

Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 05, No. 284 Rabi-ul-Awwal 27, 1445 AH Saturday October 14, 2023 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

Caretaker PM says No talks with TTP; state powerful enough to fight them even for 100 years

Vows to wipe out all anti-state elements from country; All available resources to be utilized to improve security situation

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday ruling out any talks with Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), said that state of Pakistan was powerful enough to fight them even for next 100 years.

"Don't you see that their people are being killed on daily basis. Our people are also being martyred. So what kind of talks or impediments (you are talking about)? They are killing my children and I am killing them..."

The state of Pakistan is so powerful to fight TTP, not just one year rather 100 years," the prime minister

told the media during his visit to Peshawar.

Caretaker KP Chief Minister Azam Khan and Governor Haji Ghulam Ali were also present. Asked what were the impediments in talks with TTP, the prime minister said the biggest obstacle was that no one was willing to talk to them.

"We don't want to talk to them. Who told you that we have any intention to talk with TTP?" he remarked.

Prime Minister Kakar, who earlier offered Fateha and laid wreath at the grave of former FC Commandant Shaheed Sifwat Ghayur said, "If you want me to

announce the same in North Waziristan or South Waziristan, take me there. Keep in mind, I may die but not Pakistan."

Rubbishing the notions of any registered Afghan refugees being expelled from Pakistan, the prime minister said only the foreigners living illegally in Pakistan were being ousted.

He said through such measures, Pakistan did not want to undermine its relationship with Afghanistan rather desired to have the ties based on international standards in which the movement of the people would be subject to the visas.



PESHAWAR: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar talks to media men and a delegation of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Police start collecting data on illegal immigrants to repatriate them

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar, presiding over a meeting, approved the medical insurance policy of all the policemen against over Rs 1 billion and issued directives for strengthening and renovating all the police stations.

He took this decision while presiding over a meeting to review the progress of the implementation of decisions taken in the Special APEX Committee meeting held on October 6, 2023, at CM House.

The meeting was attended by Minister Home Brig (ret'd) Haris Nawaz, Minister Law Omar Soomro, Chief Secretary Dr Fakhr-e Alam, PSCM Hassan Naqvi, Home Secretary Iqbal Memon, IG Police Riffat Mukhtar, Secretary Finance Kazim Jatoti, and Adl IG Karachi Khadim Rind, DIGs.

Home Secretary Iqbal Memon briefed the chief

minister about the implementation status of the Special Apex Committee decisions. He said that the Provincial, Divisional, and District Implementation Committees have been notified in pursuance of the Ministry of Interior policy on the 'Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan.'

The decisions taken in the 1st meeting of the Provincial Implementation Committee held on October 12, 2023 are as follows:

The Special Branch (SB) is designated as the lead agency for the implementation of the repatriation plan. It would identify the localities, including business areas, with the help of the other law enforcement agencies (LEA).

The Special Branch would ascertain illegal foreigners through effective ground check-in. The areas identified would be targeted. The Divisional and District Implementation Committees would also

Govt. warns illegal residents of 'no compromise' after deportation deadline

Bugti reiterates policy to expel illegal immigrants was not restricted to Afghan nationals

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti Friday warned illegal immigrants in Pakistan to leave the country by the November 1 deportation deadline or the state would show "no compromise" in taking action against them.

The interim government had earlier this month ordered all illegal immigrants, including 1.73 million Afghan nationals, to leave the country or face expulsion after revealing that 14 of 24 suicide bombings in the country this year were carried out by Afghan nationals.

"In the meetings about the expulsion of Afghan refugees, all stakeholders were present. In that meeting, it was decided that a grace period should be given them," the minister

said in a statement, claiming that some people also told authorities that some immigrants wished to return voluntarily.

The interim security czar reiterated that the policy to expel illegal immigrants was not restricted to Afghan nationals, but all those who do not have the required documentation for residing in Pakistan.

"People, no matter which nationality they belong to, will not be troubled if they have a valid visa and other required documentation. We're just [planning to] expel illegal immigrants," he added.

Thousands of Afghan nationals have started leaving Pakistan after the government announced the deadline, with some citing economic conditions behind their decision to leave.



ISLAMABAD: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori on Friday met Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas.

Governor urges Muslim Ummah to resolve Palestine issue

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Friday met Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas in federal capital.

According to a Governor House communique here, in the meeting, measures to improve Pakistan's image, Pakistan's position on the Palestine issue and other matters of mutual interests were discussed.

The governor said that Pakistan's position on Kashmir and Palestine was very clear, urging the Muslim Ummah to try to resolve problem of Palestine.

President confers Nishan-e-Imtiaz (M) to Naval Chief

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Dr. Arif Alvi conferred Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) on newly appointed Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Friday.

The investiture ceremony was held at Aiwan-e-Sadar in Islamabad. Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar ul Haq Kakar also participated in the ceremony.

OIC envoy on Kashmir visits LoC; supports Pakistan's stance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Envoy of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Secretary General for Jammu and Kashmir Ambassador Yousef Muhammad Saleh Aldobey on Friday visited Chakothi (Line of Control) and Muzaffarabad. He was accompanied by a high level delegation from brotherly Muslim countries including Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Sudan.

Upon arrival at Muzaffarabad, the delegation laid wreath at J&K Monument. The delegation members also visited Mankpiyan Refugees Camp Muzaffarabad where they were briefed on elaborate measures taken for socioeconomic well being of the inhabitants who fled from Indian atrocities in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The delegation interacted with the victims continued ceasefire violations (CFV) and was briefed on situation along the LOC.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi conferring the award of Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) upon the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, at a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Saudi Arabia identifies 12,000 Afghans traveling on fake Pakistani passports

ISLAMABAD (INP): Over 12,000 Afghans have been found traveling on fake Pakistani passports, prompting the Ministry of Interior to form a high-level committee to investigate the matter and take action against those involved.

According to media reports, Saudi Arabia has identified 12 thousand Afghans traveling on Pakistani passports, on which the Ministry of Interior has formed a high-level committee to investigate the matter by taking action on the issuance of fake passports to more than twelve thousand Afghans.

The committee, which includes representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs, FIA, and sensitive agencies, will identify those issuing fake passports and prepare a list of those involved, following which action will be taken against all such elements.

Sources said that Pakistani passports have been issued to Afghans from passport centers across the country. The investigation is ongoing, and further details are expected to be released soon.

Military official appointment in NAB to tight circle against corruption

ISLAMABAD (Online): Circle tighten against corrupt elements, serving military and military officers have been appointed in NAB.

