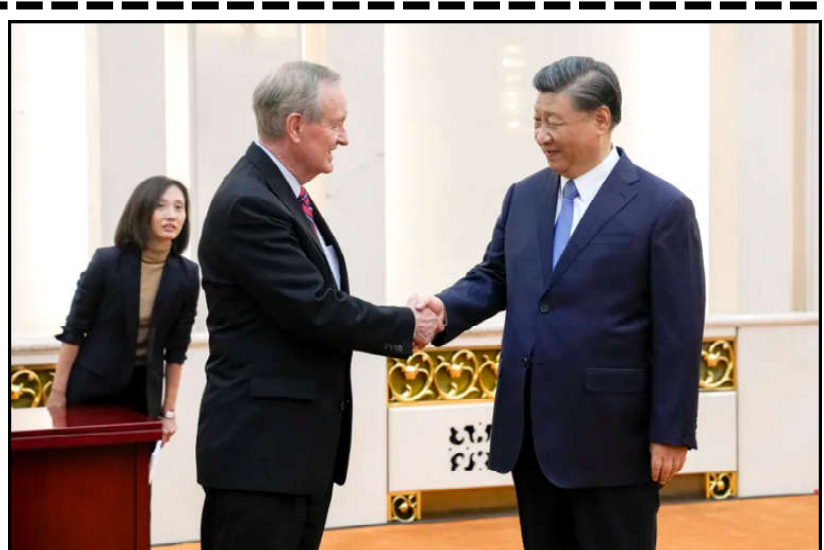


Performers take part in the closing ceremony of the 2022 Asian Games at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Stadium in Hangzhou in China's eastern Zhejiang province.

Russia eyes return to UN rights body despite Ukraine war

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: Russia, which was ousted from the UN Human Rights Council after its forces invaded Ukraine, will attempt a return to the body on Tuesday — an uncertain move that will provide a gauge of its international support. The UN General Assembly will vote that day to elect 15 new members to the Geneva-based UN body, for terms running from 2024 to 2026.

The council's 47 members are allocated by region, and each large regional group usually pre-selects its own candidates, which the General Assembly then generally approves. But this year two groups have more candidates than available seats: Latin America (candidates from Brazil, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Peru will contest three seats), and Eastern Europe (Albania, Bulgaria and Russia will vie for two seats). Moscow's candidacy has drawn scepticism, and the vote will come just days after a Russian missile attack on the Ukrainian village of Groza killed more than 50 people in a scene of carnage.



U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho is greeted by Chinese President Xi Jinping before their bilateral meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

US Senate Majority Leader Schumer meets Xi and welcomes stronger Chinese statement on Hamas attack

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: U.S. Senate Majority Leader Schumer said Monday he was grateful for a strengthened statement from China condemning the killing and kidnapping of Israeli and foreign civilians by Hamas, issued during a bipartisan congressional visit to Beijing that included a lengthy meeting with President Xi Jinping.

Schumer led a delegation of six senators to China for talks aimed at stabilizing ties following a sharp deterioration in recent years over trade, U.S. support for self-governing Taiwan, human rights and other issues. The delegation, which included three Democrats and three Republicans, was the first visit by U.S. lawmakers since 2019 and came at a time of growing attacks on China in Congress as America contends with Beijing's rise as a global power. Schumer told Foreign Minister Wang Yi earlier in the day that he had been very disappointed by China's failure to strongly condemn the attack on Israel and show sympathy for the country and its people.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said later Monday that China is "deeply saddened by the civilian casualties caused by the conflict between Palestine and Israel." "China opposes and condemns acts that harm civilians," along with actions that "expand conflict and undermine regional stability," Mao said, going beyond an initial Foreign Ministry statement on Sunday.

Iran's UN mission says Tehran not involved in Hamas attacks

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Iran's mission to the United Nations said on Sunday that Tehran was not involved in one of the bloodiest attacks in Israel's history when Islamist group Hamas killed 700 Israelis and abducted dozens more.

The group and another Palestinian militant organisation Islamic Jihad. The Hamas assault on Saturday, the biggest incursion into Israel in decades, coincided with U.S.-backed moves to push Saudi Arabia towards normalising ties with Israel in return for a defence deal between Washington and Riyadh, a move that would slam the brakes on the kingdom's rapprochement with Tehran.

