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Elections in Pakistan halted for 'one person's return': Bilawal Bhutto

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday asserted that the general elections in Pakistan were halted for 'one person's return' - in an apparent reference to PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif.

"The delay in general elections is not vote ki izzat (respect of vote) but vote ki beizzati (disrespect of vote)," the PPP Chairman said while addressing a public gathering related to the 16th anniversary of Karsaz tragedy in Karachi.

Bilawal Bhutto noted that the 16-month tenure of coalition government taught that Pakistan cannot be run from London. "Today, the country's Constitution, election, and democracy were halted due to one person's return," he said.

Without naming anyone, the former foreign minister said: "We hope that his return to the country would be big, and also that ECP [Election Commission of Pakistan] would soon announce the election schedule."

He expressed the urgent need for all political parties to support the demand for the immediate announcement of election schedule by election commission, saying that Pakistan can be brought back on the path of progress only via elections.

Bilawal Bhutto also said that he wants to end the politics of divide and abuse, adding that if politicians keep fighting amongst themselves, the country will not progress.

"We have to leave politics of abuses and divide behind. We need new leadership, which is not stuck in the past but thinks about the future. We don't want 90s' Pakistan or 2017's Pakistan. We want today's Pakistan," he added.

The PPP chairman also announced that his party was kick-starting their mass contact campaign, which will demand the ECP issue election's date.



KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Aseefa Bhutto Zardari wave to crowds at a rally organised on the occasion of anniversary of Karsaz tragedy.

PM urges UN Secy General to ask Israel to stop violence against Palestinians

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday urged the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to play a role in stopping Israel's violence against Palestinians.

The prime minister and the UN's top diplomat met in Beijing on the sidelines of the Third Belt and Road Forum.

"We demand an end to this indiscriminate targeting and urge the international community to act swiftly to stop the violence and hold those responsible accountable," the prime minister posted on social media platform X after his meeting with Guterres.

PM Kakar strongly condemned the Israeli attack on Al-Ahly Al-Mamadany Hospital in Gaza, causing immense civilian casualties.

He termed targeting a hospital, a sanctuary for those in need, an "indefensible act of inhumanity".

International humanitarian law gives protection to hospitals and medical personnel, he added.



BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets Secretary General of United Nations Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of 3rd Belt and Road Forum, Beijing.

Rejects rumors circulating on social media No threats to law and order in Karachi: Police

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Police on Wednesday rejected the rumors circulating on social media regarding threats to the law and order situation in the megalopolis.

The police spokesmen termed the viral news, regarding any possible threats to law and order situation, as fake and a mere propaganda.

The citizens were appealed not to pay heed to any such fake news and also not to spread them, he added.

Earlier, a message was circulating over social media according to which there were threats to peace of the city.

The said message further read "Some miscreants, who apparently are non-natives were spotted by a number of people in suspicious vehicles carrying heavy arms and ammunition and the next 72

hours were most sensitive for the city." Besides the news also mentioned the names of different city areas.

However, terming the message to be fake, Additional IGP Karachi Khadim Hussain Rind said the message was a nefarious tactic of evil elements, people should never pay attention to such rumors.

Police and law enforcement agencies were taking all measures to maintain complete control over the law and order situation at the provincial level and especially in Karachi through cooperation and strategy.

Additional IGP Karachi warned that strict legal action will be taken against those elements who disturb the law and order of the city and spread fear among the citizens with such baseless news.



BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Chinese Premier Li Qiang met on the sidelines of 3rd Belt and Road Forum.

PM Kakar says Pakistan committed to work with China, regional partners on goals of open global economy, connectivity

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said Pakistan was committed to working with China and other regional partners in achieving the ideals of an open global economy and promoting connectivity on a trans-continental scale.

"With shared responsibility and by embracing the vision of working together, we can create a brighter, peaceful, and sustainable future for ourselves and for our generations," he said in his address at the high-level event of the Third Belt and Road Forum (BRF) on 'Connectivity in an Open

Global Economy'.

The two-day forum, which marked the 10 years of the multi-billion dollar cross-regional Belt and Road Initiative, kicked off in China's capital Beijing with representatives from 140 countries in attendance.

PM Kakar said Pakistan endorsed China's vision of global connectivity and also looked forward to joining hands with other partners across borders and regions to materialize the projects.

"I am hopeful that together we can shape a world with the bonds that unite us together, rather than the forces that divide us," he said.

The prime minister congratulated President Xi Jinping for his revolutionary idea of the Belt and Road Initiative launched 10 years ago that proved instrumental in bringing common development and shared prosperity.

He termed enhanced connectivity a profound factor in development and progress in the modern age of globalization.

"The BRI's concept of shared future for mankind is not about road and railway infrastructure, but also to create linkages among civilizations and nations," he said.

He mentioned that the world faced a number of challenges including post-pandemic effects, the divide between the developed and the impoverished, peace, and food security.

Kakar highlighted that BRI's flagship project China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) played a crucial role in generating new economic opportunities in Pakistan.

Underscoring its salience for Pakistan's robust economic development, he endorsed the Chinese proposal for developing CPEC as a corridor of growth, innovation, livelihood, green economy, openness, and inclusiveness.

During the meetings, issues of mutual interest including upcoming general elections were discussed.

Murtaza Solangi said that peaceful transfer of power was topmost priority of the caretaker dispensation.

The minister assured both the leaders that caretaker government would ensure that elections were conducted in fair, transparent and impartial elections.

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President for enhancing trade, economic cooperation with Morocco

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday called for increasing cooperation with Morocco in the fields of trade, investment and economy.

The president, in a meeting with Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Morocco Muhammad Sami-ur-Rehman, who called on him, asked him to work for enhancing Pakistani exports to Morocco.

Earlier, Pakistan's Ambassador/Permanent Representative-designate to the United Nations in Geneva, Dr Bilal Ahmad, also called on President Alvi.

Talking to the ambassador, the president urged him to continue Pakistan's

positive engagement with the UN system to advance country's national interest and priorities.

He underlined that Pakistan needed to increase its engagement with the World Health Organization and International Labour Organization to build capacity of its public health system and uphold labour standards.

President Alvi said that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC)

had been constituted to provide a single platform to facilitate and attract investment and Morocco could benefit of Pakistan's business friendly environment.

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IGP visits Sindh High Court Bar

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Riffat Mukhtar Raja on Wednesday visited Sindh High Court Bar.

Upon his arrival at the High Court Bar, he was received by President Bar Council Muhammad Saleem Mangrio and Honorary Secretary Amir Nawaz Warraich.

In the meeting, the President and Honorary Secretary High Court Bar discussed various issues.

The IGP Sindh on the occasion said it was necessary to make the criminal justice system strong and effective in order to solve crimes.