After the approval of the Prime Minister, the Establishment Division has issued a notification.

According to the separate notification issued by Brigadier Muhammad Khalid has been appointed as Director and Lt. Col. Nadeem Muzaffar as Additional Director of NAB.

The notification for the appointment of the Establishment Division has been issued after the approval of the Prime Minister.

According to NAB sources, the purpose of appointing the serving military officers in the institution is to appoint competent and honest officers to eliminate corruption from the country, who can conduct inquiries against corrupt elements without fear or danger.

Sindh Govt to observe Oct 27 as Black Day to condemn illegal occupation of Kashmir

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Government has decided to observe October 27 as Black Day to condemn the illegal Occupation of Jammu and Kashmir by Indian forces, in violation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution.

In response to a letter of the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, the Sindh Chief Secretary has been pleased to assent to organize the events at provincial, divisional, district and Tehsil levels to observe 27 October as Black Day across the province.

The Director General PID, Sindh Information Department and relevant officers were directed to coordinate local administration and media outlets to ensure proper coverage of these events.

Sanjrani commends Pak Navy's exemplary professionalism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Friday emphasized that the indelible contributions of the Pakistan Navy in safeguarding the country's maritime boundaries would be etched in golden letters in the annals of the nation's history.

He said this during a meeting with Rear Admiral Javed Iqbal (HI), distinguished with the Hilal Imtiaz Military award, led the 53rd staff course delegation comprising faculty and administrative personnel from Naval War College Lahore during their visit to the Parliament House.

The meeting took place at the Parliament House where Sadiq Sanjrani engaged with Rear Admiral Javed Iqbal in productive discussions concerning

President has no powers to pardon punishments of Hudud crimes: IIC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamic Ideological Council (IIC) has made it clear that president is empowered under article 145 of the constitution to pardon or reduce the punishment but according to the Holy Quran and Sunnah he is not authorized to pardon punishment of Hudud crimes.

According to IIC spokesperson the statement attributed to Dr Qibla Ayaz regarding the constitutional powers of the president for pardoning punishment is being presented on certain news channels, websites and in what's app groups out of context.

Nawaz Sharif ended menace of terrorism: Shehbaz Sharif

SHEIKHUPURA (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif on Friday praised former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, saying the latter had ended the menace of terrorism.

Addressing the public gathering in Sheikhupura, Shehbaz said: "During the tenure of Nawaz Sharif, the prices of sugar were Rs52 per kg and petrol was Rs105 per litre."

Shehbaz Sharif recounted the ouster of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, saying, "Former president Gen Pervez Musharraf had toppled the government of Nawaz Sharif by enforcing the martial law."

He credited Nawaz Sharif for addressing the issues in connection with the power outage, saying, "The country was witnessing 20-hour loadshedding. But due to the utter dedication of Nawaz Sharif, the issue of power outages was addressed successfully."

PML-N Chief Organizer Maryam Nawaz said that former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's role will be vital in a bid to control the inflation in the country.

Maryam Nawaz held a meeting with the members of the union council of NA-134. On this occasion, matters in line with the preparations for welcoming Nawaz Sharif to the country were reviewed.

Sanjrani commends Pak Navy's exemplary professionalism

professional matters concerning the Pakistan Navy and topics of mutual interest.

He, acknowledging the exemplary professionalism exhibited by the officers and personnel of the Pakistan Navy, commended their valour in creating enduring stories of bravery that resonate with the nation. He emphasized their immense value as vital assets to the nation.

Highlighting the steadfastness and resolve of the Pakistan Navy akin to the Army and Air Force, he underscored their historical response to enemy aggression, fortifying our maritime borders.

The discussion also encompassed contemporary challenges and technological advancements occurring on a global scale.



MUZAFFARABAD: Special Envoy of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Secretary General for Jammu & Kashmir, His Excellency Ambassador Yousef Muhammad Saleh Aldobey laid floral wreath at J&K Monument during his visit to Chakothi (LOC) and Muzaffarabad along with High level delegation from brotherly Muslim countries including KSA and Sudan.

**REPATRIATION OF
ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

**DAYS
REMAINING**

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Caretaker contracts

Are the lines blurring between the responsibilities of a caretaker government and the mandate of elected assemblies?

In August, the ECP banned the granting of NOCs to new housing societies in Punjab. It also reminded the interim chief minister that such policies exceed the authority of a caretaker set-up.

On Wednesday, the provincial interim government approved amendments to the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961, to include the "oath of finality of Prophethood [PBUH] in the marriage registration form".

The Lahore High Court issued directives for revisions in the nikah form during the hearing of a writ petition. Subsequently, a joint resolution by the provincial assembly solicited the insertion of the "Khatm-i-Nabuwat oath" in the nikahnama.

Caretaker governments are watched with scepticism so even a slight slip-up ignites flak. Their prime function is to hold the fort; from the dissolution of the assemblies, through the run-up to free and fair elections, and ending with the swearing in of a new, elected dispensation.

They should also execute routine governance and ensure smooth, impartial continuity in matters of the state. For this reason, interim systems impinge on the authority of an elected legislature when they engage with long-term issues.

Instead, the relevant authorities would do well to prioritise women-centric progress.

Take a diagnostic study of Punjab, which found that a resounding 60pc of nikahnamas, registered from 2016 to 2022, were incomplete, or that the bride's CNIC number was absent in 48pc of marriage contracts.

Therefore, the time is now to steer away from policymaking and move towards emancipation and empowerment of women with a greater understanding and participation in the nikahnama so that their socioeconomic rights are unequivocally settled.

Deadly culture wars



Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

It has been almost 50 years since the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delivered a speech on the floor of the UN General Assembly imploring the world to end the Israeli occupation and deliver peace to all of the region's people.

Until the early 1990s, the oppressed peoples of the world were still relatively unified and hopeful. In 1994, South Africa's brutal apartheid regime was tossed into the dustbin of history, Nelson Mandela — once branded a 'terrorist' in the 'civilised world' — made the leader of a new multi-racial polity.

But the 1990s also marked the end of 20th-century socialism and the onset of 'culture wars' afflicting almost every part of the world today. Put simply, ideas of liberation and emancipation have become increasingly limited to the concerns of one's own specific identity groups rather than the cause of all oppressed peoples.

The Palestinians are amongst the biggest victims of this rightward shift. Today, they are subject to an ever more genocidal policy of apartheid, while the narrative of the intellectual and political mainstream is framed almost exclusively around Israeli 'victims' and Palestinian 'terrorists'.

