

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

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www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vd XXV No 50, Rabi-ul-Awwal 24, 1445 AH Wednesday October 11, 2023 Pages 12, Price Rs.15

Anwarul Haq Kakar chairs 14th Provincial Apex Committee meeting:

PM describes socio-economic dev. of Balochistan imperative for ensuring peace and development

COAS assures Army would provide full support to LEAs and other government departments for enforcement actions against spectrum of illegal activities with full force to deny pilferage of resources and economic losses that the country suffers due to these activities

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar has stated that socio-economic development of Balochistan is imperative for ensuring peace and development in the province.

The caretaker Prime Minister was chairing the crucial meeting of Apex here on Tuesday.

The Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir attended meeting of the Provincial Apex Committee.

The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki, Federal Minister Interior, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, caretaker

provincial ministers besides other concerned civil and military high ups were also in attendance.

During the Apex Committee meeting, the forum was briefed about revised National Action Plan, Law enforcement operations, anti-smuggling and anti-narcotics operations in Balochistan, security of foreign nationals employed on CPEC/ non CPEC/ private projects, repatriation of illegal foreigners, foreign currency regularization measures, and progress on SIFC initiatives in Balochistan.

The Prime Minister expressed confidence in the progress made by the Balochistan government and assured full support of

the federal government.

During the session, the Prime Minister emphasized that "Socio-economic development of Balochistan is imperative for ensuring peace and development of the province." COAS highlighted that Army will provide full support in concert with LEAs and other government departments for enforcement actions against spectrum of illegal activities with full force to deny pilferage of resources and economic losses that the country suffers due to these activities.

Prime Minister said that, "Initiatives taken by SIFC at federal level should

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QUETTA: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the Provincial Apex Committee.

Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki pledges: Govt to implement decisions made in meeting of PAC in true letter & spirit

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan has pledged that the provincial government would make implementation of the decisions made in the meeting of Apex committee on Tuesday.

He said that there is a strong coordination among all the security institutions for implementation on the National Action Plan in the province.

The Chief Minister stated so while uttering introductory remarks at the 14th Apex committee meet-

ing here on Tuesday.

The Chief Minister said that the agenda of NAP is of national importance.

He said that arrival of Prime Minister and Army Chief in Quetta is an advancement towards implementation on the NAP.

Mir Ali Mardan Domki said that interim government is taking serious steps for establishing peace in the province.

He also said that implementation is being ensured on the NAP and adding assured to extend wholehearted cooperation to implement the Plan.

President for free & fair polls inclusive of mainstream political parties

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday stressed to give opportunity to all mainstream political parties to run for the upcoming general elections. "Democracy becomes meaningless if people are not able to elect leaders of their choice", he said. The president expressed these views while talking to former federal minister and Senator, Muhammad Ali Durrani, who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President Alvi said the upcoming general elections should be free, fair, transparent and inclusive.

He emphasized that all political parties and their leadership should be given equal opportunities to par-



ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday stressed to give opportunity to all mainstream political parties to run for the upcoming general elections.

icipate in the electoral process to strengthen democracy in the country. The president was of the view that there was a dire need for political, institutional and stakeholder unity in the country to tackle the difficulties on all possible fronts, including that of economy.

"Bitterness must end

and give way to cooperation and forgiveness", he said. He stated that difficult decisions needed the backing of the people and their participative ownership. He said the forthcoming general elections would provide a good opportunity to create the vibrancy, needed to rebuild the country.



GWADAR: Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed chairs a meeting to review a progress over China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

Progress on CPEC projects in Gwadar reviewed

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Tuesday reviewed progress over China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects in Gwadar while directing the ministries and divisions to further accelerate the work.

The Minister gave these directions while chairing a meeting to review the progress over CPEC projects in Gwadar. The meeting was attended by the Secretary Planning Ministry, Secretary Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Chief Economist, Chairman Gwadar Port Authority, Director General Gwadar Development Authority and other representatives

from various ministries. The representatives of various ministries and divisions gave a detailed briefing over the implementation status of their respective projects in Gwadar. All major projects under CPEC in Gwadar, including Gwadar Power Plant, Distribution of 2000 Boat engines to fishermen of Gwadar, Khuzdar-Panjgur Transmission line (via Nag-Basima) which connect Markran with National Grid, New Gwadar International Airport Project, the China-Pak Friendship Hospital, China-Pak Technical and Vocational Institute in Gwadar, the Gwadar East-bay Expressway Project, Gwadar Free Zone & Gwadar Port would become a shining pearl in the

Audio message of TTP goes viral

Independent Report
QUETTA: In the region of Sambaaza, Balochistan, an intercepted audio message from a TTP (Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan) commander reveals the following:

"We were en route to Sambaaza when the military ambushed our group. It appears that someone had provided information about our movements to the military.

As a result, four of our men were killed, and their bodies were left behind.

While retreating, we managed to bring along the bodies of three of our men. Our entire taskheel has suffered severe injuries and is currently in a dire condition."

DC imposes ban on staging protests in Red zone, Zarghoon road, assembly

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Deputy Commissioner Quetta has imposed ban on holding protest in the Red zone as well as provincial assembly and on Zarghoon road, Anscorb road and Hali road.

According to an official notification issued here on Tuesday, the ban has been imposed under section 144.

The ban has been imposed on directives of the High Court.

It was also mentioned in the notification that the protest would also be staged outside Quetta press club.

Caretaker Govt to ensure free, transparent elections: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said the caretaker government would ensure free, transparent and impartial elections in a peaceful and conducive environment.



In a meeting with former Member of Provincial Assembly, former spokesperson of Balochistan Government and senior politician Farah Azim Shah, he said development and welfare of Balochistan was a priority of the caretaker government.

The caretaker Information Minister said there would be no comprehensive progress of the country without the development of Balochistan province.

They discussed the overall political situation of country, especially Balochistan including the elections.

Farah Azim Shah expressed full confidence in the leadership and initiatives of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Balochistan Information dept to organize National Conferences on Interfaith Harmony

Jan Achakzai says conferences are being organized to "foster I narrative of Interfaith Harmony, National Integration, and inclusive platforms by promoting peace, brotherhood, and coexistence in Pakistan"

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Information Department of Government of Balochistan has announced that it is organizing a series of National Conferences on Interfaith Harmony and Peace Build-

ing across the country. The first Conference will be held in Islamabad on November 23, 2023, with subsequent Conferences to be held in other major cities throughout the country. The Conferences are being organized in collabo-

ration with the Balochistan Rural Support Programme and Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, and will bring together religious leaders, scholars, activists, and community members from

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Pakistan striving to strengthen health system

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan on Tuesday said that the government of Pakistan is successfully implementing its reform agenda to strengthen the health system of the country. He was addressing the 70th WHO Regional Committee meeting in Cairo- a 22-nation highest regional forum on health.

Dr. Nadeem Jan said that "Health for All by All" is everyone's business as this includes governments, civil society, development partners, private sector,

academia, local communities and health practitioners. "We must all work hand-in-hand with a belief that strong health systems will protect everyone." The minister appreciated WHO Regional Director's report for Member States on progress, achievements and challenges in implementing Vision 2023, which has outlined the key priorities and progress in line with the Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019-25 like enhancing access to

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CAIRO: Caretaker Federal health minister Dr Nadeem Jan addressing WHO regional committee.

Total siege of Gaza 'prohibited' under international law: UN

NEW YORK (INP): Israel's total siege of the Gaza Strip, depriving civilians of goods essential for survival, is banned under international law, the United Nations human rights chief said on Tuesday.

Volker Turk, the UN high commissioner for human rights, said people's dignity and lives had to be respected as he called for all sides to defuse the "explosive powder-keg situation". It comes after Israel imposed a total siege on the Gaza Strip yesterday, cutting off food, water and electricity supplies, and sparking fears of an increasingly desperate humanitarian situation. "International humanitarian law

is clear: the obligation to take constant care to spare the civilian population and civilian objects remains applicable throughout the attacks," Turk said in a statement.

The siege risk seriously compounding the already dire human rights and humanitarian situation in Gaza, including the capacity of medical facilities to operate, especially in light of increasing numbers of injured, the statement said. "The imposition of sieges that endanger the lives of civilians by depriving them of goods essential for their survival is prohibited under international humanitarian law," Turk said.

Caretaker CM meets PM; briefs about law & order, other matters

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki met the caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaarul Haq Kakar here on Tuesday.

During the course of meeting, the Chief Minister briefed Mr. Anwaarul Haq Kakar about the 14th meeting of APEX committee being held for implementation on the decisions of National Action Plan in the provincial metropolis.

He also briefed the Premier about the overall law and order situation in the province. Also present in the meeting was caretaker Federal Minister Interior Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

Former Minister Maulana Abdul Samad Akhonzada dies

Independent Report
QUETTA: The leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) and former Provincial Minister, Maulana Abdul Samad Akhonzada passed away in Quetta on Tuesday, according to family sources. Maulana Abdul Samad Akhonzada was ill for some time.

Later, his funeral prayer was offered in his native area Killi Mana, Ziarat and laid to rest in the ancestral graveyard. Maulana Abdul Saman was elected as member of provincial assembly in 2008. He had also served as the provincial minister then. Meanwhile, Director General of Public Relations, Noor Khetran and other officers of the Directorate have expressed deep grief and sorrow over death of brother of Assistant Director Relations, Abdul Basit and former Provincial Minister Abdul Samad Akhonzada.

Criminal case should have been instituted against employee who has been sacked on forgery: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has remarked criminal case should have been instituted against the employee who has been sacked on the basis of forgery from sensitive institution.

"Judges obtain NOC for going abroad. A criminal case should have been instituted against the employee of sensitive institution who has been sacked due to forgery, he gave these remarks during hearing of petition against dismissal of the employee from service.

The SC disposed of the petition against dismissal

from service being withdrawn. The CJP remarked the petitioner worked in sensitive institution. On what allegation he was sacked. The court was told that the petitioner is facing charges of going abroad four times without permission and running business and website. he CJP remarked Judges too obtain NOC for going abroad. NESCOM only removed him from job. They should have filed case against him.

Upon it the counsel for petitioner requested for withdrawal of his petition. The court disposed of the petition as withdrawn.

Sanjrani calls for unity among all political forces

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Former Chief Minister of Balochistan, Abdul Qudous Bizenjo called on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in Islamabad on Tuesday.

Senator Dilawar Khan, Senator Naseebullah Bazai, and Sardar Abdul Rahman Khetran were also in attendance.

During the deliberations, the attendees focused on the overall socio-economic situation of Balochistan. Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq

Sanjrani took the opportunity to express his admiration for Abdul Qudous Bizenjo's dedicated service as the Chief Minister of Balochistan, highlighting the exemplary development projects initiated under his leadership.

Chairman Senate emphasized the importance of creating opportunities to involve the youth of Balochistan in the development process. He called for unity among all political forces, stressing the collective responsibility for the development of Balochistan.

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

20 DAYS REMAINING

20

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Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with former Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudous Bizenjo in Islamabad.

Pak chase down Sri Lanka's mammoth 345-run target, set new World Cup record

The historic World Cup run chase was led by Rizwan's unbeaten 131 and Shafique's convincing 113 off 103 balls.

Sports Desk

HYDERABAD: Pakistan pulled off highest ODI run-chase in a six-wicket win over the Sri Lanka on Tuesday in a group stage match of Cricket World Cup 2023 at Hyderabad.

Mohammad Rizwan's courageous unbeaten knock of 131 runs and maiden century by Abdullah Shafique on his world cup debut, helped the Green Shirts achieve the target of 345 runs in 48.2 overs.

Pakistan's chase got off to a disappointing start, with both Imam-ul-Haq (1) and Babar Azam

(10) dismissed in a sluggish first powerplay, with Dilshan Madushanka taking both wickets.

But Pakistan steadied the ship and built a platform, with Abdullah Shafique reaching his first century on his world cup debut and building a sizeable partnership with Mohammad Rizwan.

After Shafique was dismissed for 113 by Matheesha Pathirana, Saud Shakeel joined Rizwan on the crease but he could extend a little support to the latter.

Shakeel was sent packing for 31 but Iftikhar main-

tained the momentum to ensure Pakistan's second consecutive victory of the event.

Earlier, Kusal Mendis and Sadeera Samarawickrama smashed stunning centuries, helping Sri Lanka to set a record 345 runs target for Pakistan. Opening batsman Pathum Nissanka made fifty but he could not get support from his partner Kusal Perera, who was dismissed for duck.

Kusal Mendis was the star of the show for Sri Lanka for the second successive game, with the big-hitting No.3 slamming a

majestic century to get his side off to a phenomenal start with the bat. He made 122 off 77 while Samarawickrama scored 108 off 89 as Pakistani bowling lineup struggled to restrict them from putting score on board.

Hasan Ali took four wickets for 71 and Harif Rauf grabbed two scalps while Shaheen Shah Afridi, Mohammad Nawaz and Shadab Khan took one wicket each.

Pakistan will now play India on October 14 while Sri Lanka will lock horns with Australia on October 16 in Lucknow.

Playing XIs
Sri Lanka: Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Perera, Kusal Mendis (wk), Sadeera Samarawickrama, Charith Asalanka, Dhananjaya de Silva, Dasun Shanaka ©, Dunith Wellalage, Maheesh Theekshana, Matheesha Pathirana, Dilshan Madushanka

Pakistan: Abdullah Shafique, Imam-ul-Haq, Babar Azam ©, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Saud Shakeel, Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammad Nawaz, Shadab Khan, Hasan Ali, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar seeing off caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar at Quetta airport

Pak Envoy to Belgium, President EU discuss bilateral multifaceted partnership

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg, and the European Union, Amna Baloch, presented her credentials to the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, in Brussels.

According to press release, Ambassador Amna extended cordial greetings and well-wishes on behalf of the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

In response, President Michel reciprocated with similar sentiments, signaling warmth between the two leaderships.



During the meeting, both sides jointly recognized the profound importance of Pakistan's ties with the European Union, framing the bond as a strategic and multifaceted partnership.

They underscored the essential role of ongoing dialogue in fostering a mutually beneficial relationship.

In her discussion with President Michel, Ambassador Baloch provided an update on the humanitarian situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

She expressed her perspective on the vital balancing role the EU has the capacity to play in the evolving geopolitical landscape.

During the discussions, there was a shared aspiration to enhance and fortify the relationship between the EU and Pakistan during her upcoming diplomatic tenure in Brussels.