He said along with its operational capabilities, the police was moving forward keeping in mind the innovation in investigative matters and measures.

By doing this, on the one hand, the measures like research and investigation are strengthened, on the other hand, due to solid evidence and challan, the punishment of the arrested accused by the respective courts is also ensured.

Riffat Mukhtar said as the chief of Sindh Police, his mission was to serve the people as much as possible and to make the police a friend and servant of the people in the true sense.

Abdul Hameed Mengal assumes charge of Chairman IRSA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Member Balochistan Abdul Hameed Mengal assumed the charge of Chairman Indus River System Authority (IRSA) here Wednesday for period of one year.

"In accordance with Chapter-II, Section 4, Clauses (2) & (3) of IRSA Act XXII of 1992, Abdul Hameed Mengal, Member IRSA (Balochistan) has assumed the charge of Chairman IRSA for a period of one year with effect from October, 18 2023," said a notification issued here.

Former PM wants

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Sources said chairman PTI has shown willingness to walk alongside all.

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KARACHI: Governor of Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori along with others gives awards to Zafar Abbas General Secretary of JDC Welfare organization during 17th Consumers Awards 2023 at Governor House.

Imran ready to talk to everyone including establishment

ISLAMABAD (Online): Inside story of PTI leaders meeting with president Arif Alvi has come to open.

PTI information secretary Rauf Hassan and lawyer Umair Niazi conveyed important message of PTI chairman Imran Khan to the president. Former Prime Minister (PM) is ready to talk to everyone including establishment.

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Caretaker Govt to ensure fair elections in country: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi Wednesday said that fundamental responsibility of the caretaker government was to provide a conducive environment for elections and monitor the electoral process.

This was stated by him, during separate meetings with Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) leader Mussadiq Malik and Pakistan People's Party leader

Syed Akhunzada Chhattan. During the meetings, issues of mutual interest including upcoming general elections were discussed.

Murtaza Solangi said that peaceful transfer of power was topmost priority of the caretaker dispensation.

The minister assured both the leaders that caretaker government would ensure that elections were conducted in fair, transparent and impartial elections.

Pakistan conducts successful flight test of Ababeel Weapon System

RAWALPINDI (APP): Pakistan on Wednesday conducted a successful flight test of Ababeel Weapon System aimed at re-validating various design, technical parameters and performance evaluation of different subsystems of the weapon system.

"The missile system is aimed at strengthening deterrence and enhancing strategic stability in the region through the operationalization of Full Spectrum Deterrence in the overall construct of Credible Minimum Deterrence," an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release

said. The test flight launch was witnessed by Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza and senior officers from Strategic Plans Division and Strategic Forces Command, Scientists and Engineers of Strategic Organizations. The CJCS appreciated the technical progress, dedication and commitment of all those who contributed towards the successful test.

The President, Prime Minister and Services Chiefs also congratulated all members of the Strategic Forces on the achievement.

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REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

DAYS REMAINING

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in f @GovtOfPakistan

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Israel's Extreme barbarism in Gaza

The Israel's naked aggression and barbarism in form of airstrike on a hospital of Gaza is nothing but heartbreaking for the humanity especially the Muslims all over the globe. It has shaken the nerves of every one leaving them in a state of shock. The people even the conscious ones in the so-called civilized developed west are grieved over the extreme brutality demonstrated and being demonstrated by Israel's inhuman leadership towards the Palestinians for last several days. As a result of the brutality and cruelty unleashed by Israel and its forces, thousands have so been martyred and thousands others wounded.

And now what's extreme happened is the airstrike of the Israeli forces in Gaza and that targeted a hospital there martyring over 800 people and wounding several others.

The media reports suggested that the Al-Ahli Hospital located in the central Gaza Strip was bombed without any prior warning, causing severe destruction which would prevent the hospital from continuing and providing medical services for thousands of people. There are "hundreds of victims" under the rubble of a Gaza hospital compound that was hit by Israeli bombing, said the Health Ministry in the besieged coastal enclave.

The incident stands as the bloodiest single occurrence in Gaza since Israel initiated a relentless bombing campaign in retaliation for a deadly cross-border Hamas assault on southern Israeli communities earlier in October.

Needless to mention those martyred were included injured during the shelling and bombing by Israel in Gaza and other adjacent areas. What's agony and pitiful is that the martyred also include doctors and health workers serving in the Hospital.

Seeing the worst on-ground situation, one thing is very much clear that humanity has just ended on part of Israel. One can term the huge massacre occurred in a Gaza hospital a holocaust. It is an Israeli state-sponsored massacre of the innocent people in Gaza and other Palestinian territory.

Earlier, a UN-run school in central Gaza where 4,000 people are sheltering was hit during an Israeli airstrike, killing at least six people. Entire neighbourhoods have been razed and survivors are left with dwindling supplies of food, water and fuel. "The situation is catastrophic beyond what I could have imagined," said Jamil Abdullah, a Palestinian-Swede, hoping to flee the blockaded enclave, said, "There are corpses in the streets. Buildings are crashing down on their inhabitants. Blood is everywhere. The smell of the dead is everywhere." "Enough!" cried Mohamed Abu Zaid, counting about 20 family members killed in one strike. "How long will this continue for?"

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees says more than one million Palestinians—almost half of Gaza's population of 2.4 million—have fled their homes. World Health Organization regional director Ahmed Al-Mandhari told AFP that Gaza was barreling towards "real catastrophe". Since Israel's evacuation order in north Gaza, entire families, young children and the elderly have gathered belongings and fled to southern Gaza, bedding down in any available space, indoors and out.

In this catastrophic situation in Gaza and adjoining areas, the west media is just exposed as it is not reporting exactly what's going on in Gaza and with innocent Palestinian.

However, following the attack, Russia and the UAE requested an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council over the Gaza hospital strike.



Rafia Zakaria

It was a hot one. In fact, climate scientists who study Earth's temperature have found that September 2023 was perhaps the hottest September ever recorded.

According to The Washington Post, the scientists' early analysis revealed that global temperatures surged last month by over half a degree Celsius. While scientists have long known and forecast Earth's rising temperature, the fact that it rose so much in just one month suggests what most of us are already aware of: that the various governments and transnational organisations pretending to grapple with climate change will not be able to stop it. Given this most recent rise, Earth is now 1.7°C to 1.8°C warmer than it was prior to the Industrial Revolution.

Copernicus — the European Union's Earth Observation Programme — is predicting that the average temperature this year will ultimately be 1.4°C warmer than before industrialisation, shattering records that are thousands of years old. In addition to global warming by the rampant and unchecked use of fossil fuels, the El Niño weather system is also putting pressure on the climate. The Post points out that besides global warming induced by the greenhouse effect, El Niño is adding to the temperature increase.