"The resolute measures taken by Palestine constitute a wholly legitimate defense against seven decades of oppressive occupation and heinous crimes committed by the illegitimate Zionist regime," Iran's U.N. mission said in statement. Iran has made no secret of its backing for Hamas, funding and arming

"We emphatically stand in unflinching support of Palestine; however, we are not involved in Palestine's response, as it is taken solely by Palestine itself," Iran's U.N. mission said.



A woman and a child struggle with strong winds as Hong Kong issued its second-highest storm warning signal.

Israeli and Palestinian supporters rally across U.S. as Israel declares war after Hamas attack

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Supporters of Israel and backers of the Palestinian cause held competing rallies in several American cities Sunday over the conflict that has killed hundreds and wounded thousands in the Middle East.

In New York City, a skirmish broke out between opposing demonstrators near the United Nations compound after a large group of Palestinian supporters rallied in Times Square. Palestinian Americans protested outside the Israeli consulates in Atlanta and Chicago. Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi led a Jewish

community gathering to support Israel at a synagogue in San Francisco. The demonstrations and involvement of American political leaders show the far-reaching ramifications of a conflict that has already prompted the U.S. to order naval forces deployed to the Eastern Mediterranean, ready to assist Israel. Here's what reaction around the country has looked like:

In New York City, police ringed the United Nations compound as scores of pro-Palestinian protesters gathered a block away, chanting and waving flags.

UK's opposition Labour on course for landslide election victory, poll predicts

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Britain's opposition Labour Party is on course to win a landslide victory at a national election expected next year, according to an opinion poll published on Saturday.

The Survation poll, carried out for campaign group 38 Degrees and published by the Observer newspaper, questioned more than 11,000 voters between Sept. 11-25 and then used a model to generate constituency-by-constituency results.

Most polls put Labour, which gathers in northern England this weekend for its annual conference, about 20 points ahead of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's governing Conservatives, although commentators say the lead is potentially fragile.

Major airlines suspend flights to Israel after heavy fighting

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Major airlines have suspended flights to Israel after the nation declared war following a massive attack by Hamas. American Airlines, United Airlines and Delta Air Lines suspended service as the U.S. State Department issued travel advisories for the region citing potential for terrorism and civil unrest. American suspended service to Tel Aviv through Friday. The airline said that it has issued a travel alert providing additional flexibility.

PM saddened by devastating earthquake in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday expressed deep sorrow over the loss of precious lives and property in the devastating earthquake in Herat, Afghanistan. "Our hearts go out to the affected communities. We stand in solidarity with the Afghans during this difficult time. I have instructed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to send maximum support to the affected," he said in a post on X.

He said the Afghanistan government had specifically asked for sending a medical team, a field hospital, 50 tents and 500 blankets. "On my instructions, in addition to the relief goods, all the requested items are being dispatched in the afternoon today, with more relief goods to follow", he added.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar exchanging views with Admiral Naveed Ashraf, newly-appointed Chief of Naval Staff during meeting held in Islamabad.

Breaching legal restrictions case: IHC issues notice to Bajwa, Faiz Hameed, journalist Javed Chaudhry

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued notice to FIA, former army chief General (Retd) Qamar Javed Bajwa and former DG ISI Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed for breaching legal restrictions and stating different events in wrong and fabricated way.

The case came up for hearing before IHC led by Chief Justice (CH) IHC Aamir Farooq Monday.

CJHC issued written order of hearing the petition filed by a citizen Atif Ali from Rawalpindi.

It has been said in the order according to petitioner FIR was requested repeatedly after filing application for registration of case. PEMRA was also requested, but no action was taken.

The counsel for the petitioner requested the court to order FIA to register case against former army chief Gen (Retd) Qamar Javed Bajwa, Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed, journalists Javed Chaudhry and

Shahid Maitla and initiate proceedings against them. The citizen took the plea in its petition that Gen (Retd) Bajwa and Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed crossed the existing legal restrictions in showing different events in wrong and fabricated way after retirement. Therefore, they committed heinous crime. Criminal act was committed due to Qamar Javed Bajwa-Faiz Hameed nexus. FIA should register case and take action.

Petitioner further said that journalists Javed Chaudhry and Shahid Maitla wrote two articles only for the sake of viewership which left negative impact on the society.

I was surprised when I saw articles. Negative picture of the state institution was presented through articles in the guise of journalism to arrest attention. Criminal attitude came to fore in the guise of freedom of expression.

