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PM invites President Xi to visit Pakistan Pakistan, China emphasize steady pace of CPEC, vow to make it corridor of sustainable growth

Says Pakistan blindly trusts China; nothing to be allowed to undermine our partnership; President Xi underlines Pakistan an iron-brother, partner in peace and development

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday met with Chinese President Xi Jinping here at the Great Hall of People on the sidelines of the 3rd Belt and Road Forum emphasizing the importance of steady pace of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The two sides agreed to make the CPEC a corridor of growth, livelihood, innovation, openness and green development dovetailed with Pakistan's vision for a sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development.

The prime minister congratulated President Xi

Jinping on the successful holding of the 3rd Belt and Road Forum and complimented him on his eight-point agenda relating to the future direction and scope of the Belt and Road Initiative.

The two leaders reaffirmed the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China and underlined the strategic significance of this partnership in the evolving international situation.

They agreed to further strengthen and deepen high-level dialogue and exchanges for the mutual benefit of the two countries and peoples.

Prime Minister Kakar

underscored that Pakistan and China were reliable partners and steadfast friends.

Reaffirming Pakistan's support to China on its core issues, the prime minister termed the bilateral relationship as a factor of peace and stability in the region. President Xi underlined that Pakistan was an iron brother, trusted friend, and partner in peace and development.

He said China accorded special importance to Pakistan in its foreign policy and would continue to support Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and development.



BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing

Israel-Hamas war: Pakistan has no intention to send Army to Gaza: FO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Thursday expressed its disappointment over the results of the emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) held on Wednesday and called for an immediate end to the bombardment and inhumane blockade of Gaza.

"We are nationally disappointed by the results of the UNSC debate. The Security Council should play its designated role to bring an immediate end to the bombardment and

blockade leading to a humanitarian catastrophe," the Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in her weekly press briefing.

The spokesperson was referring to the use of veto power by the United States at the UN Security Council to block a resolution calling for Israel to allow humanitarian corridors into the Gaza Strip, a pause in the fighting and the lifting of an order for civilians to leave the north of the besieged territory.

President visits Palestine Embassy; calls for ceasefire, humanitarian corridor

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday visited the Embassy of Palestine and expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people who are being subjected to indiscriminate killings by Israel. He urged the international community to condemn Israel's brutalities and its disproportionate reaction which killed thousands of innocent people.

He called for an immediate ceasefire and the opening up of a humanitarian corridor to send aid to the people lacking food, electricity and water.

The president also met Ambassador of the State of Palestine Ahmed Jawad Rabei, and expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people on behalf of the Government and the people of Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan would always stand by Palestine and only accept a solution that was acceptable to the Palestinians.

President Alvi said that the United Nations should debate the atrocities that happened in Palestine, and the UN Security Council should pass a resolution to stop Israeli atrocities.

He said that such brutal actions created more possibilities of hatred leading to more wars, adding that the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) should raise a strong voice in support of Palestine.

"On behalf of the Pakistani people, we condemn the brutalities happening in Gaza, the disproportionate reaction of Israel, and the apartheid for the last 30-40 years. We condemn that people are being brutalized and killed. In fact, the hospital in Gaza was bombed and more than 500 people died. All this creates more bitterness," the president stated.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a meeting with the Ambassador of the State of Palestine in Pakistan, Mr Ahmed Jawad Rabei, and expressing solidarity with the people of Palestine.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Sahir Shamshad Mirza addressing the participants of ongoing aerial exercise Indus Shield-2023.

CJCSC witnesses PAF's 14-Nation Air Exercise Indus Shield-2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, visited an operational air base of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) to witness the ongoing aerial exercise Indus Shield-2023 on Thursday.

On his arrival at the base, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee was received by Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, a PAF news release said.

The Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee was briefed on the Air Power Center of Excellence training facility as well as

the scope of the exercise which aims to project cooperation between the participating air forces and consolidate upon modern concepts of aerial warfare.

The Air Chief appreciated the utmost support extended by General Sahir Shamshad Mirza and lauded his efforts in the promotion of tri-services synergy.

He highlighted the significance of the 14 nation Exercise Indus Shield which in addition to boosting the operational readiness of PAF, would also prepare the participants for contemporary warfare challenges.

Pakistan sends 100 tons humanitarian aid for Palestinians

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Thursday sent humanitarian assistance for the people of Palestine including medicine, tents and blankets.

A chartered aircraft carrying 100 tons of essential medical supplies, tents and blankets departed from Islamabad for Egypt this afternoon, the Foreign Office said.

From Egypt, the supplies will be transferred to the people of Gaza.

At least 3,785 Palestinians were killed in Gaza in Israeli strikes since Oct 7, the health ministry in Gaza said Thursday.

It comes as four more residential buildings were struck by Israeli air raids, the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a post on X.

Governor Sindh launches public welfare initiative

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori on Thursday launched WhatsApp based application for redressal of grievances relating to electricity, water, drainage, police and other departments. The general public can scan QR Code while sitting at their home and, enter their CNIC and lodge complaints. The Governor Sindh inaugurated this

application which would initially address complaints against 9 government entities. He said that this QR Code would be displayed at major shopping centres, Airport, Railway Stations, main roads and other prominent places. The Governor Sindh further said that he would continue to endeavor for mitigating the sufferings of common man.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori inaugurating WhatsApp application QR Code.

Mushahid given Silk Road Award at BRI Forum for special contribution on CPEC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defence, Senator Mushahid Hussain in recognition to his longstanding role on CPEC, was presented with a Special Award during the Media Cooperation Forum on Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) being held in Beijing. The Award Ceremony was held on the sidelines of the 3rd Belt & Road Forum, and the Award was conferred by Chief of Media, Information & Communication of the Communist Party of China, Li Shulei and also member of the Party's top policymaking Political Bureau, a news release said.

In his acceptance speech, Senator Mushahid Hussain said he was 'humbled & honoured' to be given this prestigious first ever 'Silk Road News Award', adding 'this is an

honour for not just myself but for Pakistan and its people'. Two other Awardees were from Uganda and Russia, and the three Award winners were chosen from amongst 4,485 participants from 80 countries. Mushahid thanked China for its consistent and enduring support to Pakistan, particularly its investment in CPEC projects. Referring to the speech of President Xi Jinping at the Belt & Road Forum, he said 'BRI is a new platform for international economic cooperation' terming the BRI as the 'most significant development and diplomatic initiative in the 21st Century'. He said the core of the BRI and, indeed, Pakistan-China relations, is the people-to-people connectivity, especially the role of media, think tanks, academia.

