

Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 05. No. 282 Rabi-ul-Awwal 25, 1445 AH Thursday October 12, 2023 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

Federal Cabinet calls for immediate halt of Israel's bombing on Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Resolutions in this regard. Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday said the Federal Cabinet had called for an immediate halt to Israeli bombardment of civilian areas of Gaza, in addition to lifting of blockade for the provision of relief items to the civilian population.

He said the Cabinet meeting, presided over by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, also called for prompt measures to allow international aid to reach the civilians in the Gaza.

Addressing a news conference along with Minister for Privatization Fawad Hassan Fawad, he said the forum strongly condemned Israel's bombardment, particularly targeting civilian population in Gaza besides expressing concern over the volatile situation, stemming from Israel's illegal occupation, oppression of Palestinians for decades, and blatant violations of United Nations Security Council

The Federal Cabinet stressed that the issue of Palestine should be resolved in accordance with relevant UNSC resolution, he said, adding it also called for the restoration of pre-1967 status of Palestine.

He said the Federal Cabinet reiterated Pakistan's principled stance for the resolution of the Palestine issue in line with the aspirations of its people.

Solangi said the forum reiterated the proposal for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with its borders predating Israel's illegal occupation in 1967 as well as Bait-ul-Quds (Jerusalem) as its capital. He said the prime minister had directed the federal ministers to undertake only essential foreign visits. The Federal Cabinet had approved the appointments of former Lahore High Court judge Sohail Nasir as Deputy Chairman of NAB and Syed Ehtesham Qadir Shah as NAB Prosecutor General Accountability, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

Section for right of appeal declared in line with Constitution. SC sustains parliament's act clipping CJP's powers

Apex court by majority of 10 to 5 has upheld the Supreme Court (Practice & Procedure) Act 2023; Justices Ijazul Ahsan, Muneeb Akhtar, Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Ayesha Malik and Shahid Waheed dissent verdict; court rules retrospective right of appeal unconstitutional.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday sustained the SC Practice and Procedure Act 2023, and dismissed the petitions against it while announcing the short order.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa pro-

nounced the short order, which was reserved earlier by a 15-member full court bench after all respondents concluded their arguments.

The chief justice said that ten members of the full court bench out of 15 had declared the legislation passed by the Parliament with reference to the powers of the Chief Justice as correct. The CJP said that the full court has declared the petitions

filed against the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act, 2023 as inadmissible by majority opinion.

The short order available with this scribe said, "By a majority of 10 to 5 (Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Justice Mumtaz Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Ayesha A. Malik and Justice Shahid Waheed dissenting) the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023 ('the Act') is sustained as being in accordance with the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and to this extent the petitions are dismissed. It further said, "By a majority of 9 to 6 (Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Justice Mumtaz Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Ayesha A. Malik and Justice Shahid Waheed dissenting).



KARACHI: A 12-members delegation under training officers of Federal Investigation Agency meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori.

Caretaker Revenue Minister Muhammad Younis Dhaga visits SITE area

Orders removal of encroachment, illegal occupation from govt land

HYDERABAD (APP): Minister while expressing his dissatisfaction over accumulated water in the SITE area, directed Commissioner Hyderabad to resolve sanitation issues on a permanent basis. He also directed Executive Engineer Murad Ali Jatoti to make bound factory owners install their water treatment plants and issue notices to avoid dumping industrial waste in sewage nullahs without treatment and also halt working of factories in failure of installing treatment plants.

Minister directed SITE officers to remove encroachments particularly constructed in nullah without any delay so the sewage

system could run smoothly. On this occasion, Caretaker Revenue assured President Chamber of Small Industries and Small Traders Hyderabad Farooq Shaikhani and other Industrialists of resolve their issues on a priority basis and a Coordination committee was being formed consisting of all departments which will be responsible for resolving issues faced by the traders. During the meeting, Commissioner Hyderabad Syed Khalid Haider Shah and Sindh Revenue Secretary Dr. Muhammad Bakhs Dharjo briefed the caretaker minister.



HYDERABAD: Caretaker Sindh Minister of Finance, Revenue and Planning and Development Mohammad Younis Dhaga addresses to media persons during press conference, at Shahbaz Hall in Hyderabad.

Record of Sindh Revenue Department to be digitalized soon

HYDERABAD (APP): Caretaker Sindh Minister for Revenue and Industries has said that records of the Sindh Revenue Department will be digitalized soon, and registration work is underway with the assistance of the Punjab Information Technology Board. He expressed these views while talking to the media in Shahbaz Hall on Wednesday.

He said that in the first phase, digitalization of records will start on a trial basis, and later it will be available on a

website in Sindh. The minister said that relevant Mukhtarkars were directed to complete digitalization work at the earliest. He said that after moving records on the website, it would help to eradicate corruption, and public complaints would be addressed in time.

Replying to a question, the Minister said that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) was investigating the M-6 Motorway scam and steps were being taken to complete the remaining construction work.

Ombudsman expresses satisfaction over resolution of widow's complaint

KARACHI (APP): The provincial Ombudsman Sindh Aijaz Ali Khan has expressed his satisfaction that after his intervention the widow complainant was able to get service dues and appointment order of her son against deceased quota.

A widow, Fozia Perveen in her complaint stated that her husband was ward Boy in DMC Central who died while in service in July 2017 and since then she was pursuing for payment of service dues and appointment of her son against deceased quota.

According to details, after taking information from the representatives belonging to the minority community of Tharparkar district about their problems, especially suicides, the Home Minister was told that early marriage, not marrying cousins and raising children at an early age, and economic poverty are two of the main causes

of suicide. Apart from this, the Home Minister was told that there is concern among the minority community regarding the ongoing migration in the country, and he said that a period of prosperity is about to begin in the country, so there is no need for the minority community to leave the country; we are only putting pressure on the foreigners.

The name of a particular nation should not be mentioned, he added. On this occasion, IG Sindh Riffat Mukhtar said that the salaries of the Sindh Police Jawans are also being made equal to those of the Punjab Police.

Caretaker Interior Minister meets with minority communities in Mirpurkhas

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Caretaker Interior Minister Sindh Brigadier (ret'd) Harris Nawaz and IG Sindh Raja Riffat Mukhtar held a long meeting with elected representatives of the minority communities of Mirpurkhas division here on Wednesday.

According to details, after taking information from the representatives belonging to the minority community of Tharparkar district about their problems, especially suicides, the Home Minister was told that early marriage, not marrying cousins and raising children at an early age, and economic poverty are two of the main causes



KARACHI: Commissioner Karachi Mohammad Saleem Rajput in a group photo with Secretary Press Club Shoaib Ahmed Khan and others during his visit to Karachi press club.