The 'war on terror' is a big reason for why such framing is commonplace. While such binaries have animated the logic of empires throughout history, the 'us versus them' story that was widely propagated after 9/11 has shaped an entire generation of people everywhere.

While such binaries have animated the logic of empires throughout history, the 'us versus them' story that was widely propagated after 9/11 has shaped an entire generation of people everywhere.

This is the same generation that has come of age through globalised, digital networks and the entirely distinct modes of political communication and ideological contestation that such networks have ushered in.

In effect, then, many ordinary young people have become foot soldiers for the dominant narrative around 'terrorism'. Indeed, notwithstanding the announcement made that the so-called war on terror ended in August 2021 when American troops pulled out of Afghanistan, the truth is that wars of terror led by contemporary states are endless.

The language is always the same: the scourge of terrorism will be eliminated at all costs. The forces of evil will never be allowed to overwhelm us. The rhetoric is timeless by design so as to suppress inconvenient historical truths about state terror.

What we should have learned from the 'war on terror' is that violence perpetrated by the state — it can be Israeli, American, Pakistani, Indian, Russian, Ukrainian, French, Saudi Arabian, Iranian, Turkish or any other contemporary nation-state — cannot solve political conflict. In fact, what has happened due to the deadly culture wars and the relative retreat of the progressive left is the rise of hate-mongering right-wing forces that ostensibly target one another.

The prime minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, for instance, has more than once made clear that he prefers the continued influence of Islamist groups like Hamas than to give an inch to progressives of any stripe. The PLO has lost all the legitimacy it once had because it surrendered so many fundamental demands of the Palestinian movement.

There is an analogy in how many who would call themselves progressive in our part of the world were either supportive or silent about the 20-year US occupation of Afghanistan, and ultimately this benefited the militant right wing (whether the Taliban or IS or whoever else).

Ultimately, if there is ever to be peace and justice for Palestine, and an end to the cycle of hate that engulfs all identity groups, it will require us to rejuvenate a wider, universal anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist politics.

It is the same in Pakistan — the Baloch and other ethnic peripheries, feminists and those who speak for oppressed genders, religious groups and all others who decry majoritarianism, must do so together around a left-progressive political-economic project. Crucially, they must try and win over as many who presently support majoritarian tyranny to their side.

Remember that successful national liberation projects all over Asia and Africa took decades to win over even those brown and black subjects of empires that were more loyal than the king.

The challenge for the Palestinians is to preserve their own humanity, and, indeed, that of their oppressors, and thereby transcend deadly culture wars. -- Courtesy Dawn

Rapid growth



Amin Valliani

Most developed nations are worried about their dwindling populations, along with the growing number of seniors. They see their future as uncertain. Therefore, they have embarked upon the path of solving the problem of their stagnant or dwindling populations by various means. Many countries have eased their migration/immigration laws, allowing work visas to outsiders who fulfil their criteria. Contrary to this, Pakistan is facing the problem of rapid population growth. This has been termed a ticking time bomb, having a high risk of imminent explosion.

Population is a valuable resource of a country, provided its growth is planned. Unchecked growth has been responsible for many of our economic and social issues. The youth segment is considered to be the driving force of a country. But young people are in search of greener pastures overseas, sometimes falling victim to human trafficking. Not too long ago, hundreds of people lost their lives in the open sea when an overloaded boat sank off the Greek coast. Many of the victims were from Pakistan and were trying to make it to Europe illegally.

Many experts suggest that the government should focus on population control, otherwise, all developmental efforts would prove futile. Moreover, the youth need to be nurtured via skill-oriented education. They have a passion to acquire new skills and pursue higher education. The government should, therefore, engage them in nation-building. But unfortunately, our performance in educating our population and providing employment has remained dismal. Many youths are disappointed with the recent economic meltdown. The promise of jobs has remained a pipe dream. Increasing population at the present speed might foil our entire planning efforts. In order to make Pakistan a country of opportunity, where our youths may find an attractive future, with jobs of their choice, the government should reset its focus on engaging the youth and controlling the excessive population. The Holy Quran says "Verily! Allah does not change a people's condition unless they change their inner selves" (13:11).

The government may guide people about the ideal size of a family and make them realise the importance of smaller families. It should start a fully fledged drive to convince the masses that an unbridled increase in population numbers is not in the interest of the country. In an ideal family setting, children get enough attention, quality time, love, guidance and patronage. But when the family size is large, the parents may not be able to pay the required attention to each child. Consequently, young ones feel alienated and develop behavioural problems. The Holy Quran directs believers to ward off your families from a fire whose fuel is men and stones (66:6).

As experts have noted, "families are self-stabilising systems, with members interacting and exerting influence to preserve and maintain stability in the face of perturbation". But when the family size is large and parents do not pay the required attention to their offspring, there are chances of children developing negative traits. Sometimes, they turn recalcitrant and create problems in society.

Uncontrolled population growth needs to be tackled jointly by the government and the people on a war footing. A country becomes developed when the government and its people jointly work on a national agenda. Here, uncontrolled population growth is the main hindrance in our national development. Large-size families may devour familial and national resources with little contribution. They tend to create immense pressure on the food supply as well as health and educational facilities. The rapidly growing population also contributes to scarcity and depletion of natural resources including water, forests, clean air, etc.

Recently, the government constituted a national health and population advisory committee to deal with health- and population-related matters and reforms. The committee will play a role in bringing funding for population control. This is a laudable effort. Just as the government is distributing laptops to the youth or paying money under BISP to the poor, it can also encourage people to adhere to a smaller family size and get monetary rewards. Besides, it should make family planning clinics active and contraceptives widely available, as well as increase awareness about this key issue. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Stabilization measures start yielding results: SBP Governor

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Jameel Ahmad said on Friday that stabilization measures had started yielding results with inflation coming down and position of external account improving.

The governor was briefing international investors during events organized by global banks, including Barclays, JP Morgan, Standard Bank and Jefferies on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank meetings in Marrakech, Morocco.

He said, inflation had come down to 31.4 percent in September 2023 after peaking at 38.0 percent in May 2023 and was expected to continue its downward trajectory over the coming months,

whereas the external account had improved considerably and foreign exchange buffers were being built up.

Jameel shared that with the policy rate at 22 percent, the SBP assessed the real interest rates turning substantially positive on a forward-looking basis, as inflation was expected to come down significantly during the second half of this fiscal year.

Going forward, the Stand-By arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is expected to support the ongoing policy efforts to stabilize the economy.

