

Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 05. No. 293 Rabi-ul-Sani 09, 1445 AH Wednesday October 25, 2023 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

Dream to polio-free Pakistan to be fulfilled at every cost: PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday, vowing to resist the individuals propagating against the polio vaccination, resolved to achieve the dream of polio-free Pakistan by carrying forward the journey with unshakeable commitment. "I can assure that we gonna have it. We will realise this dream. We will never step back, may be an inch, may be a foot or may be a mile. This will always be a forth-going journey," the prime minister said addressing a ceremony to mark the World Polio Day. The event was organized by the Pakistan Polio Programme to pay homage to the resilience and dedication of frontline workers on the World Polio Day, which is commemorated on October 24 every year. Federal Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan, Federal Health Secretary Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, representatives of polio partners Rotary, World Health Organisation and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and frontline workers and their families were in attendance. The prime minister said by opposing the polio vaccine, the anti-vaxxers, intentionally or unintentionally, were partnering with the forces of darkness. He emphasised the role of faith leaders and the society to make such people realise that they were actually partnering with the destroyer of the humans. "This is unacceptable. We will resist this," he resolved. He expressed his gratitude to the global partners who continued to support Pakistan in its endeavour of polio eradication. Recognising the sacrifices of the polio workers and the security personnel guarding them, the prime minister said they had paid the highest price for the cause. He said the frontline health workers were the heroes of Pakistan, who were working in challenging environments, facing social barriers and even threats to their safety without ever losing their dedication. The prime minister recognised the services of three police constables who were martyred while on polio duty and to two vaccinators who were injured.



UBAURO: Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh, Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar chairs a meeting to control law and order situation and eliminating dacoits in the Katcha area, in Ubauro.

Pakistan successfully conducts training launch of Ghauri Weapon System

RAWALPINDI (APP): Pakistan on Tuesday successfully conducted Training Launch of Ghauri Weapon System aimed at testing the operational and technical readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command. The launch was witnessed by Commander Army Strategic Force Command (ASFC), senior officers from the strategic forces, scientists and engineers of strategic organization, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The Commander ASFC appreciated the standard of training and operational preparedness of Army Strategic Forces, which was reflected by proficient handling of Weapon System in the field and achievement of operational and technical objectives. He also appreciated the scientists and engineers for their contributions towards enhancement of Pakistan's strategic capability.

Health Minister announces anti-polio drive in Karachi from Oct 30

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Saad Khalid Niaz said in view of the emergence of fresh polio case in the city, another week-long anti-polio drive will be launched in Karachi from October 30. He appealed to the parents to get their children vaccinated against poliovirus during the upcoming drive which will be continued till November 05, 2023. Addressing a meeting to review anti polio campaign, the minister said Pakistan can be made a polio-free state only with the co-operation of parents with the polio teams. Dr. Saad Khalid Niaz said that the resumption of the anti-polio campaign in Karachi is inevitable after the diagnosis of the confirmed polio case and the positive samples obtained from the sewage. He told the parents who immunized their children during last campaign, should again vaccinate them during the fresh polio drive. Earlier, the minister was briefed about anti-polio campaigns and suggested that though the result of the recently held anti-polio drive was satisfactory but there was need of further vaccination in different areas.



KARACHI: Members of Civil Society are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at Karachi press club.

Kirghistan's envoy calls on Governor

KARACHI (APP): Kirghista's diplomat Melis Moldaliev called on Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori here on Tuesday. They discussed Pak-Kirghistan relations, steps to strengthen them, exchange of delegations in various fields, investment opportunities in Sindh and other issues of mutual interests. The governor said that Kirghistan had made development, adding there was room for cooperation in various fields between the two countries.

SC disposes of case regarding general elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday disposed off a petition regarding the holding of general elections across the country on same day after the case was withdrawn. A three-member bench of the top court, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, heard the case. Petitioner's lawyer Shakhawar Advocate adopted the stance that they wanted to withdraw the case as the court had already taken up this matter. The court subsequently disposed of the petition after the statement of the lawyer.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar distributes cheques among the families of martyred polio workers and polio workers who got injured in the line of duty.

CM Sindh briefed on development projects in Sukkur division

SUKKUR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh, Justice Maqbool Baqar, presided over a meeting at the Divisional Commissioner's house in Sukkur on Tuesday, focusing on Sukkur's development portfolio and flood damages and rehabilitation. In attendance were provincial ministers, Brigadier Haris Nawaz, Barrister Umar Soomro, Ashraf Lal, Principal Secretary Hasan Naqvi, Secretary School Education Sheerin Narejo, Secretary Health Dr. Mansoor, Secretary Works and Services Muhammad Nawaz Sohu, and other relevant officers. During the meeting, Chief Minister Sindh expressed the purpose of his visit to Sukkur, which was to assess the city's health, sanitation, flood damage, and other issues. He instructed the Secretary of Works and Services to clear the roads of the city of soil, emphasizing the need for improved sanitation arrangements in Sukkur. He gave a three-week deadline to the Sukkur district administration to remove garbage and floodwater from the roads, warning that he would not spare anyone if the city remained unclean. The Chief Minister also pointed out the poor conditions of police stations and the district headquarters hospital in Sukkur, criticizing the lack of honesty in the performance of their duties. He emphasized the proper cleaning of broken roads, sewers, and streets. The Divisional Commissioner Sukkur, Samiuddin Siddiqui, and his team briefed the caretaker Chief Minister on flood-related rehabilitation projects. The Sukkur division comprises 18 talukas, 288 Union Councils, covering 27,158 kilometers of land, and includes Khairpur, Ghotki, and Sukkur districts. According to the recent census, the Sukkur division has 1,052,475 houses and a population of 6,010,041, with a household ratio of 5.7 and an overall development rate of 1.36. In the briefing, the Chief Minister was informed about the presence of 5,239 primary, 171 middle, 248 elementary, 210 secondary, and 85 higher secondary schools across the division. The region experienced significant rainfall and flooding in 2022, with a total of 775 mm of rain recorded in Sukkur during that year. The briefing also highlighted the impact of the 2022 floods, which affected 891,238 people in the Sukkur division, damaged 442,922 houses, destroyed 59,305.20 acres of agricultural land, and led to the loss of 120,820 cattle. New development schemes have been planned for the Sukkur division in the financial year 2023-24, with an approved budget of 680 million rupees, of which 340 million has been allocated for 51 schemes in Sukkur. However, no funds have been released yet for these schemes.



ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif leaving after his hearing at Islamabad High Court in Federal Capital.