PM reassures timely completion of CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said that Pakistan and China were fully committed to ensuring the success of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the government would continue to work closely with the Chinese authorities to ensure timely implementation and completion of various projects envisaged under CPEC.

The prime minister was talking to Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Jiang Zaidong who called on him, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

ECP assures political parties of code of conduct revision

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has pledged to make essential changes to the draft code of conduct for the upcoming elections in response to the concerns of political parties.

In a meeting presided over by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja here Wednesday, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) pledged to amend the code of ethics based on feedback from political parties, with the aim of guaranteeing equitable and transparent elections.

Apart from the members of the Election Commission, representatives of various political parties and senior officers of the Election Commission participated in the meeting.

Nawaz Sharif leaves for Saudi Arabia

LONDON (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif left for Saudi Arabia on a private visit before returning to Pakistan on October 21.

According to details, the three-time prime minister will depart for Jeddah via Saudi Airlines flight SV 116 as he left for London Airport. A number of PML-N workers were present outside Avenfield House, from where Nawaz Sharif departed for London Airport. The PML-N supreme - who is scheduled to arrive in Pakistan on October 21 - will visit Dubai after performing Umrah in Saudi Arabia. A day earlier, it was reported that the former prime minister had booked his ticket for flight to Islamabad from Dubai.

Don't see any possibility of delay in polls: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday ruling out the possibility of any delay in general elections, said that the polls would be announced and conducted on time.

"I don't see any possibility (of delay in elections). I don't have any confusion at all. I feel the elections will be announced and conducted on time," the prime minister said in an interview with a private television channel.

Reiterating his government's resolve to hold free and fair elections, he said all the registered political parties had legal and constitutional rights to canvass, mobilize people and attract public support.

However, he said the government would not be responsible if someone was legally barred from the po-

litical process. To a question, he emphasized effective law enforcement saying that his government, with the cooperation from military leadership, had implemented the existing laws to crack down the illegal currency businesses and hoarders. He also called for the capacity building of the civilian institutions for the implementation of the law.

The prime minister said the establishment of the democratic system within the political parties was essential for democracy in the country.

To a question, he said being a political player, he had interacted with all political leaders before assuming the office but never thought of joining any party, though being a citizen, he had the right to join a party or form his own.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi conferring the award of Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon the Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed Forces, Lt. General (Pilot) Salem Hamad Eqaal Al-Nabet, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President for stronger economic, defence ties with Qatar

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday called for further strengthening ties with Qatar in the fields of economy and defence for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly countries.

The president expressed these views while talking to the visiting Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed Forces, Lt Gen (Pilot) Salem Hamad Eqaal Al-Nabet, who along with the members of his delegation called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today.

Pakistan's Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zabeer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, and senior officials of the government also attended the meeting.

The president said that Pakistan and Qatar enjoyed excellent relations, which needed to be translated into mutually rewarding business and economic ties. Welcoming the delega-

tion, President Alvi said that year 2023 would mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Qatar and expressed the hope that cooperation between the two countries would be further enhanced in the years to come.

He expressed his gratitude to Qatar for providing humanitarian assistance during last year's floods as well as financial support to Pakistan during difficult times.

The president congratulated Qatar for successfully holding the FIFA 2022 Football World Cup.

He also congratulated the Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed Forces on the conferment of the award of Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) upon him in recognition of his role in promoting cooperation between the Armed Forces of the two brotherly countries.



MOROCCO: Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue & Economic Affairs Dr. Shamshad Akhtar held a meeting with the Governor of the Central Bank of Morocco.

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

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Crucial Apex committee session in Quetta

The 14th meeting of Balochistan's Apex committee was held with the caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaarul Haq Kakar in the chair on Tuesday last. Also participated in the crucial session was by the Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir, Federal Interior Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Chief Minister Ali Mardan Khan Domki, his cabinet members and other senior officials.

During the meeting, officials briefed the participants on the revised National Action Plan (NAP), law enforcement operations, anti-smuggling and anti-narcotics operations in Balochistan. The officials also briefed the participants on the security of foreigners employed on CPEC, non-CPEC and private projects, the repatriation of illegal immigrants, foreign currency regularization measures, and progress on SIFC initiatives in Balochistan. The PM expressed confidence in the progress made by the provincial government and assured full support from the Centre. He emphasized that Balochistan's socio-economic development was imperative to ensure peace and development of the province. "Initiatives taken by the SIFC at federal level should have a trickle-down effect in each province for the people of the area," the premier said.

The Premier said that Balochistan is rich in mines and minerals and development in this sector will generate economic activity and job opportunities for the people of the area. Moreover, investments in agriculture and IT should also be focused apart from human resource development. He highlighted that Balochistan possessed abundant mineral resources, and fostering development would stimulate economic activity and create job opportunities for the local population. Furthermore, he stressed the importance of directing investments toward agriculture and IT, in addition to human resource development. He stressed the necessity of collaboration and coordination among all relevant departments to maximize the positive impact of these initiatives. Mr. Kakar also mentioned that initiatives taken by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) at federal level should have a trickle-down effect in each province. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar said on Tuesday.

At the meeting, the Army Chief highlighted that the military would provide full support in concert with law enforcement agencies and other government departments to enforce actions against a spectrum of illegal activities with full force to deny pilferage of resources and economic losses that the country suffered due to these activities. The participants expressed their collective commitment, affirming that state institutions, government departments, and the people are unified in their pursuit of progress and prosperity for the province. While the crucial Apex meeting has expressed its firm resolve against certain issues, the Army chief has already asserted that the law enforcement agencies and the government would continue efforts against a "spectrum of illegal activities with full force to deny pilferage of resources and economic losses." What's great to note and commendable is that the state institutions, government departments and people were united for the progress and prosperity of the province. Above all, the COAS has also promised the interim government of the army's "all-out support" for continuity of policies in a bid to revive the economy and steer the country towards progress and prosperity.



Arif Azad

Migration has been in the media and policy spotlight lately. Several international migration-related developments have refocused attention on migration and asylum issues. Recently, the small Italian town of Lampedusa received a sudden surge of new migrants. The surge, though small, was portrayed as gigantic as it exceeded the size of the local population which had been tiny anyway.

In the US, refugees are streaming into the state of Texas, which has chosen to bus them onward to bigger cities such as New York. In the UK, reducing the number of asylum seekers crossing the English Channel is one of the five policy ambitions of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. This has given the hard-line home secretary, Suella Braverman, carte blanche to employ whatever means necessary to stop boats carrying migrants. Here in Pakistan, we have seen new arrivals from Afghanistan after the Taliban's takeover of Kabul.