It is difficult not to feel a sense of gloom and foreboding over this worsening state of affairs that has already unleashed catastrophic weather

events all over the world. Pakistan is still reeling from the after-effects of the floods that devastated the country last year, while other states are dealing with hurricanes, storms, and avalanches.

Major cities around the world have experienced sharp increases in temperatures, some exceeding beyond 10 per cent.

One of the highest temperature increases was seen in the Turkish capital of Ankara whose temperature was reported to have increased by 18.2 per cent since 2019. The average temperature in that city has increased from 22.4°C to 26.4°C. Temperatures in Athens and Seoul have similarly witnessed significant increases.

The numbers overall are forbidding and frightening. Not only do they show that the climate catastrophe is truly entrenched, but they also reveal another dark truth: the fact that governments in places such as Seoul or Ankara or in any of the other much hotter cities have been completely ineffectual in pushing any proposal that can receive even a basic level of global acceptance.

Translated, this means that the world is quite literally turning into a hot and messy hellscape and those who could stop it have utterly failed to do so. Considered against the backdrop of this situation, the entire series of COP summits seems a ridiculous waste of time. To the extent that countries are willing to commit to reducing emissions — in whatever way they promise — it is obviously too late and not enough.

If temperatures continue to increase by 1°C or more above the current levels, billions of people largely in the Middle East and South Asia will find themselves living in areas where the temperature will be too high for humans to survive.

According to a study published in the journal of the National Academy of Sciences, there is already plenty of evidence of heatwaves lasting longer, being more intense and causing difficult health conditions even among the young and healthy.

The hot September of 2023 has already produced temperatures that exceed the Paris Agreement target of keeping the increase below 1.5°C. This has much to do with emissions continuing their wild unchecked trajectory. If this goes on, the outcome will be unlivable bands of extreme heat in North and South America.

Times like these encourage dark thoughts and predictions of the end of days. The most frightening thing about these is that some of the people who peddle them seem actually invested in hastening a calamitous 'Day of Judgement'.

Evangelical Christians from the US have been gleefully watching the cataclysm in Gaza because they believe it to be a sign of the end times. Proponents of this idea include none other than former US vice president Mike Pence. This dangerous lot is so confident of this idea of the end times that rabid wars and the transformation of Earth into a living hell seem to them par for the course. The sheer excess of the catastrophe that prevails across the world makes our present an eerie and unpredictable moment. One cannot help but stop and wonder whether our parents or grandparents ever saw such an excess of chaos and tumult. Surely, we cannot be the first ones to stand frozen before the collapse all around us. Science seems to suggest that we very well might be the first, and by dint of that truth are, very unfortunately, cursed. -- Courtesy Dawn

The dispossessed



Mahir Ali

Last Saturday, a majority of Australian voters decided to disallow the descendants of their continent's original inhabitants constitutional recognition via a 'voice to parliament'. The result of the referendum was not a surprise.

Opinion polls had predicted the result, though perhaps not the proportions of the defeat of a relatively straightforward proposition. It entailed the recognition of the historical status of indigenous Australians — whose ancestors had dwelt on the land for some 60,000 years before Europeans 'discovered' it and the British colonised it — and setting up a representative body to advise parliament and the executive government on matters affecting Aboriginal people.

Their disadvantages in metrics ranging from health and education to housing, life expectancy and juvenile incarceration rates are appalling, and usually recognised. What could be done about this remains controversial. The proposal for indigenous Australians having a say in relevant policymaking came from the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart, based on extended community consultations, and was initially rejected by the broader political class.

When the Labor Party embraced it ahead of last year's election and then proposed a referendum after gaining power, the majority appeared to back the idea. But the support rapidly went south once the main opposition parties launched a campaign against the notion that embraced the rejectionism

of the far right and unleashed a flood of misinformation, disinformation and abuse that reflected the Brexit and Trump phenomena. Inevitably, a lot of latent racist scum surfaced during a lopsided national debate in which much of the media knowingly contributed to the confusion.

Indigenous Australians comprise less than four per cent of the population and their 'voice' would hardly have affected anyone else. Even this minor concession proved too hard to swallow, mainly for the older, poorer and less well-educated segments. Small wonder, then, that forces of conservatism everywhere, directly or otherwise, dismiss the concept of adequate mass education, which would deprive them of their constituency.

Given this state of the world, it's no surprise that Australia's retrogressive own goal barely registered as a blip on the international radar. But the disposition that underlies this saga is not completely at variance with the settler-colonialism that relegates Palestinians to the status of a people who are, just about, to be tolerated provided they obediently behave themselves and turn the other cheek to every blow.

Obviously, there are vast differences of time and scale, yet there is a common history of dispossession and extermination campaigns. Raz Segal, an Israeli and an associate professor of Holocaust and genocide studies in the US, has referred to the catastrophe unfolding in Gaza as a textbook case of "intent to commit genocide", amid "shameful use" of the grotesque history of the Holocaust that includes comparing the victims to Nazis in order to "justify, rationalise, distort [and] disavow mass violence against Palestinians".

The West's reaction to the Middle Eastern explosion has unqualified

support for the oppressor, amid sporadic attempts — from Europe and the US to Australia — to shut down public expressions of support for the oppressed. It's not just appropriate but essential to condemn the atrocities that Hamas committed on Oct 7. And it's thoroughly hypocritical not to apply the same standards when Israel — which purports to be a nation-state rather than a terrorist organisation — perpetrates similar violence by somewhat different means.

The US has been rushing weapons to a nuclear-armed state with one of the biggest arsenals of conventional arms and supposedly the region's most efficient military force. That wasn't enough, so a couple of aircraft carriers named after ex-presidents Ford and Eisenhower are muddying the waters nearby to guard their biggest asset in the Middle East. And yet another old (but not ex) president, Joe Biden, will arrive in Israel today as a symbol of US support. He has lately advised Israel against pre-2005-style reoccupation of the Gaza Strip. It's hardly a secret, though, that among its dedicated circle of friends, Israel tends to get away with murder.

Even mass murder, which will no doubt intensify with the imminent ground invasion of Gaza. The rest of the world paid no attention as the "ethnic cleansing" in the West Bank intensified in the past week. Barring some of Australia's island neighbours, it will also likely turn a blind eye to the deplorable but much less alarming turn of events in what has (not entirely accurately) been tagged as "the Pacific Israel".

It must be hoped that Hezbollah and Iran don't step into the Middle East cauldron, but don't expect Israel to desist from stirring the pot. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

PM Kakar says Pakistan as initial beneficiary appreciates, supports BRI

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan has consistently expressed great appreciation and strong support for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping and was willing to learn from China's development experience, Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said talking to the Chinese media.