Another price hike of Rs3.02 per unit likely for K-Electric consumers

KARACHI (INP): The consumers of Karachi Electric (K-Electric) could be in for some more bad news, as the authorities have prepared to for a second price hike in a single quarterly adjustment.

The K-Electric has submitted a request to National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) for a further increase of Rs3.02 per unit on electricity consumers.

Nepra is scheduled to hear the authority's request today.

K-Electric has sought the hike in the form of quarterly adjustments for April to June 2023.

Provincial govt taking care of assets transferred by fed govt: Tourism Minister

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Tourism and Environment Arshad Wali Muhammad on Thursday said that under the 18th Amendment, the assets transferred to the provincial government are being taken care of and they were planning them on modern lines in tourism affairs.

He expressed these views while meeting the tourist delegation on a one-day tourist trip to Makli, Bhanbhor.

The minister said that for the maintenance of the

assets transferred by the federal government to the provincial tourism department, a strategy would be formulated with the culture department, after which both the departments would work for the promotion of tourism in Sindh province with mutual cooperation.

Caretaker Provincial Minister for Culture Junaid Ali Shah was also present in the tourist delegation of Mukli and Bhanbhor and officers of the tourism department were also present.

The tour ended with lunch at Makli.

Mayor Karachi Murtaza inaugurates CAMP OFFICE of TMC Safoora

Independent Report KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab along with Deputy Mayor, Salman Abdullah Murad, Chairman Safoora

Town Rashid Khaskheli said that Insha Allah, Safoora Town will soon join the ranks of the best towns of Karachi, through the provision of municipal services, we will prove that PPP is the only solution to the problems of the people.

He thanked Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab for his arrival while Barrister Murtaza Wahab was given a warm welcome on his arrival before the inauguration.

Chairman Chanesar Town Farhan Ghani, Transition Officer Faiz Ahmed Sheikh, Municipal Commissioner Gulshan Iqbal Javed Kalwar and PPP office bearers were also present on the occasion.



Town Rashid Khaskheli, Vice Chairman Abdul Haq Baloch, Municipal Commissioner Munawar Hussain Mallah and other elected local government representatives and officers inaugurated the camp office of TMC Safoora. On this occasion, Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that TMC Safoora is the main TMC of the city, after the establishment of the office, Now Safoora Town will play its full role in terms of removal of public grievances. Chairman Safoora



KARACHI: Convener MQM Khalid Maqbool addressing press conference along with others in Provincial Capital.

IHC grants protective bail to Nawaz Sharif till Oct 24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday granted protective bail to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif till October 24, and stopped the authorities from arresting him on his arrival in Pakistan from abroad.

The IHC bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb announced the verdict on the petitions seeking protective bail for the former prime minister in Al-Azizia Steel Mills and Avenfield property references.

At the outset of hearing, NAB Prosecutor Rafay Maqsood said that the IHC had stated in its judgment that the former prime minister could request the court to open his appeal again at

any time after his return.

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had no objection if Nawaz Sharif wanted to surrender, he said, adding he had adopted the stance after taking instructions from the NAB Prosecutor General.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb said that the bench was granting protective bail to Nawaz Sharif on the statement of NAB prosecutor, otherwise, it would have decided the matter as per case merit.

The court subsequently granted protective bail to the former prime minister stating that NAB had not raised any objection on it. It also stopped the Bureau from arresting Nawaz Sharif on his arrival in Pakistan till October 24, so that he could surrender before the court.

Transporters slash fares by 10pc after fuel relief

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh transporters on Thursday announced slashing fares by 10 percent following the massive reduction in the prices of petrol and diesel.

The development comes after Sindh transport department held a meeting with delegation of transport association.

In the meeting, the transport department announced 10pc reduction in intercity fares. It also warned stern legal action against the offenders.

It also directed the regional and district transport officials to ensure implementation of orders.

The Islamabad Transport Authority (ITA), in a bid to provide relief to commuters announced a 10% reduction in transport fares, both for inter-city and intra-city routes. The decision was taken in a meeting held on the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, following the reduction in the price of petroleum products by the government. "The reduced fares will be implemented on 23 different routes in the Islamabad district, and intra-city transport (outside Islamabad)," the statement read.



KARACHI: Consul-General of Japan in Karachi, Odagiri Toshio addresses during Japanese Film Festival, held at Art Council of Pakistan building in Karachi.

Two youth injured by street criminals, two robbers held by citizens

KARACHI (INP): Street criminals injured two youth over resistance during a robbery. Citizens held and thrashed two robbers in the metropolis on Thursday.

According to details, street criminals snatched cell phones and cash from two youth Talha and Zar Khan in Nagan Chorangi and fled. The youth chased the fleeing criminals who opened straight fire injuring them both and escaped the scene.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Israeli barbarism

It is difficult to put into words the outrage one feels when looking at the broken, lifeless bodies of Palestinian men, women, and especially children — all victims of Israel's latest murderous assault on Gaza.

If any other country had been guilty of committing these atrocities, the international community, particularly the self-professed guardians of the rules-based Western order, would have been calling for harsh accountability. But not so for Israel, for whom the rules are always put aside by its benefactors. While the people of Gaza have been enduring hell on earth ever since the events of Oct 7, Tuesday's air strike targeting the Al Ahli Hospital marks a new low in this uneven, brutal conflict. This monstrous crime, in which at least 500 people were reportedly killed, has Israel's footprints all over it, even though Tel Aviv has denied responsibility.

Instead, Israel blames the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, saying the armed group misfired a missile that hit the health facility. The outfit says the accusations are "baseless".

While faces are often obscured in the fog of war, it should be remembered that the Israeli military is well-versed in the art of obfuscation, and that Tel Aviv has a rich history of carrying out massacres of Palestinian civilians, from 1948 onwards.

No one, except for its ardent supporters, is likely to believe Israel's denial of responsibility, since its hands have been covered in the blood of Palestinian non-combatants for decades now. In the most recent hostilities, over 3,300 have been murdered by Israel, including 1,000 children. Were these 1,000 minors all Hamas operatives?

What is just as reprehensible as Israel's unrestrained barbarity is the Western hypocrisy in this conflict. Many Western leaders have made a beeline for Tel Aviv in solidarity with the murderous regime, the latest amongst them Joe Biden.

While offering lukewarm condolences over the hospital outrage, Mr Biden warmly embraced the Israeli prime minister while observing that the "other team" was likely responsible for this odious crime. Gloating over his high-profile visitor's presence, Benjamin Netanyahu termed the conflict a struggle "between the forces of civilisation ... and barbarism". Certainly, Tel Aviv's brutal behaviour over the decades, and today, qualifies as barbaric.

It is highly unlikely the West will muzzle Israel. And the Muslim world must take a stand that goes beyond rhetoric, and stops the slaughter in Palestine.