The Lampedusa migration crisis occasioned an emergency visit from EU President Ursula von der Leyen to the island town. While pledging extra help, she asserted it was the EU that would ultimately determine who could come into Europe. Her fleeting visit aimed at shoring up the struggling right-wing government was followed by an EU justice and home ministers' conclave on the new migration crisis. There remain differences over how to tackle the

crisis and chart a lasting way forward. The differences centre on the Italian objection to German-funded support to rescue operations at sea. The Italian proposal to do away with certain legal protection in asylum detention centres in a crisis is also a stumbling block.

Earlier, EU governments had agreed on the principle of 'mandatory solidarity', requiring member states located beyond the front-line states of Italy and Greece to accept 30,000 migrants a year. In case of a country not accepting the allotted number of refugees and asylum-seekers, that country would pay 20,000 euros per migrant to an EU-wide fund to boost the money available to the front-line states dealing with the growing number of new arrivals. The US has further extended protections to Venezuelan migrants already living in the country.

In a related development, Ms Braverman chose the venue of a Washington think tank to lay out her vision for a most reactionary immigration policy. She called for a new definition of 'refugee' to be fashioned, besides the updating of the Geneva Convention. In the same anti-migrant vein, she railed against multiculturalism and inadequate integration of incoming migrants. In recent times, she has also singled out the role of the European convention on and court of human rights in frustrating her plans to deport all asylum-seekers to Rwanda. Her speech attracted widespread criticism from the UN refugee agency, politicians and civil society in the UK, with UNHCR rejecting her calls for reforming the Geneva refugee convention and pointing out that rather than updating it, its provisions

must be implemented and adhered to by all signatory countries.

Many commentators linked her pronouncements on immigration to her domestic agenda of seeking the leadership of the Conservative Party. (Braverman has been very popular with the extreme right wing of the party for her hard-line views on migration and asylum.) The British prime minister has defended multiculturalism in an apparent rebuff to his own home secretary.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has received successive waves of refugees from neighbouring Afghanistan since the 1970s. Yet due to Pakistan's not signing the Geneva Convention on the status of refugees, the country's refugee and asylum policies have not been framed. Despite its long engagement with Afghan refugees, Pakistan has lived in denial insofar as the historical presence of Afghan refugees is concerned, and now wants them to leave the country.

Two contradictory impulses are at work. On the one hand, the Afghan refugees have been given a final date by which to leave the country. On the other, in a landmark judgement of the Islamabad High Court, the judiciary has ruled that Pakistan recognises the right to asylum. This sets a new judicial precedent in the evolving refugee law in Pakistan, with implications for all those being rounded up with a view to deporting them to Afghanistan. This news can only be welcomed. Yet in the long term, as well as in the light of revising our flawed foreign policy towards Afghanistan, Pakistan needs to work towards signing the Geneva Convention and fulfilling its obligations in line with international law. -- Courtesy Dawn

Distant echoes



Mahir Ali

Israel prides itself, not unreasonably, on its intelligence-gathering capabilities. This applies internationally, with Israeli apps offering the go-to spying software to a range of reprehensible regimes. But within Israel and the Palestinian territories it occupies, it's on a different scale.

The sweeping up of electronic data is supposedly supplemented by informers in every Palestinian organisation. Further, as former UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter puts it, "Gaza is the most photographed place on the planet, and between satellite imagery, drones and CCTV, every square metre of Gaza is estimated to be imaged every 10 minutes."

How Shin Bet and the various military intelligence agencies were apparently clueless in advance about last Saturday's events may perhaps be explained by the Israeli inquiries that inevitably lie ahead. Ritter blames it on an overreliance on AI to sift through massive data troves, and suggests that Palestinian tech warriors worked out how to fool Israeli algorithms. If true, that exposes the inadequacies of state-of-the-art surveillance technology. It has also been reported, though, that Egyptian warnings about Hamas planning "something big" went unheeded, reflecting a parallel with the Yom Kippur war when, 50 years earlier, a joint Egyptian-Syrian attack took Israel by surprise. Back in 1973, the information suggesting

something was in the offing was disregarded because, surely, 'they wouldn't dare'. Israel shortly regained the upper hand with US help, but that war shifted the dynamics in the Middle East. So will the current conflict, even though this time the surprise blow to Israel's arrogance comes not from the largest Arab army, but from a relatively small militant group that controls a festering wound called the Gaza Strip.

But there's another imperfect parallel to be drawn from 80 years ago, when the surviving inmates of what was then the world's largest prison — superseded only by Gaza more than 60 years later — decided to resist the odds. The Warsaw Ghetto had been set up in late 1940 by the Nazi occupiers to incarcerate the Polish capital's Jewish population. It was essentially a way station to Treblinka or other death camps where the hellish process of industrialised mass slaughter was being honed. The fewer than 60,000 Jews who remained in the ghetto by early 1943 resolved they would not take any further deprivations. Despite being infiltrated by informers, they mapped out their response, mostly with improvised weapons, and when the Nazis came for them in April, they fought back almost for a month, the last of them dying when the Germans burned the area down. Jürgen Stroop, the SS commander in charge of the extermination, was later hanged. What's striking is the similarity between the language he used for the Jews, and the words Benjamin Netanyahu and his colleagues are deploying in describing Gaza's imminent fate, with the prime minister talking about reducing the enclave to rubble, and his defence minister, Yoav Gallant, decreeing that "no electricity, no food, no water, no gas" will be allowed into Gaza, because "we are

fighting animals". Such terminology might once have been considered verboten but the Zionist hierarchy has always looked upon the natives of Palestine as Untermenschen — lesser beings — and treated them accordingly. It seems the lesson they learned from the Nazi experience wasn't 'never again, full stop', but rather, 'never again until we are the unchallengeable arbiters of everyone's fate'.

Not surprisingly, that hasn't worked out well for Palestinians since 1948, and the vague promise of the Oslo Accords 45 years later has since been buried alongside the fantasy of a two-state solution. There have been sporadic explosions ever since, and what's surprising about the latest one is that it did not occur in the West Bank, which has lately been the focus of brutalisation under the neo-fascist reincarnation of the Netanyahu regime.

