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Pakistan Army vows support to end unlawful Israeli occupation of Palestine

Palestinian people have unequivocal diplomatic, moral and political support of the Pakistani nation, says COAS; Military leadership vows to support gov't strategic initiatives for economic revival; Resolves to fully support Gov't decision to repatriate illegal foreigners after Nov 1st

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Tuesday presided over the 260th Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held here at GHQ.

The Forum, during the meeting, resolved to fully support the Federal Government's decision to repatriate and deport all illegal foreigners from November 1st onwards, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The conference participants offered Fateha for the Shuhada of Mastung, Hangu and Zhub incidents during the Holy month of Rabi' al-Awwal.

The Forum also paid

rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices being continuously offered by the Security Forces and the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) for the defence of the motherland while fighting the menace of terrorism.

The participants resolved that all terrorists, their facilitators and abettors, working on the behalf of hostile forces to destabilise Pakistan, would be dealt with the unflinching resolve of the state.

The forum was briefed on prevalent geo-strategic environment, challenges to national security and own strategy in response to the evolving threat.

The Forum reiterated Pakistan Army's resolve to

defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan against all kinds of direct and indirect threats.

The Forum viewed with concern the developments taking place in Gaza-Israel War and the enormous human cost being imposed on innocent civilians due to the disproportionate use of force by Israel.

The COAS said: "The Palestinian people have unequivocal diplomatic, moral and political support of the Pakistani nation and we will continue to support the principled stance of our brethren for enduring resolution of the Palestinian issue and end to the unlawful occupation of their territories and Muslims' Sacred Places".



Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of 3rd Belt and Road Forum, Beijing.

PM Kakar says For Pak, CPEC proved as 'catalyst of poverty alleviation, job creation'

CPEC commendable endeavor in building China-Pakistan community with shared future: PM

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday termed China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a manifestation of strategic relationship said the project has proved as a "catalyst of growth, poverty alleviation and job creation".

"The CPEC is a beacon of progress and prosperity. It is not just an economic corridor, but a symbol of Pak-China strategic trust," he said in an interaction with representatives of leading Chinese think-tanks and scholars. PM Kakar, who is in

China on an official visit to attend the Belt and Road Forum, said the CPEC had transformed the socio-economic landscape of Pakistan, upgrading modern infrastructure, enhancing regional connectivity and ensuring energy security.

He mentioned that since the launch of CPEC during the landmark visit of President Xi Jinping to Pakistan in 2015, the project resulted in addition of 800 kilometres of roads, and creation of 8,000 mega watt electricity, and 0.2 million job opportunities.

Petrol price should be reduced by Rs 140

KARACHI (Online): Sindh Governor Kamran Tesori has demanded a reduction of Rs. 140 in the price of Petrol and said that he prayed that inflation would also end.

In a media talk, Sindh Governor Kamran Tesori said that petrol should be reduced to RS 140 instead of RS 40.

He said that a person who gets a salary of RS 3 lac is also poor while value of dollar is falling. I pray that inflation will also end. In this storm of inflation, the minimum salary should be 1 lac.

Kamran Tesori said that last night his plane got stuck in the air pocket but by the vigilance of the pilot and the grace of Allah, we were safe.

Constitution accords fundamental rights to citizens: SC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that the Constitution had accorded fundamental rights, covering political, social and freedom of expression to every citizen.

"The protection of legitimate rights of citizens is the constitutional responsibility of the state," the three-member bench observed in its 11-page order written by Justice Jamal Khan Mandukhel in a case against Imad Yusuf, vice president of a private TV channel.

The court also acquitted Imad Yusuf in the case, filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Shahbaz Gill.

Pakistan to raise serious concerns at OIC over Gaza situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani will raise Pakistan's serious concerns about the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza and emphasize the urgent need for ceasefire as he attends the Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee.

The urgent opened Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee being held on October 18 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia has been convened by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to discuss the crisis in Gaza and the humanitarian situation of the besieged civilians there. "In his statement at the Ministerial Meeting, Foreign Minister Jilani will present Pakistan's serious concerns about the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza."

Govt files appeal against NAB law amendments case verdict

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Government on Tuesday filed an appeal against the Supreme Court's decision in the NAB law amendment case. Naming the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and PTI chairman as respondents, it prayed the top court to set aside its judgment and restore the amendments in NAB law. The government pleaded that the NAB law amendments were not in violation of fundamental rights and that the legislation was the mandate of the Parliament.

Kakar, Putin discuss ways to enhance bilateral, regional cooperation

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday met Russian President Vladimir Putin here wherein the two leaders reviewed bilateral cooperation with a special focus on trade, investment and energy.

In the meeting held on the sidelines of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, the two leaders expressed satisfaction with the steady expansion of Pakistan-

Russia relations and stressed the need for enhanced cooperation in diverse fields.

Russian President Putin received Prime Minister Kakar before they held a meeting that encompassed bilateral, regional, and international affairs.

They also discussed the prospects of enhancing Eurasian connectivity and Pakistan's pivotal role in regional integration through rail, road and energy corridors.



BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping and First Lady, Madame Peng Liyuan welcomed Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar upon his arrival at Great Hall of the People to attend the banquet hosted by President Xi Jinping in honor of the leaders of the countries participating in the 3rd Belt and Road Forum.

Sindh CM, Chinese company agreed to remove bottlenecks to start KCR project

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (rt) and Vice President of Chinese company (CRCC) Li Samaa in their meeting at CRCC International Headquarters, agreed to remove the only two remaining bottlenecks to start the much-awaited Karachi Circular Railway (KCR).

According to the CM house press release issued here on Tuesday, the meeting was held on the sideline of the Third Belt and Road Forum (BRF) for International Cooperation in Beijing.

Justice Baqar said that in a Review meeting of CPEC Projects held on Feb 9, 2023, it was decided that

China Railway Authority required afresh feasibility based on Chinese standards to establish funding/project cost of the KCR Project.

The Sindh government Transport dept completed the KCR Feasibility Study along with the collaboration of a Chinese Firm (CRCC) with a revised cost of \$2,002 billion.

At this CRCC Vice President said that a joint survey conducted by the Sindh government in collaboration with ICRC International has been submitted to the Chinese authorities. He pointed out that only two issues were left to resolve before starting the project.

Solangi reiterates caretaker gov't resolve for in time & transparent elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday held a meeting with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl's (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and reiterated the caretaker government's firm resolve for holding the general elections in time, and in a free, fair and transparent manner.



During the meeting held at the residence of Maulana Fazl, the minister condoled over the demise of his mother-in-law and offered prayers for the departed soul. Overall political situation, including the upcoming general elections, also came under discussion during the meeting. Solangi said it was the caretaker government's responsibility to provide a level-playing field to all the political parties. All-out efforts were being made to ensure elections in a democratic and peaceful way, he added.

Mayor Karachi directs law dept to defend cases of KMC pending in courts

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the Law Department should defend the cases of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation pending in various courts.

If the law department performs well they can get incentives as well, he said while presiding over a meeting of the law department in his office on Tuesday.

In the first stage recovery cases and in the second stage cases related to land be given priority, after which other routine cases should also be dealt with, he said. Municipal Commissioner Syed Afzal Zaidi, Law Advisor Azra Moqmeem, lawyers, and other officers of the Law

Department were also present on this occasion.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that practical steps are needed to correct the mistakes that happened in the past, so the lawyers and officers of the law department should start improving things from today, especially in the hearing of cases related to property.