During an OIC meeting in Jeddah on Wednesday, the Iranian foreign minister proposed an oil embargo and sanctions on Israel, as well as called on Muslim states with relations with Tel Aviv to break these off.

There are echoes here of the 'oil weapon' deployed by Arab states during the 1973 Middle East conflict. Certainly, these measures should be considered in solidarity with Palestine's battered population.

Illegal Israeli attack on hospital in Gaza: a violation of human rights

By Samiullah

In recent years, the Israel-Palestine conflict has seen numerous escalations, resulting in the loss of countless lives and extensive damage to infrastructure. One of the most disturbing incidents in this ongoing conflict was the illegal Israeli attack on a hospital in Gaza, highlighting the urgent need for international intervention to protect the most vulnerable in this conflict. This article delves into the importance of upholding the rules of war and peace, emphasizing the responsibility of powerful nations and international organizations like the United Nations to ensure justice and peace in the region.

The Inhuman Act: Targeting Hospitals:

War, even when waged between states with longstanding conflicts, is subject to rules and conventions. The fundamental principle of international humanitarian law is to protect civilians, including the wounded, children, and the elderly. Hospitals are meant to be safe havens in times of conflict, places where the injured can receive medical care without fear of attack. Yet, the attack on a hospital in Gaza violated these principles and shocked the international community.

The Impact of the Attack:

The attack on a hospital in Gaza resulted in devastating consequences. Innocent civilians, including children, the wounded, and the elderly, were directly affected by this violation of international law. Lives were lost, and the wounded faced dire circumstances with limited access to medical care. Moreover, such actions further perpetuate the cycle of violence in the region, making it even more challenging to reach a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

International Responsibility:

The United Nations and powerful nations have a critical role to play in addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict. The concept of "the enemy of my enemy is my friend" has been a notion in international relations for centuries. In this context, it should translate into a commitment to safeguard the rights and safety of the most vulnerable. Powerful nations should exert diplomatic pressure on the conflicting parties to respect the rules of war and peace.

Thucydides' Insights: Rules of War and Peace

The ancient Greek historian Thucydides, in his masterpiece "History of the Peloponnesian War," emphasized the

importance of rules in war and peace. He argued that upholding these rules is not a sign of weakness but an essential aspect of the international order. The attack on a hospital in Gaza stands as a stark violation of these principles and underscores the necessity of enforcing them.

To sum up:

The illegal Israeli attack on a hospital in Gaza is a grim reminder of the tragic consequences that the Israel-Palestine conflict continues to inflict on innocent lives. It is imperative for the international community to unite in its efforts to promote peace, protect the most vulnerable, and ensure that the rules of war and peace are upheld.

As Thucydides noted, these principles are not a sign of weakness but a cornerstone of a just and humane world order. It is high time for the United Nations and powerful nations to take proactive measures to end the suffering and work towards a lasting solution in the region.

The author, Mr. Samiullah has done M.Sc International Relations from Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad and is a Law graduate, he is currently serving as Public Relations Officer to Minister Information and Public Relations Balochistan.

Abraham's seed



F.S. Aijazuddin

Over the past five years alone, Israel has invested over \$80bn on its military defence. It must be galling, therefore, for the Israeli defence ministry to discover that 5,000 Hamas rockets could penetrate its expensive security shield with such precision.

In May 1987, an audacious German teenager, Mathias Rust, flew his Cessna aircraft from Helsinki and landed in Moscow's Red Square. The Soviet defence minister Sokolov and other top officials were forced to resign. The Israeli defence minister Yoav Gallant has no intention of going anywhere, except into the Gaza Strip, with a vengeance.

Netanyahu has told the residents of the Gaza Strip to leave before they are bombed into non-existence. It is a cruel warning, as callous as if the Nazis had called on the Jews living in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1940 to find alternative accommodation. The final death toll in that ghetto was estimated to be "300,000 killed by bullet or gas, combined with 92,000 victims of starvation and related diseases".

The two million trapped in the Gaza Strip have nowhere to go. Their exodus is not through a Red Sea parted by Moses. It has to be through once Pharaonic Egypt, or the Mediterranean patrolled by two US aircraft carriers, or into oblivion. The US, the UK and some European countries have leapt to Israel's defence. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken went overboard in Tel Aviv by declaring in Netanyahu's presence 'I am a Jew'. It was more than J.F. Kennedy's symbolic assertion: "Ich bin ein Berliner", and far beyond what Henry Kissinger would have admitted. Kissinger sublimated his Jewishness throughout his tightrope negotiations between the Arabs and Israel.

Russia has growled from its lair, warning the West that it too has inter-

ests in the area. The Iranian foreign minister has cautioned Israel that "violence could spread to other parts of the Middle East". The Iranians and the Saudis are holding talks "to prevent a broader surge in violence across the region". Interestingly, China has remained relatively silent. Is it waiting for the situation to deteriorate until its intervention as a peacemaker becomes inevitable? For once, public demonstrations in world capitals have supported the Palestinians that go beyond the token keffiyeh. The slogan 'Je suis Charlie' chanted in Paris has been replaced by 'Je suis Palestiniens[ne]'. Meanwhile, an Armageddon waits in the wings.

Some who spot a comedy in every tragedy will have a field day on the predicament of Scotland's First Minister Humza Yousaf. His mother-in-law is trapped in Gaza, unable to escape. Forty years ago, the British cricketer Ian Botham remarked caustically that Pakistan was "the kind of place to send your mother-in-law for a month, all expenses paid". Humza Yousaf must wish his mother-in-law had chosen anywhere — even Pakistan — for her foreign trip.

Those who have a reverence for God in whichever form will recall the Bhagavad Gita's opening verses. In them, Arjuna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra expresses despair at seeing his kinsmen mixed with friends and honoured elders: "Some this side, some that side ranged: and, seeing those opposed, such kith grown enemies [...] If we slay kinsfolk and friends for love of earthly power, Ahovats! What an evil fault it were!" Is the Gaza Strip to become a Semitic Kurukshetra, a battleground-turned-grave-yard for the warring seed of Abraham? — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

PM encourages Chinese firms to explore Pakistan's vast potential

Says govt taking steps to uplift agri sector; enhance processing, exports

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday encouraged China's corporate executives to explore the vast investment potential of Pakistan.

The prime minister said this in a meeting with a number of Chinese corporate executives on the sidelines of the Third Belt and Road Forum here.

The CEOs and executives of Chinese enterprises who called on the prime minister included Minmetals, MCC, China Communication Construction Company (CCCC), China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), COFCO, Amer International Group, China Energy, Power China and China Gezhouba Group.