Around 120 new development schemes approved in Sindh's current year budget: Wahab

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that 120 new development schemes have been approved in the Sindh government's current year's budget, out of which work has started on many development projects. These views were expressed by Mayor Karachi on Tuesday while addressing the foundation laying ceremony for the construction of road from Nasir Brohi Hotel to Mubarak Village here on Tuesday. He said that KMC has recently conducted tenders worth billions and procurement is going on and the practical works will also start soon. Politics of service should be done instead of politics of criticism, he observed. In UC-2 Lal Bhakar foundation stone has been laid for the construction of a five-kilometer two-way road in Mauripur, which will be completed within the stipulated time, he said. He said that all the roads are being constructed after utility lines are laid, rainwater drainage is arranged, and then the road is built. The Mayor Karachi said the People's Party has constructed Maripur Road, constructed the road from Fish Chowk to Kennup and also built a beachfront for the people of Manora. He said that very soon they will build an international standard youth center for the people of the central district. We have improved the bad condition of the roads and drains around the Asghar Shah Stadium, he said. Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad and others also spoke on this occasion.

If security can't be provided to a person, how can elections be held: ECP

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has summoned the interior secretary for being unable to produce PTI Chairman Imran Khan in the case of defamation of the ECP. The commission was hearing a defamation case against the PTI chief, Asad Umar and Fawad Chaudhry. A four-member commission headed by Nisar Durrani adjourned the hearing till November 13. Fawad Chaudhry and Asad Umar appeared before the commission, while Imran Khan was not brought to the election commission from Adiala Jail. PTI lawyer Shoaib Shaheen said the real insult to the election commission has taken place. The operations assistant inspector general of police (AIG) submitted a report regarding the appearance of Imran Khan. It said Rawalpindi was a densely populated area, which is not without dangers. PTI Chairman Imran Khan has himself said there are threats to his life, the report stated.

I am part of PML-N, I will not resign from party: Khaqan

KARACHI (Online): Former Prime Minister (PM) Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said it is his appeal to the present and coming government to abolish NAB as Job of NAB is only keeping the politicians under pressure. He said this while talking to media men after appearing in Karachi Accountability Court Tuesday. He held NAB job is connecting and disconnecting the politicians. What is requirement of justice and where justice has gone, is not seen by any one.

Armed Forces of Pakistan adhere to the principles of the United Nations charter: Army Chief

RAWALPINDI (Online): Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir has reminded the United Nations of its pledge on Kashmir as he expressed his best wishes for the world body on its 78th foundation day on Tuesday. Pakistan's Armed Forces have a distinguished and long history of peace-keeping service with the United Nations. Pakistan occasion, General Asim Munir expressed his best wishes on the occasion of the 78th foundation day of the United Nations, saying Pakistan has a unique history of serving under the UN flag for a more peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. The Army Chief said on this day the international community must not forget the shared responsibility to fulfill the collective



joined the United Nations peacekeeping mission on 30 September 1947. In 1969, Pakistan deployed its first contingent to United Nations operations in the Congo. Pakistan participated in 48 joint missions with more than 230,000 troops in 29 countries around the world. As many as 170 soldiers including 24 officers sacrificed their lives in UN peacekeeping missions. In his message on this commitment to the Kashmiris for the right to a referendum rightly secured by several UN Security Council Resolutions. The Army Chief said the Armed Forces of Pakistan adhere to the principles of the United Nations charter. The Army Chief further said "We are striving to make the world a better place for future generations as per the vision of our elders no matter what the cost."

Chairman Senate calls session to discuss Palestinian situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Tuesday called a Senate session on Friday at 10:00 AM to discuss the ongoing Palestinian situation. The session was called in accordance with Article 54, Section 3 of the Constitution. The leader of the Senate, Senator Isaq Dar, and the Parliamentary Leader of the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), Senator Manzoor Kakar, have jointly submitted a letter requesting the session's convening. Leaders from various political parties, including Dr. Shahzad Waseem, Leader of the Senate's Opposition, and senators from all political groups, have expressed their support for this special Senate session. The primary aim of the session is to express solidarity with the Palestinian people and condemn the injustices carried out by the Israeli occupying forces. During the session, senators will have the opportunity to voice their opinions and engage in discussions regarding the challenges currently faced by Palestine.

Effective border management in interest of both Pakistan, Afghanistan: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said peace was linked with Pakistan and Afghanistan and effective border management and security was in the interest of the peoples of both countries. In a meeting with Afghan media delegation, problems of Afghan journalists, visa issues and other important issues were discussed. He said it was the responsibility of the media to identify the enemies of peace so that the state could defeat them. Murtaza Solangi held out the assurance that the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would be contacted on the visa issues of Afghan journalists. As a responsible state, Pakistan will ensure that all foreigners enter the country through legal channels, he added. The delegation of Afghan journalists thanked the Federal Minister of Information for the assurance to redress their issues.



KARACHI: Former Prime Minister, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi arrived for court case hearing, at Accountability Court in Karachi.

Security Risk PTI chairman cannot be produced in ECP contempt case: Ministry

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Interior on Tuesday informed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) that producing PTI chairman Imran Khan in a contempt case is a 'security risk', says in media reports. Last year in August, the ECP had issued notices to Chaudhry, and others for allegedly using "intemperate" language against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja and the electoral body. A four-member commission headed by Sindh Member Nisar Durrani heard the contempt case against former prime minister Imran Khan, Fawad Chaudhry and Asad Umar.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

'Null and void'

It is a seminal judgement. On Monday, while hearing a set of petitions against the trial of civilians in military courts, a Supreme Court bench ruled that in the aftermath of the May 9 events, civilian trials in such courts were null and void.

Their lordships observed that two sections of the Army Act apparently justifying civilian trials in military courts were unconstitutional, and called for cases of civilians to be conducted in regular criminal courts.

The judgement clearly upholds civilian supremacy and should be seen as permanent endorsement of the constitutional order over non-democratic shortcuts. In ignoring the recent pleas of some of the accused to speed up their military trials, it becomes apparent that their lordships were looking at the long-term consequences of allowing civilians to be tried by military courts.

The petitions against military trials were taken up by former CJP Umar Ata Bandial, but the case was put off 'indefinitely' before resuming Monday. There were also reports that the military trials of some among the 102 people taken into custody after the May 9 developments had begun, even though the apex court had said the cases could only be heard after it granted permission.

The last National Assembly, for all its talk of democracy, had endorsed military trials through a controversial resolution, that has, in effect, been rejected by the court in its decision to restore the civilian order.

The state can appeal the decision before the full court. Yet at the heart of the matter is not just the trials of 102 individuals by the military, but also the debate about what sort of governance structure should dominate Pakistan.

Should it be the constitutional order envisioned by the founders of the country, where every citizen is equal under the law, where due process is respected, and where all institutions act within their legal bounds? Or should Pakistan's vision be one of an eternal security state, where justice, lawmaking, foreign policy, the economy, etc. are all militarised?

Thankfully, in the latest judgement, the apex court has demonstrated the vision of the founding fathers.

As a start, the custody of the May 9 accused should be handed over to civilian authorities.

To demand the civilian trial of those involved in the May 9 events is not to condone their acts; it is to say that when civilians are accused of committing crimes, there exists a civilian justice system that should be well-equipped to decide on their guilt and punishment.