104th birth anniversary of Shahzada Rehmatullah Durrani observed

Independent Report

QUETTA: On October 10th 2023, the 104th Birth Anniversary of Shahzada Rehmatullah Khan Sadozai Durrani was solemnly observed at Sadozai House at Chaman Housing Scheme in Quetta. The event commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran, gathering office bearers and members belonging to Pashtun Congress Balochistan, Sadozai Quami Welfare Organization Balochistan



and Sadozai tribesmen. They came together to pay tribute to their Tribal Chief, vowing to follow his footsteps of Shahzada Rehmatullah Khan Durrani in true sense and uphold his legacy. While special prayers were also offered to pay respects and tribute to the eternal peace of departed soul and also for peace and prosperity of the country and the nation. Shahzada Rehmatullah Khan (Sadozai) Durrani was born in British India Quetta on October 10, 1919, in the esteemed Sadozai dynasty of Durrani Tribe and a distinguished Sadozai Pashtun tribal chief, the descendant of King Ahmad Shah Abdali the founder of the Durrani Empire. He was the first male of his family to receive formal education in British India. He made significant contributions as a social welfare activist, politician, and a prominent Sadozai Pashtun tribal chief.

Shahzada Rehmatullah Khan also played a key role in the Pakistan Independence Movement, standing with

Qazi Muhammad Essa and Abdul Ghafoor Khan Durrani beside Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. He was renowned for his activism and dedication to the welfare of his tribe and the earthquake victims of 1935 in Quetta.

He continued to serve his community and was instrumental in various endeavors, leaving an indelible mark. Shahzada Rehmatullah Khan Durrani passed away on November 29, 1992, leaving a legacy that continues to inspire and guide generations of his clan. His descendants, following in his footsteps, have achieved remarkable success and have brought honor to their clan and nation.

The Guest of Honour Hashim Khan Ghalzai Principal secretary to Governor Balochistan, Saeed-ul-Hassan Mandokhail Ex-Senator, Malik Abdul Rahim Babai Patron Pashtun Congress, Abdul Wali Khan Anddarh Khilji tribal Chief, Syed Agha Faisal President Chiltan Adventurers Association, prominent Sadozai tribal leaders including Caving legend, Environmentalist and Patron-in-Chief Sadozai Quami Welfare Organization Shahzada Hayatullah Khan Durrani (Pride-of-Performance), and Nasrulla Khan Durrani, Habibullah Khan Sadozai, Nadir Khan Sadozai, Muhammad Umar Durrani, Asghar Khan Sadozai, Engr: Naseebullah Khan Sadozai, Ashrafuddin Sadozai, Samiullah Khan Sadozai, and National Champion Mohammad Abubakar (Sadozai) Durrani the Grandson of Shahzada Rehmatullah Khan Durrani shared their feelings and paid him the gratitude that he deserved. Each of them shared their feelings and paid heartfelt gratitude to the revered leader. The event was skillfully coordinated by Abdali Productions (Pak-UK).

Indian troops martyr two youth in a fake encounter

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism, martyred two Kashmiri youth in South Kashmir's Shopian district.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Indian troops and paramilitary forces martyred two youth in a fake encounter during a cordon and search operation in Ashipora area of the district.

The operation was launched by the Indian forces in wee hours in the area of the district.

ECP, political parties to discuss election code of ethics today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and various political parties are set to meet at the ECP secretariat on Wednesday to discuss the draft code of conduct for the upcoming general elections.

According to an ECP official, the Election Commission had previously held an initial consultative session with political parties to deliberate on various election-related issues.

In preparation for the upcoming meeting, the ECP has provided political parties with an initial code of conduct. This draft is expected to be an essential component in the final preparations for the upcoming general elections.

The ECP has already distributed a preliminary code of conduct to political parties, and this draft is anticipated to play a crucial role in the final arrangements for the upcoming general elections.

The draft code of conduct highlights the significance of political parties, candidates, and election agents in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of the people of Pakistan, as guaranteed by the Constitution and the law.

Furthermore, it cautions against engaging in actions or expressing views that might jeopardize Pakistan's ideology, sovereignty, integrity, security, or the independence of its judiciary. Additionally, the draft code imposes limitations on public officeholders, including the president and prime minister, preventing them from involvement in any capacity in election campaigns.

PM describes...

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have a trickle down effect in each province for the people of the area. Balochistan is rich in mines and minerals and development in this sector will generate economic activity and job opportunities for the people of the area. Moreover, investments in agriculture and IT should also be focused apart from human resource development". Quetta.

The Prime Minister underscored the need for synergy among all relevant departments for gainful effects of the initiatives.

He also stressed the need to make investments in agriculture and information technology.

The participants affirmed that state institutions, government departments and people are united for progress and prosperity of the province and would also work for the same together.

Earlier, upon arrival, the Prime Minister and COAS were received by Chief Minister Balochistan and commander Balochistan Corps.

SC seeks AGP's arguments today in petitions against practice & procedure Act

ISLAMABAD (APP): The top court on Tuesday sought arguments from the attorney general of Pakistan on Wednesday (tomorrow) in petitions against the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act 2023.

A 15-member full court bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa resumed hearing on the petitions against the act.

During the course of the proceeding, Muttahida Quami Movement Pakistan (MQMP)'s lawyer Faisal Siddiqui gave his arguments.

The CJ questioned that whether the judges giving the verdict in any case can't hear the appeal in it. If a two-member bench sends a matter to the referee judge on a difference, then the third judge also has to listen to the lawyer, he asked.

Can the Chief Justice order that the three judges sit and decide again, he inquired.

He further questioned that if the chief justice has the power to form a bench or not. Does the review case have to be heard by the same judges who have heard the case before. Will the inclusion of judges hearing main cases on a larger bench mean that half of the judges are hearing

review cases and half are hearing cases for the first time?

The CJ asked the lawyer whether any bench of the top court can make rules of the SC. In one case, the bench of the Supreme Court said that the full court can make rules, he said and questioned what would happen if the chief justice did not call the full court, despite the order of the bench.

The chief justice asked the lawyer to explain the simple things in simple words and interpret the constitution keeping in mind the constitution. Justice Musrat Hilali said that there are very limited articles of the constitution in which the word subject to law was used, whenever article 184/3 was used it shook the foundations of the entire country.

She questioned that if the SC rules should not be changed with time. Justice Ayesha Malik remarked that the word 'law' in Article 191 gives Parliament the power to legislate. The Supreme Court Rules have a separate section for the definition of words, she said, adding that if the law meant an Act of Parliament, then the lawmakers would have written the same.



QUETTA: MQM Balochistan President Malik Imran Kakar addressing a press conference at QPC.

Pakistan striving to...

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implementing Health Insurance Programme in two provinces and three federating areas. In 2023, all arrangements have been finalized to expand the programme in the province of Balochistan also.

The minister said the government has decided to increase the number of community-based lady health workers from 89,000 to 135,000 within five years, while creating more job opportunities in primary health care facilities along with engagement of private sector general practitioners for provision of essential health services.

He said that Pakistan as the current chair of the Global Health Security Agenda, (a framework for IHR 2005), is hosting the Global Health Security Summit 2023 on 1-2 December 2023, at Islamabad.

The minister said the summit's primary objectives are to sensitize and engage global leaders and partners to work jointly towards an equitable, safer and healthier world; facilitate a mutual exchange of knowledge, strengthen partnerships, and also showcase member states' dedication to fulfilling its obligations under the GHS / IHR agenda. Moreover, it would also be a unique opportunity to develop new partnerships in areas of health security.

The minister informed that with personal oversight and support from the Prime Minister, Pakistan will continue to make consistent progress towards interrupting the transmission and eradication of Polio-virus.

Positive Developments in last few months

ISLAMABAD: Following are the positive developments in last few months: EU parliament gives its go-ahead to get Pakistan extension in its preferential exports status to EU, till 2027.

Growth Outlook improved

Growth outlook has improved to 3.5% for FY24 (industrial activity and crop production picked up) from 0.3% in FY23.

Power Generation up 14% in Aug-23.

Petroleum sales rebounded. Diesel up 11%, Petrol up 8%.

Cement sales up 45% in Jul-Aug23; Auto sales up 49%; Urea offtake up 18% in Aug-23.

FBR outpaced Tax target for Sep-23 as well as for 1QFY24; tax filing improved too in Sep-23 vs Sep-22.

Agri Crops improved Cotton production up 72% (bales already crossed last full-year figures), to post records in FY24.

Rice output to reach 9m tons; exports projected at more than \$2.5bn this year with Mexico market access and more to Indonesia too).

Wheat production to be at record 28m tons in FY24, crossing last 5yr average.

Credit to farmers up 35% Jul-Aug23, indicating strong pick-up in farm activity.

Large number of Afghan refugees ready to return home

KARACHI (INP): A large number of Afghan refugees in Karachi have started preparations to return to their country (Afghanistan) after the ongoing crackdown against Afghans living illegally in the city.

According to media reports, evacuation of people from other Afghan areas in the city including Sohrab Goth, Super Highway Afghan Basti, Kochi Camp and Ethhad Town began.

Afghan refugees along with their families are leaving for Afghanistan via Chaman by buses. In this regard, at Sohrab Goth bus station, a large number of Afghans left with their equipment to go back to Afghanistan in buses, while the bus fare from Karachi to Chaman Badr is being charged 7 thousand rupees.

It should be noted that a meeting of the Apex Committee of the National Action Plan was held under the chairmanship of caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan Anwarul Haq Kakar on October 3 this month, after which the illegal immigrants were ordered to leave Pakistan by October 31, after which November 1, Federal and provincial law enforcement agencies will take all possible steps to ensure the arrest and forcible deportation of all illegally resident aliens.

The minister informed that with personal oversight and support from the Prime Minister, Pakistan will continue to make consistent progress towards interrupting the transmission and eradication of Polio-virus.

Improvement in Currency & Commodities Global Oil dropped to \$87/bbl from \$97/bbl.

Petroleum prices down 3%, more cuts in the coming weeks due to 1) decline in Dollar/PKR, 2) decline global Oil prices, and 3) Russia lifting ban on diesel exports.

Gold prices in the local market back to under Rs 200,000/tola after a long time.

Pakistan's rupee becomes one of the top-performers globally (up 16% or Rs 52/\$ to Rs 282/\$ from peak Rs 334/\$) as govt and LEAs crackdown on the illegal Dollar trade and goods smuggling.

Investments, Trade & Flows Pakistan to receive \$1.4bn collectively from IMF, WB and IDB.

Pakistan to receive FDI commitments from KSA and UAE of around \$3.5bn under the SIFC-driven projects.

Rationalization of Afghan Transit Trade; FBR banning 212 items coming under ATI.

Trade deficit down 48.2% in Sep-23; Exports up 1%, Imports down 25% (Trade Deficit down 42% in Jul-Sep23).

More Positives expected ahead

Inflation to ease due to expected slowdown in food

prices 1) better crop output/ food production, crackdown on smuggling (sugar prices are coming down), and high base-effect.

Better Crop productions to save forex exchange to the tune of \$-5bn (replacing imports for cotton, wheat, lowering edible oil, and higher export of rice and textiles).

Oil prices to remain in check.

Better Tax collection to support IMF's 1st review in Oct/Nov-23.

FDI announcement from KSA & UAE in Nov-Dec should support PKR/US\$ in the short run.

Trade deficit to be in check due to decline in Oil and better crop output (lower imports).

Current Account deficit to be manageable around \$6bn for FY24.

Slowing down inflation (to well under 20% from 30% now) should lead to first interest rate cut in Mar-Apr24 to support investment and economic activity.

Risks Risks are: Oil prices going back up due to latest Hamas attack, delay in domestic elections, IMF reviews not being satisfactory, delayed investments flows/commitments from KSA/UAE, unending govt borrowing (printing rupee), massive debt repayments and imports pushing Dollar back up, and so on.

Petition for recovery of Sheikh: Court orders to take action against police officers, policemen present at the time of arrest

RAWALPINDI (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi bench on the petition for recovery of Sheikh Rashid has ordered to take action against police officers and policemen who were present at the time of arrest of Sheikh Rashid.

The court while giving CDRs and affidavit of the petitioner to RPO Rawalpindi directed read the text of affidavit and initiate legal proceedings after investigation.

The court while giving 8 days time more for recovery of Sheikh Rashid on RPO plea adjourned hearing of case till October 18.

RPO Rawalpindi Syed Khurram Ali appeared in the court.

Balochistan Information dept to...

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all faiths to discuss and promote interfaith dialogue, understanding, and cooperation.

The Conferences will focus on a range of topics, including:-

-The role of interfaith harmony in promoting national integration and social cohesion

-The importance of religious tolerance and pluralism for a peaceful and prosperous society

-The challenges and opportunities for interfaith dialogue and cooperation in Pakistan

-The role of religious leaders and scholars in promoting interfaith harmony and peace building.

Information Minister Jan Achakzai said that the Conferences are being organized to "foster the narrative of Interfaith Harmony, National Integration, and inclusive platforms by pro-

moting peace, brotherhood, and coexistence in Pakistan."

He added that the Conferences will send a strong message that Pakistan is a country that values religious diversity and tolerance.

The Information Ministry is committed to promoting the positive image of Balochistan and countering various narratives that seek to manipulate faultlines and sow discord in the country.

The National Conferences on Interfaith Harmony and Peace Building are one of many initiatives that the Ministry is undertaking to promote unity, harmony, and peace in Pakistan.

Jan Achakzai invited all interested individuals and organizations to join us for these important Conferences. Together, we can build a more peaceful and harmonious Pakistan for all.



QUETTA: Members of Ianzeem-e-Islah Al Fuqra Hussainia Naqshbandia are holding protest demonstration against Mastung tragedy, at Quetta press club.

Pak prosperity lies in implementing skilled education: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindh said that skills development and technical education can play a critical role in the economic prosperity of the country. He was addressing at the laptop distribution ceremony as the chief guest, organized by National Skills University (NSU) here Tuesday.

He said that institutions like the NSU need to be developed in every district of the country. The NSU's curriculum and teaching-learning practices must be replicated nationwide due to its unique nature, he added. The education minister said that

Pakistan's future lies in enhancing youth employability by improving soft and hard skills required at workplaces.