He said that full preparation should be made and full coordination and consultation with the concerned department should be ensured. All the details should be prepared in advance and the arguments should be prepared after examining the case from every aspect, he added.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir presides over the 260th Corps Commanders Conference held at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi.

Martyrs of Karsaz created history

KARACHI (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the martyrs of the Karsaz tragedy created an unforgettable story in history by sacrificing their lives, which is also proof that the Pakistani nation is determined to face and win every challenge for the sake of the democracy.

The PPP Chairman, in his message issued on the 16th anniversary of the Karsaz tragedy, said that the grief and anger of the most horrible and bloodiest tragedy is still fresh in the minds of the nation. He said that on this day we pay tribute to the 180 martyrs of the tragedy and pray for them, and added: "I, on behalf of the Party, also extend solidarity to families of the martyrs and pay tribute to them for showing unparalleled patience and courage."

Bilawal said that the Karsaz tragedy will continue to remind us that the nexus of dictatorship and terrorism is the enemy of civilization and humanity. "October 18, 2007, in the form of Shaheed Mohtarma

Benazir Bhutto's return from exile, was actually the rebirth of democracy in the country," he said, adding that Shaheed Bibi's mission was to make Pakistan a democratic and economic power in the world by providing basic rights and employment opportunities to the poor people.

PPP Chairman pointed out that Shaheed Benazir Bhutto returned home in 2007 with a comprehensive vision and mission, adding that the mission was to liberate the people of Pakistan from the nexus of dictatorship and terrorism, to free them of unemployment, poverty, and injustice, and replace them with prosperity, security, and justice.

"I promise that we will make our country a political, economic, and democratic power at the regional as well as global levels by implementing the vision and mission of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto," he pledged and reminded us that Shaheed Bibi had taught us that no matter how difficult the situation may be, there is always a path to the destination.



ISLAMABAD: PAF Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu exchanges views with Commander Hungarian Air Force, Brigadier General Jozsef Koller during meeting held at PAF Air Headquarters in Islamabad.

PM Kakar attends President Xi's state banquet for world leaders

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday attended a state banquet, hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping for the world leaders participating in the 3rd Belt and Road Forum.

The prime minister was accompanied by senior ministers of his cabinet, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

ECP appoints Nabeel Ahmed as Sindh provincial spokesman

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has appointed Nabeel Ahmed as the Provincial Spokesman for Sindh, to ensure seamless information and communication coordination with the ECP spokesperson for media-related matters.

According to a notification issued here, Nabeel Ahmed is currently serving in Media Coordination and Outreach (MCO) at the Sindh ECP.

Rangers arrest five peddlers, recover drugs, NCP goods

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Rangers Sindh in its drive against the smuggling, arrested five alleged drug peddlers, recovered drugs from their possession and also seized a large quantity of non-custom paid goods.

According to a spokesman for Rangers on Tuesday, the Rangers and Customs authorities during checking at the Hub check post located at the border of Sindh and Balochistan arrested five drug peddlers and recovered 2.50 kg of Ice from their possession. The recovered drugs are worth more than Rs. 20 million.

Besides, drugs Pakistan Rangers also seized China salt, cigarettes, Indian gutka and betel nuts were also seized from the said check post. Arrested accused along with recovered drugs and NCP goods were handed over to Customs authorities for further legal proceedings.

Governors of Balochistan and Sindh stress on strengthening more bonds among provinces

Independent Report KARACHI: The Governors of Balochistan and Sindh have underlined the need to strengthen the relations among two provinces further besides making them more pleasant.

The Governor of Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar was in meeting with the Governor Sindh, Kamran Tesori at Karachi on Tuesday.

The Governor

Balochistan is on visit to Sindh these days.

his Sindh counterpart the overall political situation, matters about the acquaintance with the modern technology, besides other matters of mutual interests.

In addition to this, the two leaders also discussed as how to utilize the potential of youth in very interest of the provinces and country.

It may be mentioned here that Governor Balochistan is on visit to Sindh these days.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori meets with Governor Balochistan Abdul Wali Khan Kakar at Governor House.

CEC for utilization of all available resource to ensure free, fair elections

KARACHI (APP): Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, Tuesday stressed on utilization of all available resources for the peaceful conduct of elections and said that free, fair, and impartial polls will guarantee the strengthening of democracy in the country.

The CEC while chairing a meeting held here at Sindh Secretariat to review arrangements regarding upcoming general elections also directed to prepare a special polling plan for the flood-affected areas of Sindh, said a statement issued here.

Member Election Commission Sindh Nisar Durrani, Member Balochistan Shah Muhammad Jatoti, Member

Punjab Babar Hassan Bharwana, Member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (ret'd) Ikrumulh Khan, Secretary ECP Umar Hameed Khan and Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh Ijaz Anwar Chauhan attended the meeting.

Sikandar Sultan Raja said that ECP would provide all possible assistance to the caretaker provincial government for the conduct of free, fair, and transparent elections while assistance of the Pakistan Army and Rangers will also be sought in this regard.

He warned that strict action would be taken against the officials and staff who were found negligent in the election process.



KARACHI: Senator Waqar Mehdi and former Minister Saeed Ghani talking to the media persons at the site of Karsaz blast on the eve of Karsaz Blast tragedy.

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

DAYS REMAINING

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in f t @DevforPakistan

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Two rules

Having accepted unquestioningly political objectives dictated by unelected quarters, the entire apparatus of our state has been acting with all the subtlety of a bulldozer.

Nowhere is this more obvious than in the federal and provincial capitals, whose respective interim administrations have remained unapologetic about the duplicity apparent in their decisions as they go about enforcing a stricter set of rules for the PTI while allowing other parties freer rein.

Just last week, a dozen PTI supporters were arrested outside the National Press Club in Islamabad, where they had gathered to express support for the Palestinian cause.

The party and its supporters had a right to react angrily: no other religious or political entity seems to have faced similar treatment in recent days as they have gone about conducting political outreach activities or organising rallies for the people of Gaza. To deny one party the privileges being enjoyed by others seems petty and smacks of victimisation.

More recently, the enthusiasm that the Lahore administration has shown for the PML-N's plans for a grand rally at the Minar-i-Pakistan even as it simultaneously denied the PTI a similar gathering at Liberty Chowk has made it abundantly clear why the PML-N's political rivals fear there will be no 'level playing field' before the upcoming general election.

Both the PTI and the PPP have been questioning the circumstances in which Nawaz Sharif has 'agreed' to return to the country from his self-imposed exile. Both parties believe that the elder Sharif's homecoming is happening thanks to an alleged covert deal with the 'concerned quarters', ie, the security establishment.

Both parties are also right in asking why an individual who is a proclaimed offender, who has been on the run from the Pakistani justice system, is being 'welcomed' by the state upon his long-delayed return with pomp and pageantry rather than a solemn reckoning with the law. Unless the state immediately backs down from its manipulation of the political domain, there is a good chance that the upcoming elections will be preceded and followed by the kind of intense controversies that will never allow a civilian-led set-up to stand on its own feet. The 2018 elections are a case in point. If the country is to be run by a political leadership that lacks a democratically acquired mandate, and is partnering with an unaccountable elite that has no tangible, lasting solutions for the country's problems, we should stop thinking about progress.