And if there are lacunae in the civilian justice system, these need to be addressed, not replaced with militarised justice. It is hoped that Monday's judgement is applied for all times to come, and not just to the May 9 cases.



Mohammad Ali Babakhel

While conflicts and violence directly and indirectly impact everyone, girls and women are invariably the most vulnerable and worst affected. According to a study, nearly 90 million girls live in conflict zones worldwide, with negative consequences for their education, health, and well-being. From experiencing forced displacement to being denied appropriate healthcare to facing gender-based violence and child marriages, women pay disproportionately for wars started and waged by men.

Traditionally, men are expected to fight in conflicts while women are forced to flee and are usually left with no option but to leave for their native towns. According to UNHCR, out of the 80m people displaced worldwide, half are women and children. Conflicts also destroy a country's health infrastructure; hospitals are bombed, and health workers are overburdened and understaffed. Since women have specific health needs, it is challenging to meet them when they are displaced. This results from limited availability of services and facilities, the stigma attached to sexual and reproductive health, etc. Studies show that displaced pregnant women receive less antenatal care and are "more exposed to violence, malnutrition, poor hygiene conditions" than those who are not.

Many may die from pregnancy and childbirth complications. According to UN Women, 60 per cent of preventable maternal

deaths occur globally in

"fragile settings where political conflict, displacement, and natural disasters prevail". According to a UNFPA report for 2021, in Yemen, a woman dies in childbirth every two hours, on average, due to poor health facilities. Over 1m pregnant and breastfeeding women there are said to be malnourished.

Sexual violence has long been a war tactic. In 2020, the UN confirmed 2,500 cases of sexual violence in 18 countries, mostly against women. In such situations, women may experience "all three forms of gender-based violence ... psychological, physical, and sexual abuse". Due to growing instability and poverty, and the weakening of the rule of law, conflict situations turn conducive to domestic violence and human trafficking. Displacement increases the risk of women facing GBV, as it separates them from their communities that might otherwise protect them. Displaced girls in camps may also attract the attention of traffickers.

Conflicts disrupt economic progress and often create more poverty and hunger. Such situations encourage child marriages, as families are either desperately looking for additional income or to have one less mouth to feed.

According to Save the Children, girls affected by conflicts are 20pc more likely to be married than those living in peaceful areas. Its report says that girls in "East Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and South Asia face the highest risk of child marriage linked to conflict". West and Central Africa, a region wracked by conflict and poverty, has the highest rates of child marriage globally. In a few conflict-affected countries, like Chad or the Central African Republic, child marriage was shown to be three times higher than

the world average.

Women are often left out in peace negotiations; hence, conflict prevention remains male-dominated. Conflict, therefore, not only affects women but denies them opportunities to have a say in matters that directly affect them. After the adoption of Resolution 1325 by the UN Security Council, globally, there has been a growing interest in including women in conflict resolution and peace talks, with representation increasing from 1pc in 1999 to 9pc in 2011. According to UN Women, between 1992 and 2019, women represented, on average, 13pc of all negotiators, 6pc of mediators, and 6pc of signatories in significant peace processes worldwide. However, seven of every 10 peace processes did not include women mediators or signatories. According to UN Women, in 2020, women were represented in only 23pc of the delegations in UN-supported peace processes. "In countries affected by or rebuilding from conflict, women's representation in elected office stood at just 19pc in 2020".

With funds' availability, the issues women face in conflicts can be tackled. Since 2016, the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund has mobilised over \$100m and financed more than 600 women's CSO's in conflict-affected areas. Safeguarding the interests of women during conflicts requires "breaking silos between humanitarian, peace, security, and development finance by investing in enhancing women's engagement, leadership, and empowerment across all phases of the crisis". However, such ideals cannot be converted into reality without the international community's collective efforts in this direction. - Courtesy Dawn

Course correction



Jamil Ahmad

All is set for the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) next month in Dubai. The annual conclave comes in the wake of this year's record-breaking high temperatures, a worsening water crisis, wildfires, and floods in many parts of the world. World leaders, representatives of the financial sector, industry, CSOs, and climate activists are expected to congregate for crucial policy decisions on climate change.

COP28 takes the baton from COP27, aiming to refine policies and augment action in mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation including finance, technology, and capacity building.

An important addition to the agenda is the operationalisation of the Loss and Damages Fund established at last year's COP. A 24-member transitional committee, entrusted with defining the structure and modalities of the Fund, is expected to finalise its proposals.

The first Global Stocktake to assess quantitative progress on achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement has been completed after a consultative process spread over 18 months.

COP28 will consider the Global Stocktake, which offers countries a deep insight into the impact of their individual and collective effort to address climate change, and discuss challenges as well as take fresh measures for course correction and strengthening international cooperation on all the pillars of the Paris

Agreement.

A synthesis report released last month notes the progress made towards the Paris goals, but also indicates the need to do much more. In its 17 findings, the report points out "well-known gaps", such as the insufficiency of mitigation ambition to collectively achieve the Paris Agreement, fragmentation, incrementalism and the unequal regional distribution of adaptation efforts, and lack of rigorous accountability of actions by non-party stakeholders. To bridge these gaps, the report calls for a whole-of-society approach, integrated and inclusive policymaking for long-term strategies for carbon-resilient and low-emission development, scaling-up renewable energy, and the unabated phasing out of fossil fuels.

The Global Stocktake report also identifies the need for "increased adaptation action and enhanced efforts to avert, minimise and address loss and damage", for those who are least prepared for change and least able to recover from disasters. On climate finance, the report emphasises the scaled-up mobilisation of support for developing countries, while aligning the current financial flows with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions.

Means of implementation, particularly finance, have now become the central plank of the narrative for securing the Paris Agreement, and the SDGs deliberations on this subject at Dubai will get a boost from the SDG Summit and the Climate Ambition Summit held last month during the UN General Assembly, which urged concrete steps at COP28 for operationalising the Loss and Damage Fund. Another meeting convened in New York by Egypt, the current COP presidency, and the UAE — the incoming COP presidency —

added its voice to calls in favour of early action on the fund. However, there are still differences among governments on the modalities for the new financing mechanism, the criteria for securing and disbursing funds and the qualification of countries to benefit from the facility. After two rounds of talks, the Loss and Damage transitional committee entrusted with providing answers to these questions has a challenging task ahead as it shapes its final recommendations.

Leading the developing countries, Pakistan played a key role at COP27 in forging consensus on the Loss and Damage Fund. At Dubai, developing countries, under Cuba's presidency of the G77, will argue for additional, sufficient, and accessible climate finance and technology transfer.

The EU has signalled a three-pronged strategy, urging governments to triple renewable energy rollout by 2030, improve energy efficiency, and accelerate the phasing out of fossil fuels, with a "residual" role for carbon-abating technologies. UNEP, the UNDP and other UN agencies working with governments on climate policy will also attend the meeting. Ahead of COP28, UNEP will release reports on adaptation gaps and emissions gaps. Against the backdrop of the IPCC's warning that the Paris targets are off-track, including the major goal of limiting the global temperature rise — preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, a major climate course correction is needed now.