Further elaborating on skills, the minister stressed the need to enhance opportunities for youth to learn skills in all provinces of Pakistan. He said that there was a dire need to develop more such institutions in all provinces of the country.

Madad Ali Sindh said that skills development can lead to enhancing employability/entrepreneurial opportunities for youth nationwide. Introducing Skills Learning programs at the district level will be an opportunity to popularize skills education linked with

employability and job markets.

The minister took a deep interest in various ongoing programs and advised the Vice Chancellor to prepare a detailed report for implementing skills education nationwide.

Vice-Chancellor NSU, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar, in his welcome message, outlined the successes of the University over the past four years. The University has been transformed from a deserted place to the most progressive skills learning center, got recognition from the UNESCO/UNEVOC, participated in the UNEVOC Network Coaction Initiative 2022.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindh attended the 'Laptop Distribution Ceremony' as the chief guest, organized by National Skills University.

AICS, UNESCO join hands for education in marginalized areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): A new agreement was signed on Tuesday between the Italian Government and UNESCO for a project titled "Radio Education" to target children in some of the most remote areas of Pakistan through alternative educational tools to reach students and teachers.

"Radio Education" has been designed to expand some of the best practices learned within the framework of the "Support to Girls' Right of Education and Safeguarding Cultural Heritage through Education in Pakistan", funded by the

Italian Government and implemented by UNESCO, currently in its final phase.

Andrea Ferrarese, Ambassador of Italy in Pakistan, and Dr. Youssef Filali-Meknassi, UNESCO Pakistan Country Representative, signed the agreement, acknowledged by Francesco Zatta, AICS Islamabad, said a news release.

During the observance of lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the closure of schools and difficulties in adopting remote learning techniques limited educational activities.

Journalists give lectures to Capital Police College trainees on media strategy

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the Capital Police College Islamabad has enlisted the

use of social media and its impact.

Notable figures from journalism contributing to this endeavor including Journalist Aiaz Syed give insight of introduction to public relation, communi-



experts of various institutions to augment the training of officers in its inaugural Advanced Course, a public relations officer said.

He said that, these collaborations bring valuable insights and experiences to enlighten aspiring officers, covering a wide range of subjects including media strategy, positive or nega-

tion skills, social media and digital PR, complaint management, dealing with pressure groups and types of media. Journalist Absar Alam gives lectures regarding crisis communication, media management, conflict management, different methods of communication, media handling and police, police relations with media.

Engro polymer offers support for flood-resilient housing solutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Engro has extended its support for flood-resilient housing solutions, in partnership with Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) and Indus Valley School (IVS). Engro Polymer and Chemicals led the collaborative project with Indus Valley School to explore PVC as the material of choice in rehabilitation efforts. Through extensive research into flood-responsive housing and the socio-cultural aspects of rural Sindh, the IVS students shared a shelter design using regional materials and construction techniques, incorporating locally sourced bamboo, sun-dried brick concrete blocks, and recyclable UPVC sheets. These materials not only align with

the region's climate but are also highly adaptable as they are designed to float, transform, submerge, or block in response to flood disasters, ensuring safety and security for their inhabitants. The partnership exemplifies how industry and academia can unite to address pressing real-world challenges using the wisdom of local materials and construction whilst making use of the next generation of architects and designers. Similarly, Engro Foundation - the social investment arm of Engro Corporation - in partnership with the Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) supported the construction of 146 climate-resilient residential units in two hard-hit villages of District Kambar Shahdadkot.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Libya, Major General (R) Anjum Enayat, calls on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Awan-e-Sadr.

Aneeq Ahmed advises youth to learn Islam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Tuesday advised the young individuals to invest their prime to learn Islamic knowledge. Addressing the Seerat Conference and Mehfil-e-Milad-un-Nabi Peace Be Upon Him, organized by National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in collaboration with Pakistan National Council of the Arts, Punjab College of Commerce, and Islamabad Model College for Boys F-7/3 as a chief guest, he encouraged the youth to read three verses of the Holy

Quran daily, along with translation and interpretation, to strengthen their connection with the divine scripture and its Messenger Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him. Minister Aneeq said, "If you want to become beloved to Allah Almighty, then follow the footsteps of His Beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW)." He highlighted that the character and ethics of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) were a living embodiment of the Quran stressing that we should strive to be warriors of character, not just in words but in actions.

Senate body for self-reliance in defense production

ISLAMABAD (Online): Senate Standing Committee on Defense Production has issued orders to all defense production organizations to increase their production to increase domestic exports.

The entry of the media was prohibited in the meeting of the Senate body on Defense Production. In the meeting, the Secretary of the Ministry of Defense Production presented a report on the revenue expenditure, research, development and procurement of the Ministry and its various institutions for the past seven years, as well as the steps taken so far regarding the

reorganization of the Ministry of Defense Production.

The participants were also briefed about the production of Heavy Industry Taxila (HIT), repair of various machines, mechanized fleet, use of modern technology and commercial projects.

The members said that self-reliance in defense production is essential so that we can save our foreign exchange. For this, all defense production organizations must increase their production, especially foreign defense production organizations.



ISLAMABAD: Students are reciting Naat-e-Rasool-e-Maqbool during Milad ceremony at Islamabad College for Girls in Federal Capital.

TikTok's commitment to supporting mental health awareness in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): TikTok, the global social media platform, is at the forefront of promoting mental health awareness, with a special emphasis on Pakistan's vibrant community.

On World Mental Health Day and beyond, TikTok celebrated the resilience and courage of its users, reinforcing the message that we are "Better Together" when we prioritize mental well-being, said a news release.

Pakistan's TikTok community is breaking the stigma surrounding mental health, sharing impactful stories and valuable resources.

TikTok collaborates with mission-driven organizations globally, notably sponsoring the Rare Impact Fund Benefit with a generous \$250,000 donation.

The event, held on October 4, successfully raised funds and highlighted the importance of expanding access to mental health services and education for youth worldwide.

A global in-app survey revealed that 63% of Pakistani TikTok users

find a sense of belonging on the platform, aligning with the global sentiment.

Throughout October, TikTok invites its global community to participate in the #MentalHealthAwareness: "Better together" campaign, sharing stories and well-being journeys.

Globally, related hashtags such as #MentalHealth, #SelfCare, and #MentalHealthAwareness have collectively garnered billions of views.

In Pakistan, hashtags like #MentalHealth, #MentalHealthAwareness, and #DigitalHifazat have received 3.1+ billion, 1.9+ billion, and 194+ million views, respectively, to date.

At TikTok, we understand the importance of fostering a supportive and inclusive community.

Mental health is a topic close to our hearts, and we are dedicated to providing a space where users can find support, share their experiences, and access resources. We are "Better Together," and we encourage everyone to join us in promoting #MentalHealthAwareness.

UN asked to resolve Kashmir dispute, ban on DFP denounced

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter has appealed to the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, to take steps for resolving the Kashmir dispute in line with right to self-determination as guaranteed by the UN through its resolutions.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the appeal has been made during a meeting of a delegation of Jammu based Hurriyat leaders and activists with APHC-AJK Convener, Mahmood Ahmad Saghar in Islamabad.

The delegation included Malik Muhammad Aslam, Khalid Shabir, Qazi Muhammad Imran, Zahid Fazal, Abdul Ghani Lone, Muhammad Owais Bilal and Imtiaz Ahmed Butt.

Barjees Tahir criticizes alleged 'revenge' against Nawaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, often regarded as a symbol of Pakistan's prosperity, endured unjust punishment for alleged wrongdoings he did not commit as actions taken against Nawaz Sharif were motivated by a sense of revenge, former minister Barjees Tahir said on Tuesday. Addressing a press conference, he stated that extending a warm welcome to Nawaz Sharif represents an acknowledgment of Pakistan's journey to-

wards progress and prosperity, recognizing the substantial sacrifices he has made for the nation's advancement. Flanked by former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider, Shah Ghulam Qadir and several Kashmiri leaders at the National Press Club, Barjees declared that Nawaz Sharif would receive an enthusiastic welcome. He mentioned that the leadership of Azad Kashmir had demonstrated resilience during challenging times since 2021.

UN asked to resolve Kashmir dispute, ban on DFP denounced

APHC-AJK General Secretary Shaikh Abdul Mateen was also present in the meeting.

The delegation maintained that on January 5, 1949, the United Nations Commission for Pakistan and India had passed a very important resolution calling for settlement of the Kashmir dispute by giving the Kashmiris an opportunity to decide their future by themselves under a UN-supervised plebiscite.

It said since then, due to India's stubbornness, the Kashmir conflict remains unresolved. They said the Kashmiri people have rendered unparalleled sacrifices in their struggle for achieving this right in the last over seven decades.

The delegation updated the APHC convener about the current human

rights situation of Jammu region including atrocities and terrorism of Indian forces, the personnel of NIA, SIA and VDGs during cordon and search operations and house raids.

The delegation while denouncing the banning of Hurriyat organization Democratic Freedom Party by the Modi government said that such nefarious tactics cannot suppress the Kashmir freedom movement.

They condemned the Israeli atrocities on the Palestinians and lamented the support of international powers to the usurper Israel.

Meanwhile, People's Political Party (PPP) in a statement in Srinagar also condemned the ban on Democratic Freedom Party (DFP).

Nationwide crackdown against Iranian oil smuggling continue

ISLAMABAD (Online): Law enforcers have started nationwide operations against illegal economic activities and smuggling of Iranian oil on Tuesday.

The security forces have seized the Iranian oil of worth 60 crore from Machi area of Sheikhupura and the stations through which this oil was being sold have also been sealed.

The intelligence agencies had received information that Iranian oil was being brought in Machi area of Sheikhupura and then it was being sold in different parts of the country.

More than 30 large oil tankers were seized, each of which contained 50,000 liters of oil. This oil was smuggled from Iran and then sold in different parts of the country.

The law enforcement agencies have sealed all the illegal stations and deployed forces there and raids are underway to arrest those involved.

IESCO detects 42 meters for power theft

ISLAMABAD (APP): Operation and surveillance teams of Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Tuesday inspected a total of 4846 electricity meters and detected stealing of electricity from 42 meters during the ongoing anti power theft drive across all company's operational circles.

The IESCO spokesperson told that some 108,476 units of electricity were charged to them besides imposing fine of over five million on them for power theft. Police lodged FIRs and two thieves were also apprehended, he said.

During the ongoing campaign, IESCO detection teams have checked a total of 107,033 meters and detected 1767 meters for stealing power so far. A total of Rs 118.8 million fine was imposed on the power pilferers by charging 2.57 million units to them.

Additionally, the electricity connections of individuals found using electricity directly or tampering with meters were also disconnected.



ISLAMABAD: Women activists of Jamaat-e-Islami hold placards during protest against Israel attack on Palestine, at Aabpara Chowk in Federal Capital.

Nawaz coming to Pak on October 21, Hanif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD (Online): Senior leader of Muslim League Nawaz and former special assistant Hanif Abbasi has said that the leader of Muslim League (N) Nawaz Sharif is coming to Pakistan with a new vision and a new agenda for the development of Pakistan. Preparations for the reception are going on, Rawalpindi will once again be made the stronghold of Muslim League (N). He expressed these views while talking to "Online/Daily Jinnah" in a special conversation. Hanif Abbasi said that Nawaz Sharif is coming to Pakistan on October 21, no one should have any doubts about it. President of Muslim League (N) Shehbaz Sharif has announced his return and mil-

lions of people across the country are cheering for his return. Rawalpindi and Islamabad will also leave no stone unturned to welcome Nawaz Sharif. Only from Rawalpindi, thousands of workers consisting of hundreds of buses and vehicles will leave in the form of a convoy on October 21st at ten o'clock in the morning via the Lahore Motorway. He said that the entire Murree Road is being decorated with Nawaz Sharif's welcome posters and placards. Answering a question, he said that Nawaz Sharif is not only returning to the country, but he is bringing with him the vision of development, prosperity and the welfare of the people.



ISLAMABAD: Workers of Capital Development Authority (CDA) spraying anti dengue spray in streets of sector G-6 in Federal Capital.

Intensive efforts underway to register house servants and tenant: Police

ISLAMABAD: The campaign of Islamabad Capital Police - Knock the Door - is at full swing to facilitate the registration of domestic workers and tenants.

During this initiative, police spokesperson said that dedicated teams from the Islamabad Capital Police are taking to the streets and conducting door-to-door visits to ensure the registration of tenants and domestic workers. Simultaneously, they are addressing citizens' concerns and inquiries.

The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Islamabad has already compiled data on 108 house servants from 447 residences within the jurisdiction of Sumbal Police Station. During last 24 hours,

This campaign's primary objective is to enhance public safety by maintaining law and order in the federal capital. Registering tenants and domestic workers not only helps keep a vigilant eye on potential wrongdoers but also acts as a deterrent to any suspicious activities.

Citizens are urged to verify the identity of anyone in civilian clothing who arrives at their doorstep to collect data. Unregistered employees and tenants could potentially be involved in serious incidents, such as theft and robbery, by posing as ordinary citizens. Islamabad Capital Police is committed to using all available resources to ensure the safety and security of the federal capital's residents.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Mr. Amer Ali Ahmad, conducted a Live E-Katcheri session at the BISP Headquarters.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Wednesday October 11, 2023

Smuggled goods

That the 39pc surge in Afghan transit cargoes through Pakistani ports and territory in one year coincides with Islamabad's import restrictions to curb dollar outflows underlines both the extent of and the ease with which this facility is being abused to smuggle goods into this country.

It also shows how the Afghan transit trade has always been misused by traders of the two countries for smuggling. Reports suggest that transit cargoes are often diverted from ports directly to Pakistani markets before crossing the border.

New Customs data showing the number of containers in the Afghan trade soaring to 102,886 in FY23 from 74,316 the previous year is alarming. The dollar value of the trade, too, is assessed to have spiked to a staggering \$6.7bn from \$4bn a year earlier.

Cargo value for the first two months of the present fiscal stood at \$1.14bn and the full-year projection is \$6.8bn. The value of items prone to being smuggled under transit cargo is also up by 63pc to \$3.7bn.

Smuggling is the bane of the Pakistani economy. It especially has a debilitating impact on the manufacturing industry, discouraging fresh investment, and resulting in large job and tax revenue losses.

In cases like Pakistan, the settlement of payments for illicit cross-border trade through the illegitimate hawala/ hundi network also impinges on much-needed remittance flows and often leads to capital flight.