The prime minister apprised the Chinese businessmen of Pakistan's initiatives for economic and financial stability.

Sharing Pakistan's vision for sustainable and inclusive development, he outlined Pakistan's investor-friendly policies;

including the establishment of Special Investment Facilitation Council, which will act as a one-window platform to facilitate foreign investment.

He encouraged the Chinese corporate executives to explore the vast investment potential of Pakistan, especially in ICT, agriculture, renewable energy, textile, digital economy and, mining and minerals sectors.

Appreciating the measures taken by Pakistan to attract foreign investment, the entrepreneurs briefed the

prime minister on their business portfolios in Pakistan. They also expressed their keen interest in working with Pakistani partners to expand their business footprint in Pakistan.

Prime Minister Kakar also invited the executives of Chinese companies to Pakistan to discuss their business interests with relevant ministers.

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday said that the government was taking measures.



BEIJING: CEO China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) Wang Haihui and Chairman China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) Du Fei called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.



ISLAMABAD: SAPM/MOS on Investment, Tahir Javed meeting with Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador of Republic of Turkey in Pakistan at his office.

Dr Mehmood says: CPEC helps to build an enabling economic environment in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Executive Director, Center for South Asia and International Studies (CSAIS) Islamabad, Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan on Thursday said the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had helped build an enabling economic environment in Pakistan as energy, education and the economy being among its key pillars.

China had invested US\$25.4 billion in direct projects in Pakistan, creating 236,000 jobs, generating 8,000 megawatts of electricity, and building 510 kilometers of highways and 886 km of the national electricity grid, said a press release issued here.

Also, about 28,000 Pakistani students were studying in China.

Telenor solidifies resolve towards customers with Customer Day 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): Telenor Pakistan has successfully completed its annual Customer Day through extensive on-ground outreach into local communities and neighbourhoods across the country.

Valuable feedback from customers was gathered through market visits and surveys, and will be used for continuous improvement.

Dr. Saif lauds Huawei's presence at GITEX 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Dr. Umar Saif along with delegation had visited the Huawei pavilion at GITEX 2023.

The delegation included the Federal Secretary for IT & Telecom, Hassan Nasir Jamy, Ambassador of Pakistan to the UAE, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, and Member IT, Junaid Imam, said a news release issued here on Thursday.

Dr. Saif was shown the latest technology and cutting-edge trends in innovative ICT infrastructure, cybersecurity and privacy protection and the Huawei Cloud which is leading the creation of infrastructure as a service for global accessibility.

The minister was keen on the latest CERT product and OIC CERT operations globally as well as Pakistan.

Need urged for implementing fiscal, structural reforms to achieve sustainable growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Hitech Hybrid Rice Association (PHRSA) Shahzad Ali Malik Thursday urged the need for implementing sustained macro-fiscal and structural reforms, improving competitiveness, productivity and diversifying its agricultural exports to achieve sustainable economic growth and development.

Talking to a delegation of progressive farmers, he said Pakistan had huge potential to increase its exports of rice, sugarcane, and cotton products by diversifying its markets, enhancing its quality standards, branding its products, and complying with international trade regulations and requirements.

For example, Pakistan can tap into the lucrative markets of China, Turkey, Qatar, Kenya, Afghanistan, UAE, and Saudi Arabia for its rice exports by offering different varieties meeting their quality specifications and ensuring timely delivery, said a press release issued here.

Exports increase by 25.54% to over Rs 2 trillion in Q1

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exports from the country in the rupee term witnessed an increase of 25.54 percent during the first quarter (Q1) of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

Exports during July-September (2023-24) were recorded at Rs.2,013,533 million as against Rs.1,603,869 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 25.54 percent, according to provisional data released by PBS.

On a year-on-year basis, the exports during September 2023 increased by 31.27 percent and were recorded at Rs. 737,295 million compared to the exports of Rs.561,643 million in September 2022.

On a month-on-month basis, the exports increased by 6.06 percent from the exports of Rs. 695,136 million in August 2023. The main commodities of exports during August 2023 were commodities of exports during September, 2023 were knitwear (Rs. 103,029 million), readymade garments (Rs. 74,608 million), bed wear (Rs. 69,234 million), cotton cloth (Rs. 51,891 million), oil seeds, nuts and kernels (Rs.46,571 million), cotton yarn (Rs.33,815 million), rice others (Rs.32,324 million), towels (Rs.25,116 million), rice basmati (Rs.19,008 million) and madeup articles excluding towels and bedwear (Rs.16,922 million).

Gold rates dip by Rs.200 to Rs.206,300 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.200 and was sold at Rs. 206,300 on Thursday compared to its sale at Rs.206,500 the previous day of trading. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.171 to Rs.176,869 from Rs.177,040 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.162,130 from Rs.162,287, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

Chairman FBR holds E-Kachehri

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana held an E-Kachehri at FBR (HQs) on Thursday as part of FBR's drive to facilitate taxpayers in tax compliance and to address their tax-related concerns.

During the occasion, Chairman FBR directly received telephone calls from taxpayers and listened to their issues. The Chairman issued on-spot directions to relevant offices to resolve the problems of the taxpayers at the earliest, said a news release here.

Amjed Zubair also encouraged the taxpayers to visit their nearest Regional Tax Office and Collectorate of Customs for speedy resolution of their concerns pertaining to filing of tax returns.

He apprised that Field Formations have already been given instructions for maximum facilitation of taxpayers.

CJ PHC issues warning against corruption, vows strict action

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court, Justice Mohammad Ibrahim Khan Tuesday administered the oath to the newly elected cabinet of the High Court Bar Association.

The newly elected cabinet of the High Court Bar included President Muhammad Naem Khan Sadozai, General Secretary Peer Inamullah Shah, and cabinet members who participated in the swearing-in ceremony.

The swearing-in ceremony witnessed the presence of distinguished

judges like Justice Fazal Subhan and Justice Khurshid Iqbal, along with prominent officials like Commissioner Bannu Division Parvez Sabot Khel, Regional Police Officer Qasim Ali Khan, Deputy Commissioner Bannu Muhammad Nawaz, and District Police Officer Ifrikhar Shah.

Justice Ibrahim Khan, while addressing the gathering, emphasized the need for the courts to proactively combat corruption within their ranks.

He issued a stern warning that if the courts

do not take necessary measures against corruption, they might face dismissal notices.

The chief justice stressed that judges should demonstrate their commitment to delivering justice through their actions and highlighted the importance of treating government officials and officers with respect and humility.

Peshawar High Court is set to modernize its facilities with the introduction of digital libraries and IT infrastructure, following the example of the

Mangora District Judiciary.