DC Sanghar to control price hike

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Sanghar Dr. Imran-ul-Hasan Khawaja on Monday expressed his commitment to provide relief to the general public and take strict action against traders responsible for increasing the prices of necessary food items.

He made these remarks during a meeting held at his office, which was attended by officials from the Department of supply and Prices, including Assistant Director Syed Sajjad Shabbir, Focal Person Abdul Hafeez and others. The meeting focused on determining the prices of all essential items and direct-

ing shopkeepers to display these rate lists prominently so that consumers could make their purchases accordingly.

According to the new price list, Chakki flour (Atta) was fixed at 140 rupees per kg, while milling's flour was set at 125 rupees per kg and milk was priced at 160 rupees per liter.

Deputy Commissioner Khawaja, on the occasion, appealed to the public to verify the price list and report if they witnessed any violations by traders so that legal actions could be taken against those involved in price hiking.



KARACHI: A view of the site after an explosion at Maskan Chowranghi in Provincial Capital.

Gas cylinder blast injures two in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): At least two people were injured when a gas cylinder exploded in a shop located at Karachi's Maskan Chowranghi on Monday.

According to initial information from police, two cylinders exploded inside a fast-food shop, which was closed. Due to the intensity of the blast, two passersby were injured.

Several vehicles and motorcycles were also damaged in the blast. The injured have been moved to the nearest hospital, the police said.

Meanwhile, three people including the shop owner have been arrested by the police. The arrested

have been shifted to the police station for legal action. In November last year, two women lost their lives and 13 others, including women and children, sustained injuries in a gas cylinder explosion in a residential apartment in Karachi's Gulistan-e-Jauhar area.

The blast took place due to a gas leak in a residential apartment near Rado Bakery, killing two women and injuring 13 others. Three more adjacent flats were also badly affected due to the explosion.

The two women - who were identified as mother and daughter - succumbed to injuries in Civil Hospital's burns ward.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan meeting with Saudi Arabia Health Minister Fahad bin Abdul Rehman Aljalajel in Cairo on side lines of 70th WHO Regional Committee Meeting.

Saudi Health Minister assures full support towards new health initiatives in Pakistan

CAIRO (Online): Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr. Nadeem Jan held a meeting with Minister of Health Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Fahad bin Abdulrahman Al-Jalajel on the sidelines of 70th Session of the WHO's Regional Committee of the Eastern Mediterranean in Cairo today. Senior officials from Saudi Ministry of Health were present during the meeting.

The Federal Minister stated that the Government and people of Pakistan hold

the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques in high esteem. Bilateral fraternal relations between Pakistan and KSA are based on common faith and aspirations, the Minister added.

The Minister for Health Kingdom of Saudi Arabia noted with appreciation that relations with Pakistan in the field of health have touched new level. Dr. Nadeem Jan discussed the possibility of mutual collaboration in the vaccine production capacity. The Saudi Health Minister offered to provide assistance and support in developing vaccine production capacity in Pakistan.

Both the Ministers agreed for exchange of expertise through a team of health experts to formalise the transfer of technology. Federal Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan expressed gratitude for accommodating Pakistani Doctors in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He discussed the possibility of exchange of knowledge and expertise especially in the field of Nursing and Paramedics. The Saudi Health

Minister agreed to send a high level team from Saudi Health Ministry to deliberate on this proposal and formalise an MoU soon.

Dr. Nadeem Jan also explained his innovative idea of establishing "Pharma Park" in Pakistan to manufacture the basic ingredients of medicines. The Health Minister of Saudi Arabia appreciated the idea and expressed his willingness to support Pakistan in the establishment of the proposed Pharma Park.

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People should elect PPP's candidates in upcoming elections: Ch Nizam

HYDERABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Chaudhry Nizam-ud-Din Arain on Monday said that the people of Hyderabad should make the candidates of the People's Party successful in the upcoming elections so that the problems of the city could be solved and the people get maximum relief.

According to the statement, Arain said that unfortunately, a party imposed on this city had not done anything for the development of the city, due to which the second largest city of Sindh became a ruin.

Chairing a meeting with regard to the Ministry of Religious Affairs, he observed that for the performance of important religious ritual of Hajj, all steps should be taken to facilitate pilgrims.

The prime minister was apprised of performance of the ministry, steps taken for Hajj and

Customs recover 51 iPhones from Umrah pilgrims

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Customs on Monday claimed to have arrested three passengers returning from Saudi and recovered 51 iPhones from their possession.