The governor briefed the investors about the recent macroeconomic developments, policy

responses to current challenges, and the outlook of Pakistan's economy, and also answered their questions.

He informed the investors that the current policy mix adopted by the government and the Central Bank was geared towards achieving stabilization through addressing macroeconomic imbalances.

He apprised that the SBP was among the first central banks that began to tighten monetary policy in the wake of the rising inflation globally.

However, certain domestic challenges, most notably the unprecedented floods in the beginning of the previous fiscal year, complicated SBP's efforts to bring down inflation.

Measures being taken for economic stability: Shahid

Pakistani trader must focus to enhance trade in Central Asian region, Umar

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Communications, Railways and Maritime Affairs Shahid Ashraf Tarar has said that measures are

attract large-scale trade that will change the fortune of our country. He visited FPCCI Capital Office, Islamabad and he was also accompanied by the Customs Collector Asif

working on the IT sector, which have great potential to provide opportunities to a large number of youths to work and earn.

In order to save the time of people of KP, it was



being taken for economic stability. Efforts are also being made to attract local and foreign investments. On the proposal of establishing tunnel at Wah Khan Corridor, he expressed that it will connect Pakistan with Central Asia and

Hargan. The Minister further said that steps are also being taken to improve the performance of Commercial Consulars in Pakistani missions abroad. Federal Minister Shahid Ashraf Tarar said that the caretaker government is

proposed that a separate connectivity on motorway may be constructed for KP people to enable them direct access to Islamabad airport, the Federal Minister assured that this proposal is under consideration of his ministry.



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of France HE Nicolas Galey called on Federal Minister for Privatization Fawad Hasan Fawad.

Jehanzeb highlights GB's investment-attraction potential

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission (PC) Dr Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan has highlighted the potential of Gilgit-Baltistan in attracting investment for the uplift and sustainable development of the region.

Addressing the GB Investment Roadshow held here the other day, he underscored the significance of the GB region as the 'Land of Opportunities,' presenting a compelling case for investment by highlighting its strategic geographical location, natural resources, and rapidly evolving infrastructure.

Dr Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan presented three fundamental aspects including 'people, nature

The event served as a platform for the GB government to showcase the attractive incentives available to investors across these sectors. It brought together dignitaries, ambassadors, members of the Federal Cabinet, representatives of the Special Investment Facilitation Cell (SIFC), and participants from diverse sectors including tourism, information technology, power, agriculture, mining, and food security.

and value, commending the GB government's investment in its people and stressing the importance of respecting the distinct culture and values of the region. He emphasized the need for sustainable and nature-sensitive development, advocating for community-led and nature-oriented tourism to preserve the pristine ecology of the region.

Addressing the challenges of development, Dr Khan emphasized the critical role of digital connectivity and urged investment in digital infrastructure to unlock the region's full potential.

French envoy calls on Privatisation Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Nicolas Galey, French Ambassador to Pakistan on Friday met with Caretaker Minister for Privatisation, Fawad Hasan Fawad, and discussed matters related to mutual interest.

Both sides expressed their firm resolve for the enduring bilateral relationship, as well as an in-depth discussion aimed at expanding collaboration in essential sectors, including education and agriculture economic cooperation. The meeting embodied the unwavering dedication of Pakistan and

France to intensify their strategic partnership and explore new frontiers for economic and cultural exchange. Speaking on the occasion, the envoy expressed keen interest in gaining insights into Pakistan's privatization strategy and was provided a comprehensive overview of the privatization plan.

The French Ambassador extended valuable suggestions regarding French Advisory Services and prospective firms and corporations that could possibly participate in these initiatives.

Tokyo markets end lower

TOKYO (APP/APP): Tokyo stocks closed lower on Friday, extending falls on Wall Street as US inflation data renewed concerns over higher interest rates.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index was down 0.55 percent, or 178.67 points, to end at 32,315.99, while the broader Topix index lost 1.44 percent, or 33.74 points, to 2,308.75.

The dollar stood at 149.70 yen, against 149.79 yen in New York late Thursday. A forecast-topping US inflation report revived fears the Federal Reserve will hike interest rates again before the end of the year.

Shamshad holds meeting with top leadership of Deutsche Bank

ISLAMABAD (Online): Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar held a meeting with the top leadership of Deutsche Bank, on the sidelines of annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Morocco on Friday. The discussions were marked by a constructive exchange of ideas and insights, focusing on fostering economic cooperation and financial stability.

Both parties expressed their commitment to strengthening ties and highlighted the potential

for mutually beneficial initiatives in the financial sector. Meanwhile, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar also met her Iranian counterpart and discussed strengthening economic cooperation and exploring avenues for bilateral trade and investment.

Both Ministers expressed their commitment to further strengthen economic ties for advancing mutual interests.

Besides, the Finance Minister held a meeting with CEO Islamic Trade Finance Cooperation Hani Salem Sonbol.



SUKKUR: Sukkur Electric Power Supply Company (SEPCO) Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Saeed Ahmed Dawach addresses to media persons during press conference, at his office in Sukkur.

Turkish CG, LCCI President discuss SIFC, see good results

LAHORE (APP): Consul General of Turkiye Durmus Bastug said here on Friday that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was a good step for both investors and countries as the embassy of Turkiye was closely monitoring the activities of the SIFC and was hopeful that the initiative would produce good results. He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry during a meeting with LCCI President Kashif Anwar.

and also help in resolving the issues being faced by investors in the country. He said that Turkiye was aware of the potential of Pakistan as the investors of Turkiye had invested around \$2 billion in Pakistan and half of its investments was in Punjab which would hopefully rise to \$5 billion. "We want to solve the problems being faced by the investors," said Durmus Bastug, adding that "we are monitoring the PTA with Pakistan and will move to the second phase which is FTA after the results of PTA".

Naqvi inaugurates Nankana Sahib Safe City project with 136 cameras

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated the newly established Safe City Project at Nankana Sahib's Model Police Station Sadar on Friday.
During his visit, he toured the Safe City Center, where he personally reviewed the city's surveillance through modern camera systems. He also monitored traffic movement and surveillance on the screens at the Safe City Centre, said a handout issued here.
The Chief Minister further inspected the Integrated Command and Control Room, Operation and Monitoring Room, and

Data Room. Taking time to acknowledge the dedication of the Safe City staff, Mohsin Naqvi encouraged them to continue their hard work.
The CM praised both the Punjab Safe Cities Authority and the police team for their collaborative efforts in establishing the Safe City Center in Nankana Sahib. During the briefing, it was revealed that the Punjab Safe Cities Authority installed over 136 cameras in Nankana Sahib, along with the implementation of six checkpoints at the entry and exit routes. This significant project, costing a total of Rs 350 million, was completed in a span of just one and a half years, saving

approximately Rs 50 million in costs. The Nankana Sahib Safe City Project was a joint endeavor involving local and international companies, which will also take on the responsibility of operation and maintenance for the next three years.
As part of the Nankana Sahib Safe City project, a total of 30 kilometers of optical fiber has been laid throughout the city. This project has been seamlessly integrated with the Lahore Safe City network. Notably, cameras have been strategically installed to enhance security at Sikh places of worship, Ashura routes, religious sites, and government buildings.