He announced the establishment of a Camp Court for the Service Tribunal in Bannu, aiming to improve access to justice in the region.

He said that the judicial complex in Bannu would undergo maintenance and restoration work to enhance its functionality.

In his closing remarks during the swearing-in ceremony, Ibrahim Khan made it clear that any form of misbehavior would not be tolerated in the district courts.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali presiding over a meeting with officials of Sui Gas regarding provision of gas to district Peshawar. Mayor Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali is also present.



GUJAR KHAN: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf addressing the Public Gathering after Inaugurating Solar Energy System at Gujar Khan Bar Association.

Feroze Jamal reviews reduction in transport fares in Peshawar

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: In an effort to assess the effective implementation of reduced transport fares in light of declining oil prices across the country, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Caretaker Minister for Information and Public Relations, Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel visited two transportation hubs: Peshawar Bus Terminal and Haji Camp Bus Stand.

During this visit, Minister Kakakhel engaged with passengers, preparing for their journeys to different districts and cities at various terminals, keenly inquiring about the

realized reductions in transport fares. Furthermore, he inquired from drivers and conductors regarding government-regulated fares.

The Commissioner of Peshawar Division, Muhammad Zubair, and Deputy Commissioner of Peshawar, Afaq Wazir joined the minister along with officials from the Regional Transport Authority during the visit.

Minister Kakakhel expressed his gratification upon receiving general positive feedback from the public concerning the fare reductions.

ANF seizes 226 kg drugs in seven operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations managed to recover 226 kg drugs and arrested five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

He informed that over 2.8 kg Ice drug concealed in a passenger's bag was recovered at Islamabad Airport.

The accused, resident of Lahore, was leaving for Bahrain by flight number EK-613.

In another operation conducted in Faizabad, Rawalpindi, 135 narcotic (ecstasy) tablets were recovered from the possession of a passenger, resident of Khyber.

Delegation of Sikh pilgrims calls on CM Naqvi

Independent Report
LAHORE: A delegation of Sikh pilgrims coming from America and other countries met with Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at CM office here on Thursday.

The Sikh pilgrims thanked CM Mohsin Naqvi on looking after religious places of the Sikh community at Lahore, Nankana Sahib, Hassan Abdal and Kartarpur.

The CM while taking to the delegation of Sikh

pilgrims said, "We are trying to provide visa on arrival to the Sikh pilgrims on arriving to Pakistan. I have talked with the federal government in this regard and will give you good news soon." A community centre will be established for the Sikh community at Nankana Sahib, he added.

He said, "We are introducing a special tours package in Punjab for the Sikh pilgrims," adding that Tourism department is giving a final shape to this package in this regard.

Govt taking steps for promotion of education in tribal districts: Dr Qasim

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Caretaker Minister for Elementary, Secondary and Higher Education Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Professor Dr Mohammad Qasim Jan has said that the provincial government was taking special steps for promotion of education in the newly merged districts of the erstwhile Federal Administered Tribal Area (FATA).

He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting of the Merged Areas Education Foundation here

on Thursday. Besides, Secretary, Elementary and Secondary Education, Muatasim Billah Shah, Managing Director (MD) Merged Areas Education Foundation, Abdul Karam and Deputy Managing Director (DMD), Dr Shaukat Hayat, other higher authorities of the department also attended the meeting.

The caretaker minister said that the provincial government has allocated hefty share from its budget to increase literacy rate in the tribal districts.

Naqvi for timely completion of 34 priority projects

Independent Report
LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has directed the timely completion of 34 priority projects of public importance, emphasizing round-the-clock dedication to meet project deadlines.

He was chairing a meeting at the P&D Board on Thursday which was also attended by Provincial Minister for P&D Bilal Afzal, chief secretary, SMBR, secretaries of finance, health, P&D, housing & urban development, local

government, higher education, school education, forests, fisheries & wildlife and aquaculture departments, DG LDA, chairman PITB and others. There should be no delays and all allied matters should be promptly addressed; the CM stressed and vowed to regularly visit the P&D Board on progress on development projects. A detailed review of progress on priority development projects was presented by the chairman P&D and concerned secretaries. The CM

reviewed construction activities through drone footage and commended the performance of the P&D Board on the efficient monitoring system.

The CM also inspected various sections of the P&D Board, including its daycare.

Meanwhile Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid a surprise visit to Nawaz Sharif Interchange Bedian Road Underpass late-night and Akbar Chowk Flyovers projects early morning.

Dera police arrested 4 drug peddlers

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Dera police during a successful operation against criminal elements arrested four drug peddlers and recovered heroin and hashish from their possession in the limits of Paharpur and Cantt police stations here on Thursday.

According to the police spokesman, Police Station Cantt under the leadership of SDPO City Circle Muhammad Adnan along with SHO Gul Sher Khan, while taking action against drug dealers arrested.

Minister lauds launch of MCMIS

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Agriculture Minister S.M Tanvir has said that launch of Market Committees Management Information System (MCMIS) is a revolutionary step for bringing innovation in agricultural marketing system. He said this while inaugurating the MCMIS here on Thursday.

The system prepared for digitalization of agricultural markets with the cooperation of the Agriculture Department and Punjab Information Technology Board.

SM Tanvir said the

annual income of Rs 2.9 billion was generated through agricultural markets in Punjab. He said that this new system would bring transparency in tax collection and end black marketing. Punjab Agriculture Secretary Nadir Chattha said, "We have to work with dedication to make this new system effective and successful." He further said that in the pilot phase of digitalization of agricultural markets, this system had been implemented in five agricultural markets.

International News

No place is safe in Gaza after Israel targets areas where civilians seek refuge, Palestinians say

Monitoring Desk
DEIR al-BALAH: Even the "safe zones" of Gaza aren't safe for Palestinians.

Intense Israeli strikes Tuesday destroyed homes, hit a U.N. school sheltering the displaced and killed dozens of people in south and central Gaza.

"The situation is very, very difficult with artillery shelling and aerial bombardment on homes and defenseless people," said Abu Hashem Abu al-Hussein, who initially welcomed displaced families into his home in Khan Younis, but then fled to a U.N. school, where he hoped to find safety himself.

Israel had told Palestinians over the weekend to

evacuate northern Gaza and Gaza City in advance of an expected ground invasion of the territory following an attack by Hamas militants last week that killed at least 1,400 Israelis.