It is heartening to note that the authorities have woken up to the challenge, launched an anti-smuggling drive, and tightened the Afghan transit trade regime, besides banning the import of goods prone to being smuggled under it.

But this campaign should not be confined to simply reinforcing border controls; it must be expanded to take action against those who stock and sell smuggled or illegally imported goods in their shops without fear of the law, or who under-invoice their imports.

It may bring the government under pressure, but it is the only way forward.



Arifa Noor

Television's prime is over. News channels that is. But in Pakistan, like many other truths, an artificial ecosystem keeps it alive, as it does other industries. However, the reality escapes everyone. For artificial resuscitation has everyone who wants to be fooled in a state of denial.

Consider an interview that made waves last week. Someone who was missing suddenly appeared at someone's home, gave an interview, and disappeared again.

I say disappear because gossip aside, there is no real information on where he is. Information that would be provided either by the man himself or by a credible platform. He could be home or not. What do we know?

As the cult television

programme X-Files once said, the truth is out there. But as an aside, the series also taught me that in the absence of an official and credible view, a conspiracy theory is easy to believe.

Once the interview was aired, its content predictably made it to the headlines, sensational as it was. However, the reaction to it away from the screen was not as one-sided as it appeared to those watching television.

But then, such is the universe of electronic media that it sometimes can exist without colliding with the world of plebeians at all. And this is why I fear, its age is over.

There is a second concern for those of us who entered this profession when it was less glitzy and work meant writing and weighing words, rather than just pontificating out loud. It didn't matter if the hair and skin were greasy, but the words never were.

This lament for the past is a personal one, and a silent one. Silent because it might just be heard by no one. But I do know that silently many others also

weep for journalism's loss. The loss of the role we thought we were meant to play by speaking for the weak and the vulnerable. And not simply become handmaidens of the powerful.

But in our transition from ugly newsrooms lit up by tube lights to studios dominated by lights and cameras, we now worship at the altar of the influential, which more often than not is built upon the crushed bodies of the weak and the vulnerable. And in the process we have lost not just our purpose but also our soul.

In recent years, it has been our infamous achievement to have broadcast the interview of a man who belonged to an organisation banned by the state of Pakistan for being a terrorist outfit.

In the same manner in which at times politicians and government officials are interviewed. How was it ensured that he was not glorified? And why did it have to be an hour-long interview rather than simply run as a news item? Did anyone ask how those whose loved ones died in attacks carried out by his

organisation feel when they saw him on television?

No one asked these questions. Not even us journalists. We never bothered unpacking that moment, for ourselves and our future.

But our shame didn't end here. We have run video confessions of a man condemned to death. Why he decided to suddenly confess to his crimes from his death cell on a camera still remains unknown. Who brought that camera to his cell and recorded the statement never came to light.

And an investigation ordered into it — by the caretaker interior minister who was then holding the same portfolio in Balochistan — was handed to a committee that was later dissolved.

However, regardless of what the powerful did, the media — a word which has replaced the far smaller and more ethical press we were once a part of — ran it with very little debate on the ethics of running a 'confession' of a prisoner.

In that moment, Saulat Mirza, a convicted

murderer, was a victim because those with power over him could well have coerced him into giving that interview. But in Pakistan and for its journalists, victims have rights only if they are deemed 'mazloom' enough or innocent enough. If the victim is unpalatable, rights don't matter.

From here onwards, it didn't take us very long to journey to interviews of people who are alleged to have taken part in financial crimes of politicians and now the politicians themselves.

And if we think it will stop here, we are living in la-la land. It will be the journalists next. And those who own the channels. If one was arrested a few years ago, the next time around, he or she might be 'convinced' to confess their sins.

So speak we must. Not for the terrorist, or the murderer or the politician but the fear that one day we too end up in their place, coerced into confessing our sins, imagined and real.

Perhaps this is also a moment for journalist organisations to step up.

Instead of blaming media owners or hobnobbing with information ministers, could not discussions at least be held on the ethics of such interviews?

Sometimes, it is important to simply state the obvious and condemn the condemnable, so that those who come after us know we tried to do the little we could. It may not have been enough but at least we didn't capitulate entirely.

An abject surrender cannot and should not be the only legacy. Especially because it appears many among us do not even understand the difference between good and bad journalism.

And this perhaps is the reason why those who watch and read us are losing their faith in journalism.

As with much else in this society, the survival of the media will depend not on the artificial ecosystem but the faith of the people of Pakistan.

Eventually, money and power can and will continue to change hands but trust is not this easily lost and found. -- Courtesy Dawn

Lessons from Sderot for Pakistan



Mosharraf Zaidi

For many in Israel, it has been raining down rockets and missiles in Sderot for years now. The large-scale Hamas invasion on Saturday, October 7, however was unlike anything Israel has experienced before. It will be weeks before the full death toll of Israelis and Palestinians is compiled. Many more dead bodies will have to be buried. This latest escalation in violence in Palestine is already the most brutal in memory.

David Ben Gurion named Sderot, which means order or more specifically 'boulevards'. Sderot has just under 30,000 inhabitants and was supposed to be one of many desert roses planted by Israelis that came to the old homeland-new country that Ben Gurion and his colleagues helped fashion. But what fabric was this vision being

fashioned from? Like so much of Israel, it was fashioned from demographic and geopolitical brutality — the eviction of Palestinians from their homes, the murder of those that resisted and the intergenerational stigma of being labelled a militant or worse, terrorist, for any Palestinian that sought a claim over her victimhood.

Sderot is a fiction built on a Palestinian village called Najd. If it was well-crafted fiction, it would have sat comfortably somewhere far, far away from the children and grandchildren of those that it dispossessed. Instead, it is at its closest, less than 850 meters from Gaza — a shantytown that Human Rights Watch calls "the world's largest open air prison". As fictions go, it is so poorly conceived and arrogantly sustained, that Sderot — a place that was supposed to offer safety and refuge for the children and grandchildren of Jewish survivors of the Holocaust — is hosting fire and terror from the sky.

Sderot is both the bulldozer of Palestinian nightmares and a boulevard of broken dreams for Israelis. The people of Palestine

have been failed by the world, over and over, and over again — this is not news.

But in Sderot, it is the people of Israel that have been failed — by Israel's broken institutions, its racist, apartheid-wielding politicians, its ethnic cleansing 'settler' terrorists, and its grand strategists who believe they can successfully end the yearning of Palestinians by making deals with countries far away from the miseries of Gaza.

Many Pakistanis are aghast at the horrors of what took place this weekend. Innocent women and children being kidnapped is horrific no matter who it happens to. Parading prisoners is a failure of humanity no matter where it takes place. There are 560 Israeli checkpoints in Gaza alone. The West Bank isn't the West Bank anymore, it is 224 separate ghettos collectively called the West Bank.

To be born Palestinian in Palestine is a criminal offence. The Palestinian yearns, quite literally, for air, water, and for being seen and being heard. If brutality is the only language in which she or he is spoken to, then it should not take rocket science to deduce that brutality is the language

that the young Palestinian will convene towards.

In the days and weeks to come, Israel will enjoy a more explicit and more brazen carte blanche for its brutality than it usually does. Any neighbourhoods or buildings that Israel deems Hamas leaders to be in or near, will be flattened. Thousands of innocent Palestinians will be killed, and all this violence will do is enhance the language and politics of Israel's already crimson red lust for blood. Israel is run by right-wing lunatics — and with every episode of globally sanctioned violence, those lunatics become more entrenched and more emboldened.

Given the depth of the Pakistani polycrisis, leaders in Pakistan can ill afford being distracted by events in the Middle East, but they can afford ignoring the lessons from Sderot even less. First, a disclaimer: there are no direct parallels between what takes place in the Middle East and what is taking place in Pakistan's neighbourhood, so if you are seeking direct like-for-like examples, you will not find any — at least not any that make much sense. There are important lessons to be

drawn not because of direct parallels but because of what trends and dynamics events indicate.

Lesson number one is what right-wing extremists do to a polity. The right-wing lunatics in the Benjamin Netanyahu cabinet include Itamar Ben Gvir — who is the national security minister. Ben Gvir's party is called Jewish Power. He is an admirer of Meir Kahane and Baruch Goldstein. Ben Gvir's right-wing partner in this Israeli government is Bezalel Smotrich — who is the finance minister. Both Ben Gvir and Smotrich are 'illegal settlers' in the West Bank. Their entire politics revolves around hatred for Arabs and for Palestinians in particular. In any civilized country, both would be in jail for hate speech and hate crimes. In Israel, they are ministers. They have helped provoke and curate the events that produced the October 7 invasion of Israel by Hamas.

Now, can you name another country that rewards religious extremists, involved in the murder and destruction of a community based on religious zealotry, with high office? If you are thinking of Narendra Modi

and Amit Shah in India, you are on the right track. But think more of Uttar Pradesh's Yogi Adityanath. And think of the manner by which India speaks of its minorities (and continues its occupation of Kashmir).

All India's right-wing extremists need for the next round of this fire to be unleashed is a pretext — one that they will find, manufacture or stumble upon sooner or later. India's right-wing extremists will watch Israel destroy and flatten entire neighbourhoods and kill thousands of Palestinians in the bargain. And they will lick their lips in anticipation of such an opportunity in Kashmir, and across the border in Pakistan.

Those responsible for Pakistan's national security must prepare not only to defend Pakistan from the Indian right-wing's appetite for destruction, but also to ensure that Kashmiris suffering under India's brutal occupation do not lose all hope. Can a disoriented, near-default, undemocratic, and internally-fractured Pakistan deliver what the country needs to survive India's Israeli wet dreams? -- Courtesy TheNews

Grave violation



Sana Farrukh

Oct 10 marks the World Day Against the Death Penalty. This year, activists will reflect on the relationship between the use of torture and capital punishment. There are over 3,800 people languishing in death-row cells across Pakistan, many of them victims of torture. Outside the prison walls, the average Pakistani hopes never to cross paths with law enforcement. In this country, even ostensibly well-meaning police officers use torture, cruel and inhuman or degrading treatment to track down perpetrators.

While the death penalty landscape is diverse and touches many criminal justice issues, torture remains at the heart of it. By curbing this endemic practice, we can protect both the rights of the accused, who may be an innocent bystander confessing under duress, and the rights of victims and their families to seek accountability, who may lose the opportunity to hold the right person to task for their losses.

The research on torture and interrogations dates back to the 1600s, with repeated findings pointing out its inefficacy. Information received through torture is often incorrect. The subject is more likely to assist in an investigation if the interrogation is rapport-based. In a high-pressure, high-stakes situation, torturing a detainee is the poor choice — an abject failure to understand neuroscience, human psychology, and criminal justice. If by a mere coincidence, a confession

based on torture happened to be true, it would be inadmissible in court, leading to prosecutorial failure.

The fact that torture does not work, while essential to note, should be our secondary concern. First and foremost, torture is a serious human rights violation — the Constitution of Pakistan, Islamic principles, and international law all declare an absolute prohibition on the practice.

In November 2022, after years of discourse, the tabling and lapsing of numerous bills on the issue, and the torture and custodial deaths of countless Pakistanis, the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act was passed. Although Pakistan previously had several safeguards against torture scattered across our laws, the act is the first comprehensive enactment on the subject and brings the country more in line with its obligations under international law. This move demonstrates Pakistan's appreciation of the Concluding Observations of the UN Committee Against Torture and the UN Human Rights Committee, which in 2017 had urged Pakistan to improve its compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention Against Torture (CAT).

The act gives the National Commission for Human Rights a supervisory mandate over investigations into torture. The NCHR has been instrumental in documenting the practice, most recently in its assistance to the Islamabad High Court in the case of Imtiaz Bibi. Of the prisoners interviewed in Rawalpindi jail, 74 per cent reported torture ranging from beatings with a rubber tyre to solitary confinement. While the presence of more data on torture is essential to curb this practice, to perform its mandate under the act, the

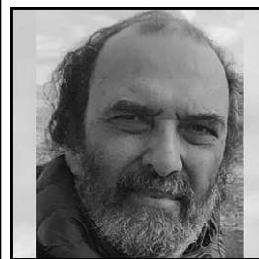
NCHR's role must be clearly delineated, along with that of the Federal Investigation Agency.

Although the passage of the act is a historic occasion for Pakistanis, it is the subordinate legislation, that is, the rules and regulations passed under an act, which enable its implementation. Now that the debate and scrutiny over various points of law are behind us, and consensus on the necessity of this law is present and palpable, what remains is for the relevant ministries to sit together and come up with a roadmap for its enforcement.

Section 20 of the act empowers the division concerned to make rules for the purpose of carrying out the objects and purposes of the act. For this act, the division concerned is the Interior Division under the Ministry of Interior which presented the bill in the Lower House. When subordinate legislation is framed by the relevant division, it is drafted and vetted by the Law Division under the Rules of Business, 1973. The Interior Division, the Human Rights Division and the Law and Justice Division must work together on the draft rules and regulations.

While there are no perfect laws or tidy solutions for issues surrounding torture and the death penalty, despite all its obstacles, this country has taken steps in the right direction. With continued momentum to push the rules and regulations through, we can start to reap the benefits of the tremendous work that has already been done. With Pakistan's upcoming reviews under the ICCPR in 2024 and CAT in 2025, it is the implementation of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act that will be centre stage. -- Courtesy Dawn

Can we fight Zionism, not Jews?



Jawed Naqvi

Anyone who is familiar with the history of Spain under Muslim rule before the 1492 Catholic pushback — and there's an excellent body of work on the theme by Tariq Ali — could not miss the intermingling of Jewish, Christian and Muslim cultures in a cornucopia of art, literature and philosophy at its zenith.

One was sadly reminded of that slice of history in the face of the needless pain and trauma coming with the uptick in the bloodletting between the people that once represented a blessing to humanity.

The Hamas attack on Israel has left over 700 people, overwhelmingly Jewish, dead. The unkindest cut was the reported killing of 260 revelers at a musical jamboree.

The right-wing government of Israel is, of course, singularly responsible for provoking the attack. It has allowed the sacred AlAqsa Mosque to be desecrated by Jewish extremists.

Its troops have been killing Palestinians at will in Gaza and in the West Bank and allowing settlers to plunder more land with impunity. Prisoners at Delhi's Tihar Jail are treated with more respect than are Palestinians in the open prison that the Gaza Strip is.