Kakar, who was invited to attend the

third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing, said that the Pakistanis valued the great vision embodied in the BRI, which advocated bringing peace and prosperity through economic development.

The Pakistani delegation, comprising top-level officials from the economic, industrial, security, and other

departments, was eagerly anticipating bilateral discussions with Chinese officials during the visit, engaging in dialogue and interaction with Chinese think tanks and media as well, he said.

Emphasizing the significant accomplishments of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), an exemplary project of the BRI, Kakar said the CPEC

has brought great development and bright prospects to his hometown of southwest Balochistan province.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC was a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.



Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Caretaker Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali witnessing the signing ceremony of MoU between United Energy Group of China and Pakistan Refinery Limited for investment in the petroleum sector of Pakistan, Beijing.



DUBAI: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif in a group photo after meeting with Regional GM of Cisco at GITEX Global 2023.

Direct air flights between Pakistan, Nigeria can enhance trade: High Commissioner

FAISALABAD (APP): High Commissioner of Nigeria in Pakistan Mr. Mohammad Bello Abioye has said that direct air flights between Pakistan and Nigeria can play a key role in enhancing bilateral trade.

Addressing the business community in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he said that he has taken various measures to ensure exchange of information, B2B meetings and simple visa policy to facilitate the serious entrepreneurs. He said that during the last two years visa applications are being

processed within 48 hours.

He acknowledged the socio-economic importance of Faisalabad and said that textile is an iconic representation of this city at the global level. He said that he has developed friendly relations with the business community and 'we are exploiting this friendship to promote bilateral trade'. He also termed Nigeria as a land of opportunities and said that the Pakistani business community should avail from this facility.

He said that China and Malaysia are investing in Nigeria and

Pakistan should also explore new opportunities for investment in various sectors. He said, "Textile owners should also set up their units in Nigeria as we have surplus cotton."

Responding to a question, he said that Pakistani businessmen could also invest in the cashew-nut processing sector.

Earlier President FCCI Dr. Khuram Tariq welcomed the guests and said that Faisalabad is designed on the pattern of Union Jack in 1898. "It made tremendous progress and now it has emerged as textile capital of the Pakistan".

PM highlights govt's business friendly, pro-investment initiatives

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said that the government was taking business-friendly and pro-investment initiatives to bring about the economic development in the country.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of East Sea Group led by Chairman Fang Yulong, highlighted pro-business policies of the government.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the

Belt and Road Forum held here.

He said the government was encouraging the private sector and providing a conducive atmosphere to enable it play an effective role for country's economic development.

Fang Yulong told the prime minister that East Sea Group was making investments in Gwadar Free Zone and refinery sector and that the Chinese firms were taking keen interest in increasing their investment in the country.

PSX sheds 99 more points as profit-taking continues

KARACHI (INP): Profit-taking continued at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) for the second straight session on Wednesday, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index losing 99.54 points (-0.20 per cent) to close at 49,431.47 points. The market opened on a slight positive note but took a dip soon. The dip proved short-lived and the indices turned towards the green territory. The benchmark index later hit the day's high and remained in the positive during the

first half of the session. However, selling pressure took the indices in the red territory again where it stayed till the end of the session. However, good corporate results of some companies eroded some of the losses of the day. A sharp decline in rupee's value for the second straight day after making gains for 28 consecutive sessions also acted as a catalyst for profit-taking. The benchmark index briefly crossed the 50,000 points level for the first time since January 2017.

Agricultural development is prerequisite for country's uplift: CM Naqvi

Independent Report FAISALABAD: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi has said that agricultural development is prerequisite for the country's uplift, for which agricultural scientists should develop high-yielding varieties resilient to climate change in order to increase productivity and ensure food security.

He stated this while addressing the scientists of University Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF). Punjab Agriculture Minister SM

Tanvir, Agriculture Secretary Punjab Nadir Chattha, Planning and Development Punjab Chairman Ifkhar Ali Sahu, IG Punjab Usman Anwar and others attended the meeting.

UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan gave a briefing about the history of the university, ongoing educational and research projects and agricultural issues.

Chief Minister Punjab Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi while appreciating the role of UAF said that

UAF in collaboration with Washington State University, developed new high yielding varieties of wheat which are in testing phase for the second year. It is a hallmark step, he said, adding that after fulfilling the requirement, it would reach to the farmers' fields by next year.

He said that India had been producing soybean for the last fifteen years. But unfortunately no sufficient work has been done so far in Pakistan to promote its cultivation.

Gold rates up by Rs.6,400 to Rs.206,500 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.6,400 and was sold at Rs. 206,500 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs. 200,100 the previous day of trading.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.5,487 to Rs.1,77,040 from Rs.1,71,553 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.1,62,287 from Rs.1,57,257, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

KP Govt decides to develop fruits, vegetable processing sector

Independent Report PESHAWAR: KP Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Dr. Aamir Abdullah has said that the provincial government has decided the processing of fruits, vegetables, and other agricultural products on international standards as edibles and its development as a profitable business sector.

He made this announcement while presiding over a meeting here in the Committee Room of Industries, Commerce and Technical

Education Department here in the Civil Secretariat on Wednesday.

Besides, Secretary, of Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Syed Zulfikar Ali Shah and authorities of all subsidiary sectors, the head of Agriculture Business and Training Institute, Saleem Abne Fazil also attended the meeting. The caretaker minister directed the concerned authorities to take practical steps to focus on these sectors, besides the traditional attractive sectors of investment.

Governor Punjab says Youth should play role in driving country to knowledge based economy

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab/Chancellor Punjab University Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the youth should play their role in driving the country to knowledge based economy.

He stated this while addressing the laptop distribution ceremony under Prime Minister Youth Programme Scheme Phase 3 at Punjab University. Governor Punjab said that the future of Pakistan is connected with merit and transparency. He said that digital divide is increasing

in the modern era, those who have access to technology are ahead while those who don't have the access to technology are lagging behind.

Governor Punjab said the distribution of laptop among students would bring them at par with the modern world, adding he said that the laptops are being distributed on merit to encourage students and equip them with IT skills. He said that Punjab University is a prestigious institution, and it is a great honour to study in it.

The Governor Punjab said that when the laptop

scheme was initially started and laptops were distributed among brilliant students on merit, it contributed towards the development of the country in IT sector. He further stated that Pakistan was fast moving among the e-lancing countries, software exports were also increasing, and the talent of Pakistani youth in gaming apps was getting recognition in the world.

Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman, while stressing the importance of logic and research said that educated people decide on logic and

facts. He said that a disappointed nation can never develop. We must avoid those who spread despair, he added. He said that we have to get the nation out of despair. Therefore, the positive aspects should be highlighted. He said that respecting the opinion of others is also very important in a pluralistic society. Governor Punjab said that teachers should also focus on character building of students.