Countries will have to set more ambitious targets in their upcoming Nationally Determined Contributions to reduce global GHG emissions by 43 per cent by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050. COP28 will be expected to chalk out a credible pathway for meeting this challenge. Failure is not an option. - Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

PM directs to ensure timely, uninterrupted fertilizer supply for Rabi crop

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to ensure the timely and uninterrupted supply of fertilizer to the farmers for Rabi crop.

The prime minister, chairing a review meeting on the provision of Urea for Rabi crop, instructed for the timely arrangement of the fertilizer's buffer stock.

He asked the respective district administrations to keep strict vigilance on the fertilizer prices.

The meeting was also apprised of the current production of the fertilizer and the expected demand.

The participants were briefed about the decisions of the Economic Coordination Committee for the uninterrupted provision of fertilizer.

The prime minister instructed the relevant

ministries to formulate a comprehensive mechanism for the smooth supply of the fertilizer for Rabi crop.

The meeting was also briefed about the prices of the fertilizer and its raw material, and the demand and supply for the fertilizer factories.

Caretaker ministers Gohar Ejaz, Kausar Abdullah Malik and Muhammad Ali, Advisor to PM Ahad Cheema and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.



Regional Chairman FPCCI Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi presenting FPCCI shield to Pakistan's Ambassador to Spain Aftab Ahmed Khokhar.

Pakistan working towards balanced space policy: IT Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif on Tuesday said that Pakistan was working towards a balanced space policy.

"The policy will protect our national interests and enable us to benefit from rapid advances in private sector such as Starlink etc" he said while chairing a meeting on Pakistan's National Space Policy. According to a news

release, the meeting discussed in details regarding finalisation of Pakistan's National Space Policy.

Secretary IT Hassan Nasir Jamy was also present at the meeting.

Authorities from SUPARCO, PTA, SIFC and SPD attended the meeting.

Additional Secretary MoITT Ms. Aisha Humera Moriani and senior officers of the Ministry were also present.



President and CEO Mobilink Bank Ghazanfar Ezaam and Chairman BMA Capital Management Moazzam M. Malik signing a MoU.

SM Tanveer meets PFMA, Karyana Merchant Association's delegations

LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister of Industry and Commerce SM Tanveer held separate meetings with delegations of Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA) and Karyana Merchant Association Punjab (Central) here at Civil Secretariat on Tuesday. During the meeting with PFMA delegation led by its Chairman Asim Raza, the issue of wheat release policy and price to flour mills was discussed. Punjab Chief Secretary (CS) Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Secretary Food Dr Wasif Khurshid and Director Food were also present. Provincial Minister

SM Tanveer said that the association's proposals regarding wheat release policy and prices to flour mills would be placed before the cabinet. The caretaker government of Punjab is taking all necessary steps to provide relief to the people. Interests of the consumers and farmers would be safeguarded at all costs, he added. He said that the fruits of significant reduction in the prices of petroleum products should reach to the common man.

On this occasion, the CS directed the Food Secretary to prepare wheat procurement policy for next year.

PSX loses 42 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) shed 42.89 points on Tuesday, a nominal negative change of 0.08 per cent, closing at 51,027.94 points against 51,070.83 points the previous day.

A total of 321,403,857 shares valuing Rs 11,091 billion were traded during the day as compared to 364,070,705 shares valuing Rs 15,930 billion the previous day.

As many as 342 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 143 of them recorded gains and 171 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 28 companies remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were Pak Refinery with 33,555,439 shares at Rs 18.64 per share, Fauji Foods Ltd with 29,104,963 shares at Rs 6.98 per share and BankIslami Pak with 15,533,332 shares at Rs 19.19 per share.

Sanofi-Aventis witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 56.44 per share price, closing at Rs 808.94, whereas the runner-up was Pak Services with a Rs 47.83 rise in its per share price to Rs 749.83. Rafhan Maize witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 100.00 per share closing.

Mobilink Bank, BMA Capital Management enter into distribution agreement

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Bank has signed a strategic partnership with BMA Capital Management Limited, one of the oldest and top financial groups in Pakistan.

Mobilink Bank aims to enhance customer journeys through this partnership and help enable sustainable business growth said a news release.

Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides

converged connectivity and online services across seven countries.

As part of its digital operator strategy, VEON is transforming people's lives by creating opportunities for increased digital inclusion and by driving economic growth across countries that are home to more than 8% of the world's population.

Mobilink Bank and BMA Capital signed the agreement in Karachi to formalize the mutually

beneficial partnership.

Under this partnership, BMA Capital Management will securely deposit funds within Mobilink Bank, offering multiple incentives to enhance their financial health and service capacity.

For Mobilink Bank, this partnership embodies a commitment to fostering industry-wide synergies to promote mutual growth and ensure the delivery of high-quality services to customers.

Pakistan's geo-strategic location ideal for regional connectivity: Iftikhar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former President of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik on Tuesday said Pakistan's geo-strategic location was ideal in providing opportunity for connecting Central Asian countries via sea routes for better and effective regional economic integration besides boosting Multilateral trade. Talking to a delegation of industrialists led by Muslim Khan Buner, he said the Central Asian states were landlocked and

Pakistan was located at an ideal location that could provide hassle-free shorter sea access to these countries, a news release said. He said Pakistan could also comfortably facilitate Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member countries in providing regional connectivity which would promote trade among member countries and beyond. Iftikhar Malik said transport corridors and logistics infrastructure could benefit all member states leading to win-win cooperation.

Gold rates dip by Rs.400 to Rs.209,200 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.400 and was sold at Rs.209,200 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs.209,600 the previous day of trading.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.343 to Rs.179,355 from Rs.179,698 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.164,409 from Rs.164,723, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

PTCL Group partners with Evam for enhanced customer experiences

ISLAMABAD: PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G), Pakistan's leading telecommunications and ICT services provider has partnered with Evam, a leading Martech platform for

empower the Group's business partners to leverage real-time data, along with profiles and AI models to deliver a superior experience.

This will increase customer satisfaction in



creating real-time, cross-channel customer experience. This collaboration underlines the Group's unwavering dedication to provide its customers with the best communication services and driving forward Pakistan's digital transformation said a news release. PTCL Group will be introducing new customer experiences and products with support from Evam's next-gen real-time engine.

This cutting-edge technology will ensure seamless experiences across all digital and telco touchpoints. Evam will

order to boost revenues and enhance customer loyalty.

The project will be delivered through a collaboration between Evam's professional services team and their exclusive partner for Pakistan, Techfinity. Jafar Khalid, Group Chief Technology and Information Officer for PTCL & Ufone 4G, shared thoughts on the partnership, stating, "This alliance between PTCL Group and Evam enhances our customer engagement strategies, aiming to provide a tailored experience for every customer."