Christian worshippers too have not been spared in the new Israel, being spat upon by zealots in some kind of invented tradition. Netanyahu is pursuing several agendas, not excluding his personal

reprieve, at least for now, from the judicial sword hanging over his head.

Narrow Israeli nationalism is out for revenge, and the consequence for the Palestinians could be unspeakably horrific.

On the other hand, the daybreak blitzkrieg has jolted the state of Israel and severely embarrassed Prime Minister Netanyahu. How did the celebrated Israeli intelligence miss the Hamas assault?

And how did Israel allow an unforgivable number of its men and women, apparently including military personnel, to be driven or simply walked across the wall and into the Gaza Strip as hostages?

We knew that Israel's greatest ally, the US with its own fabled intelligence apparatus, was caught napping on crucial occasions on its watch, including the weekend carnage in occupied Ashkelon.

US intelligence lapses that come to mind include most obviously the Iranian revolution, which saw scores of American diplomats being taken hostage; the ground-changing Indian nuclear tests of 1998; and of course, the daylight attack with hijacked planes on the World Trade Centre.

As we write 2,000 have been killed far away from the headlines in Afghanistan's Herat region in a devastating earthquake. Again, this is the country where the US abandoned its vacuous promise of liberating Afghan women and ushering democracy, a terrible intelligence goof-up.

How sincere are those who are courting Israel today but whose history from Martin Luther to Shakespeare is peppered with scorn for Jewish people.

India's Hindutva ideologues, embracing Israel today, given their shared love of Islamophobia, openly celebrated Hitler. They prescribed the treatment meted out to Jews in Germany for

Indian Muslims. The solidarity with Israel does not go unrewarded. A host of Indian journalists and opposition leaders found their mobile phones infected with Israeli-manufactured Pegasus malware.

Was the Indian state spying on its fellow citizens with Israel's help? Saturday's outrage revealed a truer reality: that Israel may know more about the private lives of distant Indian hacks and politicians but evidently less about the sullen mood turning into a lethal brew in its own backyard.

So, what is at stake? The fallout under such circumstances always has both intended and unintended features. The Hamas action disrupted moves for a Saudi-Israeli rapprochement, and prompted President Biden to promise military and diplomatic support to Tel Aviv, moving some battleships closer to Israel's seashore.

Ilan Pappé, a Jewish historian veers close to the idea of seeing the problem whose shards not for the first time hit world capitals at the weekend, as settler colonialism.

In a collection of essays and interviews with Noam Chomsky in a volume titled *On Palestine*, Pappé spelt out the idea: "The application of this definition — settler colonialism — to the case of Zionism is now quite common in the academic world and has politically enabled activists to see more clearly the resemblance of the case of Israel and Palestine to South Africa and to equate the fate of the Palestinians with that of the Native Americans."

Seeing a distinction between Zionism and Judaism could thus be a step towards undercutting the right-wing yearning for mindless violence, which extracts a brutal toll on both sides without offering a vision for the future. -- Courtesy Dawn

Pakistan wants peaceful resolution of Kashmir, Palestine issues: Baligh

Independent Report
LAHORE: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Minister of State, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, called on Punjab Governor at Governor House Lahore. In the meeting, various issues including Kashmir, Palestine and women empowerment were discussed in detail.

Talking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Kashmiris in Occupied Kashmir should be given the right to self-determination in the light of United Nations resolutions. Governor Punjab said that Pakistan has raised voice in favour of the legitimate right to self-determination of

Kashmiris at all levels, and Pakistan will continue to play its positive role in this regard. He said that a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue is very important for durable peace in the region. Governor Punjab said that Pakistan wants peaceful resolution of Kashmir and Palestine issues. He said that Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine and violations of human rights are a threat to the peace in the region. He said that depriving Palestinians of their legitimate right to self-determination, inhumane atrocities on innocent Palestinians, attacks on Al-Aqsa Mosque and other holy places by the Israeli occupying forces are crimes that the international community should not only take notice

of, but also play a role to stop. Mushaal Hussein Mullick said that the international community should take notice of human rights violations in Kashmir and Palestine. Talking about the steps taken for improvement in the universities, Governor Punjab said that he has directed the vice-chancellors to pay special attention to character building of students and polish their critical and analytical skills in universities. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, appreciated the consortium established for the education and empowerment of women in universities on the special instructions of Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali is called on by the Ambassador of the Japan Wada Mitsuhero at Governor House Peshawar.

CM rejects summary for increase in metro, speedo bus fares

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi rejected the proposed Rs.15 fare increase for the Metro Bus and Speedo Bus services while presiding over the 24th meeting of the Punjab Mass Transit Authority at his office on Tuesday.

The meeting was attended by Provincial Minister Transport Ibrahim Hassan Murad, secretary finance and officials from the Punjab Mass Transit Authority.

Highlighting the importance of innovative revenue-generation strategies, CM stressed the need to explore alternative approaches instead of resorting to fare hikes.

An important

decision was taken to initiate a pilot project for energy-efficient public transport. In collaboration with the World Bank, 27 electric buses are set to operate from Lahore Railway Station to Green Town. Moreover, plans were formulated to introduce electric buses for the Pakistan Metrobus System in Islamabad-Rawalpindi.

The CM issued directives for immediate action on the electric buses initiative and approved measures to address the shortage of human resources in the Punjab Mass Transit Authority. The CM directed repairing and maintaining metro bus tracks in both cities.

The meeting

sanctioned the renovation projects for Qaddafi Stadium and Shahdara Railway Station in the provincial metropolis. The proposal to operate diesel-hybrid regenerative buses was thoroughly discussed during the meeting. The government remains committed to providing secure and high-quality transport services to the commuters, he added.

Earlier, secretary transport informed that the Punjab Mass Transit Authority, which operates six bus services, has surpassed the target of serving over 1.25 billion passengers, adding that 25 thousand students daily use the Orange Line Metro Train to reach their destinations free of cost.

CM orders reconduct of MDCAT-2023, refers matter to FIA for inquiry

Suspends MS 2-A hospital, SHO, headmuhurrer of PS Sukhkan

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar has ordered the re-conduct of the MDCAT-2023 entry test through Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi.

The caretaker CM, on receiving the reports of leakage of the MDCAT-2023 Paper, ordered an inquiry to probe into the allegations of the MDCAT 2023 test paper leakage.

The Jinnah Sindh Medical University, Karachi conducted MDCAT-2023 in Sindh on September 10, 2023.

The committee revealed that approximately four to five hours before the start of the Entry Test of MDCAT-2023 paper was leaked.

The chief minister on the recommendation of the inquiry committee has approved the re-conduct of

the MDCAT-2023 entry test paper through Dow University. He has also referred the matter to FIA to unearth the delinquents and to proceed against them.

Meanwhile, Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar, during his whirlwind surprise visit to a 50-bedded hospital, secondary school, police station and veterinary hospital in Malir district here Tuesday, expressed his disappointment over the services of the Medical Superintendent of the hospital, headmaster of the school, SHO and headmuhurrer of the police station for inefficiency and lack of interest in their work and also ordered an inquiry against the Incharge of Animal Husbandry Hospital and concerned deputy director.



LAHORE: Director General of Rescue 1122 Dr Rizwan Naseer cut the cake along with others senior officials during ceremony regarding the 6th Anniversary of Emergency Motor Bikes of 1122, in Provincial Capital.

Mushaal Mullick promises best facilities to prisoners

LAHORE (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick has said that the provision of best facilities to inmates is the top priority of the government as they have equal rights like other citizens of the country.

Talking to media prior to visiting the Kot Kahpat Jail here on Tuesday, she said that jail and prisoners were near to her heart as her husband, Yasin Malik, is also in the death cell of the notorious Tihar jail in false, fabricated and politically motivated cases.

Mullick said that maximum facilities would be provided to prisoners through her mandate of human rights and women empowerment, adding that prisoners' rights according to the Geneva Convention

should be protected. She said that a 100-day plan would be launched next week with special focus on protection of prisoners' rights and for their rehabilitation.

She said that a rehabilitation proposal is being prepared with the coordination of Legal Aid and Justice Authority (LAJA) for juveniles and women in jails. Under the proposal legal aid would be provided to prisoners while their facilities and rights would be monitored, she informed.

She recalled that her husband Yasin Malik is imprisoned in Tihar death cell, where all basic facilities are missing; he (Yasin) is not allowed to hire a lawyer and even his family is not allowed to contact him during custody. "We are the worst victim of prisoners' rights abuse" she added.

ANF recovers over 31 kg drugs in three operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting three operations managed to recover over 31 kg of drugs and arrested five accused including four women, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

He informed that in three operations conducted near Chungi number 26, Islamabad, ANF recovered 31.2 kg drugs from the possession of five accused including four women.

Two attempts to smuggle drugs by women, residents of Lahore, Karachi, Quetta and Peshawar, travelling in passenger buses were foiled and a total of 30 kg hashish was recovered.

In the third operation, 1.2 kg of hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused, resident of Charsadda.

Separate cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against all the accused while further investigations are under process.

Rally organized to express solidarity with Palestine people

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): A protest rally was organized here on Tuesday to express solidarity with the people of Palestine, Israel's atrocities against them and the illegal occupation of their areas under the aegis of Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir, a Kashmiri refugee organization.

A large number of citizens gathered at Burhan Wani Chowk in front of Central Press Club having banners stating phrases in favour of Independent Palestine besides Palestine Flags in their hands.

Protesters were chanting slogans of "Free Palestine" "Stop Israeli Attacks" "Israel's Terrorism, Unacceptable" etc. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Pasban-e-Hurriyat, Uzair Ahmed Ghazali said that

bombing innocent citizens of Palestine and Gaza was a brutal aggression against humanity by the Israeli government.

"The Israeli army is dropping prohibited phosphorous bombs on the citizens of Gaza which is a clear violation of international laws", he stated. Ghazali maintained that people around the world are demanding a completely independent Palestinian state, adding that the peace of the world is linked to the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Palestine and Indian troops from Kashmir. He added that the people of Kashmir support the freedom and full autonomy of the Palestinian brothers. Shaukat Javed Mir, a PPP leader in his speech said that the United Nations should take notice.

No space in department for negligent officers, personnel

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Riffat Mukhtar Raja on Tuesday said there was no space for the negligent officers in the department.

Chairing a high level meeting/video conference at the Central Police Office (CPO), he reviewed in detail the records of the fugitives and proclaimed offenders and issued necessary instructions.

The IGP ordered to speed up the ongoing crackdown against the absconders and proclaimed offenders. He said wherever the murder incident would take place, he will personally sought the interrogation report. Riffat Mukhtar instructed to ensure eradication of drugs, gutka/mawa and smuggling at all costs.

SHC accepts acquittal plea of Raees Mama former sector in-charge of MQM

KARACHI (Online): Announcing reserved judgment Sindh High Court (SHC) has accepted acquittal plea of Raees Mama, former sector in-charge of MQM in the murder case of police officer and doctor.

Raees Mama is serving life imprisonment in this murder case.

On previous hearing the court had reserved judgment on acquittal plea of Raees Mama on completion of arguments of respondents.

According to prosecution the criminal along with his friends had shot dead SP Shah Muhammad and Doctor Dilshad. The driver of the vehicle was injured in firing by the criminals.

Case was registered against Raees Mama, Asif

Lamba and Ijaz Qadri in 2013 in Korngi.

Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) had awarded life imprisonment to Raees Mama after the offence was proved. However ATC had acquitted Asif Lamba and Ijaz Qadri for want of evidence.

In 2017 Raees Lamba was arrested from Malaysia and brought to Pakistan.

The counsel for the accused argued that record of FIA and Immigration was not attached with the case on his return to Pakistan.

The identification parade of the criminals was got done after 6 years. The counsel had requested that ATC while announcing judgment ignored important evidences. Therefore, his client be acquitted.

Kashmiri civil society calls for result-oriented role towards Palestine, Kashmir issues

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): The big powers who verbally talk high of human rights are in fact collusive collaborators in perpetuating regional and international oppression of the oppressor like Israel and India busy bleeding Palestinians and Kashmiris for the recorded longest period of 75 years in Middle East and in South Asia", was the unanimous reaction of masses of people.

This was observed by the people in general belonging to various segments of the local civil society and strategic intelligentsia in particular interviewed by APP here late Monday.

"The Israeli and the Indian atrocities of 75 years against Palestinians and Kashmiris are recorded

by the UN itself and human rights organizations across the world. But the governments ignore those deluges of oppressions and suppression ongoing incessantly against Palestinians and Kashmiris", prominent public figures and atrocity recorders saad in replies to questions by the news agency. They urged OIC to boycott Israel politically and commercially. "Despite several UN Security Council's resolutions recognising urgency for resolving 75-year old dispute of Palestine into two states in the Middle East 193 members of UN could not materialise the UN decision on ground", said Ch. Munir Hussain, President AJK Chapter of Pakistan Peoples Party.

Monetary dispute claims two lives

FAISALABAD (APP): Two people, including an elderly woman, were murdered over a monetary dispute at a village in Lundianwala police limits on Tuesday. Police said a scuffle between two groups at Chak No 632-GB was developed over a monetary issue. During the quarrel, a stone hit 55-year-old woman, Mumtaz Bibi, who died on the spot while Abdul Rauf, 32, was also killed with a sharp-edged weapon. Police shifted the bodies to a mortuary for autopsy. A case was registered against the accused while police collected forensic evidences from the crime.



PESHAWAR: Peoples Party (PPP) Provincial Information Secretary, Amjad Khan Afridi along with others presiding over the meeting held at the Provincial PPP Secretariat in Peshawar.

KU seminar stresses mental well-being

KARACHI (APP): The Department of Psychology of the University of Karachi marked World Mental Health Day and arranged a seminar and a workshop to spread awareness regarding the importance of the mental well-being of people of every age group.

The events adopted the theme of this year's World Mental Health Day "Mental Health is a Universal Human Right", and were held at the KU Chinese Teachers Memorial Auditorium, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences on Tuesday.

Provincial health minister, who was the chief guest, Dr Saad Khalid Niazi emphasized the importance of creating awareness of mental health issues and mentioned the role of connection with Almighty Allah (SWT) in promoting general well-being.

He appreciated the role of academia in promoting mental health and suggested adapting a helpline for reaching more public to spread mental well-being.

Meanwhile, the KU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi mentioned that a problem-solving approach among young people would not only contribute to their well-being but also contribute to the success of a country.