He said that our religion has taught us not to believe without verifying the facts.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with students during laptop distribution ceremony under Prime Minister Youth Programme Scheme Phase 3 at Punjab University.

BISE Larkana announces results of HSC Part-II (Pre-Medical) exams-2023

LARKANA (APP): The Controller of Examinations, Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Larkana Raja Nadeem Soomro on Wednesday evening announced the results of Annual Examinations-2023 of Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) Part-II Pre-Medical Group.

The BISE Larkana covered Larkana, Kamber-Shahdadkot, Shikarpur, Jacobabad and Kashmore-Kandhkot districts and two talukas of Dadu District that is Taluka Khairpur Nathan Shah and Taluka Mahar.

According to the re-

sults announced here the positions are as under:-
Boys Positions:-
Abdul Rauf/S/o Akhtar Ali Wassan, Seat No. 155393, of Cadet College Larkana stood first by obtaining 987 marks with Grade-A-1.
Muhammad Mahad Qureshi S/o Adnan Wahab Qureshi, Seat No. 150722 of The City School Larkana second position with 986 marks with Grade-A-1.
Ibrar Ali Shah S/o Munwar Ali Shah Syed, Seat No. 156209 of Government Degree College Larkana obtained 985 marks and stood third position with grade-A-1.

PFA discards 220 litre fake carbonated drinks.

Independent Report
LAHORE: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has unearthed a fake beverages manufacturing unit producing carbonated drinks of different popular brands on Mustafabad Road in the provincial metropolis.

The authority discarded 220 litres of spurious carbonated drinks; prohibited chemicals, sweeteners and hazardous artificial flavours. Further, PFA confiscated 1,000 empty bottles, 65 crates, four cylinders, five blue non-food grade drums, five filling machines, labels, stoves, RO and filtration plants. This was informed by PFA Director General Raja Jahangir Anwar. He said that the authority also filed an FIR against the factory owners on account of adulteration and forgery.

He said that the authority took action against the factory owner for violating the Punjab Pure Food Regulations. He said that fabricated fizzy drinks were being prepared with loose colours, hazardous chemicals, artificial sweeteners and unclean tap water.

Thalassemia affected children visits Governor House

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: As many as fifty thalassemia-affected children and their parents on Wednesday visited Governor House Peshawar on Wednesday on the invitation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali.

The children were accompanied by the Founder of Hamza Foundation, Hamza Ejaz, Professor Abaseen Yousafzai and Khalid Khan. KP Governor intermingled with children and distributed snacks and juice among them. Talking to the media, on the occasion, he said that these children deserve our special attention, love and help owing to their sufferings.

He said that these children have confronted many difficulties in their life and we should provide them hope, assistance and kindness enabling them to overcome hardships and lead a normal life.

"I am honoured to arrange a luncheon for them, and would always strive to give them happiness and hope", he added.

Naqvi lays foundation stone of FIEDMC management office

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi along with the cabinet members laid the foundation stone of FIEDMC management office at Faisalabad Industrial Estate and Management Company. Acting Consul General of China Cao Ke welcomed CM Mohsin Naqvi on reaching FIEDMC. Mohsin Naqvi was given a detailed briefing about the FIEDMC management office.

He after planting a sampling formally inaugurated the plantation campaign. CM visited the

under construction hospital for ten years at FIEDMC. Mohsin Naqvi and the cabinet members also visited VIVO Mobile Factory. Provincial Ministers, Chief Secretary, IG Police, Chairman P&D, Commissioner Faisalabad and other officials were also present on the occasion.

Later, CM Mohsin Naqvi while addressing a ceremony being organized at Faisalabad Industrial Estate and Management Company said that a club will be established for the Chinese friends as a gift working in FIEDMC.

Provincial Ministers, Chief Secretary and the whole team members are endeavouring to set up one window operation centre.

Hopefully one window operation centre will become functional by January. Chinese investors will be provided NOCs by different departments under a single roof. One window pilot project will be launched simultaneously at Lahore and FIEDMC. The under construction ten-bedded hospital in FIEDMC will be completed in coming few weeks.



LARKANA: Members of Social Ittehad Youth Wing are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

CVDs, major cause of mortality worldwide: Dr Rehan Omar

KARACHI (APP): Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are the leading cause of death worldwide as during Covid-19 from 2019 to 2022 around three million people died but as per estimates shared by the World Health Organization, the CVDs killed around 20.6 million people every year across the globe, and around 80 percent of these deceased were from low and middle-income countries.

These views were shared by Consultant Car-

diologist, National Medical Centre, United Hospital Karachi, Dr Rehan Omar on Wednesday.

He was addressing a seminar on 'healthy heart, healthy nation' arranged by the Medical Center of the University of Karachi. The event was held at the auditorium of the old pharmacy building.

He expressed that in 2020, an estimated 523 million people had some form of CVDs of which approximately 19 million deaths

were attributable to the CVDs.

He informed the audience that every two minutes one person died of heart disease.

Sharing another report, he said that an estimated 783 million people would be affected by diabetes by 2045.

Dr Rehan while referring to a report published in the year 2018 said that 1.13 billion people were suffering from hypertension due to socio-economic

problems.

"The uses of tobacco, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, and obesity are a few main causes of heart disease. We must promote awareness and prefer timely diagnosis and treatment approach," he added.

Meanwhile, the Consultant Cardiologist at the National Medical Center Dr Mansoor Ahmed stressed that the trend of rapid increase in smoking needs to be stopped with immediate effect.

problems due to which they were suffering from diabetes and heart diseases.

He termed that one of the main reasons for the issue was consuming junk foods.

"It is not possible to eliminate junk food from society because more money is spent on its marketing than health," Dr Mansoor Ahmed stressed that the trend of rapid increase in smoking needs to be stopped with immediate effect.

International News

UN Security Council rejects Russian resolution on Middle East

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The UN Security Council on Monday rejected a Russian resolution condemning spiraling violence in the Middle East, with delegates refusing to back a motion that did not single out Hamas for its surprise raid on Israel.

Just four countries voted with Russia on its proposed text. Four others — including the US — voted against, while six abstained.

A second text proposed by Brazil with unequivocal language condemning the group appeared to have broader support, and was expected

to come to the vote on Tuesday evening, diplomats said.

Russia's UN ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia, said despite the failure, the resolution had spurred the council to action.

"It has contributed to launching a substantive discussion in the Security Council on this topic. Without our encouragement, everything would probably have been limited to empty discussions," he said.

The United Kingdom, which joined the US in voting down the Russian proposal, criticised Moscow's lack of consultation, and accused Russia of not making a serious attempt to find

consensus.