LAHORE: A group photo of Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi with Radio Pakistan Staff.

LHC disposes of PTI's plea for permission to hold rally at Liberty Chowk

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday disposed of a petition, filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), seeking permission for holding a rally at Liberty Chowk on October 15.
Justice Raheel Kamran heard the petition, filed by PTI Lahore President Azeemullah Khan. During the proceedings, a law officer stated that the request of the petitioner for holding a rally at Liberty Chowk had been declined

through an order by the deputy commissioner Lahore in view of the security threats posed at the proposed venue.
However, the request of the petitioner will duly be considered, if he approaches the deputy commissioner for holding rally at another venue, he submitted and added that the petitioner could visit the office of the deputy commissioner along with an application for the purpose.

Five arrested for issuing illegal SIMs on Afghan passports

PESHAWAR (APP): The officials of Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) have arrested five accused for issuing illegal phone SIMs on Afghan passports.
FIR spokesman told media on Friday that action was taken at Kohat Road, Peshawar from where five accused were arrested from a franchise of a mobile phone company.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali and the Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Azam Khan call on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

CM Aide urges campaigns to curb vehicle emissions in KP

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Zafar Ullah Khan Umarzai, the Special Assistant to the Caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Transport and Housing, has instructed the relevant authorities within the transport department to initiate campaigns in various cities across the province aimed at reducing the harmful emissions from vehicles.
He emphasized that all department officers should collaborate as a team to enhance the performance of the transport department. Umarzai issued these directives during a meeting held at the Directorate of Transport, which was attended by the Secretary of Transport, Director General, Secretary of the Provincial Transport Authority, and other officials.

BRT operator fears suspension of bus service from Oct 19

PESHAWAR (APP): The private operator of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) bus service in the provincial capital had urged the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to release Rs 560 million outstanding dues fearing suspension of service from October 19 in case of non-payment.
In a letter written to the transport department and Trans Peshawar, the operator of the BRT bus service said that the company was already facing losses and it was hard to meet the expenses including payment of salaries to the staff and others.

Health minister warns of glaucoma's silent threat to sight on World Sight Day

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Dr. Jamal Nasir emphasized the importance of raising awareness about glaucoma, a condition he referred to as the "silent killer of sight."
Speaking at a seminar in observance of World Sight Day, organized by the Al-Mustafa Trust here on Friday, Dr. Jamal Nasir underscored that glaucoma is not only the most dangerous eye disease but also the leading cause of blindness worldwide.
Dr. Nasir revealed alarming statistics, stating that over seven million people worldwide are affected by glaucoma, and tragically, about one million individuals in Pakistan have lost their sight due to this insidious disease. He stressed that to combat eye diseases effectively, it is imperative to control diabetes, blood pressure, and air pollution, as these factors have a detrimental impact on vision. Dr. Nasir highlighted that individuals with diabetes and high blood pressure are more susceptible to developing glaucoma.

Five people killed in a road accident

KOT ADDU (APP): Five people died in a collision between a car and a trailer on Noor Shah Talai Road in Kot Addu on Friday.
Rescue 1122 sources said that the vehicle collided with the trailer coming from behind standing on the road. According to information, the occupants of the car were killed on the spot. The deceased were heading to their home in Kot Addu from Multan and were identified as Muhammad Iqbal (32), Ghulam Qasim (50).

KP Caretaker CM takes notice of MTIs' financial issues

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan has taken notice of financial issues being faced by the Medical Teaching Institutions (MTIs) of the province in a meeting with his advisor on health Dr. Riaz Anwar and Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry who called on him to discuss the matters related to the financial issues of MTIs here at Chief Minister's House on Friday.
CM directed his advisor on health and the Chief Secretary to take immediate appropriate steps to arrange the required funds for these

hospitals on a priority basis. He said that all kinds of emergency services at MTIs should not be affected in any way, adding that required funds should be arranged on priority so that uninterrupted emergency services must be ensured in these hospitals.
The Chief Minister said that it was the top priority of the caretaker provincial government to keep uninterrupted healthcare facilities continued for the public, and added that despite financial crunches, the provincial government would make no compromise on the provision of treatment facilities to the masses.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan in a meeting with Governor Gilgit Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah at his office.

10 dead, 1,391 injured in Punjab road accidents

Independent Report
LAHORE: At least 10 people were killed and 1,391 others injured in 1,289 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 692 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 699 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.
The data analysis showed that 670 drivers, 44 undergar drivers, 169 pedestrians, and 559 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics showed that 296 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 327 persons, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by 96 in Multan with 97 victims, and at third Faisalabad with 89 accidents and 97 victims.
According to the data, 1,125 motorbikes, 89 auto-rickshaws, 132 motorcars, 31 vans, 15 passenger buses, 31 trucks and 126 other types of vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the road accidents.

International News

Countries urge Israel to hold off on Gaza assault with civilians in firing line

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Countries urged Israel on Friday to hold off on plans for an all-out assault on northern Gaza, where more than a million civilians largely defied its order to evacuate before it goes after Hamas militants who slaughtered Israelis a week ago. Hamas, which controls the densely populated Palestinian territory, vowed to fight until the last drop of blood and told residents to stay put after Israel said they should move to the south within 24 hours.
While some heeded the call to leave, by Friday afternoon there was little sign of a mass exodus.
"Death is better than leaving," said Mohammad,

20, standing in the street outside a building reduced to rubble in an Israeli air strike two days ago near the centre of Gaza.
"I was born here, and I will die here, leaving is a stigma." With power supplies cut and food and water in the Palestinian enclave running short after a week of retaliatory air strikes and a full Israeli blockade, the U.N. said Gaza's civilians were in an impossible situation.
"The noose around the civilian population in Gaza is tightening. How are 1.1 million people supposed to move across a densely populated warzone in less than 24 hours?" U.N. aid chief Martin Griffiths

wrote on social media.
White House national security spokesman John Kirby said such a huge evacuation was a "tall order," but that Washington would not second guess its ally's decision to tell civilians to get out of the way.
"We understand what they're trying to do and why they're trying to do this—to try to isolate the civilian population from Hamas, which is their real target," he said on MSNBC. The northern half of the Gaza Strip includes the enclave's biggest settlement Gaza City. The U.N. said it had been told that Israel wanted the entire population to move across the wetlands that bisect the enclave.