He emphasized that we have to work collectively to bring mental health and well-being to society. The KU VC Professor Dr Khalid Iraqi stressed the misconceptions and stereotypes that surround mental health should be removed with immediate effects. He believed that mental illness is not a sign of weakness.

Three flour mills sealed for adulteration

PESHAWAR (APP): The Food department on Tuesday sealed three flour mills in the provincial capital over allegedly grinding rice and millet with wheat and cancelled the licenses. The teams of food department inspected the flour mills located on Charsadda Road and GT Road and found adulteration in wheat grinding and supplying the same to the market.

Assistant Food Controller Jamshed Afridi said the provision of quality food items to the citizens is the priority of the Food Department and there would be no compromise on the quality of food products. He said that the adulteration mafia would be dealt with strictly and the officials of the food department have been instructed to check the food factories and outlets on a daily basis.

Mentally ill people require more attention: Experts

LAHORE (APP): Experts have stressed the need for treating mentally ill people in good manner and advocating its importance while promoting positive mental well-being for all.

They expressed these remarks while talking to APP in connection with the World Mental Health Day which was observed across the globe on Tuesday. This year, the theme of the day is "Mental health is a universal human right".

They said that mental health is just as important as physical health and requires you to be aware of the symptoms, signs and steps one can take to care for his mental health.

Brig. (ret'd) Dr. Sultan M. Abid, the Director of Medical Services at Fountain House, underscored the significance of this year's theme as a compelling call to action. He reminded that there are viable alternatives to improve mental health by taking action, "we can foster hope and bolster prevention

efforts for our mental health".

The important thing is to not suffer in silence and to seek professional help if anyone is suffering from deteriorating mental health, he said.

To a query Dr. Sultan M. Abid said that mental well-being at a community level requires support and access to the best standards of care, advocating for mental health issues, conducting research based treatment in the country, creating awareness, promoting education about mental health its difficulties, and creating leaders in mental health. Dr. Ifthikhar, former Mayo Hospital Medical Superintendent, stressed the need to raise awareness among the public about effective ways to address social and psychological issues at preliminary level.

Individuals facing a multitude of socioeconomic factors may experience both support and obstacles to their recovery.



HYFERABAD: Doctors participating in a rally to mark the World Mantel Health Day at Sir C.J Institute of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences.



KARACHI: Afghan refugees wait to board into a bus to depart for their homeland, Pakistan's government announced a major crackdown migrants in the country illegally, saying it would expel them starting next month and raising alarm among foreigners without documentation who include an estimated 1.7 million Afghans.

Pak future in just energy transition, strategic position at global negotiations

ISLAMABAD (APP): The speakers at a consultative meeting held here by the SDPI on Tuesday underscored the need for timely transitioning of the country's energy mix over clean and green renewable power solutions of solar and hydropower for a sustainable future amid a strategic position to be maintained at the global forums negotiating on clean energy shift.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) organized a consultation session with

senators and leadership of different political parties to mull over the country's challenges and opportunities to shift over clean energy for a sustainable future in the prevailing testing times of economic turmoil.

The discussion was participated by Senators Musadik Malik, Engineer Rukhsana Zuberi, Farah Naz, Seemi Ezdi, whereas former MNA Shahida Akhtar Ali and former SAPM Malik Amin Aslam were also present. Senator Musadik Masood Malik of PML-N said the country's local energy resources, gas,

and production are declining and its precious foreign exchange is burdened with the heavy import bills of oil and gas. In the middle of these economically unsuitable conditions, there is an elite capture in the energy sector that consumes one-third of the total gas produced.

for manufacturing of fertilizer whereas the decision was made to provide subsidized fertilizer to the farmers. Malik underlined that the cheapest energy produced from gas is diverted to fertilizer companies

through the maneuvering of the elite capture which diverts the highly expensive electricity tariff to the poor who are voiceless. He highlighted that such deals are done through legal contracts that pave the way for litigation embedded in it through a capability deficit which is structured in the system.

He said Pakistan's coal reserves worth \$6.3 could be utilized but it would incur environmental impacts, whereas the country should create its strategic position like the Middle East managing.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Railways, Communications & Maritime Affairs, Shahid Ashraf Tarar chairing a meeting at Ministry of Railways.



President and CEO Mobilink Bank Ghazanfar Azaam receiving best digital banking services award 2022 during 20th Annual Excellence Awards organized by CFA Society.

PSX announces recipients of the top 25 companies awards 2022

ISLAMABAD (APP): In an exciting development for the capital markets and the economy as a whole, the Pakistan Stock Exchange announced the much-awaited list of the Top 25 Companies Awards recipients for the year 2022.

These are the most prestigious and coveted awards in the corporate sector and were initiated by the Exchange in 1978, according to a news release here on Tuesday.

The selected companies have excelled on the basis of their financial performance, governance, and operational achievements, as well as sustainability and ESG-related initiatives. They truly are leaders in all respects in

Pakistan's corporate sector.

The PSX Top 25 Companies Awards recognize companies achieving certain key prerequisites for this prestigious award, which include having a minimum dividend distribution of 30 percent and shares of the company having been traded at least 75 percent of the total trading days in a year, among other prerequisites. Subject to achieving these prerequisites, the companies are further weighed based on certain quantitative and qualitative criteria. In terms of quantitative criteria, PSX selects listed companies which have performed exceptionally in the context of profitability ratios.



FAISALABAD: Nursery worker sowing seeds for seasonal flowers in pots at local nursery.

Strong academia-industry linkages imperative to disseminate modern technology: Dr Iqar

FAISALABAD (APP): Strong academia-industry linkages were imperative to disseminate modern technology and mechanization among the farming community that would help ensure food security in the country, said Prof Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan Vice-Chancellor (VC) University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF).

He was talking to Head of Finance Development Habib Bank Limited (HBL) Amer Aziz and Development Finance Solutions Head

Muhammad Imran during a meeting here on Tuesday. He said that UAF had developed more than sixty products for commercialization and efforts were being made to reach out to the common farmer with strong academia-industry linkages in addition to strengthen outreach programs. He said that UAF had been declared Agri-Tech Park by the Special Technology Zone Authority that will gear up the efforts to put the country's agriculture on a scientific basis.

consecutive day, the spokesman said a large commercial consumers were also found involved in electricity theft and all of them were also disconnected and charged with detection units. Among the seized connections were 13 commercial, one agricultural and 426 domestic, and all these connections were disconnected and charged with a total of 832,082 units as detection bill amounting to Rs 36,839 million. He explained that the Lesco charged Rs 492,562 detection bill against 8,890 units to an electricity pilferer in Mughalpara area.

Lesco detects more 440 pilferers

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Electric Supply Company (Lesco) detected a total of 440 connections from where customers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts (Lahore, Sheikhpura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara) on the 33rd day of an anti-power theft campaign.

The Lesco spokesman told media here on Tuesday that the company had also far submitted FIR applications against 439 electricity thieves, out of which 177 FIRs had been registered in respective police stations while 47 accused had been arrested. On the 33rd

The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Ltd with 33,899,306 shares at Rs.2.46 per share, Pak Refinery with 26,344,125 shares at Rs.16.43 per share.

Nations Expo 2023 set to showcase Intl brilliance from Friday

ISLAMABAD (APP): The upcoming Nations Expo, and Conference 2023, scheduled to take place at the illustrious Pak China Friendship Center in Islamabad from Friday to Sunday (October 13th to 15th), is poised to be a resounding success.

The Expo is also expected to draw the attention of numerous embassies, with diplomats and dignitaries from various countries eager to witness Pakistan's multifaceted capabilities.

The event is expected to feature an impressive lineup of speakers and participants, including renowned figures such as Ammar Jaffri (Former Additional Director General FIA), Shahid Raza (Strategic Communications Expert STZA), and Dr. Safdar Sohail (former Special Secretary to Cabinet Division), all of whom will contribute to a remarkable display of Pakistan's achievements across various domains.

Organized by Eleven Productions and Option2 Solutions, the Expo is expected to exemplify Pakistan's progress and its commitment to global partnerships. It will highlight the nation's potential while promoting unity and collaboration.

PSX gains 418 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) gained 418.48 points, a positive change of 0.88 per cent on Tuesday, closing at 48,140.28 points against 47,721.80 points the previous day.

A total of 350,067,949 shares valuing Rs.10.762 billion were traded during the day as compared to 233,661,179 shares valuing Rs. 7,076 billion the previous day.

As many as 345 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 227 of them recorded gains and 94 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 24 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Ltd with 33,899,306 shares at Rs.2.46 per share, Pak Refinery with 26,344,125 shares at Rs.16.43 per share.

Any new type of wealth tax will be detrimental to economy: Chawla

Independent Report
KARACHI: Mr. Muhammad Suleman Chawla, Acting President FPCCI, has apprised that the business, industry and trade community is worried over the news that some sort of renamed wealth tax is being considered to be imposed to fulfill the never-ending, anti-business conditionalities of international financial institutions (IFIs). We have time and again maintained that business, trade, commercial and economic activities should be rewarded not discouraged, he added.

Mr. Suleman Chawla explained that wealth or asset-value-tax on movable assets or property cannot be levied on savings, investments, working capital, stock-in-trade, equity holdings and capital assets of businesses.

Otherwise, it would be counterproductive and result in contraction of documented or formal-sector due to excessive taxation as it will equate to disincentive to taxpayers, he added.

Mr. Muhammad Suleman Chawla stressed that no retrospective tax on personal or business income, assets and properties can be justified as it tantamount to discrimination against those who have performed well for the country and its economy through industrial production, commercial activities, exports, employment generation and revenue mobilization.

Mr. Chawla highlighted that the only pragmatic and sustainable approach to generating more taxes is incentivizing trade & industry in the country to help them generate more business and economic activities; instead of demotivating and causing flight of capital to those countries which give them free land.

SECP warns public against illegal investment scheme

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued a warning advising the general public against investing in fraudulent investment schemes of Meilleuretech Services, a sole proprietorship concern.

The SECP has notified that the entity, owned by Zeeshan Munir, is prima facie accepting deposits from the public illegally by offering various illegal "advertisement watching packages" and promising unrealistic daily and weekly returns, said a press release issued here on Tuesday.

It is clarified that the said entity does not hold any license to collect deposits from the public. SECP has also received multiple complaints that the individuals, after depositing funds with Meilleuretech Services, did not receive any packages

but were asked to arrange for more individuals to buy packages or deposit further funds to get their earnings.

The SECP has initiated legal proceedings against Zeeshan Munir and his entities, which include deregistering/ winding up Meilleuretech Services (SMC-Private) Limited, disqualifying Zeeshan Munir from becoming chief executive and director of any company, and imposing penalties.

The SECP is also referring the matter to relevant investigation authorities. The name of Meilleuretech Services (SMC-Private) Limited has been added to the "List of Companies engaged in Unauthorized Activities" available on SECP's website. Therefore, SECP hereby warns the public not to deposit/invest funds with M/s Meilleuretech Services (SMC Private) Limited, and Zeeshan Munir in any form or arrangement.

KP offers vast investment opportunities for economic growth: Dr. Amir Abdullah

PESHAWAR (APP): The Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce, Technical Education, Dr. Amir Abdullah on Monday said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has substantial investment potential in various sectors for economic growth.

Addressing business individuals and investors in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) at an event organized by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Board of Investment and Trade (BOIT) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), he emphasized the importance of creating a conducive environment

and providing facilities to entrepreneurs and investors in the province.

He stated that private investment and business ventures play a pivotal role in the economic development of any country.

He said that historically, countries that focused on facilitating private businesses and providing them with opportunities and ease of doing business have made significant progress and successfully lifted their populations out of poverty.

He underlined the necessity of encouraging and supporting businesses in the province.

SCCI calls for rationalization of duties, tariffs to enhance cross border trade

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Fuad Ishaq demanded rationalization of duties and tariffs on exporting items to improve cross-border mutual trade and exports.

The SCCI chief said high duties and tariffs on imported items have encouraged transit and illegal trade, which should be eliminated. Also, he urged Islamabad and Kabul to devise a joint mechanism to remove hurdles in order to carry out smooth trade between the two neighboring countries.

Similarly, he called for reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue and taxation system, facilitating the business

community. Fuad Ishaq was speaking to a 24-member traders' delegation headed by Ghulam Bilal Javed here at the chamber house on Tuesday.

Sanaullah Khan, senior vice president; Ijaz Khan Afridi, vice president; Sajjad Aziz, secretary general of the chamber; and others were present during the meeting. He noticed the Pak-Afghan mutual trade had dropped to \$400 to \$500 million, which was around \$2.5 billion a few years ago.

Other members of the delegation consisted of chairman All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellery and Tahafaz e Hindkowan Foundation Haji Amin Hussain Babar, Shahid Khan, presidents, and

general secretaries from the business community.

Members of the business community during the meeting raised concerns about the repatriation of illegal Afghan refugees and the current state of the national economy and highlighted other issues that were adversely affecting trade and commercial activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The delegation congratulated the newly elected president, Fuad Ishaq, and senior vice president, Sanaullah Khan, and expressed hope that they, along with other members of the cabinet, will play an important role in the resolution of business community issues.

Workers' remittances record \$2.2 bn inflow in Sept

ISLAMABAD (APP): The overseas workers' remittances recorded an inflow of US\$2.2 billion during September 2023, the State Bank of Pakistan on Tuesday said.

In terms of growth, during the month under review, remittances increased by 5.3 per cent on month on month basis.

Workers' remittances inflow of US\$ 6.3 billion has been recorded during the first three months of the fiscal year 2023-24.

Remittances inflows during September 2023 were mainly sourced from Saudi Arabia (\$538.2 million), the United Kingdom (\$311.1 million), the United Arab Emirates (\$400 million) and the United States of America (\$263.4 million).

ICCI, IBECHS to establish Expo Centre in federal capital

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Intelligence Bureau Employee's Cooperative Housing Society and Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) have agreed for the establishment of a state-of-the-art Expo Centre in the federal capital with joint efforts.

In this regard, the IBECHS hosted a reception in the honor of delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) here Tuesday. Both sides held fruitful discussions to move forward speaking on the occasion, Tariq Mehmood, President, Intelligence Bureau Employee's Cooperative Housing Society said expo centers play an important role in promoting exports and attracting investment.