Israel's Gilad Erdan said the Security Council, which has not adopted a resolution on the situation in Israel and the Palestinian territories since 2016, stood at "one of its most pivotal crossroads" since its founding in the aftermath of World War II.

Palestinian ambassador Riyad Mansour said the council had a moral duty to act in a bid to restrain an Israeli assault on the Gaza Strip he said was claiming 12 lives every hour. "Don't send the signal that the Palestinian lives don't matter," he said.



People inspect the area of Al-Ahli hospital, where hundreds of Palestinians were killed in a blast that Israeli and Palestinian officials blamed on each other, in Gaza City.

Russian Duma passes law to revoke ratification of nuclear test ban treaty

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia's parliament moved swiftly to fulfil the wish of President Vladimir Putin by completing the passage of a bill that shifts Moscow's legal stance on nuclear testing at a time of acute tension with the West. The lower house, the State Duma, on Wednesday passed the second and third readings of a bill that revokes Russia's ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Both were passed unanimously by 415 votes to zero.

Putin urged the Duma on Oct. 5 to make the change in order to "mirror" the position of the United States, which has signed but never

ratified the 1996 treaty. "We understand our responsibility to our citizens, we are protecting our country. What is happening in the world today is the exclusive fault of the United States," parliament speaker Vyacheslav Volodin said. Russia says it will not resume testing unless Washington does, but arms control experts are concerned it may be inching towards a test that the West would perceive as a Russian nuclear escalation amid the Ukraine war.

They say a test by either Russia or the United States could prompt the other to do the same, and China, India and Pakistan might then follow, trigger-

ing a new global arms race. All are currently observing test moratoriums, and only North Korea has conducted a test involving a nuclear explosion this century.

Russia originally ratified the CTBT in 2000. While it is revoking that step, it has so far said it will remain a signatory to the treaty and continue to supply data to the global monitoring system which alerts the world to any nuclear test.

But when he introduced the bill on Tuesday, parliament speaker Volodin raised the possibility Moscow might withdraw altogether, and said it would keep Washington guessing about its intentions.

EU leaders vow tighter borders, more repatriations after Brussels attack

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: The leaders of Belgium and Sweden and the European Union's chief executive promised on Wednesday to tighten border security and step up repatriations after a failed asylum seeker from Tunisia shot dead two Swedish football fans in Brussels.

They spoke after paying tribute to the victims of Monday's attack in the Belgian capital, home to the EU institutions, and condemning what they branded a brutal terrorist attack.

The shooting has highlighted the EU's persistent difficulties in managing asylum and migration, including security gaps and failures to return people

deemed not to have the right to stay in the 27-nation bloc.

Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said Europe's open-border Schengen zone would not survive unless the EU's external frontiers were better protected from unwanted immigration.

"If we are not able to protect our common borders, we will not be able to uphold free movement within Europe," he said.

Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said the EU also needed a more effective system of returning unauthorised immigrants. "This is something we need to tackle and can only do that in a coordinated way," he said.



Ukrainian students, who lost relatives due to the Russia-Ukrainian war set flags in their memory on the memorial of fallen Ukrainian soldiers, while attending the reconstruction of a student-led protest campaign "Revolution on Granite" on Independence square in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Lebanon-Israel border clashes escalate, five Hezbollah fighters killed

Monitoring Desk
KIRYAT SHMONA: Israeli troops killed at least four fighters attempting to breach the border from Lebanon on Tuesday, the army said, as tensions run high on the border between the two countries.

Since Oct 8, Israel has traded fire on a near-daily basis with Hezbollah and Palestinian fighters in Lebanon.

The Israeli army said its forces opened fire on fighters when they attempted to cross the northern border with Lebanon on Tuesday morning. Hezbollah said five of its fighters had been killed "performing jihad". It was not clear if these were the same ones who Israel had accused of trying to infiltrate the border.

UK university suspends students over Gaza rally

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Students from the Palestine Society at SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies) on Tuesday said the university had "suspended students following a rally in solidarity with Gaza". The SOAS Palestine Society posted to X saying, "URGENT: @SOAS University of London, renowned for its so called progressive politics, has officially begun taking steps suspending its own students following a rally in solidarity with Gaza. This is a clear act of political repression. Please read on and share widely."

The tweet said that on Oct 9, the Palestine Society and its student community held a rally in solidarity with the people of Gaza and that hundreds of students joined the demonstration. On October 13 and 14, the statement said "students were suspended and given warnings through disciplinary by the university" and said the action by the university demonstrated "a targeted act of political repression."

Saudi Arabia, Japan agree to cooperate to ease Middle East tensions

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida agreed in a call with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Wednesday to work together to improve humanitarian conditions in Gaza and help ease tensions in the Israel-Hamas conflict, the Japanese government said.

"The two leaders con-

Hamis says top commander killed in Israeli strike

Monitoring Desk
GAZACITY: Hamas said on Tuesday one of its top leaders was killed during an Israeli strike in the Gaza Strip.

"Ayman Nofal, 'Abu Ahmad', a member of the general military council and commander of the central command in Al-Qassam Brigades, was killed" in an Israeli strike on the central Gaza Strip, Hamas said in a statement.

Russia's Lavrov arrives in North Korea as cooperation deepens

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov arrived in Pyongyang on Wednesday for meetings seen as setting the stage for a visit by President Vladimir Putin, who has stepped up cooperation with politically isolated North Korea.

Lavrov's two-day visit comes a month after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un made a rare trip to Russia, during which he invited Putin to Pyongyang and discussed military cooperation, including over North Korea's satellite program and the war in Ukraine. Putin's foreign min-



British Ambassador to the United Nations Barbara Woodward and US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield vote against the resolution.

Russia's Lavrov arrives in North Korea as cooperation deepens

ister, who last visited North Korea in 2018, will hold talks with his North Korean counterpart, according to the Interfax news agency. Russia's TASS news agency reported that Lavrov may brief the North Koreans on the results of Putin's visit to China, as well as discussing Putin's potential visit.

Calling each other "comrade", Putin and Kim toasted their friendship last month with Russian wine.

Courting Kim allows Putin, who says Moscow is locked in an existential battle with the West over Ukraine, to needle Washington and its Asian allies.

Pakistan calls for setting up humanitarian corridors for Gaza

ISLAMABAD (INP): At urgent meeting of Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC), Pakistan on Wednesday asserted that Israel must bring an immediate end to its campaign of terror with an immediate ceasefire, calling for establishing humanitarian corridors for relief supplies to Gaza.

Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani made these remarks, who is leading the Pakistan delegation to the urgent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) being held in Jeddah.