No one can condone the war crimes committed by Hamas after its audacious prison break-out last Saturday. At the same time, no one who condemns them should ignore the state and settler terrorism to which Palestinians are subjected, with no end in sight. Israel will no doubt reclaim the hierarchy in the mathematics of death — at the time of writing, Israeli fatalities apparently outnumbered Palestinian casualties — but what lies beyond is uncertain. Likewise, the international dynamics, stretching from Iran and the Saudis to the US and the moribund Palestinian Authority. What cannot be overlooked, though, is the reminder of the past few days that peace in the Middle East will remain elusive as long as the occupation persists. The so-called international community recognises that much in Ukraine. Whether it can stretch its horizons as far as Palestine remains to be seen. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

SOEs running into losses add to economic woes: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said that the country was facing financial problems and those state owned enterprises (SOEs) which had been incurring losses, were adding to these economic woes. During the meeting, the prime minister expressed his concerns over the delayed decision making with regard to issues of PIA. He stressed upon

briefing over the different issues of PIA. The meeting was attended by Caretaker Minister for Privatization Fawad Hassan Fawad, Adviser to PM Ahad Cheema and other relevant authorities, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the meeting, the prime minister expressed his concerns over the delayed decision making with regard to issues of PIA. He stressed upon

expediting the privatization process of PIA and other SOEs running into losses, adding that their losses could not be met with the public tax money. The caretaker prime minister said that reforms in the aviation sector could bring better facilities to the public. Transparency in the privations process should be ensured, he emphasised, adding fixing of responsibility for the losses was requisite so that necessary

steps should be taken to avoid further losses.

The meeting was apprised of the progress on the financial situation of PIA and its privatization process. All the hurdles in its privatization process were removed, it was further added.

The prime minister directed for accelerating privatization of the national flag carrier to avoid further burden on the national exchequer.



ISLAMABAD: General Manager, China Energy International Group Company, Mr. Wang Huihua met with Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed on Wednesday to discuss matter related to energy sector.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Simon J. Stolp, Practice Manager (Energy & Extractives), World Bank South Asia Region along with his WB team called on Federal Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hasan Fawad.

Rashakai SEZ project vital for industrial uplift: Dr. Aamir

PESHAWAR (APP): Economic Corridor (CPEC) through mutual cooperation. He said that this project would prove to be a milestone for the promotion of industrialization and economic development in the province, while it was the government's effort to provide all facilities to the entrepreneurs and companies setting up industries here.

Gold rates up by Rs. 5,500

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs. 5,500 and was sold at Rs. 205,500 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs. 199,500 the previous day of trading.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs. 4,715 to Rs. 175,754 from Rs. 171,039 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs. 161,108 from Rs. 156,786. The All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

Fawad vows to privatize all loss making SOEs to reduce financial burden

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Privatization Fawad Hassan Fawad here on Wednesday reiterated his government's commitment to privatize all loss-making State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) to reduce financial burden and enhance capabilities, and efficiencies for the sustainable economic development of the country.

He said that current economic conditions were not able to bear further losses of these SOEs, adding that the other objective of the

privatization of such enterprises was to attract potential foreign investment for the development of these enterprises.

Addressing a news conference along with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi, he said that the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar was also briefed about the privatization of such loss-making enterprises including Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

ICCI for re-activation of SME Bank to promote SME sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Wednesday urged the government to re-activate the SME Bank to provide easy financing options to the SME sector as its winding up would deprive SMEs of the affordable credit facility. He said that already SMEs are facing great problems in getting credit

from banks as the SME sector in Pakistan receives only 6-7% of the private sector financing as compared to 25% in Bangladesh and 18% in India. He said that the closure of SME Bank would create more hurdles for SMEs in expansion and growth. He said this while talking to a delegation of employees' unions that called on him led by Zahoore Awan, Chairman, Pakistan.

PTA, SECP sign MoU to promote mutual cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalise mechanisms for information sharing and cooperation between both regulators.

The MoU was signed by Director General PTA, Muddasir Naveed, and Executive Director SECP, Khalida Habib, at a

ceremony held here, according to a press release issued here. Chairman PTA, Maj Gen @ Hafeez Ur Rehman; Chairman SECP, Akif Saeed; Commissioner SECP, Mujtaba Ahmed Lodhi; Member Compliance and Enforcement PTA, Dr. Khawar Siddique Khokhar; and senior officers from both organisations were in attendance. The objective of the MoU is to establish a framework for bilateral cooperation between the PTA and SECP in various areas of mutual interest, encompassing a wide spectrum of initiatives and objectives, including the realisation of a digital society to contribute towards the Government of Pakistan's "Vision 2025"; e-government initiatives; the exchange of information; the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—ICTs as contributors and enablers to achieve respective targets.

Pak, IsDB explore ways to promote economic cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar met the Chairman of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, Dr. Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser in Morocco on Wednesday. According to a press statement issued by the finance ministry, the meeting aimed to foster productive discussions on economic cooperation and development initiatives.

Planning minister, Chinese official discuss energy projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami on Wednesday met with the General Manager of China Energy International Group Limited Wang Huihua and discussed matters pertaining to bilateral relations with a special focus on energy projects. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on exploring new opportunities for cooperation in diverse fields including

energy and green energy, a news release said. The Planning minister appreciated the China Energy International Group Limited's investment efforts in Pakistan, which is working on various projects including Suki Kinari (SK), Neelum-Jhelum and Mohmand Dam projects. Highlighting the importance of all the projects being carried out by the Chinese Energy International Group, Sami Saeed assured the Chinese companies of the government's full support.

KP Caretaker Cabinet approves soft loans for youth, SMEs

PESHAWAR (APP): The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has given in-principle approval for the provision of concessional loans for youth and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the province.

The cost of the Bank of Khyber's additional concessions on the loan schemes with flexible conditions will be covered by the provincial government.

This approval was granted by the caretaker

provincial cabinet in a meeting held the other day with caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan in the chair, according to an official handout issued here on Wednesday.

In addition to the members of the caretaker cabinet and chief secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, the concerned administrative secretaries also participated in the meeting. On this occasion, the representatives of the

Bank of Khyber gave a detailed briefing to the Cabinet about State Bank of Pakistan loans for SMEs and youth, the benefits of the province's participation in such schemes, and the benefits of this initiative of the provincial government. The interest rate will be reduced to zero for youth and institutions taking out loans. The caretaker provincial cabinet also approved the transfer of 2 kanal and six marla of land

for the establishment of a public library in Upper Karam, while it also approved the construction of a judicial complex on 13.5 kanal of land in Sarai Naurang (Lucky Marwat).

The provincial cabinet rejected both the payment of the provincial government's portion of the 155 million dollar loan for the future and the at-source deduction of the 88,673 million dollar debt owed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman posing for a group photo with participants at the Sustainable Development Goals Excellence Awards 2023 ceremony of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali addressing the ceremony of All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association.

Caretaker CM orders recovery of kidnapped SHO, policemen

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar, while taking serious note of the kidnapping of six policemen, including the SHO of Kot Shahu police of District Shikarpur, has ordered their recovery within three days and issuing of explanation to the DIG and SSP concerned.

Expressing his displeasure and dismay, the chief minister said police stations have been made so vulnerable and weak that the dacoits attack them and kidnap policemen easily. "This shows that the police officers who are in command in the districts have failed to control, deliver and perform," he said and added that he had learned that most of the

SSPs did not go to their offices and do the policing sitting at their homes which led to emerge such a shocking situation.