The only way forward is to let the people choose the leaders they think can best lead them and for non-political forces to stop interfering in this process. Finally, the ECP and the caretaker governments should take stock of their mistakes. They have constitutional duties to fulfil, which they seem to be failing in quite spectacularly.



By Qamar Bashir

Former Press Secretary to the President; Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC

As the Press Minister at the Embassy of Pakistan in France, I was acutely aware of the sensitivity and significance of handling confidential ciphers. Almost every day, the Ambassador and trusted staff sent ciphers to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, addressing matters of utmost confidentiality.

On numerous occasions, ciphers related to the Press Section were shared with me in person, and I ensured they were safely returned to maintain their confidential status.

At that time, I had no inkling that these routine embassy ciphers would become so perilous, putting the lives of the former Prime Minister and former Foreign Minister at grave risk, particularly following the amendment of the Official Secrets Act in 2023, which now imposes the death penalty for violations of the official secrets.

In general, government correspondence is often classified into different levels of sensitivity, such as "Top Secret," "Secret," "Confidential," or other designations. The highest levels of classification, such as "Top Secret," are reserved for the most sensitive information. Access to classified information is typically granted on a "need-to-know" basis. This means that only individuals who require access to specific classified information for their official duties are

granted that access.

In the context of diplomatic communication, the term "cipher" is commonly used to refer to a coded or encrypted message. Diplomatic ciphers are employed to protect sensitive or confidential information from unauthorized access or interception during transmission. These codes are usually complex and may involve various cryptographic techniques to ensure security. Diplomatic ciphers are essential for maintaining the confidentiality of diplomatic correspondence. They are employed when discussing matters of national security, sensitive negotiations, confidential information, or any communication that needs to be shielded from prying eyes.

Though, typically the heads of the state or government are authorized to declassify the cipher information but they can do so after following an elaborate procedure which may involve, seeking formal recommendations and views from the concerned ministries, the agencies, departments or institutions of national security and safety and other relevant departments before declaring any cipher subject matter as declassified. Even when the head of state and government take such decision he is required to remove any sensitive parts of the cipher which can jeopardize national security or could potentially harm the relationship with another friendly or important country.

If the head of state or government discloses classified or cipher information in a public meeting without following the established protocol and proper declassification procedures, it can have serious legal, political, and national security implications. It can potentially harm national security by revealing sensitive intelligence, military operations, or diplomatic negotiations. It can lead to political backlash, undermining the leader's credibility and reputation. Opposition parties, lawmakers, and the public may demand accountability and investigations.

In some cases, a head of state or government who engages in such behavior may face calls for resignation or impeachment, the severity of the response depends on the nature of the disclosed information and the political climate, erode trust within the government and among intelligence and security agencies, career professionals may lose confidence in the leader's ability to protect sensitive information, can strain diplomatic relations with other countries, potentially leading to diplomatic crises.

The consequences of such actions can be significant; however, the specific outcome may depend on the legal and political systems in place in a given country and the extent of the breach. Legal processes, investigations, and, if necessary, legal action can follow such incidents to ensure accountability.

According to one legal opinion, the Prime Minister or Finance Minister of Pakistan were not authorized to disclose the cipher to the public as the Official Secrets Act 2023 clearly states that any classified information, including diplomatic correspondence, cannot be disclosed to the public without the prior approval of the appropriate authorities. It is a serious crime, and the consequences can be punished with imprisonment for up to 14 years, or with the death sentence in certain cases.

The next important question is, who is the proper authority for seeking permission to disclose the cipher matter to the public? In the case of the Prime Minister or Foreign Minister, the proper authority for seeking permission to disclose classified information, including cipher matter, to the public is the National Security Council (NSC), a high-level body that is respon-

Cipher a hanging sword

The amended section of the Official Secrets Act has not yet been tested in court. It is possible that the courts will interpret the amended section in a way that limits its scope.

However, it is also possible that the courts will uphold the amended section in its entirety, which would mean that anyone who is found guilty of disclosing classified information with intent to injure the interests of Pakistan or to benefit a foreign power could be sentenced to death.

In many countries, the heads of the state or government are immune from prosecution during their time in office. Therefore it is exceedingly rare for heads of state or government to be punished for disclosing the content of diplomatic ciphers to the general public.

Disclosure of diplomatic ciphers would typically be an action taken while in office and is often a matter of national security and foreign relations, subject to legal and political processes that differ from those applied to ordinary citizens therefore, the legal actions related to disclosures of classified information are generally directed at lower-ranking officials or employees.

For example, Daniel Ellsberg, a former military analyst, leaked the "Pentagon Papers" to The New York Times in 1971. The Pentagon Papers were a classified Department of Defense study of U.S. political-military involvement in Vietnam from 1945 to 1967. Ellsberg faced charges under the Espionage Act but was not ultimately convicted. Chelsea Manning, a former U.S. Army intelligence analyst, leaked classified documents to WikiLeaks in 2010, including diplomatic cables and military information. Manning was convicted of multiple charges under the Espionage Act in 2013. Edward Snowden, a former National Security Agency (NSA) contractor, leaked classified information in 2013, revealing extensive surveillance programs. Snowden faced charges un-

der the Espionage Act but was granted asylum in Russia.

It is relatively uncommon for former heads of state or government to be sued and punished for disclosing diplomatic ciphers after leaving office. Diplomatic secrets are typically subject to the authority and discretion of the sitting government or head of state. Once out of office, former leaders often enjoy certain legal protections or immunity from prosecution for actions taken during their time in power. However, the extent of legal protection varies by country, and the political circumstances surrounding the disclosure play a significant role. Laws and legal systems differ, so it is possible, albeit rare, for legal action to be taken against former leaders.

The former Prime Minister of Pakistan does not have immunity from charges related to the disclosure of cipher content under the Official Secrets Act 2023. This law does not provide any special protection for former government officials, including former Prime Ministers. Parliamentary privilege, which shields members of Parliament from prosecution for statements made within Parliament, does not extend to disclosures made outside of parliamentary proceedings, such as the release of cipher information.

Consequently, the former Prime Minister is subject to the same legal provisions as any other Pakistani citizen and could face prosecution for revealing classified information, carrying penalties of up to 14 years in prison or even the death penalty.

While the former Prime Minister argues that his actions were justified in the public interest and that his previous immunity protects him, these arguments await judicial determination. It's essential to emphasize that the former Prime Minister is considered innocent until proven guilty and retains the right to a fair trial and the opportunity to mount a legal defense against the charges.

Commerce News

Pakistan's to learn from Malaysia's innovative approach, policies regarding rollout of 5G: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecom, Dr. Umar Saif, on Tuesday, expressed Pakistan's intention to learn from Malaysia's innovative approach and policies regarding the rollout of 5G.

"Malaysia has rolled out 5G at a lightning pace using a very innovative Spectrum Sharing policy. We will work with our Malaysian counterparts to learn about their innovative approach and policies" the minister said.

He was talking to a high-level delegation led by Fahmi Fadzli minister for IT, Communication & Digital Economy of Malaysia here in Dubai at the GITEX-23 Sidelines meeting.