The meeting was convened by Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to discuss the crisis in Gaza and the humanitarian situation of the besieged civilians there.

Speaking on the occasion, Jalil Abbas Jilani denounced the Israeli aggression and inhumane block-

ade of Gaza that resulted in death, destruction and displacement. He also condemned Tuesday's massacre of innocent civilians in the vicious Israeli attack on a hospital in Gaza.

He underscored that the Israeli occupation forces were in clear violation of international humanitarian and human rights law. Their indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force amounted to war crimes and crimes against humanity, he added.

The foreign minister called on the international community to hold Israel accountable for its crimes.

Jilani emphasised that Israel must bring an immediate end to its campaign of terror with an immediate ceasefire, and rescinding forced evacuation of Palestinians from their homes.

He also underlined the urgency of humanitarian corridors for rapid, secure and unrestricted humani-

tarian and relief supplies to Gaza. He underlined that the root cause of the recent conflagration lay in the non-implementation of the two-state solution.

The minister reaffirmed Pakistan's solidarity and support for the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination.

He called for an early establishment of a viable, secure, contiguous and sovereign state of Palestine on the basis of the pre-June 1967 borders and with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Executive Committee adopted a Joint Communiqué outlining the collective stance of the Muslim Ummah on the situation in Gaza.

On the sidelines, the foreign minister also held meetings with the Foreign Ministers of Gambia, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye.



BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a group photo with President Xi Jinping and world leaders participating in the 3rd Belt and Road Forum, Beijing.

President condemns Israel attack on Gaza hospital; calls for immediate ceasefire

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday strongly condemning the brutal Israeli attack on Al-Ahly Al-Mamadany Hospital in Gaza, called upon the international community to hold Israel accountable for its war crimes.

He also urged the world community to take urgent measures to bring an immediate halt to the Israeli bombardment and the on-going siege of Gaza.

According to media reports, hundreds of Palestinians were killed on Tuesday when Israel carried out air strikes on a hospital and a refugee camp in Gaza, where people had sought

shelter to escape the relentless bombing on residential areas.

The president expressed his deep shock over the tragic loss of innocent lives due to the brutal and inhuman Israeli airstrike, saying that Israel has trampled all international and moral norms by killing thousands of innocent people, women and children and then bombing a hospital, where patients were seeking emergency treatment.

President Alvi voiced concern that Israel continued to commit war crimes by indiscriminately targeting civilian populations and health facilities.

Pakistan urges UN to press India to halt human rights abuses in Kashmir

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan told a U.N. panel that human rights are being trampled with impunity in many places, with the "most egregious" abuses taking place in the occupied territories of Palestine and Kashmir.

"These violations of human rights are turbocharged by the rise of racism, fascism, hate speech and ethnic and religious discrimination and rising Islamophobia," Ambassador Munir Akram said in his address to the General Assembly's Third Committee, which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural matters, on Tuesday.

"It is sad that those who are so eager to criticize human rights violations elsewhere fall silent when it comes to India", he said.

underscoring that it was time for the UN to speak out and press India to halt the human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and against its minorities.

Turning to the alarming situation in Gaza, the Pakistani envoy called for an unconditional ceasefire and immediate assistance to the people of Palestine.

Participating in a debate on 'Promotion and Protection of Human Rights', Ambassador Akram said that Islamophobia was practiced in its "most pernicious form" by the Hindu nationalist ruling India.

The Rashtriya

Swayamsevak Sangh's ideology replicates the last century's fascism in Europe, he said, spotlighting massive violations of human rights in the illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and against India's 200 million Muslims, as well as Christians, Sikhs and the so-called lower castes – the Dalits. "Between 2014 – when (Prime Minister) Mr. (Narendra) Modi assumed power – and 2018, there was a 786% increase in hate speech against minorities, especially Muslims (as noted by the UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues)," The Pakistani envoy said.



WASHINGTON: Ambassador Masood Khan witnessing ceremony of extension of agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation between the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the United States of America at the Embassy of Pakistan Washington DC.

Pakistan, US extend Science and Technology Cooperation agreement

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan and the United States Tuesday signed a five-year extension of the U.S.-Pakistan Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement to expand relations between the two countries' scientific and technological communities.

The accord is also designed to promote scientific and technological cooperation for peaceful purposes.

Pakistan's Ambassador to the US, Masood Khan, and Jason Donovan, Director Office of Science and Technology Cooperation in Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental

Scientific Affairs (OES/STC) at the US State Department of State, witnessed the signing ceremony.

Muhammad Saad Ahmed, on behalf of the Government of Pakistan, and Michelle Shekells, representing the U.S. State Department, exchanged the documents. Under the terms of the agreement, the two sides will cooperate through the exchange of scientific and technical information; exchange of scientists and technical experts; convening of joint seminars and meetings; training of scientists and technical experts; conduct of joint research projects.

Ambassador Anna expresses solidarity with Palestinians

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union Anna Baloch on Wednesday met Ambassador of Palestine to Belgium and EU Abdel Rahim Al-Farra to express solidarity and offer condolences on the loss of innocent lives in Gaza.

"She conveyed Pakistan's unwavering support for the people of Palestine," Pakistan Embassy in Belgium posted on X.



QUETTA: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi distributing certificates in a graduation ceremony under PM's Youth Skills Development Program at University of Balochistan.

Madad Ali Sindhi says Measures being taken to improve quality of education in country, Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Federal Caretaker Minister for Education Madad Ali Sindhi on Tuesday that practical measures were being taken to improve quality of education in country including Balochistan by addressing issues of education on emergency basis.

He expressed these views while addressing as chief guest at ceremony of certificates distributing among the passed out students under the Prime Minister Youth Skill Development Program at the University of Balochistan, Quetta organized by the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission.

In the fourth batch of the Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Program, 3895 students from across Balochistan graduated, out of which 83 students from Quetta were awarded certificates in the

ceremony.

A large number of disabled students, Women Technical Training Center (WTTTC), and Technical Training Center Quetta (TTC)'s students attended the ceremony.

Addressing at the ceremony, Caretaker Federal Minister Madad Ali Sindhi said that measures were needed on an emergency basis to deal with the problems of education in Balochistan saying that without improving the quality of education, the journey of development could not be set.

While appreciating of technical institutions, he said that it was a matter of pride to have a large number of women participating in the skill development program. I am well aware of the educational problems of Balochistan, the improvement of government schools is one of our top priorities, he said.

Attends 'World Fatwa Conference' in Egypt Aneeq Ahmed urges unity, adaptation in issuing Fatwas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Wednesday participated in 8th World Fatwa Conference being held at the Egyptian Fatwa House under the umbrella of General Secretariat of Fatwa Houses and Bodies in the world in Cairo, Egypt.