He said that the Expo Center as a joint venture of Gulberg Green and ICCI in the Federal Capital would provide permanent exhibition facilities to encourage buyer-seller interaction and promoting trade and exports.

He asserted that this project of national importance would go a long way in improving the economy.

Tariq Mehmood said that the Expo Centre would make the federal capital a hub of business and investment activities and stressed the value addition of products to boost exports and revive the economy. He said that Gulberg Green was situated at an ideal location and many new development projects would be completed here.



HYFERABAD: Farmer girls picking cotton in the cotton field.

Gold rates decrease by Rs.15,500

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs. 15,500 and was sold at Rs. 199,500 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs.215,000 on September 09, 2023. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.13,546 to Rs.171,039 from Rs.184,585 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.156,786 from Rs.168,967 the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers.

Progressive Group for an authority to facilitate overseas Pakistanis

LAHORE (APP): Progressive Group in the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) called upon the government to set up a dedicated authority which should work for welfare of overseas Pakistanis. Progressive Group's President Khalid Usman and Deputy Secretary Muhammad Ejaz Tanveer, who are also members of the LCCI executive committee, told media here on Tuesday that there were over nine million Pakistanis living abroad contributing to the national foreign exchange by sending remittances of billions of dollars every year and playing their role in strengthening the national economy.

They added that such an authority should actively work to protect rights, including properties and security, of overseas Pakistanis. The authority could collaborate with law enforcement agencies to

provide security measures, reducing the risk of crime and ensuring their safety, they argued. They said encouraging overseas Pakistanis to invest in the country could boost the national economy. An authority can facilitate and promote investments, creating jobs and economic opportunities.

The Progressive Group office-bearers said investors should be given a 10-year tax-holiday on setting up industries in the country.

The both were of the view that setting up a dedicated authority could streamline various services for overseas Pakistanis such as visa processing, property registration and legal assistance. They said overseas Pakistanis could act as unofficial ambassadors, promoting Pakistan's interests and contributing to the country's soft image.

Advocating voting rights to overseas Pakistanis.



QUETTA: President Anjuman Tajiran Balochistan Rahim Agha presiding over meeting of Presidents and General Secretaries of markets of city.

Palestine-Israel war: Hamas tells residents of Israeli city Ashkelon to leave or face consequences

Monitoring Desk
GAZA STRIP: Al Qassam Brigades of the Palestinian group Hamas had warned the residents of the Israeli city of Ashkelon to leave their homes by 5 pm local time, in response to Israel's displacement of Palestinians.

Hamas's statement on Telegram said, "In response to the crime of the enemy displacing our people and forcing them to flee their homes in several areas of the Gaza Strip, we give the residents of the occupied city of Ashkelon time to leave before five o'clock in the evening."

Hamas fighters claimed to have hit Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport as part of ongoing rocket

attacks on Israel, however, the Israelis have refuted this.

Israel has responded by claiming that two top Hamas figures—its minister of economy, Jawad Abu Shamala, and Zakaria Abu Maamar, a member of Hamas's political office—were killed by its air force.

It comes after Israeli authorities said that 1,500 jihadi remains had been discovered on their soil during Saturday's unexpected strike.

More than 150 Israeli soldiers and civilians, according to Israel, have been abducted and are being held captive in Gaza.

Families have reportedly been abducted, leaving relatives in the dark about

what happened to them. Hamas has threatened to kill a hostage whenever Israel fires an airstrike in retaliation without giving civilians the time to flee.

According to Palestinian health officials, 4,000 people have been hurt in strikes so far, and 770 Palestinians have died in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas sources in Lebanon have told Sky News the "operation" on Saturday was in the planning for more than a year.

The source also went on to say that if Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expands the front, Hamas will too and their allies "will not leave Hamas in this battle alone".



Palestinians inspect the damage in the aftermath of Israeli strikes, in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip.

Russians who back Ukraine should be sent to region known for Gulag camps - Duma speaker

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russians who leave the country and support Ukraine should be sent to a far eastern region known for its Stalin-era Gulag prison camps if they ever return home, according to the speaker of Russia's State Duma lower house of parliament.

Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine and its subsequent mobilisation campaign prompted at least several hundred thousand Russians to leave their homeland, though it is unclear exactly how many.

More than a year and a half of war has made Russia a much shiller place; dissidents have been jailed; state television periodically discusses nuclear attacks on the West; and some politicians have suggested rather quixotic policies.

Vyacheslav Volodin, the speaker of the Duma, told lawmakers on Tuesday that those who had left Russia and rejoiced at

Ukrainian drone and missile attacks on their country should know that they were no longer welcome in their homeland.

"Those who left the country and committed despicable acts, rejoicing at the shots fired on the territory of the Russian Federation, wishing victory to the bloody Nazi Kyiv regime, should realise that no one is waiting for them here - but if they do come back, then Magadan will be provided for them," Volodin said.

For Russians, Magadan is synonymous with the Gulag - a series of forced labour camps where Russians were used as slave labour under Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

About 800,000 people are estimated to have passed through the camps of Magadan between 1932—seven years before the city was officially founded—and the mid-1950s.

Philippine diplomat witnessed Chinese ships' aggressive actions in disputed South China Sea

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: A senior Filipino diplomat known for his past explosive-laced tirade against China joined a coast guard trip to the disputed South China Sea last week and saw Beijing's ships block and nearly collide with Philippine vessels, including one he was on.

Teodoro Locsin Jr. was on one of two Philippine coast guard vessels that escorted two Philippine boats to deliver food and other supplies to a Filipino marine territorial outpost in the Second Thomas Shoal on Oct. 4, the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement on Tuesday. It was not immediately clear why the public disclosure of his participation in the trip was delayed.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. appointed Locsin, 74, as a special envoy to China in August, in addition to his role as the

Philippine ambassador to the United Kingdom based in London.

"We are confident that this firsthand information will allow him to effectively convey our concerns to China," Daza said.

As the Philippine foreign secretary under Marcos's predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, Locsin often lashed out with blunt language on social media at China's increasingly aggressive actions in the disputed waters.

When a swarm of Chinese boats converged in a Philippines-claimed reef in 2021, the then-foreign secretary demanded in a tweet that the Chinese get out, using an explosive-laced critique. "What are you doing to our friendship? You. Not us. We're trying. You. You're like an ugly oaf forcing your attentions on a handsome guy who wants to be a friend; not to father a Chinese province."



Afghan residents clear debris of damaged houses after earthquake in Nayeb Rafi village, Zendej Jan district of Herat province.

India arrests Vivo execs including one Chinese in money laundering case

News Desk
NEW DELHI: India's financial crime agency on Tuesday arrested four executives of Chinese smartphone maker Vivo, including one Chinese national, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

The arrests add to the legal troubles of the Chinese phone maker in India, and come amid rising tensions between Beijing and New Delhi over issues ranging from border disputes to India's increasing scrutiny of Chinese businesses and investment. Vivo and the country's Enforcement Directorate (ED) did not immediately respond to requests for comment made by email and telephone.

The executives were arrested in relation to an ongoing 2022 case where the ED raided the company's offices and accused it of money laundering, the first of the sources said.

Zelenskiy hails Ukraine-Romania ties on first visit since Russian invasion

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy hailed ties with Romania as a "factor of stability for Europe and beyond" on Tuesday as he visited the NATO member state for the first time since Russia's invasion last year.

Zelenskiy met President Klaus Iohannis, whose country is also in the European Union, at the start of a brief visit which the Ukrainian leader said would focus on security in the Black Sea region and also discuss developing an aviation coalition.

The Romanian port of Constanța has become Ukraine's main export route for grain via Ukrainian ports on the Danube River since Russia quit a deal in mid-July that had guaranteed safe shipments via three Ukrainian Black Sea ports.



NEW YORK: Demonstrators gather in support of the Palestinian people during a rally for Gaza outside the Consulate of Israel.

US-China relations impact 'destiny of mankind', Xi tells top senator

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Monday that China-US ties would impact the "destiny of mankind", as he met with a group of American senators in Beijing.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer is the latest high-level US official to go to China as Washington seeks to ease tensions with Beijing, leading a six-person delegation.

"How China and the United States get along with each other in the face of a world of change and turmoil will determine the future and destiny of mankind," Xi said as he met with

Schumer at Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

"I have said many times, including to several presidents, that we have 1,000 reasons to improve China-US relations, but not one reason to ruin them," Xi said, adding China-US ties are "the most important bilateral relationship in the world".

Schumer later told reporters the meeting with Xi lasted 80 minutes, double the allotted time. Earlier China's

top diplomat Wang Yi said he hoped Washington and Beijing could manage their differences "more rationally". Meeting with Schumer at Beijing's Diaoyutai State Guest-house, Foreign Minister Wang told the senate delegation he hoped their visit would help the two sides "manage existing differences more rationally, helping the relationship between the two countries return to the track of healthy development".

Wang also said he hoped they would "more accurately understand China" after the trip, which he said comes as the world is in a "turbulent period of change".

Thousands of Afghans out in cold after deadly quakes

KABUL (APP): Thousands of Afghans who survived a powerful earthquake that killed more than 2,000 people were bracing for a winter of homelessness on Tuesday, as rescuers made last-ditch efforts to find survivors.

Volunteers have worked with spades and pickaxes in Herat province since Saturday's deadly magnitude 6.3 quake—followed by powerful aftershocks—while others dug graves instead.

The United Nations said more than 12,000 people, from some 1,700

families, are estimated to have been affected.

It said "100 per cent" of homes were destroyed in 11 villages of Zenda Jan district. Zareen, in the village of Nayeb Rafi, where 11 of his family members were killed in the crush of falling masonry, said aid tents would not withstand the winter storms.

"If the government doesn't take us away or help us, we will be stuck here," the man in his 70s told AFP. Providing shelter on a large scale will be a challenge for Afghanistan's Taliban authorities, who seized power in August 2021.

Colombia compares Gaza siege to 'Nazism'

Monitoring Desk
BOGOTA: Colombia's President Gustavo Petro on Monday compared Israel's targeting of Gaza to the Nazi actions against Jews.

In reply to a statement by Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant announcing a "complete siege" of Gaza, Petro said: "This is what the Nazis said of the Jews."

Writing on X, the Colombian president added that "democratic peoples cannot allow Nazism to re-establish itself in international politics".

He said Gallant's wording amounted to "hate speech" which, if allowed to continue.



U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., speaks during a press roundtable with Schumer and his delegation at the residence of U.S. Ambassador to China, in Beijing.

Facing Beijing's threats, Taiwan president says peace 'only option' to resolve political differences

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: Peace between Taiwan and China is the "only option," Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen said Tuesday, while strongly asserting the self-governing island's defenses against Beijing's threats to invade.

Tsai said in a National Day address that the international community views stability in the Taiwan Strait as an "indispensable component of global security and prosperity."

China claims Taiwan as its own territory and has been increasingly sending ships and warplanes across

the Taiwan Strait in an effort to intimidate the population of 23 million, who strongly favor the status-quo of de-facto independence.

Tsai's Democratic Progressive Party will seek to maintain power in elections next year against the Nationalists, who officially support unification between the sides that divided amid civil war in 1949.

"Let me reiterate that peace is the only option across the Taiwan Strait," said Tsai, who will step down after two terms in office.

Khaleda Zia at 'high risk of death', say doctors

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Bangladeshi doctors said on Monday opposition leader Khaleda Zia was at "high risk" of dying without urgent medical intervention abroad after authorities rejected a plea to let her leave the country.

Zia, 78, is a two-time former prime minister who heads the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and has been living under effective house arrest since her release from a 17-year prison sentence in 2020.

Outrage after Indian police dump corpse in canal

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Police in one of India's most lawless states have been caught on camera throwing the body of a road accident victim into a canal, triggering outrage on Monday.

The video, which has gone viral, shows three policemen in the state of Bihar carrying the bloodied victim to a bridge barrier before levering him over the edge into the waters below, as bystanders looked on.

The video has garnered more than 800,000 views since being posted on Sunday. Police in India are widely regarded as corrupt

and ineffective, and Bihar—which has a population of more than 100 million people—is one of the country's poorest and least developed states.

A senior police officer of Muzaffarpur district said his men "only threw the lower half" of the man into the water as it was badly crushed by a speeding truck and could not be salvaged. "It was the body of an elderly man who is yet to be identified. The upper half was sent for post-mortem but the lower half was badly mangled so they threw it in the canal," said Rakesh Kumar.

NATO equips peacekeeping force in Kosovo with heavier armament to have "combat power"

Monitoring Desk
PRISTINA: A NATO top commander said Tuesday the alliance equipped its peacekeeping force in Kosovo with weapons of "combat power" following a recent shootout between masked Serb gunmen and Kosovo police that left four people dead and sent tensions soaring in the region.

Adm. Stuart B. Munsch of the Allied Joint Force Command Naples, Italy said that a battalion of some 200 troops from the United Kingdom and 100 others from Romania "is bringing heavier armament in order to have combat power to" the NATO-led Kosovo Force, or KFOR, but didn't elaborate further.

The KFOR peacekeepers—made up of

around 4,500 troops from 27 nations—have been in Kosovo since June 1999, basically with light armament and vehicles. The 1998-1999 war between Serbia and Kosovo ended after a 78-day NATO bombing campaign forced Serbian forces to withdraw from Kosovo. More than 10,000 people died, mostly Kosovo Albanians.

On Sept. 24, around 30 Serb gunmen killed a Kosovo police officer and then set up barricades in northern Kosovo before launching an hours-long gun battle with Kosovo police. Three gunmen were killed.

NATO had first increased its troops with some 600 Turkish ones after the May 29 clashes with ethnic Serbs.

North Korea says military satellite key to countering US 'space militarisation'

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea's spy satellite program is an "indispensable" measure to counter U.S. space militarisation aimed at beefing up the United States' preemptive nuclear striking capability and securing "world supremacy," state media KCNA said on Tuesday.

Ri Song Jin, whom KCNA described as a researcher of the National Aerospace Technology Administration, accused the United States of seeking greater military hegemony in Asia by expanding its space force in an article titled "U.S. space force deployment aimed at preemptive aggression war".

Ri singled out a recent trip by the U.S. Space Force commander to Tokyo, and the deployment of a Space Force component in South Korea, where its members took part in joint military drills for the first time this year.