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam addressing a ceremony on eve of International Polio Day at Nishtar Hall.

Governor KP highlights role of women staff in polio eradication

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali on Tuesday highlighted the role of women workers in polio eradication and said that we should liaise to fight polio with the same commitment that helped us to defeat corona.

He was the Chief Guest in a ceremony held in Nishtar Hall to mark World Polio Day. The ceremony was organized by UNICEF, WHO, Rotary International and KP Elimination Program and attended by Director General Health, Dr. Shoukat Ali, Commissioner Peshawar, Muhammad Zubair, Deputy Commissioner, Afaq Wazir, Director EPI Program, Dr. Arif and polio workers.

Addressing the

ceremony, KP Governor underscored the services of media, medical professionals, ulema, teachers and civil society in polio eradication and said that Pakistan and Afghanistan are the focus of the world after the elimination of crippling disease from the rest of the countries situated on the globe. He said that the government is working on a war footing to wipe out polio and we desire that polio should be eliminated from all over the country. Highlighting the sacrifices of polio workers, he said that they should be respected for their efforts rather than targeted for a cause that would impact the future of the next generation.

He also distributed

prizes and certificates among polio workers of D I Khan and other far-flung areas and cash prizes among heirs of polio workers who were killed in the line of duty.

The governor also met with a nine-member delegation of Islamia College senior alumni in the Governor House. The delegation was led by Engineer Muhammad Arif and included Abdullah Khan, Arbab Daud, Naem Afridi, Syed Bilal and Mateullah. The delegation informed the governor about the condition of Islamia College's historic masjid urging him to take steps for its revamping. Haji Ghulam assured cooperation to the delegation and offered to bear the revamping expense personally.

CM Mohsin Naqvi pushes for expedited completion of Lahore CBD Project

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid a visit to the Lahore Prime Central Business District (CBD) in the Quaid District Project. During his visit, the Chief Minister conducted an extensive inspection of the ongoing road construction from CBD Punjab Quaid District to Walton Road, closely assessing the project's progress.

leading up to the bridge site and emphasized expediting the completion of the Walton Overhead Bridge project. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi remarked that this endeavor would chart a new trajectory for Lahore's development. Once completed, the linkage between Center Point and Walton Road will be traversable in a mere three minutes. He also anticipated an influx of substantial investments, totaling in the billions of rupees, upon the commencement of construction on the overhead bridge project spanning the Walton railway track, urging swift execution. He keenly observed the ongoing construction activities

infrastructure work, encompassing road networks, sewerage systems, water supply, electricity grids, and communication networks, would be concluded soon. A dedicated area for green spaces has been incorporated into the Lahore Prime CBD Punjab Quaid District, ensuring a balanced urban environment. The CBD Punjab to Walton Road stretch, spanning 4.2 kilometers, is being constructed using cutting-edge Blue Road technology. Upon completion, CBD Punjab will facilitate uninterrupted travel from Quaid District to Walton Road with three lanes and a strategically positioned flyover.

Pakistan values its relations with Korea: Governor Punjab

Independent Report
LAHORE: The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Park Kijun, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman here on Tuesday at the Governor House Lahore.

In the meeting, promotion of bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade and tourism was discussed. During the meeting, the overall situation of Palestine was also discussed.

Speaking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Israel's bombing of children, women and innocent

civilians in Palestine Gaza is a crime against humanity. He said that the world should raise its voice against the ongoing atrocities on Palestinians and play its role in stopping it. He said that Pakistan values its relations with Korea. He said that Pakistan's government and people are grateful to the Korean government and companies for extending help to the flood victims in Pakistan last year. Governor Punjab said that economic, technological, defense, cultural cooperation and people to people contact between Pakistan and Korea need to be further promoted.

1,511 smoky vehicles impounded in two months

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Minister for Transport Ibrahim Murad has said that more than 1,511 vehicles were impounded during the last two months for causing pollution.

In a statement on Tuesday, he said that action was also taken against 4,682 vehicles without fitness certificates. He directed that no exception should be made for polluting transport and they should be seized immediately.

The minister said that he would go to any extent to eliminate smog. Heavy fines will also be imposed on transport causing pollution and smog, he added.

He directed the field staff to be proactive and take strict measures in this regard. "People have to understand their responsibility and fix their vehicle issues causing smog, otherwise the government has power to seize their vehicles and impose hefty fines."

Two-day free medical camp held

By Aijaz Mughal
UMER KOT: A two-day free medical camp was organized by the social organization. Doctors specializing in various diseases provided free medical examination and medicines to more than 2000 patients.



According to the details, a two-day free medical camp was organized by the social organization Share for Care Trust in collaboration with the Nizamuddin Foundation in Umerkot, Dhoronaro and Choor, in which more than forty doctors of various diseases from London-based Pakistan Najat Patriot. Specialist Dr. Muhammad Yunus Bagha, General Surgeon Dr. Syed Amar Hussain, while specialist doctors from Dubai including rheumatologist and general physician Dr. Syed Arshad Hussain, dermatologist Dr. Manzoor Memon and Gynecologist Dr. Nausheen Qadri from Karachi examined more than two thousand patients suffering from various diseases in the free medical camp and provided them with free medicines delivered from foreign countries.

The visiting doctors said that we felt very happy that they have also participated in this good work. It is a pity that even in the modern era of the 21st century, the people here are deprived of basic facilities like health.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi emphatically directed the commencement of construction on the overhead bridge project spanning the Walton railway track, urging swift execution. He keenly observed the ongoing construction activities



LARKANA: Residents of Ghulam Hussain Butt village are holding protest demonstration for recovery of missing young boy Ali Haider Butt, who was missing few days ago, at Larkana press club.

Collective efforts stressed to eradicate polio from country

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Commissioner of Dera Ismail Khan, Zafarul Islam Khattak, emphasized the need for collective efforts to eradicate polio from the country. He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony held on Tuesday at Gomul University in connection with World Polio Day.

CM stresses collective efforts to eradicate polio

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday said that every segment of society must play its role in dealing with the challenge of poliovirus.

In a statement on International Polio Day, the CM said that the poliovirus has been defeated globally, but it still exists in Pakistan and Afghanistan, which is a matter of concern. It is the primary duty of every Pakistani to make

the country free of poliovirus, he added and appealed to parents to get polio drops administered to their children to save them from the disease.

The CM also saluted the polio workers and organizations working against the poliovirus and said that the virus could be controlled with joint efforts so that future generations could be saved from the disease. We pledged to eradicate this disease, he added.

International News

24 hours, 320 strikes, 436 dead bodies

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: On a day when Israel's army reported strikes on at least 320 targets within 24 hours. Gaza's health ministry said on Monday that at least 436 people had been killed in bombardments over the past 24 hours, while the overall death toll had climbed above 5,000.