Justice Baqar talked to the IG Police on the telephone and directed him to visit the Shikarpur district and get the kidnapped policemen recovered within three days. "I want you (IG police) to issue explanations to the DIG Larkana and SSP Shikarpur for their failure to strengthen the police station and secure the police."

The CM said that inefficient, ineffective and unwilling police officers must be replaced with efficient officers. "I am sorry to say that as such incidents are earning a bad name for the government and governance".

ANF seizes 49 kg drugs in five operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations managed to recover 49 kg drugs and arrested four accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday.

He informed that in an operation, 38 grams weed was recovered from a parcel sent from UK at the courier office in Chaklala, Rwp.

In a raid in Mianwali, over 2.7 grams of heroin was recovered from a motorcycle. A resident of Mianwali was arrested during the operation.

2 kg hashish concealed in a vehicle was recovered near M-2, Ravi Toll Plaza Lahore. Two accused residents of Khyber were arrested during the operation. 185 narcotic (ecstasy) tablets were recovered from the accused, a resident of Islamabad, near Passport Office Karachi.

AJK minister announces Rs 1,00,000 for District Press Club Hattian Bala

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): The Minister of the government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Javed Ayub, has pledged Rs 1,00,000 from the Annual Development Program (ADP) to allocate fund for the construction of the District Press Club Hattian Bala building. He made this announcement while addressing a press conference in Hattian Bala here Wednesday. Prominent local political figures, including

Sahibzada Muhammad Ashfaq Zafar Advocate, Central Senior Vice President of Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir, and Raja Parvez Iqbal Advocate, District President of Pakistan People's Party Jhelum Valley and others were present on the occasion.

Sardar Javed Ayub acknowledged the efforts of Sahibzada Muhammad Ashfaq Zafar Advocate for initiating the construction of the District Press Club.

Govt striving to provide equal educational opportunities to females: Mushaal Mullick

FAISALABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights & Women's Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Wednesday said that women were sharing 54 percent population of the country and the government was striving hard to provide equal educational opportunities to this segment for greater national interest.

She was addressing a seminar on "harmony unbound fostering peace for marginalized

communities and minorities" at Government College University Faisalabad (GCUF) here.

She said that the best educational facilities were being provided in educational institutions so that the young generation could play their active role in national progress and prosperity.

She said that there should be no discrimination between the rich and the poor but talent matters in all issues and achievements.

Therefore, the

talented people should come forward to expedite the pace of national development, she added.

Expressing concern over latest situation in Palestine and Gaza, she said that world class leaders of all religions should play their role to control the situation.

She strongly condemned whatsoever happened in Palestine and said that Israel had demolished schools and hospitals and more than one lakh people had so far lost their lives in this war.

France to organize the 2nd edition of "Choose France Pakistan - Education Tour" in Lahore, Karachi

Independent Report
KARACHI: Following the success of the first edition in Lahore and Islamabad, the "Choose France Pakistan - Education Tour" is back in 2023 to explore Lahore and Karachi. The program includes a wide range of fields such as management, engineering, humanities, finance, business and sciences. Eleven top-notch French universities are part of the delegation, such as Sciences Po Paris, Centrale Nantes, and EDHEC.

"Choose France Pakistan-Education Tour" is a government initiative from France, organized by the French Embassy in Paki-

stan, Campus France Pakistan, and their local partners, to promote studying in France.

The 2 Education fairs to be organized in Lahore on October 17 and in Karachi on October 19, will give the opportunity to students to interact directly with French universities, learn more about the 1700 programs taught in English at the Bachelor and Master levels, and get details about the 183 scholarship programs available for Pakistani students. This year, four French business schools are part of the delegation.

According to the latest Financial Times world rankings, French business

schools are still topping the ranking. For example, the four best Masters in Finance Pre-experience 2023 is French; among the five best Masters in Management 2023, three are French, including the one ranked No. 1.

For MBA and Executive Education, a French institution is ranked in the top position: INSEAD, an institution with a large alumni network in Pakistan. During this "Choose France Pakistan - Education Tour", French delegates will also visit Pakistani universities to discuss partnership opportunities to strengthen the academic cooperation between France and Paki-

stan in the area of business & management, sciences & engineering, and social & political sciences.

Campus France is a French public organization under the umbrella of the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, which provides official and free counseling and support to international students who are looking forward to pursuing higher studies in France. In Pakistan, Campus France is officially represented in Islamabad and Lahore; the office in Karachi is to be opened in 2024. To contact Campus France Pakistan,

visit the website <https://www.pakistan.campusfrance.org/> or send an email to political@campusfrance.org

List of French universities includes Sciences and Engineering: EPITA, ESTP, Centrale Nantes, IMT Atlantique, Université de Nantes/Polytech Nantes - Business and Management: EDHEC, ESDS, IESEG, KEDGE. Social sciences and humanities Sciences Po Paris

Practical information: Schedule of the Education fairs: Lahore on 17 October at FAST-NUCES campus, from 1.00 pm to 6.00 pm; Karachi on 19 October at Avari Towers Hotel, from 1.00 pm to 6.00 pm.

International News

Under heavy bombing, Palestinians in Gaza move from place to place, only to discover nowhere is safe

Monitoring Desk
GAZA CITY: Over 180,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are packed into U.N. shelters as Israeli warplanes pound the tiny territory of 2.3 million people after their Hamas militant rulers launched an unprecedented weekend attack on Israel. Among them is 27-year-old Sabreen al-Attar. She sprang into action when she heard rocket after rocket whoosh over her farmland in Beit Lahiya just south of the Israeli border on Saturday. She knew from experience that Israeli retaliation would be swift and severe.

Grabbing her children, al-Attar rushed to one of the dozens of shelters set up in schools run by the U.N. agency for Palestin-

ian refugees in Gaza City. There, blasts of unprecedented intensity punctuated hours of steadily declining conditions Monday as food and water ran out.

"When I escape, I do it for my children," she said, her hands trembling. "Their lives rest on my shoulders."

But residents say there is no real escape in Gaza, which has been under a suffocating 16-year blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt. When war breaks out, as it has four times since the Hamas militant group seized power in 2007, even U.N. facilities that are supposed to be safe zones risk becoming engulfed in the fighting. The United Nations said that an airstrike directly hit one of its shelters Sunday and

damaged five other school-turned-shelters on Monday. There was no immediate word of casualties.

In the downtown Rimal area, Gaza City's bustling commercial district with high-rises home to international media and aid organizations, al-Attar hoped she would be safe. Rimal had until then not been an immediate Israeli target, unlike border towns or densely populated refugee camps.

But as the Israeli military went neighborhood to neighborhood with rapid and intensifying airstrikes, the heavy bombardments reached the heart of Gaza City, transforming the affluent neighborhood into an uninhabitable desert of craters.