The meeting encompassed crucial technology topics with the objective of strengthening collaboration between the two nations.

During the meeting, Dr Umar Saif explored the realm of financial technology (Fintech) and touched upon Starlink, the satellite internet company, making inroads into Malaysia.

The discussion extended to the potential implementation of LYNC, with a commitment to sharing experiences and knowledge.

Dr. Umar Saif drew attention to Pakistan's network coverage challenges, underscoring the importance of adopting best practices from the Malaysian Regulator.

Both ministers engaged in a dialogue regarding Pakistan's path to adopting 5G technology and the challenges impeding this transition.



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Investment/ Minister of State, Muhammad Tahir Javed meeting with a delegation of Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA) at BOI office.

SAPM Tahir Javed says Pakistan, world's leading manufacturer, exporter in pharmaceutical sector in 90s

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Investment, Tahir Javed Tuesday said that Pakistan was the world's leading manufacturer and exporter in the pharmaceutical sector in the 1990s.

At one time, Pakistan Pharmaceuticals was the leading exporter of Europe and America, whose exports held a special place in the important markets of the world, he said.

He said this while addressing to meeting with Pakistan Pharmaceutical

Manufacturing Association (PPMA) delegation led by its Chairman, Mian Khalid Misbah-ur-Rehman here in BOI office.

The SAPM said that the pharmaceutical sector was a major player in the country's exports and the trend of investment in the special economic zone was increasing and pharmaceutical companies should come and invest in it.

He said that the government would support the pharmaceutical sector in every aspect and Ease

of Doing Business was the priority of the Board of Investment.

The SAPM said that problems of the pharmaceutical sector would be resolved to make the country's economy strong and increase its exports.

He said that providing quality and affordable medicines to the people was the first priority of the government, for which the government and pharmaceutical manufacturers would try to work together.

Jafri assures APTMA of solving textile industry issues on priority

LAHORE (APP): Large Tax Office (LTO) Lahore, Chief Commissioner Syed Mahmood Hussain Jafri has assured the APTMA (All Pakistan Textile Mills Association) members of solving the textile industry issues related to sales tax refunds, deferred claims, adjustment of pending refunds and liabilities and exemption certificates on priority.

In a meeting of textile millers here at APTMA House on Tuesday, he said the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has established the LTOs to

address the issues of large taxpayers while acknowledging their role in revenue generation. He appreciated APTMA role in export and employment enhancement. He said the FBR has paid Rs 10 billion refunds since July 2023 including the deferred ones. However, he sought a list of APTMA members not able to receive refunds so far for speedy processing.

To a suggestion that LTO should allow tax adjustment, he said, the FBR is already processing inter-tax adjustments to facilitate the taxpayers.

CCP approves Bank Alfalah acquisition of shares in Qistbazaar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the entry of a financial institution into the consumer market of "Buy Now Pay Later Service."

CCP received an application for acquisition from QistBazaar (Private) Limited for the subscription of 7.2% of its shareholding by Bank Alfalah Limited. The Phase-I competition assessment of this transaction revealed that

the proposed acquisition would not lead to the dominance of the Acquirer in the relevant market post-transaction, said a press release issued here.

Therefore, CCP granted its authorization under Section 11 of the Competition Act, 2010, and CCP's Merger Regulations, 2016.

QistBazaar sells white goods, electronics and home goods online on the "buy now pay later" model.



Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, is presenting the commemorative shield to H. E. Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador of Türkiye in Pakistan. Mr. Muhammad Sulaiman Chawla, SVP FPCCI; Engr. M.A. Jabbar, VP FPCCI; Mian Anjum Nisar & Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo, former Presidents FPCCI; Mr. Amjad Rafi, Chairman of FPCCI's Pakistan - Türkiye Joint Business Council (PTJBC); top diplomats of Türkiye and other prominent business leaders were also present on the occasion.

'Look Africa' a good initiative by Pakistan govt, says Nigerian HC

LAHORE (APP): High Commissioner of Nigeria Mohammed Bello Abioye has said that Nigeria is the most populous and biggest economy in Africa and 'Look Africa' by the government of Pakistan is a good initiative for the enhancement of mutual trade and economic ties.

Addressing the business community here at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), the High Commissioner, who was on his farewell visit, said that Pakistan is his second home and he would continue to facilitate Pakistani

businesses in Nigeria. He said, "We are introducing medium of communication between Pakistani and Nigerian business people in order to increase trade opportunities and the Nigerian High Commission has eased visa processing."

The HC said that facilitating and fast tracking business activity is what they are working for, and they were trying to encourage investments in Nigeria, in his welcome address, LCCI President Kashif Anwar appreciated the High Commissioner for keeping regular interaction with the LCCI.

Institutional economic reform credit goes to Army Chief: RCCI

RAWALPINDI (APP): The credit of Pakistan's economic recovery, institutional economic reforms has steered the country out of economic uncertainty, and the establishment of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) goes to the Chief of Army Chief (COAS).

Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Saqib Rafiq in a statement said that meetings and consultations with the industrial community and elimination of gray zones.

PTCL Group posts double-digit revenue growth of 26.3%

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), the leading provider of telecom and ICT services in the country, has announced financial results for nine months ended September 30, 2023 registering double-digit growth of 26.3 per cent.

The announcement was made during the Board of Directors' meeting held in Dubai on Tuesday said

a news release.

In the first nine months of 2023, PTCL Group has maintained its strong performance, strengthening its status as Pakistan's top integrated telecom service provider.

Despite the challenging economic environment, the Group has achieved an impressive 26.3% increase in revenue compared to the same period last year.

PSX loses 200 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Tuesday, losing 200.34 points, a negative change of 0.40 per cent, closing at 49,531.01 points against 49,731.35 points the previous day. A total of 368,340,627 shares valuing Rs 10,404 billion were traded during the day as compared to 467,383,787 shares valuing Rs 14,119 billion the previous day.

As many as 347 companies transacted their shares in the stock market.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman addressing a ceremony held in connection with International White Cane Safety Day organized by Blind Professional Association.

Baligh underlines need to improve social attitudes towards special people

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended a ceremony organized by Blind Professional Association of Punjab in connection with White Cane Day at Al Hamra Lahore today as chief guest.

Addressing the ceremony, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Allah Almighty has given special abilities to special people and these people set an example for many people due to their courage and determination. He said that whether it is in the field of education or sports, these differently abled persons are not less than anyone.

Governor Punjab said that it is the duty of every individual in the society to help the visually impaired to face the challenges. Governor Punjab said that for the first time, the historic building of Governor House is being made suitable for the needs of special persons.

The facilities, including ramps for wheelchairs, and lift facilities are being provided. The elevator will also have Braille instructions for the visually impaired persons, he added. Governor Punjab underlined the need to improve social attitudes towards special people in society. He said that he has also issued a letter to the Vice Chancellors of the universities in this regard. He urged the teachers, especially school teachers, to work on improving social behaviour towards differently abled persons. He said that the Punjab government's departments should provide wheelchair ramps and other facilities to cater to the needs of the special people in the buildings. In particular, the construction department should take special care of the special persons during the construction work.