Protesters hold Palestinian flags during a demonstration in Paris.

US, Qatar to halt Iran's access to \$6bn fund, says Post

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States and Qatar officials have agreed to prevent Iran from using a \$6 billion humanitarian assistance fund, according to the Washington Post. The money had been transferred to Iranian accounts in Qatar, in a US-Iran prisoner swap deal announced in recent weeks where five US detainees were released by Iran.
But Washington Post reported on Thursday that a decision was made to halt access to the funds, while President Joe Biden faces rising pressure on the matter given Iran's declared support to Hamas. "We have strict oversight of the funds and we retain the right to freeze them," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told a press conference in Tel Aviv on Thursday. The White House added in a separate briefing that "every single dime of that money is still sitting in a Qatari bank." "Not one dime of it has been spent," according to National Security Council spokesman John Kirby.

Ecuador to elect a president amid bloody gang war

Monitoring Desk
QUITO: Shell-shocked by the eruption of a bloody drug war that has spilled from the country's prisons into the streets, Ecuadorians will vote for a new president Sunday just weeks after a popular candidate was assassinated in public.
A climate of fear hangs over the campaign in which the two finalists—socialist Luisa Gonzalez and banana empire heir Daniel Noboa—have both vowed to address the escalating violence.
Whoever wins will be elected to only 16 months

in office—completing the term of incumbent Guillermo Lasso, who called a snap vote to avoid possible impeachment for alleged embezzlement.
The main concerns of Ecuadorians, according to recent polls, are crime and insecurity, followed by unemployment.
Long a peaceful haven between major cocaine exporters Colombia and Peru, the South American nation has exploded in violence in recent years as enemy gangs with links to Mexican and Colombian cartels vie for control.



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) leaders' summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

7 killed in suicide attack on Afghan Shia mosque: official

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: At least seven people were killed and 15 more wounded when a suicide blast tore through a Shia mosque in northern Afghanistan on Friday, the Taliban government said.
The number of bomb blasts and suicide attacks has reduced dramatically since the Taliban ended their insurgency after seizing power in August 2021, ousting the US-backed government.
However, a number of armed groups—including the regional chapter of the Islamic State organisation—remain a threat.
There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast, which rang out as Shia worshippers gathered for Friday prayers at the Imam Zaman mosque in Pol-i-Khomri, the capital of Baghlan province.
"Security and investigative forces went to the area of the incident to investigate how this heartbreaking incident happened," said provincial information and media chief Mustafa Asadullah Hashimi. "Investigations are still ongoing," he said in a statement confirming the casualties. A source at Baghlan Provincial Hospital—who asked to remain anonymous—put the tally higher, saying 19 bodies and 40 wounded patients had been brought to the facility so far. "Some of the dead and wounded were taken to other private hospitals as well," he told AFP.
Local resident Abdul Hamid said he heard a "terrible sound" as the bomb detonated.
"After the explosion, a large number of martyrs and injured people were transferred to the hospital," he said.

Egypt facilitating aid flights to Sinai for besieged Gaza

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Egypt said on Thursday it was directing international aid flights for Gaza to an airport in northern Sinai, though delivery of relief into the Palestinian enclave has so far been hampered by Israeli bombardments around the border.
The Rafah crossing between Sinai and Gaza remained open, the Egyptian foreign ministry said, adding that Egypt had asked Israel to avoid tar-

Putin says civilian losses from Israeli ground operation in Gaza would be 'unacceptable'

Monitoring Desk
BISHKEK: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday said an Israeli ground operation in Gaza would result in a level of civilian casualties that would be "absolutely unacceptable."
Putin was speaking after Israel's military called for all civilians of Gaza City, more than 1 million people, to relocate south within 24 hours, as it amassed tanks ahead of an expected ground invasion in response to a devastating weekend attack by the militant group Hamas.
Putin said that using heavy weaponry in residential areas was "fraught with serious consequences for all sides."
"And most importantly, the civilian casualties will be absolutely unacceptable. Now the main thing is to stop the bloodshed," he said.



A rescuer looks on amid debris in the aftermath of Israeli strikes, in Gaza City.

In Beirut, Iran's foreign minister warns war could spread if Israeli bombardment of Gaza continues

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Iran's foreign minister warned Friday that if Israel's attacks on the Gaza Strip don't stop immediately, the violence could spread to other parts of the Middle East.
Hossein Amirabdollahian is on a tour that took him to Baghdad before Beirut, and later in the day he is scheduled to travel to the Syrian capital, Damascus. Iran heads the so-called "axis of resistance" that includes powerful militant groups in the region, such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Popular Mobilization Forces in Iraq.
Amirabdollahian spoke to reporters in Beirut after a meeting with his Lebanese counterpart, during which the two officials called for an end to Israel's attacks on Gaza.
He also met with Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, as well as caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati and the speaker of parliament.
There have been concerns that the war could spread to Lebanon's border where Hezbollah fighters have been on alert following Hamas' attack on southern Israel on Saturday that left hundreds of people dead.

200 evacuees arrive in India from Tel Aviv

Monitoring Desk
DEHLI: India's first chartered flight brought over 200 Indian nationals back home from Tel Aviv on Friday, nearly a week after the latest Israel-Hamas war erupted. "Everyone is scared. We have no idea what would happen there. We had to move to shelters when there were missile attacks. This was not normal," said Deepak Sharma, a 20-year-old student who was studying physics at a college in north Israel. There are about 18,000 Indian citizens living in Israel, a small percentage of them students.