According to a spokesman for Customs, the Pakistan Customs Airport Collectorate staff stationed at the International Arrival Lounge of Jinnah International Airport (JIAP) during the clearance of passengers intercepted a group of Umrah pilgrims arriving in Karachi from Saudi via Dubai.

The group, which included children and women, was stopped on suspicion and their luggage was searched by customs staff. During scanning, empty boxes of mobile phones were identified in the luggage of these Umrah pilgrims, then the customs staff inquired about the mobile phones from the said passengers, to which they failed to satisfy the authorities.

Man killed, five injured in Karachi violent incidents

KARACHI (INP): A man was killed and five others including a woman were injured in separate incidents of violence in different areas of the metropolis, police said on Monday.

According to details, unidentified armed men gunned down a man identified as Irfan in Liaquatabad area and fled the scene.

Five including a woman were injured when two groups attacked each other with batons, exchanged blows and fists near Landhi Manzil pump Khoi Goth.

The body and injured were shifted to different hospital and police started investigations into both incidents.

Robbers snatched thousands of rupees cash, mobile phone from Ishaq, a Edhi volunteer in Mochko police station jurisdiction. Police registered a case into the incident and started search for culprits.

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Overcharging on eatables to not tolerate: DC

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC), Sukkur, Fayyaz Hussain Mahesar on Monday said that due to an effective price control mechanism and the measures taken by the district administration, prices of essential items have stabilized to some extent.

He said that overcharging of even a single penny will not be tolerated in the price of flour, pulses, vegetables and other eatables.

He directed that special attention be paid to maintaining a balance between supply and demand of essential items as well as stability of the prices and no effort be spared in the provision of high-quality food items to the masses at fixed rates. He said that besides heads of concerned departments will also be accountable in this regard.

He said that he will personally preside over the meeting of the District Price Control Committee for monitoring the prices of essential commodities and their supply and demand on a daily basis.

He said that the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Assistant Commissioners (ACs) and Mukhtarkars should pay regular visits to the markets and concerned departments should perform their duties efficiently to show results.

He was presiding over a meeting of the price control committee to review prices of essential items.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the District Officer of Agriculture to submit an effective plan for increasing the area of cultivation of pulses as well as safeguarding the production of farmers. He said that farmers be facilitated in the direct sale of their produce in agri-markets.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed that a report be submitted in the next meeting regarding progress on the project of kitchen gardening and the results produced so far. He said that all wings of the food, livestock and agriculture departments be fully activated.

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PM for provision of best, inexpensive facilities to Hujjaj

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday directed that the best and inexpensive facilities should be ensured for the pilgrims without compromising on Hajj arrangements.

Chairing a meeting with regard to the Ministry of Religious Affairs, he observed that for the performance of important religious ritual of Hajj, all steps should be taken to facilitate pilgrims.

The prime minister was apprised of performance of the ministry, steps taken for Hajj and

preparation for the Hajj policy 2024, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was attended by Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmed and other officials of the ministry.

Addressing the participants, the prime minister directed keeping strict vigilance on private Hajj companies so that pilgrims proceeding through private schemes should not face any difficulty.

He also asked for the submission of Hajj policy for approval of the federal cabinet.

Energy minister calls on PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker minister for energy Muhammad Ali called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here on Monday and discussed matters relating to energy and petroleum industry's affairs.

During the meeting, the prime minister was briefed on measures being taken to promote foreign investment in mineral sector in Balochistan and other parts of the country under Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

Four illegal Afghan immigrants arrested

KARACHI (APP): The Boat Basin police station on Monday arrested four illegal Afghan immigrants. According to police, the immigrants were arrested during routine patrolling after they failed to produce valid documents.

Arrested were identified as Fazal Ghani, Quadrat, Jumma Khan and Abdul. A case had been registered and further investigations were underway.

Two robbers injured, held after police encounter

LARKANA (INP): Two robbers were injured and held after a police encounter in Garhi Khuda Bux Larkana on Monday.

According to details, the police on a tip-off approached a two-member gang of robbers engaged in a robbery.

The robbers started firing at police and attempted to flee from the crime scene.

In retaliatory firing, both robbers identified as Saeed Lolai and Ayaz Magasi were injured and held along with weapons and snatched bike.

The injured robbers were shifted to hospital and police after registering a case into the incident started an investigation.

Street criminals involved in over 250 robberies arrested

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Rangers Sindh and Police in a joint intelligence-based operation in Old Golimar and Liaquatabad arrested four alleged street criminals involved in more than 250 robberies.