Governor Punjab said that different libraries across Punjab should also have audio based books and headphone facilities for visually impaired people so that these people can connect and access the whole world. Governor Punjab while appreciating the role of Blind Professional Association Punjab said that he was extremely happy to know that the Blind Professional Association of Punjab is a strong network of highly qualified and educated visually impaired people who are actively contributing to solving the problems of blind people.

Governor KPK directs varsities to appoint visually impaired persons on allocated quota

Independent Report
PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here on Wednesday directed universities to employ visually impaired and disabled persons on their quota and announced to provide them free education in universities.

He said this as a chief guest in a ceremony organized by the Pakistan Blind Association in connection with World White Cane Day. He said that visually impaired persons are part of our society and people must play a role for their empowerment and facilitation.

He said that visually impaired persons are being confronted with many difficulties and the social welfare department should take steps to provide them needed assistance and financial help. The governor also sought a comprehensive report from concerned departments and welfare organizations about problems of visually impaired people and said that we must identify flaws in our system that are impacting these people.

Minister visits Social Welfare Department

Independent Report
KOHAT (APP): Caretaker Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Justice Irshad Qaiser on Tuesday paid a detailed visit to the Social Welfare Department Kohat here.

On arrival she was welcomed by District Social Welfare Officer, Amjad Afridi and Superintendent Welfare Home Kohat Rizwanullah. The minister visited Darul Aman, Nishtar Special Education Center and Welfare Home Kohat.

District Social Welfare Officer Amjad Afridi gave a detailed presentation regarding the activities and mandate of the department.

In a first: Punjab cabinet holds meeting in Faisalabad; makes key decisions

Independent Report
FAISALABAD: For the first time in the district's history, a special meeting of the Punjab cabinet was held at the divisional commissioner office here on Tuesday.

Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi presided over the 30th meeting of the Punjab cabinet.

Commissioner Siltaw Saeed briefed the meeting about the ongoing development projects across the division.

CPO Faisalabad Cap (Retd) Muhammad Ali Zia briefed it about law and order and actions taken against criminals. The Punjab cabinet accorded approval for appointing commissioners at all departments for redressing public complaints. The commissioners will listen to citizen's complaints and take measures for redressing them.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali and others during Celebrations of International White Cane Safety Day organized by Pakistan Association of the Blind (PAB) held in Peshawar.

Govt wants speedy, equal uplift in newly merged districts: Dr Aamir

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) Dr Aamir Abdullah has said that the purpose of the establishment of the steering committee for the region was to include the region in development process on equal basis and to speed up the government's initiatives and get awareness about problems of the tribal areas.

He expressed these views while presiding over the first high-level steering committee formed by the provincial government for the merged districts here on Tuesday.

The meeting held in the committee room of the Home & Tribal Affairs Department.

200 Afghan refugees leave for Afghanistan

Independent Report
HARIPUR (APP): In a significant development, 176 unregistered and 24 registered Afghan refugees from camps in Haripur have returned to Afghanistan.

The news was disclosed by the Security In-charge of Haripur and Mansehra Afghan Refugee Camps, Muhammad Naveed, while talking to APP.

Durrani inaugurates solarise tube-wells

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Caretaker Minister for Local Government Elections and Rural Development Department (LGE&RDD) Engineer Aamer Durrani inaugurated three tube wells here on Tuesday.

In an attempt to harness solar energy and reduce dependency on the national grid, Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP) on Tuesday converted three tube wells with financial assistance from the Islamic Relief.

The solarized tube wells located in Audit Colony, Gullay Baba, and Bahadar Kalay.

The company has also installed an automated water testing machine to check and analyze the water quality.

The company installed the SCADA system on 87 more tube wells, taking the tally of tube wells with the SCADA system to 133 in localities under its administrative jurisdiction.

Commissioner Bannu for enhanced disaster preparedness

Independent Report
PESHAWAR (APP): Commissioner Bannu Division, Pervaiz Sabat Khel Tuesday underscored the pivotal role of all departments in reducing losses caused by climate induced natural disasters emphasizing the need for preparing effective plans to cope situations in case of disasters. He was addressing the inaugural session of a one-day consultation workshop regarding provincial disaster management.

CM Naqvi sets example by travelling in coach

Independent Report
FAISALABAD: Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi set a new example by travelling in a coach with members of the Punjab cabinet and officers here on Tuesday.

He travelled from the office of commissioner to hotel with the Chief Secretary, IG police, Advocate General Punjab and Secretaries. The Chief Minister also held separate meetings with representatives of the Pakistan Flour Mills Association, Karyana (Merchant) Association and Punjab Bar Council.

In a meeting with the Pakistan Flour Mills association, the matter of curtailing flour prices was discussed after the cut in petroleum prices. The Chief Minister said that people should get relief from reduced prices of flour. Wheat release policy would also be announced soon, he said.

During a meeting with the Karyana (Merchant) association, the Chief Minister directed to cut edible items prices to provide relief.

International News

World leaders make feverish attempts to secure ceasefire

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin entered the fevered diplomatic fray of the Middle East, speaking to five of the major players including Iran and leading Arab powers in an attempt to secure a ceasefire in the region.

The Kremlin said Putin had spoken to his Syrian, Egyptian and Iranian counterparts as well as Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas. Kremlin foreign policy aide said Putin also speak to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The Kremlin statement said Putin had voiced concern in his calls about "a catastrophic increase in the number of civilian victims and the aggravation of a humanitarian crisis in Gaza".

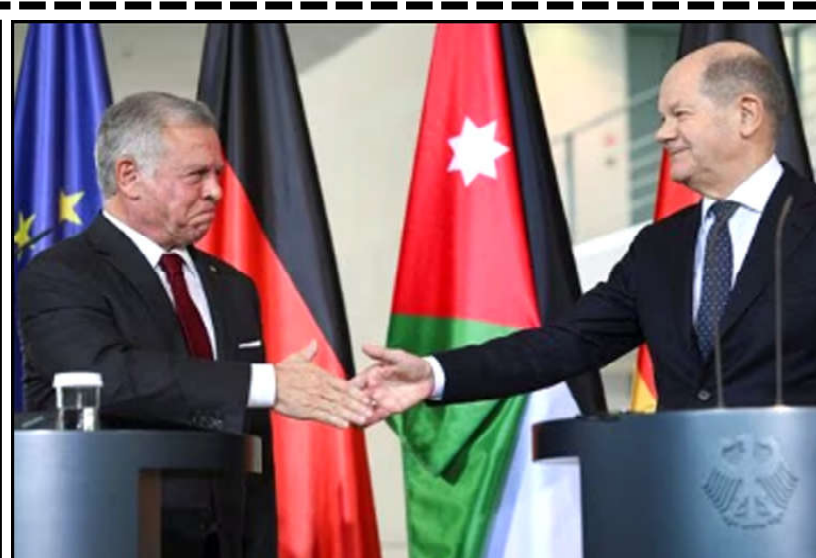
All the leaders called for "an immediate ceasefire and the establishment of a humanitarian truce to provide urgent assistance to those in need," it said. Putin said he was ready to "coordinate efforts with all constructive partners to put an end to hostilities and stabilise the situation as quickly as possible". The Russian leader repeated his call for the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state as the only way for lasting peace.

Putin expressed "his sincere condolences to the families and friends of the deceased Israelis," Kremlin said in a statement after Putin spoke to Netanyahu.