The conference, organized under the auspices of President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, brought together scholars, ministers and Muftis from 100 countries, said a statement issued here.

During the conference, he extended his sincere gratitude to Dr. Shawki Ibrahim Allam, the Grand Mufti of Egypt, for his warm invitation and hospitality.

He emphasized the importance of discussing the topic of 'Fatwa and the Challenges of the Third Millennium' in recognizing the unique and multifaceted

challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah in this era.

He said the third millennium had brought about unprecedented changes in the way people live, communicate, and navigate their faith.

"Fatwa, a guidance tool for Muslims on various matters, including matters of faith, practice, and daily life, was a central topic of discussion as it provides clarity and guidance to Muslims in navigating the complexities of life while upholding their religious principles," he added.

Quoting from the Holy Quran, Minister Aneeq referenced Surah An-Nahl, 16:43: "So ask the people of the knowledge if you do not know," highlighting the importance of seeking knowledge and guidance.

He stressed the paramount importance of the fundamentals of Islam in the methodology of issuing Fatwas.

Caretaker Interior Minister condemns Israeli bombing on Hospital in Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister for Interior Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti on Wednesday strongly condemned Israel's barbaric bombing of a hospital in Gaza killing hundreds of innocent Palestinians.

The minister expressed deep sorrow and regret over more than 500 martyrs in the attack and said that such barbaric attacks on wounded, patients and refugees in hospital is inhuman act.

He said hospitals and medical staff are protected under international humanitarian law and targeting civilian populations and property is a violation of international law and a war crime.



GARHI KHUDBUX: Peoples Party (PPP) Women Wing President and Former MPA, Faryal Talpur along with PPP activists are showering rose petals and offering Fataha for the departed souls on the graves of people killed in PPP Rally Carnage-2007 on the occasion of 16th anniversary of the 2007 Karsaz carnage, in Garhi Khuda Bux.

PPP Larkana marks 16th death anniversary of Karachi Karsaz martyrs

LARKANA (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Larkana marked the 16th death anniversary of martyrs of Karachi Karsaz twin blasts on Wednesday. Quran Khawani and Fataha were held at the graveyard of martyrs in Garhi Khuda Bux Bhutto.

Collective prayers were offered for the departed souls of martyrs. Besides, Central President of PPP Women Wing Pakistan and former MPA Faryal Talpur, District President PPP Larkana and former MNA Khurshed Ahmed Junejo, Political Secretary to Chairman PPP Jameel Ahmed Soomro, Chairman District Council Larkana and General Secretary PPP Larkana Aijaz Ahmed Leghari, Suhail Anwar Siyal, Khair Muhammad Shaikh, Mayor LMC Anwar Ali Nawaz Lohar, Imran Jatoi,

Munir Ahmed Soomro, Muhammad Ibrahim Khoso, Dr. Ghulam Sakina Gaad, leaders, workers, office bearers of PPP and its sisters organizations visited graveyard of martyrs and offered Fataha.

Larger (free food) was distributed among the poor and needy people. PPP leaders, workers, office bearers of PPP and its sisters organizations also visited the graves of founder Chairman of PPP and former Prime Minister Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Chairperson of PPP Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, Late Begum Nusrat Bhutto, Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto and Shaheed Mir Shah Nawaz Bhutto and Late Shireen Amir Begum, the first wife of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in the mausoleum of martyrs of Bhutto family at Garhi Khuda Bux Bhutto.

Hanif Abbasi acquitted in ephedrine case

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has acquitted PML-N leader Hanif Abbasi in Ephedrine case.

Appeal against life imprisonment of Hanif Abbasi has been accepted. LHC nullified trial court decision regarding conviction of Hanif Abbasi.

A two members bench presided over by Justice Alia Neelum had reserved judgment on appeal filed by Hanif Abbasi against his conviction in 500 kilogram ephedrine case.

The state counsel took the plea ephedrine was received in the company owned by Hanif Abbasi.



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

VC KU calls for investing in research, development culture to achieve SDGs

KARACHI (APP): Vice Chancellor of the University of Karachi Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi on Wednesday said that we have to invest a lot in research and development culture to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and it could be possible with quality teaching and research across the educational intuitions of the country.

He was addressing the inaugural session of the Young Economist Conference on Sustainable Development Goals arranged by the KU Applied Economics Research Centre.

The event was held at the AERC's M. A. Rangoonwala Conference

Hall and SDG Hall.

He said that this was not the era of competition anymore as the economies of countries can progress by collaborating with each other. KU VC said that there is a requirement to set rational goals and strategies to achieve these SDGs. We need fresh ideas and fresh blood for our economy, he added. Meanwhile, KU Director AERC Dr Nooren Mujahid said that young economists are uniquely positioned to drive SDG progress in ways that are both fresh and impactful. They bring new perspectives, untainted by the constraints of tradition, and are more open to embracing technology and change.



KARACHI: Students of Medical and Dental Colleges Admission Test (MDCAT-2023) are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held at Karachi press club.

SMIU's Steering Committee decides to hold 5th convocation in December

KARACHI (APP): A meeting of the Steering Committee for 5th Convocation of Sindh Madressatul Islam University was held at the Conference Room of SMIU on Wednesday. The vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai chaired the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the required arrangements for the convocation in detail and decided that the 5th Convocation to confer degrees to pass out students will be held in the month of December 2023. The registration of pass out students will remain open till 2nd November. All pass out students of the batches i.e. Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 are eligible to participate and receive the degrees.

A four-member sub-committee comprising of Prof. Dr. Aftab Ahmed Shaikh, Dean Faculty of Information Technology, Prof. Dr. Abdul Hafeez Khan, Advisor to Vice Chancellor on Academic Affairs, Furqan Iftikhar, Director Admission and Examinations and Ghulam Mustafa Shaikh, Registrar, was constituted and was assigned different tasks.

Addressing the meeting Prof. Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai said the 5th Convocation of SMIU will be a mega event of the university, where chancellor of the public sector universities of Sindh shall be invited as the chief guest. The pass-out students along with their parents shall invited to participate and receive the degrees.

Words have fallen short to condemn the barbaric act of Zionist state, Shehbaz Sharif

LAHORE (Online): Former Prime Minister, PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif has strongly condemned Israeli attack on hospitals in Gaza.

While expressing grief and sorrow over martyrdom of more than 500 Palestinians, he said that words have fallen short to condemn the barbaric action of Zionist state.

The pain and sorrow of the martyrdom of children, women and old people under treatment in the barbaric Israeli attack on hospital is indescribable.

Silence on the brutal massacre of innocent and besieged Palestinians is tantamount to encouraging a murderous state.



KARACHI: Workers are busy in repairing the ships at Fish harbor in Provincial Capital.