Israel committing war crimes in Gaza, Pakistan tells UNGA committee

Expresses concerns over cycle of occupation, violence; Stresses need for two-state solution to Palestine issue

NEW YORK (INP): Pakistan has expressed deep concerns over the cycle of occupation, oppression and violence in Palestine. Speaking at the UN General Assembly's sixth committee meeting in New York, Second Secretary of Pakistan's Permanent Mission to the UN Rabia Ijaz said the rapidly deteriorating and dire humanitarian situation in Gaza due to the indiscriminate aerial bombardment and an inhumane blockade of food, fuel and medicines, as collective punishment of the entire Palestinian population of Gaza by Israeli Occupation forces are unacceptable. These actions amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. She said the current cycle of aggression and violence is a sad reminder and a direct consequence of over seven decades of illegal Israeli occupation, aggression, and disrespect for international law, including UNSC resolutions that recognize the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinian people. Rabia Ijaz said the international community must work together for a just, comprehensive and lasting two-state solution with a viable, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine on the basis of pre-1967 borders, with Al Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. Exercising its rightly of

reply, Second Secretary Rabia Ijaz said Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognized disputed territory and is not at all a so-called integral part of India nor is it India's domestic matter. She said the UN Security Council in its resolutions has decided that the final disposition of Kashmir shall be determined by its people through a United Nations supervised plebiscite. She said India accepted this decision and is bound to comply with it in accordance with Article 25 of the UN Charter. Rabia Ijaz said India has no right to take any unilateral action to change the status of the territory.



LAHORE: Chairman Of Ruet-E-Hilal Committee, Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad Khateeb of Badshahi Masjid Lahore along with others expressing solidarity with the scholars by joining hands on the occasion of the conference.

PUC observes 'Palestine Solidarity Day' across nation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulama Council (PUC) on Friday observed 'Palestine Solidarity Day' across the nation expressing unity with the oppressed Palestinians and offering special prayers in Friday sermons. The PUC Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, along with other prominent religious leaders, spoke out in support of Palestine. They highlighted the critical juncture in the Palestinian issue and called on Muslim leaders to play their role immediately. Addressing the issue of human rights, PUC Chairman Ashrafi deplored the silence on the mass killings of the oppressed Palestinians.

IIC demands for calling emergency meeting of OIC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman and members of Islamic Ideological Council (IIC) while condemning expansionist policy of Israel has demanded for calling emergency meeting of Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). According to IIC spokesperson Israel is using the recent dispute for the sake of its nefarious imperial designs. The attacks by Israel on Gaza in last week are brazen violation of international laws wherein the civilian population, old aged people, children and women are being targeted.

DC visits BHU Jamsahib

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Zahid Hussain Rind visited PPHI-run Basic Health Unit Jamsahib, Mother and Child center 60 Mile and inaugurated their newly constructed building. Talking to the media, DC said that Sindh government was striving to provide all possible health facilities to the general public while PPHI was providing the best facilities in district Shaheed Benazirabad. DC said that both health centres were upgraded to Basic Health

Dow University authorized to re-conduct MDCAT test

KARACHI (APP): The Dow University of Health and Sciences Karachi, in pursuance of the decision of the Sindh Cabinet, has been authorized to re-conduct MDCAT-2023 (Denovo) as a test-conducting and admitting universities dealing with admissions in MBBS and BDS in public and private medical universities and colleges in the Sindh province for the session 2023-24, according to a notification.

Custom officer shot dead by unknown assailants in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A shooting incident came to light from Karachi's Liyari REXER line area, in which a customs officer was reportedly murdered by unknown armed assailants, says in media reports. According to the CCTV footage of the incident, which showed that two unknown suspects dressed in Shalwar Kameez on a two-wheeler 70cc motorcycle passing through the street, the person sitting behind the rider was wearing a helmet.

PM reiterates sternness against smuggling, corruption as efforts coming to fruition

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday reiterated that the government would in no way tolerate smuggling and corruption in the country and its ongoing efforts against the menaces were coming to the fruition. The prime minister, chairing a meeting to discuss the matters pertaining to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said the dollar's value had depreciated in the market consequent to the timely action by the government. The prime minister, who also interacted with

the media during the visit, told that the dollar depreciation had led to reduction of country's loans by Rs4,000 billion besides impacting the prices of petroleum products and eatables. Addressing the participants of the meeting, the prime minister said that the Pakistan Army in the efforts to curb smuggling and hoarding was laudable. The prime minister who was on his first visit to Peshawar after assuming the office, was briefed on the law and order situation as well as the financial issues confronting the province. He said only the illegal foreign nationals were being expelled from the country and directed the authorities to ensure that the registered foreign nationals faced no difficulties during the process. He instructed the relevant authorities to utilise all-out resources to improve the security and law and order situation and also emphasised the strengthening of KP Police and Counter Terrorism Department.

Health minister meets Iranian counterpart

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr Nadeem Jan on Friday met Minister of Health Iran Dr. Bahram Eynollahi on the sidelines of 70th Session of the WHO's Regional Committee for Eastern Mediterranean in Cairo. Dr. Nadeem Jan stated that historical relations between Pakistan and Iran were bound by common faith, history and culture. The leadership and people of Iran and Pakistan enjoy cordial relations. The minister of Iran stated that Iran not only view Pakistan as a neighbouring but also as a

PM pays tribute to KP Police sepoy Umar Saeed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday paid tribute to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police constable Umar Saeed, who fought the terrorists bravely in the Hangu terrorist attack. The prime minister felicitated the bravery of the Jawan belonging to Swabi who braved the firing during the Hangu attack. He also gave a reward of Rs 500,000 to Umar Saeed as encouragement. He said brave young men like Umar Saeed were safeguarding the nation like an iron wall. "Our police is always ready to thwart the nefarious efforts of anti-national elements."

General elections to most likely take place by end of January: Murtaza Solangi

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has expressed confidence that upcoming general elections will be held at the end of January. He said this while participating in program of News and Current Affairs Channel of Radio Pakistan 'Lahore Insight' today. Referring to the Election Commission of Pakistan the minister said the final list of constituencies will be finalized on 30th of next and the election date will be announced around this time. He said it is clearly mentioned in the Election Act 2017 that all the parties will be given at least 54 days which is about two months for election campaigns so it is hoped that the elections will be held at the end of January.

Murtaza Solangi said the actual election activity starts only after the election schedule is announced. In response to a question, the Information Minister said that Radio Pakistan requires innovation, modern technology and professional freedom in order to thrive. Murtaza Solangi said caretaker government is taking forward the previous parliament's decision to re-launch the license fee for Radio Pakistan and there will be very good news soon regarding addressing the financial problems of the organization. Responding to a question, he said that the elected governments have the authority to make policies and it is written in the constitution of Pakistan that the country will be run by its elected representatives.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanging views with Shahid Ashraf Tarar, Caretaker Minister for Maritime Affairs during meeting held at Naval Headquarters in Islamabad.