A dove flies over the debris of houses destroyed in Israeli strikes, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

As another 6.3 magnitude quake hits, Afghanistan lowers toll from earlier tremors to 1,000

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: Afghan authorities on Wednesday significantly lowered the death toll from a series of quakes that struck western Herat at the weekend to around 1,000.

The Taliban government had originally said over 2,000 people had been killed in Saturday's magnitude 6.3 quake, centred on rural communities northwest of Herat city. The initial quake was followed by a series of powerful aftershocks.

Public Health Minis-

ter Qalandar Ebad on Wednesday lowered the toll to around 1,000, attributing the confusion to the remoteness of the area and double reporting by agencies involved in the rescue effort. "We have over 1,000 people martyred from the first incident," Ebad told reporters in Kabul.

Another earthquake of magnitude 6.3 struck on Wednesday morning in the same area, where thousands were spending a fourth night in the open.

The quake occurred at a shallow depth at around

5:10am local time (12:40am GMT), with its epicentre about 29 kilometres north of the city of Herat, the United States Geological Survey said. "It's horrible, the whole of Herat is terrified," said 32-year-old Abdul Qudos. "We are so scared that even when we see the trees moving (in the wind), we think it's another earthquake coming."

At least one person was killed and 120 injured by the latest quake, said Abdul Zahir Noorzai, ambulance manager for Herat Regional Hospital.

Jordan's king says no stability in region without Palestinian state

Monitoring Desk
AMMAN: Jordan's King Abdullah said on Wednesday no peace was possible in the Middle East without the emergence of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.

The latest violence - which broke out when Hamas militants assaulted Israel at the weekend - showed the region would not "enjoy stability, security or peace" without a sovereign Palestinian state on land that Israel had captured in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, he said. A two-state solution was the

only option, the monarch told deputies in a speech at the opening of a new parliamentary session.

"Our region will never be secure nor stable without achieving just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the two-state solution," the monarch said.

A two-state solution has long been the bedrock of international peacemaking efforts, but the process has been moribund for years and the possibility of it happening has dimmed even before the renewed bloodshed.



Jordan's King Abdullah II speaks at the opening of a new parliamentary session in Amman, Jordan.

Ukraine President Zelenskyy at NATO defense ministers meeting seeking more support to fight Russia

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: For the first time, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy joined a meeting of more than 50 defense leaders from around the world Wednesday to make a personal pitch for military aid, in the face of lagging political support in the U.S. and new pressure on allies to send weapons to bolster Israel's war with Hamas.

His presence underscored growing concerns about cracks in what has been staunch international backing for Kyiv in its war against Russia's invasion, and worries that Ukrainian forces haven't made measurable progress in the counteroffensive, as winter closes in. "Next Monday, we will mark the 600th day of

our resistance to Russia's full scale aggression against our people, against Ukraine. And today, no one can say for sure how many more days we will have to defend our independence and to defend our identity," Zelenskyy told the gathering as they opened the meeting. "But we can already say several things which I think are important. First, Putin will not achieve Ukraine. Second, Russia cannot afford a new arms race. And third, democracy can win this battle."

The meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, hosted by the U.S., comes as Ukraine is desperately seeking more weapons to help its troops regain ground from Russian forces before the muddy weather sets in.



Medical personnel attend a wounded victim after earthquake in Herat.

Germany to send \$1.1 billion in air defense tech, plus more tanks

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: Germany will send about €1 billion (U.S. \$1.1 billion) worth of air defense systems to Ukraine as part of a second "winter package" for the embattled country, the German Defence Ministry said in a statement Tuesday.

The support will include a Patriot air defense system and two IRIS-T surface-to-air systems, as

well as 10 more Leopard 1 A5 main battle tanks, three Gepard anti-aircraft guns, armored trucks and ambulances, in addition to more than €20 million in kit specifically for Ukraine's special forces. The latest support follows a €400 million package for Ukraine announced in September that included ammunition, mine-resistant combat vehicles and drones.

US talking to Israel, Egypt about safe passage for Gaza civilians: White House

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The U.S. is talking with Israel and Egypt about the idea of a safe passage for Gaza civilians as Israel strikes the enclave after a deadly Hamas attack over the weekend, U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan said on Tuesday.

29 killed in army strike on refugee camp in Myanmar

Monitoring Desk
BANGKOK: Twenty-nine people were killed and dozens wounded in a military strike on a camp for displaced people in northern Myanmar, a spokesman for an ethnic rebel group that controls the area said on Tuesday. Myanmar's junta has been accused of carrying out multiple bloody attacks on civilian targets as it struggles to quell resistance to its 2021 coup.

The latest attack happened around 11:30pm on Monday (1700 GMT),

Colonel Naw Bu of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) said.

"We found 29 dead bodies including children and older people... 56 people were wounded," he said, adding they were investigating what kind of strike had hit the camp.

"We did not hear any aircraft," he noted, saying they were looking into whether the military had used a drone to target the camp near the town of Laiza, on the Chinese border.

Hezbollah says US is 'responsible' for attacks in Israel

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group on Wednesday blasted the United States for its support of Israel, saying that sending an aircraft carrier to the region "will not scare our people or the resistance movements that are ready for the confrontation."

Hezbollah said that the U.S. "is a full partner of the Zionist aggression and is responsible for the killings, crimes, siege, the destruction of homes and horrifying crimes against innocent civilians."

OIC's special envoy asks India to reverse illegal change of Jammu & Kashmir's status

ISLAMABAD (APP): Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Special Envoy on Jammu and Kashmir, Yousef M Al-Dobeay on Wednesday demanded India to reverse its illegal and unilateral action of changing the autonomous status of J&K and grant the people of the valley their due rights.

In a joint press statement along with Foreign Secretary Syrus Sajjad Qazi here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the visiting OIC envoy said the OIC would continue to support Kashmiris for their right to self-determination.

The OIC's Special Envoy is in Pakistan and will also visit Azad Jammu and Kashmir to undertake a first-hand assessment of the human rights and the humanitarian situation in the valley.

Yousef Al-Dobeay expressed concern over the illegal and unilateral actions taken by India on August 5, 2019, that turned the

Kashmiris into a marginalized minority.

He said his visit to AJ&K was about getting knowledge about the factual and on-ground situation in the valley ahead of the upcoming 15th OIC Islamic Summit to be held in Gambia this December.

He mentioned that Jammu and Kashmir was an old agenda at the platform of OIC, where the organization from time to time strongly condemned the human rights situation in the Indian-held Kashmir.

The OIC envoy recalled that the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir that met on the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September reaffirmed the inalienable right to self-determination of the people of J&K.