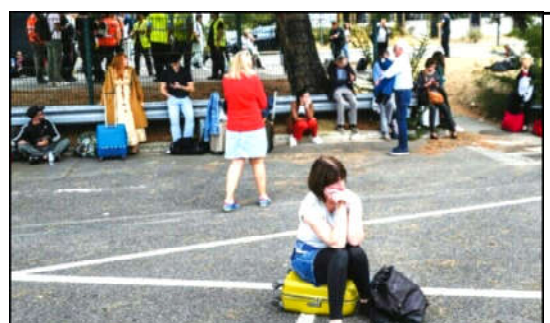
An estimated 600,000 people complied, packing what belongings they could and rushing to the south, where they squeezed into overcrowded U.N. shelters, hospitals, and homes in the approximately 14-kilometer (8-mile) long area south of the evacuation zone.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Hamas on Tuesday of preventing people from "getting out of harm's way," and he again urged Palestinians to head "south

to safe zones."

For some on Tuesday, there was no safety to be had there. After midnight Tuesday morning, an explosion shattered Moataz al-Zre'e's windows. He rushed outside to find his neighbor Ibrahim's entire home had been razed. The house next door was damaged also. At least 12 people from two families were killed, including three people from a family displaced from Gaza City.

"There was no (Israeli) warning," he said. Al-Zre'e's sister was gravely wounded and five of his paternal cousins were also injured following the attack. "Most of the killed were women and children."



BLAGNAC: Travellers wait outside the Toulouse-Bagnac Airport after the facility was evacuated.

China is building up its nuclear weapons arsenal faster than previous projections, a US report says

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: A Pentagon report on China's military power says Beijing is exceeding previous projections of how quickly it is building up its nuclear weapons arsenal and is "almost certainly" learning lessons from Russia's war in Ukraine about what a conflict over Taiwan might look like.

The report released Thursday also warns that China may be pursuing a new intercontinental missile system using conventional arms that, if fielded, would allow Beijing "to threaten conventional strikes against targets in

the continental United States, Hawaii and Alaska."

The China report comes a month before an expected meeting between Chinese leader Xi Jinping and President Joe Biden on the sidelines of next month's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco.

The annual report, required by Congress, is one way the Pentagon measures the growing military capabilities of China, which the U.S. government sees as its key threat in the region and America's primary long-term security challenge.

Egypt rejects any displacement of Palestinians into Sinai, says Sisi

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said on Wednesday that Egyptians would reject the forced displacement of millions of Palestinians into Sinai, adding that any such move would turn the peninsula into a base for attacks against Israel.

The Gaza Strip is effectively under Israeli control and Palestinians could instead be moved to Israel's Negev desert "till the militants are dealt with", Sisi told a joint news conference in Cairo with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

The border between Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip is the site of the only land crossing from the Palestinian territory that is not controlled by Israel.

Israel's unprecedented bombardment and siege of Gaza has raised fears that its 2.3 million residents could be forced southwards into Sinai.



Protesters hold a demonstration in Quezon City, Philippines, condemning the blast at the Ahli Arabi hospital in Gaza; members of the US Jewish community protest in the US Capitol in Washington against Israeli attacks; and Lebanese security forces use water cannons as they clash with protesters outside the US Embassy in Awkar, east of Beirut, during a pro-Palestinian demonstration.

Protests across Muslim world after hospital strike

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Thousands rallied across the Arab and Muslim world on Wednesday to protest the deaths of hundreds of people by an Israeli attack on a Gaza hospital.

The strike provoked outrage and condemnation from around the world, with protests on the streets of Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkiye, Yemen and the Occupied West Bank.

"Death to America, death to Israel," hundreds of Hezbollah supporters chanted at a rally in Beirut's southern suburbs. "The Israelis will try to target more hospitals, rescue workers, civil defence volunteers and Gaza's residents without flinching, in order to push Gaza's people out," senior Hezbollah official Hashem Safieddine told the demonstrators.

Protesters took to the streets of the West Bank city of Ramallah and

Nablus, shouting "Free, free Palestine".

While in Tunisia, thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters rallied outside the French embassy, condemning Western support for Israel. Some waved Palestinian flags while others demanded the ambassador be expelled, accusing France of being among the Western "allies of the Zionists", AFP journalists reported.

Some 5,000 Jordanians gathered outside the Israeli embassy, demanding the expulsion of Israel's diplomatic mission. Security forces blocked off roads leading to the embassy but the size of the demonstration looked set to swell due to the anger in Jordan, which is home to many Palestinian refugees.

In the Syrian capital Damascus, hundreds of people with Palestinian flags gathered near parliament, many wearing T-shirts bearing the image of President Bashar al-Assad.

"Martyrdom or victory," one banner read.

In Tehran in the early hours of Wednesday, protesters gathered outside the British and French embassies, an AFP correspondent said. "Death to France and England," protesters shouted, throwing eggs at the walls of the French embassy compound in the Iranian capital. The gatherings ended peacefully.

Several thousand people also gathered in Palestine Square in central Tehran to voice their anger, according to an AFP photographer. Overnight Turks marched with Palestinian flags and chanted slogans denouncing Israel in at least a dozen Turkish cities, including outside the Israeli embassy in the capital Ankara. Police used pepper spray and water cannon to disperse thousands of protesters who tried to enter the compound of Israel's consulate in Istanbul, Turkiye's largest city.

Russia's Lavrov meets North Korea's Kim, slams 'dangerous' US policy

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov met with North Korea's Kim Jong Un on Thursday, after slamming US policy towards the nuclear-armed state as "dangerous".

Lavrov hailed North Korea as a "close neighbour and long-time partner" in a meeting that lasted a little over an hour, Russia's foreign ministry said in a statement.

The veteran envoy's two-day visit is expected to lay the groundwork for a trip to the country by Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was invited by Kim last month at a high-profile summit in Russia's

far east.

Earlier in the day, Lavrov lashed out at what he termed a "dangerous" US policy towards North Korea while touting the "new, strategic level" of relations between Moscow and Pyongyang.

"Like our North Korean friends, we are seriously worried about the intensification of military activity of the United States, Japan and South Korea in the region and by Washington's policies," Lavrov told journalists, according to Russian news agencies.

"We oppose this unconstructive and dangerous line," he said.



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz shakes hands with Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in Cairo.

Lebanon's Hezbollah says it is stronger than before as border clashes rage

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Lebanon's Hezbollah warned its adversaries on Wednesday it was "thousands of times stronger" than before, as its fighters exchanged fire at the border with Israeli forces in violence fuelled by the war between Hamas and Israel.

The United States has warned Iran, which backs Hezbollah and the Palestinian group Hamas, against getting involved in the crisis, and deployed two aircraft carriers which it says aim to deter any state or non-state actor seeking to escalate the war.

Hezbollah official Hashem Safieddine, in a speech to thousands of supporters, said US President Joe Biden, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and "malicious Europeans" should be careful.

"The response to the mistake you might make with our resistance will be resounding," he said.