He also told the Israeli president of the steps Russia has taken to "promote the normalisation of the situation, prevent a further escalation of violence and prevent a humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip."

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Monday called for a ceasefire to halt the bloodshed in Israel, at a meeting with his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov. The two diplomats discussed the ongoing conflict ahead of a visit this week by Putin to China.

"It is imperative that a ceasefire be put in place, that the two sides be brought back to the negotiating table, and that an emergency humanitarian channel be established to prevent a further humanitarian disaster," Wang told Lavrov, according to a Chinese transcript of the meeting.



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Jordan's King Abdullah II go to shake hands, as they attend a press conference, at the Chancellery in Berlin, Germany.

Gaza families ordered south return home, say nowhere is safe from Israeli bombs

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: The Abu Marasa family are returning to Gaza City, having fled on Friday after Israel ordered all civilians to go south or face bombardment, saying they would rather die at home after an air strike hit the house next to where they were sheltering.

Bombing in the south of the tiny, crowded Gaza Strip killed scores of people overnight, local authorities said, and the Abu Marasa family is one of several Reuters spoke to that have concluded they may as well go back to their homes in the north.

More than a dozen members of the family were crowded into a car on the edge of Khan Younis, the main city of southern Gaza, their belongings strapped to the roof for the perilous journey back north through the bombardment.

"Why should we be martyrs in Khan Younis? We would better die as martyrs in our houses. Let the whole building fall on our heads," said Saleem Abu Marasa, preparing to drive back.

Israel began its most intensive ever bombardment of the Gaza Strip, a 45km-long (25 million) enclave home to 2.3 million people, after the militant Palestinian group Hamas rampaged through Israeli towns killing 1,300 people on Oct. 7. The Israeli military said last week all civilians should leave the northern half of the enclave, including the main Gaza City, as it prepares a ground assault to wipe out Hamas. Israeli bombing has killed 2,800 Palestinians in 11 days.

Even without the bombardment, a humanitarian disaster is unfolding across the enclave as Israel blocks off all power, water, medicine, food and fuel. The evacuation order has stirred fears in Gaza, where many inhabitants are refugees, that they will never be able to return home. The United Nations human rights office warned on Tuesday that the demand could breach international law.

The United Nations said heavy bombardment was taking place across the enclave, with strikes hitting Khan Younis and other parts of the south where Israel had told people to go.

Iran's Khamenei says Israel must halt assault on Palestinians in Gaza

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has described Israel's assault on Gaza as a genocide of Palestinians and said it must stop immediately, state TV reported on Tuesday.

A senior commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) also warned of further action by Tehran-backed militant groups against Israel if it did not cease its attacks.

Israel has bombed the Palestinian territory of Gaza with air strikes since Hamas fighters burst into Israel from the enclave on Oct. 7 and killed 1,300 people, most of them civilians.

It has vowed to annihilate the Tehran-backed Hamas, which rules Gaza. But the Israeli retaliatory strikes have killed more than 2,800 Palestinians, a quarter of them children, and driven around half of the 2.3 million Gazans from their homes. Israel has also imposed a total blockade on the enclave, preventing food, fuel and medical supplies from getting in.

"No one can confront Muslims and the resistance forces if the Zionist regime's (Israel) crimes against Palestinians continue. The bombardment of Gaza must stop immediately," Khamenei told a group of students in Tehran.

"The world is witnessing the Zionist regime's genocide of Palestinians in Gaza," he said to chants of "Death to Israel".



Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg is escorted during an Oily Money Out and Fossil Free London protest in London, Britain.

Climate activist Greta Thunberg detained by police in London

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Climate activist Greta Thunberg was detained by police in London on Tuesday, a Reuters witness reported, after she addressed protesters at a demonstration against oil and gas companies in the centre of the city.

Thunberg, who became the face of young climate activists worldwide after staging weekly protests in front of the Swedish parliament in 2018, has this year been detained by police or removed from protests in Sweden, Norway and Germany.

Video footage showed Thunberg, wearing a badge with the slogan 'Oily Money Out' standing calmly as two police officers spoke to her. One was seen holding her arm. London's Metropolitan Police did not immediately provide a statement when contacted by Reuters. Environmental group Greenpeace said two of its activists scaled the Intercontinental Hotel in Mayfair and unfurled a giant banner over its entrance reading.

Taliban representative arrives in Beijing to attend Belt and Road Forum

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: The Taliban's acting commerce minister Haji Nooruddin Azizi arrived in Beijing on Tuesday to attend the Belt and Road Forum, the Afghan embassy said, which is among the highest-profile summits it has been invited to since taking power in 2021.

Beijing has sought to grow its official ties with the Taliban administration ever since U.S. and other foreign forces withdrew from the country two years ago, despite its lack of formal recognition by any government. The impoverished country could offer a wealth of coveted mineral resources.

Germany's Scholz warns Iran, Hezbollah not to enter Middle East conflict

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Tuesday called for preventing an escalation in the Middle East and warned Hezbollah and Iran against intervening in the conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Czech Republic in talks to buy Embraer military cargo jet

Monitoring Desk
PRAGUE: The Czech Republic said on Tuesday it had started talks with Embraer (EMBR3.SA) on the possible acquisition of two C-390 Millennium military transport aircraft, lifting shares of the Brazilian planemaker.

The move comes after neighbouring Austria tapped the C-390 Millennium to refresh its fleet in a possible joint order with the Netherlands, underscoring demand for the new aircraft aimed at replacing Lockheed Martin's (LMTN) Hercules C-130s.

Embraer shares rose more than 1.5% on the news, among the top advances on Brazil's benchmark stock index, which was near flat.

"The ramp-up of C-390 deliveries are an important aspect of our overweight-rating on Embraer," analysts at JPMorgan said. "Moreover, the increased backlog bodes well for our expected margin improvement in the segment during the coming years."

Embraer and the Czech government did not provide details on pricing, but JPMorgan estimated the potential order to be worth around \$240 million.

The Czech Defence Ministry said it wanted to negotiate the shortest possible delivery time for the aircraft, which it noted could be used for evacuations from crisis areas.

The Czech Republic, which is ramping up defence spending to meet its NATO commitments, currently lacks aircraft in the niche for medium and long haul flights.

Embraer had been long courting the country for an order as the company's defence unit aims to expand its footprint abroad.

"The C-390 Millennium is drawing the attention of several nations around the world."

Polish opposition looks set to oust ruling nationalists in major political shift

Monitoring Desk
WARSAW: Poland's liberal, pro-EU opposition on Monday looked on track to form the next government after official partial results and exit polls showed the ruling nationalists losing their parliamentary majority in the nation's most pivotal election in decades.

The incumbent Law and Justice (PiS) party has repeatedly clashed with the European Union over the rule of law, media freedom, migration and LGBT rights since it swept to power in 2015. Opposition parties have vowed to mend ties with Brussels and scrap reforms they say have eroded Polish democracy.

An Ipsos exit poll published early on Monday gave PiS 36.6% of the vote, which would translate into 198 lawmakers in the 460-seat lower house of parliament. Opposition parties, led by the former European Council president Donald Tusk's liberal grouping Civic Coalition (KO), were projected to win a combined 248 seats.