He said the meeting also expressed deep concern over the persistent curbs on the fundamental rights and freedom of the people in

Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The OIC envoy appreciated the government of Pakistan in highlighting the issue of Jammu and Kashmir at the international forum and expressed the OIC's resolve of its continued support to the cause.

Foreign Secretary Syrus Sajjad Qazi said the meeting with the OIC envoy focused on a comprehensive discussion on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and the ongoing human rights violations committed by India in IIOJK.

He said the OIC envoy will visit the Line of Control (LoC) where he will receive a briefing on the on-ground situation. He would also interact with the Kashmiri representatives to gain a better understanding of their plight, he added.

The foreign secretary mentioned that OIC's Special Envoy on Jammu & Kashmir was tasked with a significant mission.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Farooq Ahmed Naek, Chairman Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and members of the Committee in a group photo with a delegation led by Ambassador Yousef Mohammed S. Aldobeay, Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs/Special Envoy of the OIC Secretary General for Jammu and Kashmir at Parliament House.

Solangi says:

CPEC bolsters people-to-people contacts between Pakistan-China

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi Wednesday said the launch of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had not only deepened the economic cooperation between the two brotherly countries but also bolstered people-to-people contacts in a remarkable way.

"Over 28,000 Pakistani students were currently studying in China. This aspect of cooperation is of prime importance in the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative," the minister said while addressing the Art Exhibition & Cultural Show at Pakistan

National Council of Arts.

Since the launch of CPEC, he said people-to-people connectivity between Pakistan and China had soared to new heights.

In Pakistan, the minister said the number of Chinese language learners was growing exponentially with the establishment of Confucius institutes in top universities like the University of Punjab, NUML University and others. Likewise, Pakistani students also visited Chinese universities on Chinese government scholarships to learn Chinese language and do professional degrees/diplomas, he added.

He said similarly artists from Pakistan and

China frequently exchanged visits to showcase their artwork in each other's countries through art exhibitions.

In the Joint Statement of the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (2022), he said both sides reiterated the importance of people-to-people contacts, tourism cooperation and cultural exchanges for strong bilateral relations. Building on the MoU on Tourism Exchanges and Cooperation signed in November 2021, Solangi said the two sides agreed to celebrate the Pakistan-China Year of Tourism Exchanges in 2023 and to establish strong linkages between the tourism.

Minister for providing basic facilities in schools prior to curriculum reforms

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister of Federal Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhvi on Wednesday said that curriculum reform cannot be effective until basic facilities in all public schools across Pakistan are provided.

While addressing the opening session of the National Curriculum Summit held here, Mr Madad Ali Sindhvi lauded the efforts of the NCC towards its role of coordination among the federating units.

He expressed satisfaction with the completed tasks of the National Curriculum of Pakistan (NCP).

The Federal Minister praised the role of provincial governments' stakeholders in upholding the cause of quality education for all children of the nation by championing international standards in curriculum reforms.

He further said the caretaker government will take all possible steps for the improvement of education in the country.

The summit was organized by the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives.

Education experts from public, private, non-government, and development sectors participated in the summit.

Mr Madad Ali Sindhvi ensured that the initiatives regarding the development of the curriculum standards for a range of elective subjects and streamlining technical education across the country will continue in coordination with the stakeholders across the country.



KARACHI: President Sindh Premier League Arif Malik meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori.

To support breast cancer awareness drive President writes letters to Caretaker PM, Governors, Chief Ministers

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has written letters to Caretaker Prime Minister, Caretaker Ministers, Governors and Caretaker Chief Ministers, seeking their cooperation over the breast cancer awareness drive and wearing of pink ribbon during the month of October.

The president also sent letters to President and Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Senators and Governor and Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan in this regard, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Wednesday.

He said that the month of October was dedicated every year to create awareness about breast cancer.

The president observed that their cooperation over public awareness would yield tangible results. With public awareness, they could play their parts in transforming a healthy and well-aware society.

He said breast cancer in Pakistan caused about 40,000 deaths every year which was the highest ratio in Asia, adding delayed diagnosis was the main cause of these deaths.

Dist Accounts Officers directed to dispose of pending cases on merit

LARKANA (APP): Inspector General Treasuries Sindh Ghulam Murtaza Shaikh has directed the District Accounts Officers that the pending cases should be disposed of quickly on merit so that people do not face any kind of inconvenience.

He was addressing an open Court (Khuli Kachehri) held at Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto Memorial Library, Larkana on Wednesday on pension and other related issues of government employees, retired employees and pensioners and issued directives for resolving them.

He warned if any complaints were received in writing against the officers and staff creating undue problems for the government employees, retired employees and pensioners in the District Accounts Office, they should be inquired into so that legal action could be taken against them.

In the open conversation, various people including retired employees and pensioners complained and said that the issue of our family pension is pending in the treasury office, on which the Inspector General of Treasuries took information from the District Accounts Officer.



KARACHI: Participants are holding Breast Cancer Awareness Walk during campaign organized by Karachi Institute of Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine Cancer Hospital, held hospital premises in Karachi.

340 million women, girls to endure extreme poverty hardships: Antonio

ISLAMABAD (APP): UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said that halfway to the 2030 deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), "the world is failing girls."

In his message on the International Day of the Girl Child, he said "On current trends, the end of child marriage is 300 years away. If nothing changes, by 2030, 110 million young women and girls who should be in classrooms, won't be."

Some 340 million women and girls will still endure the grinding hardships of extreme poverty, he added.

Old forms of discrimination against girls continue and in some cases are getting worse, he observed. Citing an example, he said girls in Afghanistan are unable to exercise their most basic rights and freedoms, confined to their homes with no hope of education or economic independence.

According to Antonio Guterres new forms of bias and inequality are emerging. "The digital divide means many girls are excluded from the online world."

He noted, that around the world, girls are fighting back – confronting sexual abuse.



ISLAMABAD: H.E. Mr. Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China calls on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

US Ambassador calls attention to acute malnutrition emergency in Sindh

ISLAMABAD (Online): One year after Pakistan's devastating 2022 floods, millions of Pakistanis still need urgent support. As UNICEF reported, more than 1.5 million children require lifesaving nutrition interventions; floods damaged vital infrastructure, including 30,000 schools, 2,000 health facilities, and 4,300 water systems; and access to safe drinking water and sanitation remains worryingly low.

As demonstrated by

Ambassador Blome's fourth trip to Sindh on October 10-11, the United States is still hard at work – helping the poorest, hardest hit parts of Pakistan rebuild and recover. Specifically, the United States is helping Pakistan meet urgent needs in the areas of education, water, and health care.

During his trip, the Ambassador celebrated the opening of the 100th school constructed as part of the Sindh Basic Education Program.