The Rangers recovered a 9mm pistol along with ammunition, 4 snatched motorcycles and 5 snatched mobile phones from the arrested, according to a spokesman for Rangers on Monday.

Arrested were identified as Kamran Shahrukh, Suhail Khan, Huzafa and Muhammad Rameez alias Raja. They confessed to committing more than 250

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Chinese envoy, Planning minister discuss CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong Monday called on Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed and discussed projects being executed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the ongoing CPEC projects especially related to energy, infrastructure, industrial zones, agriculture and information technology, a news release said. Secretary Ministry of Planning Awais Manzur Sumra also attended the meeting.

The minister apprised the visiting envoy, who assumed the office charge last month, that the caretaker government was fully committed to completing the CPEC projects on a fast-track basis.

Sami Saeed said the Planning Ministry reviewed progress on ongoing projects regularly and Special Economic Zones' work was in full swing.

He said the government was taking all possible measures to further improve the security of the staff working on the projects, being executed under CPEC.

The Chinese envoy appreciated the efforts of the Planning Ministry for its active role in carrying forward CPEC projects.

Jiang Zaidong said the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was an extremely important forum where Pakistan's participation carried great significance.

He invited the caretaker minister to attend the BRI Forum-2023, scheduled for 17-18th of the current month in Beijing, the capital city of China.

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QUETTA: Governor Sindh Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki.

October 17 fixed for indictment of Imran in cipher case

RAWALPINDI (Online): Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain of special court set up under official secret act has fixed October 17 for indictment in cipher case against chairman PTI and co-accused Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

The court distributed the copies of case among the accused persons but lawyers of PTI chairman have not signed on receipt of the copies.

Chairman PTI and Shah Mehmood Qureshi were present in court room during the hearing of the case in Adiala jail.

FIA team, special prosecutor of federal government Zulfiqar Abbas Naqvi, other state counsels, Barrister Suleman

Safdar, Sher Afzal Marwat, other lawyers were also present in the court.

Zain Qureshi son of Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Mehr Bano Qureshi were two present in the court. 3 hearing of the case have been held in Attock jail.

The court distributed copies of challan among the accused on the occasion of second hearing of the case in Adiala jail.

But the lawyers of the accused while refusing to sign receipt of the copies took the plea petition has been filed in Islamabad High Court (IHC) against in-camera hearing of cipher case and it has yet to be decided.

Turkish actor visits SSU headquarters

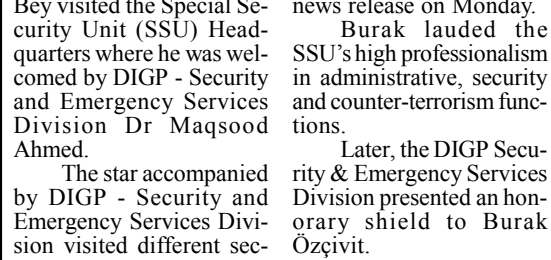
KARACHI (APP): The star of the iconic Turkish series 'Kurulus: Osman', Burak Ozcivit aka Osman Bey visited the Special Security Unit (SSU) Headquarters where he was welcomed by DIGP - Security and Emergency Services Division Dr Maqsood Ahmed.

The star accompanied by DIGP - Security and Emergency Services Division visited different sec-

tions of SSU and appreciated the professional administration and management of the SSU, said a news release on Monday.

Burak lauded the SSU's high professionalism in administrative, security and counter-terrorism functions.

Later, the DIGP Security & Emergency Services Division presented an honorary shield to Burak Ozcivit.



KARACHI: Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Security and Emergency Services Division, Dr. Maqsood Ahmed presents an honorary shield to Turkish actor Burak Ozcivit aka Kurulus Osman during his visit to Special Security Unit (SSU) of the Sindh Police Headquarters in Karachi.

Street criminals involved in over 250 robberies arrested

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Rangers Sindh and Police in a joint intelligence-based operation in Old Golimar and Liaquatabad arrested four alleged street criminals involved in more than 250 robberies.

The Rangers recovered a 9mm pistol along with ammunition, 4 snatched motorcycles and 5 snatched mobile phones from the arrested, according to a spokesman for Rangers on Monday.

Arrested were identified as Kamran Shahrukh, Suhail Khan, Huzafa and Muhammad Rameez alias Raja. They confessed to committing more than 250

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