Such moves were "nothing but a camouflaged curtain to cover up the scenario for preemptive attack on the anti-U.S. and independent countries," Ri said, mentioning North Korea, China and Russia. "Now that the U.S. is getting hell-bent on space militarisation with a preemptive nuclear attack as its ultimate target by massively introducing space force into the Korean peninsula and its vicinity," Ri said, "space development, including a military reconnaissance satellite, is an indispensable strategic option for guaranteeing the security interests and right to existence of the DPRK."

Russia faces a tough fight to regain its seat in the UN's top human rights body

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: Russia faces a tough fight to regain a seat in the U.N.'s premier human rights body in Tuesday's election in the General Assembly, which voted last year to suspend Moscow after its invasion of Ukraine.

The 193-member assembly will be electing 15 members to the Geneva-based Human Rights Council, with candidates put forward by the U.N.'s five regional groups.

Russia is competing against Albania and Bulgaria for two seats allotted to the East European regional group, and Moscow's U.N. ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia, accused the United States on Monday of leading a campaign to prevent their return to the council.

The United States and others have sent letters to many of the 193 members of the General Assembly urging a vote against Russia, according to diplomats. Felice Gaer, director of the American Jewish Committee's Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights, was among the non-

government letter-writers also urging Russia's defeat. Albania's U.N. Ambassador Ferit Hoxha also urged those who care about human rights and "the credibility of the Human Rights Council and its work" to oppose a country that kills innocent people, destroys civilian infrastructure, ports and grain silos "and then takes pride in doing so."

U.S. deputy ambassador Robert Wood told the Security Council that Russia's re-election to the Human Rights Council "while it openly continues to commit war crimes and other atrocities would be an ugly stain that would undermine the credibility of the institution and the United Nations."

In April 2022, less than two months after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the General Assembly voted 93-24 with 58 abstentions on a U.S.-initiated resolution to suspend Russia from the Human Rights Council over allegations that its soldiers in Ukraine engaged in rights violations that the U.S. and Ukraine called war crimes.

Inquiry hears Afghan killings claims against UK forces

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: UK special forces allegedly had a policy of executing "fighting age" males in Afghanistan even if they posed no threat, an independent inquiry probing claims of unlawful killings was told on Monday.

The inquiry, which opened in March but has now started substantive hearings at London's Royal Courts of Justice, is investigating accusations about the special forces' conduct in Afghanistan between 2010 and 2013.

It is examining so-called deliberate detention operations during that period and how allegations of unlawful killings were investigated by Britain's military police, in particular whether there were any cover-ups.

The independent inquiry follows legal challenges by the families of some of the dozens of people allegedly mur-

dered by UK special forces during night raids. It is set to hear submissions on behalf of the families of 33 people, including eight children, who were allegedly killed.

Detailing some of the cases being reviewed, lawyer to the inquiry Oliver Glasgow revealed a British soldier was said to have subsequently admitted "there was a policy in special forces to kill fighting age males".

Glasgow noted the claim had been discovered in a "restricted security" dossier recovered years later that detailed a conversation with the soldier.

The lawyer added there were also accusations that Afghan partner units "refused to serve with UK special forces due to their behaviour".

"Let there be no misunderstanding for those who have something to hide," Glasgow said in his opening submission.

President for greater collaborations to improve recovery of children

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday called for greater collaborations among civil society, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and national and provincial government departments to raise awareness about the issue of abducted and missing children.

He said that steps should be taken to ensure the implementation of Zainab Alert Response & Recovery Act (ZARRA) 2020 throughout the country to protect and safeguard our children.

The president expressed these views while chairing a meeting regarding the implementation of the ZARRA 2020, at Aiwan-e-

Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary Ministry of Human Rights Allah Dino Khawaja, Director General ZARRA, representatives of different NGOs working for children's rights, and senior government officials.

During the meeting, the president emphasized the need for awareness at the grassroots level about the ZARRA and the responsibility of police officials to ensure timely registration of complaints and FIRs about missing children.

He also called for raising awareness about the

ZARRA helpline "1099" among the people to register complaints.

The president said that the response time of the local police to missing children's complaints should be improved and they should take prompt action to find missing children as the first 24 hours after a child's disappearance were critical for their recovery.

He called for increasing cooperation among civil society and government departments to protect and recover missing children, besides providing psycho-social counseling to affected children and their families.

During the meeting, the president highlighted



QUETTA: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar, Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar and Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki coming out of airport.



MUZAFFERABAD: Activists of Pasban-e-Hurriyat holds protest and burns Israiclan flag at Azadi Chowk to show solidarity with Palestinian People.

At UN, Indian and Pakistani delegates spar over Kashmir, otter issues

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistani and Indian delegates Monday engaged in a fresh verbal duel at the United Nations that resulted from last week's speech by Pakistani Ambassador Munir Akram in which he highlighted that Kashmiris and Palestinians were among the peoples still denied the right to self-determination.

Ambassador Akram had also called India's occupation of Jammu and Kashmir as the "worst manifestation of modern-day colonialism."

Reacting to Pakistani envoy's comments, Indian delegate Nitish Bardi argued that the U.N. had established the right of self-determination principle as a vehicle for the decolonization of the remaining 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories and not as a justification for undermining the territorial integrity of any member state.

Governor grieved over death of Maulvi Akhuzada

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of JUI leader and former Provincial Minister for Forests and Wildlife, Maulvi Abdul Samad Akhuzada.

In a condolence statement issued here on Tuesday, the Governor said that late Maulvi Akhuzada was a thorough nice person and religious scholar.

He prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into its eternal peace and give patience and enough strength to the bereaved family to bear the tragic loss.

Privatization process being advanced protecting public interests: Fawad Hasan Fawad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Privatization Fawad Hasan Fawad on Tuesday said the government was taking forward the privatization process in a transparent manner while ensuring the protection of public interest.

Addressing a news conference along with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi, he highlighted the importance of privatizing loss-making State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) to enable them to compete effectively in the evolving global economy.

Fawad Hasan Fawad specifically noted that the privatization of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) aimed at bolstering the country's aviation industry, positioning Pakistan as a potential regional aviation hub.

Regarding the Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM), the minister indicated that the government planned to present the matter to the federal cabinet, which will then make a decision in due course.

He assured that a robust regulatory control regime would be in place to safeguard public interests throughout the process.

Fawad Hasan Fawad expressed regret over the past governments' failure to adequately address the country's economic challenges. He reminded that privatization efforts commenced in 1994, with some cases still pending in the courts.

However, he reaffirmed the caretaker government's commitment to fulfilling the responsibilities entrusted to it by the elected governments, emphasizing their adherence to the given mandate.

Solangi lauds Pakistan Sweet Home's services for orphans & needy children

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday lauded the remarkable services rendered by Pakistan Sweet Home and its Patron in Chief Zamarud Khan for the welfare of orphans and needy children.

The minister, in a meeting with Zamarud Khan, acknowledged Pakistan Sweet Home's role in providing protection, quality education, and effective grooming to marginalized segments of society.

Solangi said the children who received education from the organization had excelled in every aspect of life.

Zamarud Khan, while expressing his gratitude, said Pakistan Sweet Home had successfully achieved its objectives by imparting modern education to the children under its care.

He hoped that the children would play vital role in the country's important sectors in the future.

During the meeting, both the dignitaries discussed matters of mutual interests.

Secretary Health says CPSP can play a key role in efficient provision of health facilities in Balochistan

QUETTA: Secretary Health Balochistan Asfand Yar Kakar, President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan Prof. Department regarding the better provision of health facilities in Balochistan, while increasing the technical support of Makran

Khalid Masood Gondal met in Quetta and discussed the important aspects of health department and various health issues in Balochistan.

All members of CPSP were also present.

A seminar was also organized on the occasion of CPSP President's visit to Quetta.

In the seminar, it was agreed to further develop relations between CPSP and Balochistan Health

Man killed in road accident

QUETTA (APP): A man died in a collision between a car and a motorbike on the National Highway near the Dast' Spezand area of the Mastung district on Tuesday.

According to Levies sources, the victim identified as Abdul Shakoor resident of Dasth Matura was on his way to somewhere on a motorcycle when a speedy car hit him near Dasth.

As a result, he died on the spot after receiving serious injuries.

The body of the deceased was handed over to the heirs after completion of medico-legal formalities.

Levies force has registered a case.

Bilawal for ensuring education, safety of girls

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has urged that as a nation, more efforts are still needed to ensure the education and safety of young girls in our country.

He said that the entire nation has to work together to prevent issues like discrimination against girls, domestic violence, forced labour and early marriages.

The Chairman PPP, in his message on the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child, said that the girl children of Pakistan are also brave and talented like Pakistani women.

He said that the government and the society are bound to provide a friendly and harmonious environment including better education and health facilities to the girl child.

"If given a better environment and opportunity to exercise their due rights, our girls have the potential to change the situation," he noted.

Chairman Bilawal said that PPP believes in equal rights and equality for all citizens in the country.

PTI chairman cannot be allowed to talk to his sons, jailer tells court

ISLAMABAD (INP): The incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former prime minister cannot be allowed to talk to his sons, the Adiala jail superintendent told a special court on Tuesday.

The PTI Chairman Imran Khan was sent to jail on August 5 following his conviction in the Toshakhana case and later was shifted to the Adiala Jail in cipher case.

Forest fire extinguished in Duki's Marjanzai Tambil Mountain

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Duki Fayyaz Ali on Tuesday said that the forest fire in Marjanzai Tambil Mountain was brought under control after three days.

District administration including the Levies Force, and Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Forest Department teams have taken part in the operation and extinguished the forest fire to save and protect the valuable forests.

Fayyaz Ali expressed these views while visiting affected areas of the forest in Loni Marjanzai Tambil Mountain of Duki area which was brought under control for three days.

He said that forests were our valuable assets, the protection of which was the responsibility of all of us.

He also appreciated the Forest Department Officials and other teams for the successful operation and for saving the forest in the area.

UNHCR officials meet DIG police Loralai Range; discusses refugees issues

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The UNHCR Balochistan's senior official, Tesfaye Bejene along with other officials met the Deputy Inspector General of police Loralai Range, Nazir Ahmed Kurd in Loralai on Tuesday.

During the meeting, issues of the Afghan refugees were discussed.

DIG police said that the Afghan refugees settled here are being treated as per the laws of United Nations.

The action would be taken illegal immigrants under the government's policy, he added.

He stressed that all the refugees should carry the valid documents with them.

Former Deputy Chairman Senate and leader of Pakistan People's Party Saleem Mandviwala addressing party workers. Provincial President PPP Changez Jamali and General Secretary Rozi Khan are also present.

Speakers say Youth to keep away from drugs & social evils by engaging them in sports activities

QUETTA (APP)-Leaders of Pakistan People's Party (PPP)'s Balochistan on Tuesday said that youth could be kept away from drugs and other social evils by engaging them in healthy activities and sports, there was no lack of talent among the youth of province.

If they are provided with proper opportunities, they can shine the name of Pakistan not only in Pakistan but also abroad. Players are ambassadors of any country, Pakistan People's Party believes in bringing the youth forward in every field.

These views were expressed by the President of PPP's Balochistan Chapter Mir Changaz Khan Jamali, Former Federal Minister Sardar Umar Khan Gorgaji.

Deputy Information Secretary Qasim Khan Achakzai, provincial leader Eng. Mah Jabeen Jamali, Sana Durrani, Sajida Bengulzai at ceremony of distributing the Shaheed Ms. Benzir Bhutto Award to International and national players of Hazara Town under the auspices of PPP Hazara Town.

People from different walks of life also attended it.

The speakers said that PPP was the only political party which took steps to solve the problems of the youth whenever it came to power and attracted them towards positive activities.

They will ask the Caretaker Provincial sports Minister Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani to give full support to players of Balochistan including Hazara young players in sports, they said.

They said that youth could be kept away from other social evils including drugs by attracting them to sports.

Players belonging to the Hazara nation have made the country and the province famous by winning not only national but also international competitions, they said.

They said that Pakistan People's Party is a party of martyrs, adding that Pakistan People's Party would ensure the provision of employment and other facilities to the youth after coming to power after achieving full success in the upcoming general elections.

Earlier, Shaheed Ms. Benazir Bhutto Award was distributed among best performance of players belonging to Hazara Town by Mir Changaz Khan Jamali and other leaders.



QUETTA: Former Deputy Chairman Senate and leader of Pakistan People's Party Saleem Mandviwala addressing party workers. Provincial President PPP Changez Jamali and General Secretary Rozi Khan are also present.



LORALAI: Head of UNHCR Balochistan and its Admin Officer meeting with DIG Police Loralai Range Nazir Ahmed Kurd.

PTA hosts meeting with religious scholars to promote safe, responsible use social media

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) took a significant step towards fostering safe and responsible internet usage by organizing a meeting with prominent religious scholars at PTA Headquarters.

The event marked a collaborative effort between the PTA and religious leaders to address the challenges of social media and the internet while promoting a digital environment that aligns with cultural and religious values.

The meeting was attended by Islamic scholars from various schools of thought including Dr. Qibla

Ayaz, Chairman Council of Islamic Ideology (CII); Moulana Abdul Khabeer Azad, Chairman of Ruet-e-Hilal Committee and Maulana Tariq Jameel among others. Senior PTA officers were also present at this occasion. The event commenced with a welcome note from the Director-General of the Web Analysis Division (WAD) PTA, who provided an overview of the PTA's initiatives. Chairman PTA, Maj General @ Hafeez Ur Rehman addressed the audience and highlighted the pivotal role of religious scholars in guiding the masses toward ethical.

Quetta Customs seizes goods worth of Rs 450 m in first week of October

QUETTA (APP): The Quetta Customs has seized smuggled goods worth of over Rs 450 million in various operations conducted during the first week of October.

According to Customs official, the Quetta Customs, in cooperation with other law enforcement agencies has seized a large quantity of drugs, ice, crystal, chalia, pan prag, sugar, urea fertilizer, cigarettes, cloths, spare parts, auto parts, black tea, Iranian food items, foreign medicines, cosmetics, confectionery,

tyres, non-customs paid vehicles and other goods during various operations.

He said the value of the non-custom paid goods is more than Rs 450 million.

The efforts taken by the Customs officials has been significantly reduced the smuggling in the province.

Quetta Customs is committed to eliminate the menace of smuggling and will continue intensifying its anti-smuggling operations across the province, he added.



QUETTA: Director General Public Relations Muhammad Noor Khetran distributing prizes among students who got positions in competitions at Children Academy.