DC visits Special Education Center, sweet home, Thalassaemia Center Nawabshah

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Zahid Hussain Rind on Wednesday visited Special Education Center, Sweet Home and Thalassaemia Center and took view of facilities there.

During the visit to the Special Education Center, DC said that special attention is required for special children and for that purpose the rehabilitation centre for special children shall perform an active role in this regard so that these children could be made a beneficial citizen of society.

On the occasion Regional Director Special Education Center Ghulam Murtaza Channar informed DC about the education facilities for special children available at Special Education Centers. During the visit to Sweet Home, DC met with the resident children and distributed gifts among them. DC said that Pakistan Baitul Mal is doing the best job by taking care of unsupported and orphaned children. He vowed that district administration would extend all possible assistance to Sweet Home.



KARACHI: Ex-Sindh Governor Muhammad Zubair, Convener Nawaz Sharif welcome committee Bashir Memon talking to media persons at Karachi Press Club.

Crackdown on illegal exchange markets boosts remittances in September

KARACHI (INP): Remittances sent by overseas Pakistanis stood at \$2.20 billion in September, a six-month high, mainly due to operations against illegal exchange markets and reference handi.

According to media reports, the crackdown has forced overseas Pakistanis to send remittances through legal channels, leading to expectations of an improvement in the current account deficit, but remittances remain lower than market expectations.

Experts had expected remittances to be between \$2.30 billion and \$2.50 billion in September. The State Bank data showed that remittances increased by 5

percent in September compared to August, from \$2.09 billion to \$2.20 billion.

The largest source of remittances was Saudi Arabia, followed by the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, and other countries.

This trend of increasing remittances is expected to continue in the future. However, remittances declined by 11% year-on-year to \$2.20 billion from \$2.48 billion in September last year. Total remittances during the first quarter of the current fiscal year declined by 20 percent to \$6.33 billion from \$7.89 billion in the same quarter last year.

Cabinet gives green signal for auction of 5G spectrum: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif Wednesday said that the Federal Cabinet has given the green signal for the auction of the much-anticipated 5G spectrum.

Dr. Saif in a statement said that a Spectrum Auction Advisory Committee, led by the finance minister, had been established to oversee the impending spectrum auction.

He said that this committee included members from the Ministry of Information Technology, Telecommunication and the Ministry of Industries and Production.

World Bank delegation calls on Chairman WAPDA

ISLAMABAD (APP): A four-member World Bank delegation, headed by South Asia Region Practice Manager for Energy Simon Stlop on Wednesday called on Chairman WAPDA Engr Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd).

The delegation was briefed about progress on the World Bank-funded WAPDA projects, which included the Dasu Hydropower Project, the Tarbela 5th Extension Hydropower Project and Tarbela Floating Solar Panel Project, said a press release.

The operation and performance of the World Bank-funded Tarbela 4th Extension Hydropower Project was also discussed during the meeting.

PIA offers 15% discount on tickets from Toronto to Pak

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has announced 15% discount on tickets for passengers coming from Toronto, Canada. The offer is valid for bookings made between October 3 and 15, 2023, and travel must be completed between January 1 and March 31, 2024.

The discount is available on all PIA flights from Toronto to Pakistan, including direct flights to Lahore and Islamabad. The offer is valid for all classes of travel, including economy, business, and first class.

To book a ticket at the discounted rate, passengers can visit the PIA website or contact their local PIA office.

Woman dies in road accident in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A woman was killed in a road accident near Sindh Government Hospital in Korangi No 5 area of Karachi on Tuesday night.

According to eye-witnesses, the woman was crossing the road near Sindh Government Hospital when she was hit by a speeding motorcycle due to which she died on the spot.

Police and rescue teams reached the spot and shifted the dead body to hospital. According to police, the deceased was identified as Amna.

Plantation basic need of our society: DC

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Divisional Commissioner Mirpurkhas Faisal Ahmed Aqeli said on Wednesday that plantation is a basic need of our society to keep the environment clean and green.

He expressed these views while planting saplings in connection with the planting campaign after inaugurating the drinking water tank installed with the support of the Pak Green Foundation in Ibne Rushd Government Girls College Mirpurkhas.

He directed the College Principal Professor Tamkeen Fatima to ensure a better environment for the promotion of quality education for the better future of girls in the college.

Over 130 countries to participate in BRF to be held in Beijing next week: Chinese CG

KARACHI (APP): The Consul General (CG) of the People's Republic of China Yang Yundong visited the office of All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) here in Gulistan-e-Jauhar on Wednesday.

Addressing a program organized in his honour, Yang Yundong said the 3rd Belt and Road Forum (BRF) will be held in Beijing on October 17 and 18 in which more than 130 countries and over 30 international organizations have committed to participate.

The Chinese Consul General said the Belt and Road Forum under the theme of "High-quality Belt and Road Cooperation: Together for Common Development and Prosperity will provide an opportunity for progress and development of the region and the globe. The Consul General said in March 2013, President Xi Jinping proposed the vision of a global community of a shared future; in September and October of that year, he raised the initiatives of joining with others to build a Silk Road Economic Belt and a 21st Century Maritime Silk Road (This is the Belt and Road Initiative, or BRI).

The BRI is a creative development that takes on and carries forward the spirit of the ancient silk routes.



KARACHI: View of site after under-construction building collapse incident as rescue operation is underway, at Shah Faisal Colony area in Karachi.

3 dead, several injured as under-construction building collapses

KARACHI (APP): At least three people were killed and four labourers received serious injuries when an under-construction building in Shah Faisal Colony collapsed here on Wednesday morning.

According to Rescue 1122 officials, the incident happened near Qadri Masjid in Shah Faisal Colony No.5 in the morning and rescue workers shifted dead bodies and injured persons to Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre.

Local Police said that the building was under construction and Police and Rescue officials had reached the site of the incident.

Peoples Bus Service a sigh of relief for commuters

HYDERABAD (APP): Peoples Bus Service was making a significant impact on the commuters irked by decades-old auto rickshaws and Suzuki pickups plying in the city and transforming the city's public transportation system.

The first route of the PBS in Hyderabad was covering 15 kilometres from Hyder Chowk to Hatri Police station and 15 bus stops were established on this route. The buses running from Hyder Chowk to Gul Centre, Thandi Sadak, Agriculture Complex, Wahdat Colony, Sindh Museum, Qasim Chowk, Jail Road, Isra Hospital, and terminate at Hattri Police Station charging fare at Rs 50. Meanwhile, a new route within the Peoples Bus Service network had also been initiated in Hyderabad, starting from Hala Naka, Detha Station to Tando Jam Kesana Mori area. This nominal fare structure has made Bus Service accessible to a large number of passengers.



LARKANA: Political Secretary to Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Jameel Ahmed Soomro addresses to media persons during press conference, held at Larkana press club.