No political pressure accepted, illegal residents will have to leave Pakistan: Jan Achakzai

KARACHI (Online): Caretaker Information Minister of Balochistan Jan Achakzai has said that no political pressure will be tolerated who will crush the state's policy. Illegal residents will have to leave Pakistan: Jan Achakzai. Speaking to the media at the Karachi Press Club, Jan Achakzai said that the state has taken a few principled decisions and they will be strictly followed, every day many families staying illegally are going back. Jan Achakzai said that 13 of the 20 suicide bombings in the country this year were carried out by Afghan terrorists. He said that around 250 madrasas were geo-tagging which are being used by 80 Afghans, bringing these madrasas legally under Pakistan. The Provincial Information Minister in charge of trafficking said that operations are underway to prevent smuggling in Balochistan, the smugglers will be drowned in the sea those who are on boats, will maintain the writ of the state with full force. He said that since the day Army Chief General Asim Mumar reined in the smugglers, the dollar has been getting cheaper. Achakzai said that border smuggling is being dealt with strictly, all measures in Pakistan are in accordance with international laws. He said that if smuggling was benefiting, Balochistan would have had water and other basic facilities, Balochistan would have come first in the implementation of the National Action Plan.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar offers Fateha and lays floral wreath at the grave of Shaheed Sifwat Ghayur, Former Commandant of FC during his visit, in Peshawar.

ECP rebuts 13 million ineligible voters allegations

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) strongly refuted a news report that was replete with inaccuracies and false information, incorrectly suggesting that 13 million people won't be able to vote in the next general elections. ECP spokesperson said in a statement that the news report featured in Friday's edition of Dawn is saturated with inaccuracies and misinformation. The spokesperson clarified that voters' registration was based on their permanent or current address as per their computerized National Identity Card (CNIC), and this process has no connection to population statistics. "A census requires a person's physical presence, whereas voter registration is based on the address specified on the CNIC with no connection to population statistics," he said. Additionally, the Election Commission has lifted the freeze on electoral rolls, effective from September 28, 2023, ensuring the registration of all eligible individuals. This freeze had been in place since July 20, 2017, under the provisions of Section 39 of the Elections Act, 2017.

Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhar Hussain, newly appointed Provincial Manager of National Fortification Alliance Naveed Bhutto and Assistant Professor Dr. Ghafar Saeed and Dr. Khawaja Masood of Food Sciences and Technology Department Karachi University. Speaking at the occasion, Agha Fakhar Hussain said that SFA as a controlling authority was determined to fulfill its responsibilities with regard to the plan envisaged for addressing the issue of malnutrition. He also assured cooperation by SFA to all relevant stakeholders for the success of the project.

SFA to launch model food fortification project for addressing nutritional deficiencies

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Food Authority (SFA) will initiate a model food fortification project in the province to address the issue of malnutrition by the addition of essential nutritional elements in salt, cooking oil and wheat flour. Sindh Food Authority, National Fortification Alliance and the Department of Food Sciences and Technology Karachi University will jointly work on the project aimed at the provision of a nutrient-enriched balanced diet to the malnourished population in Sindh province, said a statement issued here on Friday. The decision was taken in a meeting between

The preliminary investigation revealed that the suspects obtained fake stamps and visas from various agents, meanwhile, the FIA officials transferred the arrested accused to FIA Anti-Human Trafficking Circle Gujranwala for further investigation.



SUKKUR: Activists of Jamiat Ulama-e-Pakistan (JUP) are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, in Sukkur.

Hari Welfare Association calls for enforcing laws for protection of rural women

HYDERABAD (APP): The Hari Welfare Association (HWA), a non-profit organization working for the rights of peasants, has expressed deep concern over lax enforcement of the laws for protection of the rights of rural women. In a statement issued here on Friday to mark the International Day of Rural Women, the association's President, Akram Ali Khaskhlei, said the day reminded the global community that there was still a way to go to provide protection to rural women, especially peasants. He argued that government initiatives like Ehsaas and the Benazir In-

come Support Programme (BISP) gave financial support to the women, but they were far from ensuring the protection enshrined in the constitution. The HWA's President called for the implementation of the Sindh Women Agriculture Workers Act, 2019, saying the act was a pivotal step towards recognizing the work of women in the agriculture sector and promoting their participation in decision-making to foster empowerment. He lamented that the provincial government passed the law four years ago, but its adequate enforcement has yet to materialize.

160 illegal profiteers fined over Rs 1.7m

KARACHI (APP): As many as 160 shopkeepers including 82 from Kemari district were fined over Rs 1.7 million during the ongoing crackdown against illegal profiteering in the metropolis. The crackdown against profiteers was launched by the city administration on the instructions of Sindh Government and directives of Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Saleem Rajput to take strict measures for ensuring the sale of essential food items on the official price list. The Commissioner directed the Price Controllers of all districts and Magistrates to remain available in the field and take strict action against the profiteers and hoarders on a daily basis as per

the law to provide relief to the citizens. The Commissioner Karachi said that the public should not be left at the mercy of the hoarders and profiteers at any cost. In this regard, the Sindh government will give all possible relief to the people and no pressure will be tolerated in this regard. A fine of Rs 300,000 was imposed on 14 shopkeepers who reportedly violated the official rate list in district Korangi. A fine of Rs 236,000 was imposed on 27 shopkeepers who violated the notified prices of food items including chicken, vegetables, meat, fruit, flour and sugar in district South. Over Rs 184000 fine was imposed on eight shopkeepers in Central district.



LARKANA: Members of Sindh Professors and Lectures Association are holding protest demonstration against the forcibly transferred of teachers, at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

2 children suffer burn injuries after electric shock from high-voltage line

HYDERABAD (APP): Two children suffered severe burns injuries after receiving an electric shock from a high-voltage 132 KV transmission line in the vicinity of Ali Abad near Hala Naka area of Hyderabad. According to details, two children Akbar Mashori and Aini Mashori were playing on the roof of their house when they accidentally came into contact with the high-tension wires of HESCO's 132KV high-power transmission line, as a result, they received severe burns and were rushed to the burns ward of civil hospital in critical condition where they received medical treatment. Upon receiving infor-

mation about the incident, HESCO authorities arrived at the scene to assess the situation. HESCO's spokesperson said that beneath the high-voltage 132KV transmission lines, people have constructed illegal residences, posing a grave danger. He informed relevant authorities and occupants have been made aware of this unlawful and highly perilous situation but despite this, construction activities continue. However, HESCO authorities have informed the local administration and other relevant agencies in writing and a formal complaint has been filed against illegal construction.