In addition, about a dozen trucks carrying desperately needed aid — the third convoy in three days — arrived inside Gaza from Egypt on Monday through Rafah, even as PM Mohammed Shtayeh accused Western nations of giving Israel a "licence to kill".

"What we hear from the mouth of the occupation (Israeli) leaders on

preparations for a land invasion means more crimes, atrocities and forced displacement," Shtayeh told the start of a Palestinian Authority government meeting.

"We condemn the statements that constitute a licence to kill and give Israel political cover to commit massacres and spread destruction in Gaza," he added.

On Monday, Hamas also announced the release of two more elderly women prisoners in response to Egyptian-Qatari mediation efforts.

A spokesman for the group said in a statement: "We decided to release them for humanitarian and poor health grounds." An American mother and

daughter, Judith and Natalie Raanan, were earlier released on Friday.

"Hello from Gaza — I'm still alive", it's a message many Palestinians trapped in the besieged and bombarded territory send each morning to their loved ones outside the coastal enclave.

With utter destruction around them, solemnity and despair often fill the messages Gazans post on social media to friends, colleagues, and the outside world.

Israel cut the electricity supply to Gaza as part of the "total siege" it launched on October 9, seriously hindering communications between the Palestinian territory and the rest of the world.



Palestinians transport the body of a victim from the rubble after Israeli strikes in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

UN chief warns that the risk of the Gaza war spreading is growing as situation becomes more dire

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations chief warned at a high-level U.N. meeting Tuesday that the situation in the Middle East is growing more dire by the hour with the risk of the Gaza war spreading through the region increasing as societies splinter and tensions threaten to boil over.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for an immediate humanitarian cease-fire to deliver desperately needed food, water, medicine and fuel. He appealed "to all to pull back from the brink before the violence claims even more lives and spreads even farther."

Guterres told the U.N.

Security Council's monthly meeting on the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict—which has turned into a major event with ministers from the war's key parties and a dozen other countries flying to New York—that the rules of war must be obeyed.

The secretary-general said the grievances of the Palestinian people cannot justify "the horrifying and unprecedented Oct. 7 acts of terror" by Hamas in Israel and demanded the immediate release of all hostages. But Guterres also stressed that "those appalling attacks cannot justify the collective punishment of the Palestinian people."

He expressed deep concern at "the clear violations of international humanitarian law," calling Israel's constant bombardment of Gaza and the level of destruction and civilian casualties "alarming." Protecting civilians "is paramount in any armed conflict," he said. Without naming Hamas, the U.N. chief stressed that "protecting civilians can never mean using them as human shields." Guterres also criticized Israel without naming it, saying "protecting civilians does not mean ordering more than one million people to evacuate to the south, where there is no shelter, no food, no water."

'Enough is enough': Qatar emir takes aim at Israel's backers

Monitoring Desk
DOHA: The Qatari ruler hit out at Israel's backers Tuesday, charging they had given it "free licence to kill" in its war with Hamas and questioning what the conflict would achieve.

Major powers, including the United States, Britain and France, have rallied to support Israel and affirmed its right to defend itself after this month's deadly attack by the Palestinian Islamist group. Hamas fighters stormed into Israel from the Gaza Strip on October 7, killing at least 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and taking 222 hostages, according to Israeli officials. More than 5,000 Palestinians, mainly civilians, have been killed across the Gaza

Strip in relentless Israeli bombardments in retaliation for the attack, according to the territory's Hamas-run health ministry.

"We are saying enough is enough," Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani told a meeting of the Shura Council, Qatar's legislative body, according to a translation released by the royal court. "It is untenable for Israel to be given an unconditional green light and free licence to kill, nor is it tenable to continue ignoring the reality of occupation, siege and settlement." Qatar, a US ally which hosts a large US military base, also hosts an office of Hamas which doubles as the main residence of its self-exiled leader Ismail Haniyeh.



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, center, and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield, left, talk with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres before a Security Council meeting at United Nations headquarters.

At least 24 dead, including 12 police officers, in southwest Mexico

Monitoring Desk
ACAPULCO: Three separate armed attacks in Mexico on Monday left at least 24 people dead, including a dozen police officers, authorities said about the latest violence to hit regions plagued by drug trafficking.

In the deadliest incident, unidentified attackers targeted a security patrol in Guerrero state's municipality of Coyuca de Benitez, prosecutor Alejandro Hernandez said.

At least 13 people were killed and two others wounded in that attack, the state prosecutor's office said in a statement, with Hernandez earlier having confirmed that at least 11 of those killed were members of the municipal police force.

A senior state security official was traveling in the convoy when it was attacked, authorities said, without confirming media reports that he was murdered along with police bodyguards.



Industrial engineer and former lawmaker Maria Corina Machado reacts to the vote count, after Venezuelans voted in a primary to choose a unity opposition candidate to face Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro in his probable re-election bid in 2024, in Caracas, Venezuela.

Biden and Pope Francis discuss Gaza carnage by Israel in a call

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden spoke with Pope Francis and discussed the ongoing conflict in the Middle East between Israel and Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, the White House and the Vatican said in separate statements.

They discussed "the need to prevent escalation in the region and to work toward a durable peace in

the Middle East," the White House said.

The Vatican earlier said the call, which lasted about 20 minutes, "focused on conflict situations in the world and the need to identify paths to peace."

Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, killing over 1,400 people. In retaliation, Israel has killed more than 5,000 Palestinians in Gaza Strip.

US forces targeted in Syria, no casualties

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: American and allied forces in Syria were targeted on Monday in an attack that did not cause casualties, a US official said, after a group claimed to have launched drones at Washington's troops.

"An attack against US and coalition forces occurred early this morning in Syria. There were no injuries or damage," a US defence official said.

The US official did not provide specifics on the attack, but a group calling itself the Islamic Resistance in Iraq said earlier in the day that it had launched drones against American forces at Al-Tanf and Al-Malikiyah in Syria.

France's Macron says 'fight must be without mercy, but not without rules'

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: French President Emmanuel Macron, speaking after meeting Israel's prime minister on Tuesday, proposed a coalition to fight terror groups in the region "that threaten all of us."

He compared the proposal to the international coalition fighting the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria. He was referring to the Iranian-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon, Iran itself and the Houthis in

Yemen, among others, saying they must not take the risk of opening a new front.

Macron, on a two-day visit to the region, met with families of hostages held captive in the Gaza Strip by Hamas, and said "we will neglect nothing" to obtain freedom for French citizens. Nine French citizens are being held or have disappeared. Macron said he would visit Ramallah later Tuesday and several regional leaders on Wednesday.

Kremlin rejects speculation that Putin is ill and uses body doubles

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: The Kremlin on Tuesday rejected speculation about President Vladimir Putin's health, saying he was fit and well.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, in a regular call with reporters, also denied suggestions that the president was using body doubles, calling that an "absurd hoax". Reporters asked Peskov about Putin's health following an unreported report by a Russian.