Israel must lift illegal blockade on Gaza, allow aid to Palestinians: Pakistan

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has called on Israel to lift its inhumane blockade on the Gaza Strip and allow unhindered access to humanitarian aid for the Palestinian people suffering under the relentless Israeli bombardment that has ravaged the enclave.

At a debate on the Palestinian question in a UN panel, Ambassador Muhammad Usman Iqbal Jadoon, the Pakistani deputy permanent representative to the UN, said that the Tel Aviv regime must fulfill those obligations as an occupying Power under international law.

"The Palestinian people need protection, immediate and urgent humanitarian aid, and an end of the mass displacement," he told the General Assembly's Second Committee, which deals with economic and financial matters, on Monday.

In the Committee's ensuing debate, 34 other

speakers condemned Israel's actions, with the Observer for the State of Palestine, Sahar Nasser-Abushawsh, warning that the conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip, have witnessed a horrific and unimaginable deterioration due to Israel's destructive practices.

She said Israel's recent declaration of war on the Palestinian civilian population was exacerbated by its decision to starve and completely cut off the Palestinian population from water, fuel and electricity, elevating an "already dangerous situation into a humanitarian, sanitation and environmental catastrophe".

In his remarks, Ambassador Jadoon said that Pakistan has been providing humanitarian assistance to the "besieged and helpless" Palestinian people, adding, "We are actively exploring avenues for reach-

ing the needy population in Gaza with essential supplies." The Pakistani envoy voiced deep concern about the alarming and dire security and humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, as a result of Israel's illegal practices. More than 1 million people in Gaza and in the surrounding area have been asked to move south of the territory amid continuous air bombings in flagrant breach of international law and in grave violation of relevant UN resolutions, Ambassador Jadoon said.

"These Israeli actions amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity," he added. The unprecedented gravity of the situation demands the international community's urgent intervention, the Pakistani envoy emphasized, urging the UN to play a proactive role in facilitating a ceasefire to alleviate the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori briefing the new Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf in the Governor House about historical items used by the Fathers of the Nation.

Pakistan, Sri Lanka express support for establishing independent Palestinian state

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Sri Lanka have called for establishing a viable and contiguous Palestinian state with pre-1967 borders and Al-Quds Al Sharif as its capital.

The understanding to this effect came at a meeting between Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and President Ranil Wickremesinghe today on the sidelines of 3rd Belt and Road Forum.

During the meeting, the two leaders expressed deep concern over the grave

humanitarian situation in Gaza caused by the ongoing Israeli attacks. They further urged for establishing a humanitarian corridor to provide aid to the besieged people of Gaza.

The Prime Minister emphasized the need to work together to fight poverty and promote economic growth and development for benefit of the entire region. He also expressed his desire to promote peace and enhance connectivity through regional cooperation.

Governor felicitates Pak football team for victory in WC qualifier

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori has congratulated the Pakistan football team on the success of FIFA World Cup qualifying round for the first time.

He said that the team had made history by defeating Cambodia. He hoped that the football team would also play well in the next round.

Ashrafi urges OIC to take strong stance on Israel's bombardment of Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Tuesday said it was almost 10th day that Israel was continuously doing bombardment on Palestine and particularly on Gaza causing casualties of innocent people of all ranks including women, children and civilians.

Talking to media persons, he said due to inhuman policies of Israel, the Palestinian people were suffering from shortage of food, water, medicines and other necessities of life adding that trucks carrying relief goods were queuing at the border of Egypt but, Israel was not giving per-

mission to enter them in the territory.

Ashrafi urged the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to take a solid stance on the issue of Palestine in its meeting scheduled to be held on Wednesday.

He said Pakistan's Foreign Affairs Minister Ambassador Jilani Abbas Jilani was leaving for OIC's meeting expressing hope that he would make significant development on this issue.

He said the Muslim world should not be silent spectator anymore and devise an effective strategic plan to deal with this longstanding issue with collective efforts in letter and spirit on permanent basis.



KUALA LUMPUR: Pakistan Navy's former Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi received highest Military award by the Govt of Malaysia during an impressive investiture ceremony held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Hungarian Air Chief admires PAF personnel's professionalism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Commander Hungarian Air Force, Brigadier General József Koller along with his delegation called on Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu during his visit to Air Headquarters here on Tuesday.

The Hungarian Air Chief expressed his admiration for the professionalism of PAF personnel and praised the remarkable progress made by Pakistan Air Force (PAF) through indigenization, a PAF news release said. The first-ever visit by the Hungarian Air Chief to Pakistan marks a significant milestone in the bilateral relations between the two countries and a new opening in Air Force to Air Force relations.

The historic event highlights the growing cooperation and friendship between Pakistan and Hungary, particularly in the realm of defence industry and military partnership.

The meeting emphasized the exchange of insight and sharing of ideas to explore potential areas of joint collaboration particularly in the domains of military technology and training programs. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Pakistan Air Force and Hungarian Air Force is expected to be finalized in the near future, outlining a framework for Pakistan Air Force to provide basic and tactical level training to Hungarian Air Force pilots.

Riyadh conference FII7 convenes world leaders to shape future of humanity

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 7th Edition of the Future Investment Initiative (FII), themed "The New Compass," will convene an exceptional gathering of world leaders, industry titans, financiers, innovators, and policymakers in the capital city of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from October 24th to 26th, 2023.

According to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), the conference will address pressing global challenges in the realms of Climate, Economy, and Technology, with a focus on fostering global cooperation and harnessing technological advancements for the greater good.

The world is at a crossroads, Climate change, economic instability, and technological disruption are reshaping the global landscape. In this time of upheaval, the Future Investment Initiative (FII7) arrives as a beacon of hope, convening global leaders to forge a new compass for humanity.



KARACHI: Members of All Students of Jammu and Kashmir (Karachi Division) in the favor of their demands outside press club in Provincial Capital.

Health experts call for disseminating breast cancer awareness

HYDERABAD (APP): Health experts and doctors have underscored the critical importance of public awareness and early diagnosis in the prevention and management of breast cancer among female individuals.

They emphasized this while addressing the breast cancer awareness seminar organized by the Institute of Gender Studies (IGS), University of Sindh Jamshoro on Tuesday.

The experts said that October was recognized worldwide, including Pakistan, as breast cancer awareness month and revealed that the country diagnosed approximately 90,000 cases of breast cancer in women annually, primarily attributed to a lack of awareness and limited access to diagnostic facilities.

They urged the citizens especially women to actively disseminate breast cancer awareness as early detection can save numerous lives.

They also emphasized that while Pakistan witnesses around 90,000 new breast cancer cases annually, the disease has a survival rate of over 98 percent when diagnosed in the early stages making late di-



BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets President of Kenya Dr. William Ruto on the sidelines of 3rd Belt and Road Forum.

PM seeks Kenyan president's facilitation over investigation of journalist Arshad's murder

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday sought facilitation from Kenyan President Dr. William Ruto over the finalization of the investigation into the murder of Pakistani journalist Arshad Sharif.

Journalist and news anchor Arshad Sharif was shot dead last year on October 23 during his stay in Kenya. "The prime minister requested the Kenyan President for facilitation and finalization of the report of Special Joint Inves-

tigation Team in the murder case of late Pakistani journalist Arshad Sharif," the PM Office said in a statement following the meeting of the two leaders in China. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 3rd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation being held in Beijing, China.