"Because what we have is faith, and God is stronger than you, all your battleships, and all your weapons," he said, speaking at a rally called in response to a strike that killed hundreds of people at a Gaza hospital.

Pakistan regrets US veto on UN Security Council action on Israeli-Palestinian conflict

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan Wednesday expressed regret over the United States veto on a U.N. Security Council resolution earlier in the day that would have called for "humanitarian pauses" to deliver life-saving aid to millions of traumatized people in embattled Gaza.

The resolution, sponsored by Brazil, had wide support and would have also condemned all violence against civilians. The vote in the 15-member Council was 12 votes in favour to one (United States) against, with Russia and China abstaining. "Pakistan supports an immediate ceasefire," Ambassador Munir Akram, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told an emergency meeting of the Security Council, which followed the vote. China, Russia and the UAE convened the meeting to discuss the worsening situation in the Gaza.

Referring to today's vote, Ambassador Akram said, "Although the Brazilian resolution needed con-

siderable improvement in our view, we were surprised at the Council's inability to adopt it due to the veto cast by a permanent member." He added, "A heavy responsibility rests on those who have contributed to the prolongation of consistent bombing of Gaza's citizens that is taking place."

The Pakistani envoy also regretted that the Security Council was unable to issue a call for a ceasefire, due to the opposition and insufficient support for the resolution proposed by the Russia a day before, and for the Russian amendments to the Brazilian resolution calling for a ceasefire this morning.

"Today is the eleventh day of relentless, catastrophic Israeli attacks on Gaza. All of Gaza is under military siege, and electricity, water, and all humanitarian aid channels have been cut off. The entire population of Gaza — women, children, and elderly — are being collectively punished by the indiscriminate Israeli attacks," Am-

bassador Akram said. "Pakistan, he said, strongly condemns Israeli air strikes and military incursions into Gaza, the killing of civilians, and the large-scale displacement of an already occupied and battered people."

"The laws of war and the international humanitarian law, especially the Geneva Conventions must be strictly observed."

Ambassador Akram also "strongly and unequivocally" condemned Israel's cowardly and criminal attack on the Al-Ahley hospital in Gaza on Tuesday, killing hundreds, mostly sick and wounded Palestinian children, women and men.

"This willful atrocity, an attack on a hospital, which enjoys explicit protection under international law, is clearly a war crime and a crime against humanity," he said, adding those responsible must be held accountable through an international inquiry and accountability process.



KARACHI: Ambassador of Thailand Chakkrid Krachaiwong meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori.

APC pleads for practical steps by Muslim Ummah to mitigate Gaza people's miseries

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Conference (APC) on Thursday called for practical steps and measures by the Muslim Ummah to ensure full support and assistance to the war-affected Palestinian people, who are undergoing unprecedented agony and turbulence in the wake of Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip.

The APC participants stressed upon the Government of Pakistan to play a proactive role in order to champion the Palestinian cause and clearly convey the anger and anguish of the entire Muslim Ummah over the injustice and Israeli brutality with the Gaza people.

They called for a leading role of Pakistan at the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to bring the Israeli reign of terror on the Gaza area to an end. They also condemned the international human rights organizations for keeping silence instead of playing their due role to uphold the rights of Palestinian people.

The All Parties Conference, hosted by Ms Uzma Gul at the Palestinian Embassy, was addressed, besides Palestinian Ambassador Ahmed Jawad Rabei, by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leaders Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Hafiz Masood Kamaluddin and Chaudhry Shafique-ur-Rehman Warraich, Head of Ansar Ummah Maulana Fazlur Rahman Khalil, MQM's Haider Abbas Rizvi and others.

Ms Uzma Gul, in her address, expressed gratitude to the participants for expressing their collective dedication to the Palestinian cause.

She emphasized the significance of the resolution of Palestine issue with the active role of the Pakistani community across the globe. The hearts of Muslims all over the world beat in unison with their Palestinian brethren, she added.

She cautioned the Muslim countries against dereliction towards the current crisis as it might spill over to across the region.

Palestinian Ambassador Ahmed Jawad Rabei, in his remarks, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Pakistani people for showing solidarity with the Palestinians as evident from the protests against the Israeli aggression held all across the country.

CPEC to bring about Pakistan's economic prosperity, regional connectivity: PM

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday, terming CPEC a landmark project in the history of Pakistan-China relations, said it would bring about economic progress and prosperity in Pakistan and contribute to regional connectivity and development.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Chairman of China International Development Cooperation Agency Luo Zhaohui, lauded the vision of connectivity and partnership under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and its fruits over the last ten years in terms of economic milestones for Pakistan.

Prime Minister Kakar and CIDCA Chairman Luo discussed the collaboration in socioeconomic development projects under the CPEC framework in agriculture, health, education, vocational education, water supply and poverty alleviation.

The chairman welcomed the prime minister's proposal for the swift implementation of CIDCA's GDI projects in Pakistan.

Prime Minister Kakar lauded the dynamic partnership between Pakistan and CIDCA and especially commended CIDCA's strong commitment to development projects in Pakistan.

Chairman Luo assured the prime minister of CIDCA's long-term commitment to high-quality development of CPEC.



ISLAMABAD: His Excellency Ahmad Jawad Rabei, Ambassador, State of Palestine addressing during All Parties Conference to express solidarity with the people of Palestine at Embassy of the State of Palestine.

ECP invites int'l, national observers to observe upcoming electoral polls

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) spokesperson Haroon Shinwari Thursday said that the ECP was trying its best to ensure transparency and credibility in upcoming general election polls where they had invited international and national observers to observe the electoral process.

Talking to the PTV news channel, he said that national and international observance will provide us neutral feedback about the electoral process, adding, that the Election Commission accorded approval to the code of conduct for International Observers and also allowed to publish it on a priority basis.

He added that the voter lists across the country will be frozen on October 25, formally stopping the process of registration, correctness and transfer of voters.

He said all of the registered nationals will cast votes in the upcoming general elections, adding, that there are only 6 days left for the registration, transfer and correctness of the voters' data.

Replying to a question, the Spokesperson said the Elections Act 2017 empowers the electoral body to invite local or foreign observers to monitor the elections, adding, that under section 238 of the act, they can observe the election process.



KARACHI: Pakistan Railway Karachi Divisional Superintendent (DS), Nasir Khalili in meeting with delegation of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Organizing Committee led by Kanwar Imran Ali Khan, MQM-P Burn Road Town In-Charge, Irfan Ullah and others held at his office in Karachi

DC Sanghar warns of action on fare hike and overloading transport

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Sanghar Dr. Imran Khawaja Thursday expressed his indignation over the transporters for not reducing the fares after the drop of petrol prices and overcrowding passengers in public transport.