CM Sindh pays surprise visits to Mahar Medical Hospital Sukkur

SUKKUR (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Former Justice Maqbool Baqar on Tuesday during his surprise visit to Government Ghulam Muhammad Mahar Medical College Hospital (GMMCH) Sukkur interacted with the patients in the emergency and surgical wards.

He witnessed the condition of the hospital, the pharmacy, the kitchen, and the washrooms and issued necessary directives for improvements.

The caretaker was received by Medical Superintendent, Prof Dr Altaf Awan and they both visited the Emergency.

The MS Dr Awan told the CM that on average 100 patients visit the emergency every day.

The Caretaker CM went from bed to bed in the Emergency, interacted with the patients and most of them showed non-satisfaction over the provision of medicines, lab tests, and timely care.

However, some of the patients complained about the shortage of nurses for which the MS Dr Awan admitted and requested the CM to permit him to ap-

point nurses and paramedical staff.

The CM visited the washrooms of the emergency where he expressed his displeasure.

He directed them to improve janitorial services. "The washrooms must be kept neat and clean", he said.

The CM also visited different surgical wards and interacted with the patients.

The Executive Director told the CM that there were 600 patients in the surgical wards. The chief minister on his last leg visit went to see the condition of the kitchen. He inspected the stoves, cooking pots, and storage system and felt angry about the poor condition of the kitchen.

Taking notice of the complaints, the chief minister ordered the suspension of Medical Superintendent (MS) Prof Dr Altaf Awan from service for poor administration. The Chief Minister was told by most of the patients and their attendants that they were compelled to purchase medicines from the market, besides getting the diagnostic tests conducted from private laboratories and misusing funds from meals or food.

However, some of the patients complained about the shortage of nurses for which the MS Dr Awan admitted and requested the CM to permit him to ap-



LARKANA: Deputy Commissioner Larkana, Javed Ahmed Kumbhar along with District Health Officer (DHO) Larkana, Dr. Syed Athar Hussain Shah distributing certificates among the Polio Workers during a seminar on World Polio Day, in Larkana.

NDRMF committed to make Pakistan resilient against climate change impacts

KARACHI (APP): The National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) in a seminar on the Carbon market's potential Tuesday expressed its commitment to further enhance efforts of resilience building against natural disasters and long-term climate change adverse impacts by engaging effectively with the Private Sector and other relevant stakeholders.

The seminar, titled "Leveraging Carbon Markets to enable Private Investment," addressed critical topics such as the current state of climate change in Pakistan, the understanding of carbon markets, major challenges, Road map for future and the opportunities they present for the Private Sector, a news release said issued here.

By identifying potential sectors for carbon trad-

ing and exploring the role of the Private Sector, the event aims to bridge the gap in understanding the challenges, barriers, and international collaborations in the realm of carbon markets.

The seminar invited participation from a diverse audience, including the Private Sector, Government officials, UN agencies, Project Developers, Industry leaders, Environmental organizations, Academics, and Climate change enthusiasts. Besides speeches, panel discussions were also organized on the topics of "Climate Change & Carbon Marketing" and "Carbon Market Potentials for Private Sector" in which representatives of national and international development sector organizations, Corporate Sector Organizations and Business owners took part.



HYFERABAD: Polio Health workers participating in a polio awareness walk during world polio day outside press club.

Experts for robust, financially independent & inclusive local governments

KARACHI (APP): The experts at a consultative session on Tuesday called for robust, financially independent and inclusive local governments to improve governance and service delivery at the grassroots level for a sustainable social system ensuring a public friendly system to contribute towards nation building.

This demand was made during the consultative session organized by the Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) and Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) Pakistan to discuss implementation of the Sindh Local Government Act of 2013.

Elected representatives, civil society members, media persons, academicians, local government officials, government officials, and representatives from local government training institutes reflected on

the intricacies and challenges surrounding local governments in Pakistan, a news release said.

During an informative session, CPDI Project Manager Moazzam Ali Janjua provided an in-depth overview of how to institutionalize the climate agenda within the local governments. He highlighted the role that can be played by the local governments in climate change adaptation and mitigation.

He stressed for adequate climate financing to local governments to implement strategies and plans to face climate change challenges at the local level and adoption of Green Building Code of Pakistan, 2023 recently notified by the Pakistan Engineering Council.

During the panel discussion, former Mayor Karachi Arshad Wohra underscored the pivotal role local bodies play in the democratic framework.



BEIJING: Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Tuesday delivered a speech at the International Symposium held in Beijing to Commemorate the 10th Anniversary of China's.

BRI brings paradigm shift to concept of development, connectivity, regional integration: Sadiq Sanjrani

BEIJING (APP): Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani said on Tuesday that Belt and Road Initiative with a worldwide appeal and membership has brought a paradigm shift to the concept of development, connectivity and regional integration.

In these testing times, Chinese President Xi's landmark initiatives of Belt and Road Initiative, Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative and Global Civilization Initiative offer us a wholesome and practical solution for international peace and security.

The Chairman Senate made these remarks while addressing the opening ceremony of International Symposium to commemorate the 10th anniversary of China's principles of Amity, Sincerity, Mutual Benefit and Inclusiveness in Neighbourhood Diplomacy held here.

Director of the Office of the Central Commission of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Wang Yi read the written speech by President Xi and also delivered a speech.

Sadiq Sanjrani said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has become a model and exem-

plary project of BRI having transformed the economic landscape of Pakistan. As an open and inclusive platform, CPEC is now inviting participation from third countries.

The Global Development Initiative has placed development at the core of China's exchanges with the world, accelerating the UN 2030 SDGs Agenda. Pakistan is the first partner country of China under GDI.

"Together, as good neighbours and best friends, we are charting a course of action for socio-economic development and uplift," he added.

He said that similarly, Global Security and Global Civilization Initiatives are setting a new course by presenting over-arching concepts contributing positively to the global security and civilizational landscapes. These initiatives are also assuming an increasingly central role in our neighbourhood diplomacy and concepts.

Termed Pakistan-China relationship as a practical demonstration of the vision of our founding father, he said it is an all-weather partnership deeply rooted in mutual trust and respect.

Governor gives Umrah ticket to physically challenged boy

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori gave a Umrah ticket to a physically challenged boy Syed Jan Alam here at the Governor House on Tuesday.

The child hit the bell of hope and expressed his desire to go for Umrah. The Governor also announced a cash of Rs50000 for the boy. Jan Alam thanked the Governor.

SSP Mirpurkhas distributed immediate relief grant cheques

Mirpurkhas (APP): The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Mirpurkhas Adil Memon on Tuesday gave cheques to 61 police officers for immediate relief, marriage help and retirement grant here at his office.

According to the SSP office, the SSP and his subordinate DSP Dr. Muhammad Mosa distributed immediate relief cheques to the 61 police officers approved by the scrutiny committee today.