PM Kakar and the Kenyan president discussed bilateral cooperation in diverse fields and reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing bilateral relations in areas of trade.

World Bank to provide \$150m to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): The World Bank has expressed its willingness to provide \$150 million to Pakistan, while \$135 million will be provided as a loan for the energy sector projects.

According to documents, the World Bank will also provide \$15 million as a grant. The energy sector plan aims to improve the efficiency of the energy sector. Commercial, industrial and residential buildings will be shifted from gas to electricity.

The implementation on the project is estimated to save Rs291.65 billion annually.

Irrigation minister directs retrieval of vehicles, removal of encroachment

HYDERABAD (APP): The Provincial Irrigation Minister Eshwar Lal has directed the concerned irrigation officials to retrieve the vehicles which are still under use of the former Irrigation Minister and ex irrigation officials so that the issue of shortage of vehicles can be resolved.

Chairing a meeting here on Tuesday at the office of Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority

(SIDA), the minister also directed the officials to end the illegal occupation of the irrigation rest houses and to rehabilitate the same to put the building to official use.

He advised the officials to prepare a strategy to remove encroachment from the banks of the canals and to overcome the obstacles and delays impeding completion of the development projects.



HYDERABAD: Mayor Hyderabad, Kashif Shoro along with others inaugurating the Mother and Child Hospital at Sheedi Goth located on Qasimabad in Hyderabad.

PML-N leaders say Only Nawaz Sharif can get country out of crises

By Tanveer Ahmed Soomro

MIRPUR MATHELO: On the occasion of Mian Nawaz Sharif's return home, motorcycle rally by Pakistan Muslim League (N) in Mirpur Mathelo, chanting slogans in support of Nawaz Sharif, only Nawaz Sharif can get the country out of crises. Currently, inflation is on the rise, poor people are worried about having two meals a day, becoming the prime minister of Nawaz Sharif will bring prosperity to the country. The motorcycle rally by League (N) raised slogans in support of Nawaz Sharif. Former MNA Pakistan Muslim League (N) Vice President Dr. Darshan Lal, on this occasion, Dr. Darshan Lal, Mian Rahmatullah, Deen Muhammad Lashari,

Zakaria Soomro, Ali Asghar Malhan and others said that we are grateful to all these dignitaries. Grateful to those who participated in such a large number and showed their love for Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and God willing Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif will become the Prime Minister of the country for the fourth time, he added that the current state of the country is not good before 2013. There were robberies, unjust bloodshed, load shedding of 18-18 hours of electricity was normal, but it was such that there was no electricity, railways and PIA were about to be closed, during the regime of Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. Oil and petrol were available at 67 rupees per liter, 1300 rupees per bag of urea and 97 rupees.

Nawaz to restore the dignity of vote: Asif

SIALKOT (APP): Former Federal Defence Minister and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) central leader Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said Nawaz Sharif will become the Prime Minister for the fourth time by restoring the dignity of the vote.

He expressed these views while addressing a worker convention organized by Union Council Rangpura in a local marquee last night. He said that a large number of workers will reach Lahore on October 21 to welcome Nawaz Sharif.

Operation against transporters for overcharging conducted in Sukkur

SUKKUR (APP): The Sukkur Police along with officials of the Regional Transport Authority conducted a joint operation against transporters for violating the officially prescribed fare list. During the operation on Tuesday, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sukkur, Liaqat Ali Kalhoro paid a visit to Sukkur bus terminals and inspected basic facilities for passengers and inquired about the fares. The inspection team imposed fines on several drivers for overcharging passengers despite the significant reduction in fuel prices.

Buildings, roads, places named after prominent personalities not to be allowed to change: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Tuesday said that the buildings, roads and places named after prominent personalities will not be allowed to be changed under any circumstances.

He expressed these views while inspecting the ongoing development works and carpeting in the Johar Underpass.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that it was not appropriate to change the names of buildings and institutions named after important personalities. Naming requires legislation and this authority is vested in

the respective local bodies.

He said that the paving of the roads around the Johar underpass should be completed soon as timely completion of the work will help to control the traffic jam problems.

He said that if there is a flyover or underpass in the name of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, Begum Nusrat Bhutto or Zia Mohiuddin, then these personalities have services for the country and nation. If someone wants to change these names, it will be their misunderstanding.

The Mayor Karachi said, "The development

works of the city are our first priority and we consider it our duty to carry out the development works equally in the city."

He said that the construction work of Johar underpass should be completed as soon as possible so that it provides convenience to the people of the area.

He said that mega projects are being started in the city and construction work is being accelerated.

The Mayor Karachi inspected the ongoing construction work of the underpass and issued instructions on the spot.



ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Siraj-ul-Haq addresses during the National Palestine Conference held in Islamabad.

Sindh HRC conducts training for newly appointed judges

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) successfully conducted a 2-day "Human Rights Education" training session at the Sindh Judicial Academy for the recently appointed Civil Judges and Judicial Magistrates.

SHRC in a statement on Tuesday said that a total of 45 trainees participated, including 5 females and 40 males. The training was held on the 16th and 17th of October 2023.

Mohammad Omer Soomro, Sindh Minister for Law, Religious Affairs, and Human Rights served as the Chief Guest at the training session. He emphasized the challenging journey ahead for the judges as they begin a new chapter in their careers. He encouraged them to recognize the significance of their roles, the power and responsibility they hold, and the importance of upholding justice. He stressed

that their commitment to their duties and their dedication to the justice system will shape the future.

The training aimed to enhance the understanding of key human rights laws and their practical implementation during investigations and trials, and to guarantee a legal system in Sindh that is fair and just for the people of Sindh.

The training was conducted by eminent speakers, including Chairperson, Sindh Human Rights Commission Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Barrister Rida Tahir, Law Consultant SHRC, and Muhammad Shahid Shafiq, District & Sessions Judge/Senior Faculty Member, Sindh Judicial Academy. At the end of the training session, the Chief Guest distributed certificates to the participants, and distinguished speakers were presented with Shields as tokens of acknowledgment.

City Police chief visits SITE Super Highway Association of Industry

KARACHI (APP): Karachi Police Chief Khadim Hussain Rind on Tuesday visited the secretary of SITE Super Highway Association of Industry.

The Additional Inspector General of Police - Karachi was accompanied by SSP East and other senior police officers on the occasion, said a news release.

SITE Super Highway Association President Shaheen Ilyas, Vice President Sarfaraz, CPK Chief Murad Soni and other members welcomed the Police Chief.

Open katchery held at Kamber

LARKANA (APP): The Regional Director, Provincial Ombudsman Larkana Ali Akbar Jagirani Tuesday directed the District Accounts Officer Kamber-Shahdadkot @Kamberto solve the problems of government employees, retired employees and the families of the deceased employees without any delay. This he said while holding an open court at District Accounts Office Kamber. Any kind of negligence will not be tolerated in this context, he warned.

He said that the problems of the government employees, retired government employees, pensioners and families of the deceased employees should be resolved at the earliest and special care should be taken. The Regional Director Ombudsman directed the officials to resolve the legitimate issues of the employees and their families in all cases.



KARACHI: Members of All Students of Jammu Kashmir are holding protest demonstration for demanding to restore student union, held at Karachi press club.