He conveyed these concerns during a meeting with district transporters held at his office on Thursday. Dr. Khawaja emphasized the need to comply with the Supreme Court's orders to reduce fares and said that action would be taken in any case of non-compliance.

He urged transporters to cooperate with local authorities, set reasonable fares and in case of overcharging passengers, penalties would be imposed.

He directed all assistant commissioners to ensure immediate implementation of the fare reduction notification, besides instructing the secretary of transport to oversee public transport and ensure their fitness, while transporters would be penalized if found exceeding passenger limits.

Divisional Commissioner Sukkur orders reduction in essential commodity prices

SUKKUR (APP): Divisional Commissioner Sukkur Samiuddin Siddiqui on Thursday ordered authorities concerned to reduce the prices of essential commodities and services in accordance with the substantial reduction in the fuel prices.

In a statement, the divisional commissioner directed the deputy commissioners (DCs) of Sukkur, Khairpur, and Ghotki districts to activate a strict price control mechanism. He urged all concerned authorities to ensure that prices of essential commodities and services are reduced correspondingly.

"All efforts should be directed towards transferring the benefit of a reduction in petroleum prices to the people. Strict implementation should be ensured," the commissioner said.



JAMSHORO: President Arts Council of Karachi Ahmed Shah cutting the ribbon to inaugurate painting and arts work exhibition at Art and Design University of Sindh Jamshoro.

International poster exhibition kicked off at SABS University Jamshoro

HYDERABAD (APP): Seven days long international poster exhibition titled "Hyderabad Rivieri" was started at A. R. Nagori Gallery under auspices of Shaheed Allah Bukhs Soomro (SABS) University of Art, Design and Heritage Jamshoro here Thursday.

The exhibition was jointly inaugurated by President Art Council of Pakistan Karachi Muhammad Ahmed Shah, Vice Chancellor SABS University Prof. Dr. Arabella Bhutto, Architect and Philanthropist Hameer Soomro, Sindh Secretary for Culture Abdul Azeem Lashari and Director General Antiquities and Archaeology Manzoor Ahmed Kanasaro.

The exhibition showcased the beauty, history, treasures, traditional foods, tourist attractions, textiles, shrines, flora and fauna, crafts, and the rich heritage of Hyderabad. This unique exhibition brought together 132 participating designers from 32 countries, including Pakistan.

The designers from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Canada, China, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, UAE, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, USA have displayed their creative efforts in this poster exhibition.

Govt prays SC to dismiss verdict in NAB amendment case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The federal government Thursday submitted detailed arguments to the Supreme Court in the appeal against the decision about NAB amendments.

The Ministry of Law and Justice through Makhdoom Ali Khan Advocate requested the top court to declare the decision void, adding that the verdict pertaining to the NAB amendments was against the constitution and the law.

It said that the petitioner was allowed to present and respond to 22 hearings over a period of 6 months, while the federal government was restricted to answering the questions raised by the court.

Petitioner Chairman PTI was given three months' time to submit the reports while federal government was not given even three weeks' time.

The request of the federal government to constitute a full court with reference to the hearing of the case was also not accepted, it added.

It further stated that after the NAB amendments, the cases of many persons are pending at various forums.



HYDERABAD: Mayor Hyderabad, Kashif Ali Shoro addresses after inaugurating the construction works of road, at Al-Fateh Town located on Qasimabad in Hyderabad.

Pakistan Atomic Energy Centre organizes seminar on "Breast Cancer"

KARACHI (APP): October is considered as Breast Cancer Awareness month worldwide and Pakistan Atomic Energy Center Hospitals observe October as a month of creating awareness of the disease for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure.

The Atomic Energy Medical Center also organized a seminar on the Breast Cancer Management program on Thursday. The program held at Atomic Energy Medical Centre Auditorium, was attended by a large number of doctors, nurses, paramedics and patients. The Executive Director Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre Dr. Shahid Rasool was the chief guest on the occasion.

While addressing the seminar, speakers aware the audience about the fast spread of breast cancer disease and said that breast cancer is the most common cancer in women and the leading cause of cancer death among women. Treatment for breast cancer can be highly effective, especially when the disease is diagnosed early. So there is a need to aware people of its symptoms for its early detection.

Director of Atomic Energy Cancer Hospital, AEMC Karachi, Dr. Hina Hashmi in her inaugural speech said "Early detection affects survival rates. It is therefore important for all to be aware to undergo self-examination". And for women in the target population to be screened through high-quality organized screening programs. The other distinguished speakers were Dr. Najeeb Naimatullah, Consultant Medical Oncologist, Shaoukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital (SKMCH).



KARACHI: Members of Pakistan Fisher Folk Forum are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of influent land grabbers, held at Karachi press club.

CAA bans Gutka, betel leaf chewing in Jinnah Airport limits

KARACHI (INP): The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has imposed ban on chewing betel leaf, betel nuts, Gutka and smoking in Jinnah Airport limits on Thursday. The CAA has decided to take action against those indulge in smoking, chewing Gutka, Naswar, area nut and betel leaf in the airport premises. Gutka is a preparation of chewing tobacco made of crushed area nut, tobacco, catechu, paraffin wax, slaked lime and sweet or savory flavourings.

"The ban will come into force from November 06," CAA administration announced. "Action will be taken against those involved in violation of ban within Karachi airport's limits," CAA stated. CAA, airlines staff and all companies employees have been informed about the ban. "The entry passes of the employees will be cancelled who will found chewing betel leaf, Gutka and betel nuts," CAA said. "Rs 1000 fine will also be imposed on them".

SAPM Mushaal Mullick urges global action to halt humanitarian crisis in Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick called upon international community, the UN bodies and OIC to adopt a proactive and unequivocal policy approach to prevent the looming humanitarian catastrophe, as the war frenzy Israel put the war-battered Gaza under total siege, halting food, water and fuel to 2.3m people.

Speaking at a Roundtable titled "Gaza Under Siege: Humanitarian Catastrophe of Israel Aggression" organized by Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Mushaal pointed out that the inhuman Israel was hell-bent on annihilating the entire Palestinian population after forcibly and unlawfully occupied people had been left with no food and water amid the indiscriminate non-stop airstrikes by the fascist occupation forces, killing children and women and elderly people. She criticized that Israel's backers were responsible for encouraging the Jewish state to commit atrocities in the war-torn Gaza with impunity.

The SPAM on Human Rights and Women Empowerment made it clear that the notorious Indian government and the Zionist regime were pursuing the policies of genocide and had been committing war crimes in their respective occupied territories for the last over seven decades but the world powers and the UN bodies instead of taking practical and tangible measures to stop these aggressors.