On the occasion, SSP said that the welfare work is going on by the higher officers and the police department.

All possible assistance and full financial support is being provided to the police officers.

World polio day observes in Larkana

LARKANA (APP): International Polio Day was celebrated on Tuesday in the Larkana district; highlighting the significant progress made in the global fight against the polio virus.

This year, the theme of the day is "A Healthier Future for Mothers and Children." Polio, a crippling and potentially fatal disease, has been on the edge of eradication for several years.

In this connection, a program organized by UNICEF and the District Health Department Larkana under the title of eradicating polio in connection with the celebration of World Polio Day on October 24.

The programme was held at Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto Memorial Library Larkana.



LARKANA: Participants are holding awareness walk in connection World Polio Day led by Javed Ahmed Kumbhar, Deputy Commissioner Larkana on the occasion of World Polio Day, in Larkana.

AJK President says: India emerging as 'Terrorist State' under Modi's extremist policies

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mehmoed Chaudhry has said that, owing to Modi's extremist policies, India was fast emerging as a terrorist state on the global scene.

Addressing the grand ceremony organized on the occasion of the 76th foundation day of Azad Jammu Kashmir government in the state metropolis on Tuesday, the President, while referring to the BJP's divisive policies, said that Modi would prove to be Gorbachev for India.

"The day is not far when India will disinte-

grate", he said. Lauding Kashmiris' decades' long struggle against India's belligerent occupation, Barrister Chaudhry said that Kashmiris have never accepted Indian rule and its dominance over the territory.

Paying rich tributes to the Kashmiri martyrs, who laid down their precious lives to liberate the territory of Azad Jammu and Kashmir from Dogra rule, the president said, "Our elders struggled hard to liberate the territory from the clutches of Dogra under the leadership of Ghazi Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan".

DC orders action against public transport vehicles using LPG, LNG, CNG

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner of Hyderabad district Tariq Qureshi has directed the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) to remove the kits of CNG, LPG and LNG from public transport vehicles and the private cars being used as taxis without permits.

In a meeting at his office in the Shahbaz Building here on Tuesday, the DC asked Secretary RTA to take immediate action against such vehicles which were unlawfully using LPG, CNG and LNG as fuel.

The DC said action should be taken on a daily basis while a report along with photographs should be submitted to his office every week.

An official, who requested anonymity, told the APP that the Secretary RTA sought the support of the district police and the traffic police to take action.



KARACHI: Afgani people are boarding on bus to depart for their homeland following Pakistan government order for all illegal migrants to leave the country, at Sohrab Goth Bus Stand in Karachi.

IHC rejects PTI chairman's plea against jail trial

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday rejected the plea of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman to stop his jail trial in the cipher case.

The IHC bench comprising Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Raffat Imtiaz, which heard the intra-court appeal along with the objections of Registrar Office, observed that it could not grant interim relief to the petitioner as the admissibility of the appeal was yet to be decided.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb remarked that they could give interim relief as after the removal of objections a new bench might be formed for further proceedings.

Punjab govt suspends sentence of Nawaz Sharif in Al-Azizia reference

LAHORE (Online): Care taker Punjab government has suspended sentence of former Prime Minister (PM) Nawaz Sharif in Al-Azizia reference.

Nawaz Sharif had requested Punjab government for suspending sentence in the light of Islamabad High Court (IHC) decision.

Upon it Punjab care taker cabinet suspended the sentence in Al-Azizia reference.

Government sources said Punjab care taker cabinet has accorded approval to suspend the sentence under section 401 of criminal procedural code.

The care taker cabinet is authorized to suspend the sentence under section 401 of Criminal Procedural Code (CPC).

SMIU Academic Council decides to implement HEC's modified undergraduate policy

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Madressatul Islam University's Academic Council Tuesday decided that the modified undergraduate policy of Higher Education Commission will be implemented at SMIU as it has been formed according to the needs of the day and will benefit the students at large.

This decision was taken in a special meeting of the Academic Council, which was held at the Senate Hall of the university with Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, Vice Chancellor in the chair.

The Academic Council discussed the modified curriculum designed by the HEC for undergraduate programs in detail and decided that after seeing the ground realities at SMIU, new courses will be added to the syllabus of the university. These new general courses are included in the HEC's policy: Arts and

Occupied Palestine, Kashmir striking examples of UN's failure: Amb. Munir Akram

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Despite United Nations' many successes since its creation in 1945, the organization has failed to secure the right to self-determination and liberation from foreign occupation for the peoples of Palestine and Kashmir, Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram has said.

"The ongoing slaughter of Palestinians in Gaza by the Israeli bombardment and the massive violations of human rights of the people of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir are the most visible examples of the UN's failures," he said in a message to the UN community on the world body's 79th anniversary.

In this regard, the Pakistani envoy called for reinforcing the U.N.'s capacity to respond to the old and new threats to international peace and security, to halt and reverse emerging great power tensions and the new nuclear and conventional arms race, to revive equitable and inclusive global economic growth, and to avert the existential threat posed by climate

change. "Despite the enormity of these challenges, the hopes of most of the world's peoples, especially the youth, remain pinned on the United Nations and on its active and sincere Secretary General."

In the past 78 years, Ambassador Akram pointed out that the UN has played a vital role in preventing another global conflict, resolving numerous disputes, and promoting international peace and security, arms control, economic and social development and human rights around the world, adding that the organization had remained the international community's primary platform for cooperation amongst nation states for peace, progress and prosperity.

The UN has adapted its structures considerably in response to emerging challenges and threats, in particular shifting its efforts from decolonization in the early years to equitable development, through the universally accepted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Pakistani envoy said.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Federal Minister for Planning Sami Saeed calls on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Mayor seeks written reports of water supply woes from chairmen of town municipal corporations

HYDERABAD (APP): The Mayor of Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (HMC) Kashif Ali Shoro has directed the chairmen of all Town Municipal Corporations (TMCs) to prepare and submit in writing complaints pertaining to the water supply issues in the district.

He was chairing a meeting at the secretariat of Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (HMC) Kashif Ali Shoro has directed the chairmen of all Town Municipal Corporations (TMCs) to prepare and submit in writing complaints pertaining to the water supply issues in the district.

Shoro assured that he would visit the localities about which he received complaints in writing. The Mayor advised WASA to replicate the mechanism of the HMC under which the corporation's workforce had been divided into nine TMCs in order to divide the agency's around 3,000 workers in the same way.

Shoro asked the local government representatives to sensitize the citizens against throwing solid waste in the sewage drains.

He said the garbage bins should be placed in all such areas where people were still dumping waste in the open.

The Mayor said during the preparation of Hyderabad's master plan all the elected representatives and the stakeholders would be taken on board to ensure that a comprehensive development plan could be formed.



KARACHI: Anti encroachment operation in progress demolishing illegal encroachment during anti-encroachment drive to clear the land of Railways Department under the supervision Pakistan Railways, at Colony Gate in Karachi.