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Section for right of appeal declared in line with Constitution.

SC sustains parliament's act clipping CJP's powers

Apex court by majority of 10 to 5 has upheld the Supreme Court (Practice & Procedure) Act 2023; Justices Ijazul Ahsan, Muneeb Akhtar, Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Ayesha Malik and Shahid Waheed dissent verdict; court rules retrospective right of appeal unconstitutional.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday sustained the SC Practice and Procedure Act 2023, and dismissed the petitions against it while announcing the short order.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa pronounced the short order, which was reserved earlier

by a 15-member full court bench after all respondents concluded their arguments.

The chief justice said that ten members of the full court bench out of 15 had declared the legislation passed by the Parliament with reference to the powers of the Chief Justice as correct. The CJP said that

the full court has declared the petitions filed against the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act, 2023 as inadmissible by majority opinion.

The short order available with this scribe said, "By a majority of 10 to 5 (Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice

Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Ayesha A. Malik and Justice Shahid Waheed dissenting) the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023 ('the Act') is sustained as being in accordance with the Constitution of the Islamic Re-

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QUETTA: President & Chief Executive Officer Barrick Gold Corporation Mark Baristow meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki



ISLAMABAD: H.E. Mr. Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China calls on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

PM reassures timely completion of CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said that Pakistan and China were fully committed to ensuring the success of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the government would continue to work closely with the Chinese authorities to ensure timely implementation and completion of various projects envisaged under CPEC.

The prime minister was talking to Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Jiang Zaidong who called on him, PM Office

Media Wing said in a press release.

The caretaker prime minister said that Pakistan and China enjoyed a unique relationship as 'All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partners, Iron Brothers' and trusted friends.

He lauded the vision and leadership of President Xi Jinping, particularly the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Prime Minister Kakar also noted the centrality of CPEC in enhancing economic, trade and technological ties between the two countries and highlighted its role as the flagship project of BRI.

Governor calls for accountability of former representatives, vote for good ones in next elections

Wali Kakar grieved over lack of basic facilities, poor conditioned roads and cleanliness situation in Dera Murad Jamali and adjoining areas as he travelled there by road from Quetta

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has expressed disappointment and sorrow over the lack of basic facilities, dilapidated condition of roads and poor state of cleanliness in Dera Murad Jamali and its adjoining areas.

He was particularly pained to see the hard life particularly of the women in these areas.

The Governor was speaking during visit to the new campus of Lasbela university of Agriculture, water and Marine Sciences

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NASEERABAD: Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar distribute laptop among participant during the Laptop distribution ceremony of PM Youth Laptop Scheme Phase-III held at University College of Dera Murad Jamali, in Naseerabad.

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

19 DAYS REMAINING

in f @GovtOfPakistan

Don't see any possibility of delay in polls: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said the possibility of any delay in general elections, said that the polls would be announced and conducted on time.

"I don't see any possibility (of delay in elections). I don't have any confusion at all. I feel the elections will be announced and conducted on time," the prime minister said in an interview with a private television channel.

Reiterating his government's resolve to hold free and fair elections, he said all the registered political parties had legal and constitutional rights to canvass, mobilize people and attract public support.

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ECP assures political parties of code of conduct revision

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has pledged to make essential changes to the draft code of conduct for the upcoming elections in response to the concerns of political parties.

In a meeting presided over by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja here Wednesday, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) pledged to amend the code of ethics based on feedback from political parties, with the aim of guaranteeing equitable and transparent elections.

Apart from the members of the Election Commission, representatives of various political parties and senior officers of the Election Commission participated in the meeting.

Convened under Section 233 of the Elections Act, this meeting aimed to engage with political parties regarding the code of conduct for the forthcoming general elections. The Election Commission collected input from political parties concerning the draft code of conduct and received their suggestions for its improvement.

A terrorist killed in retaliatory action after attack on FC post

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): A terrorist was killed in retaliatory fire by law enforcement personnel as unknown militants launched an attack on the Frontier Constabulary (FC) post near Karri, Jandola, Tank last night.

According to police, SHO Jandola police station Noor Aslam Khan received information that unknown miscreants attacked the post of FC near Karri with small and large weapons and the personnel in the post also fired back under the right of self-defence.

After receiving information, a heavy contingent of police and security forces from FC Fort Jandola rushed to the spot and started retaliatory fire, which continued for about two and a half hours.

Federal Cabinet calls for immediate halt of Israel's bombing on Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday said the Federal Cabinet had called for an immediate halt to Israeli bombardment of civilian areas of Gaza, in addition to lifting of blockade for the provision of relief items to the civil population.

He said the Cabinet meeting, presided over by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, also called for prompt measures to allow international aid to reach the civilians in the Gaza.

Addressing a news conference along with Minister for Privatization Fawad Hassan Fawad, he said the forum strongly condemned Israel's bombardment, particularly targeting civil population in Gaza besides expressing concern over the volatile situation, stemming from Israel's illegal occupa-

tion, oppression of Palestinians for decades, and blatant violations of United Nations Security Council Resolutions in this regard.

The Federal Cabinet stressed that the issue of Palestine should be resolved in accordance with relevant UNSC resolution, he said, adding it also called for the restoration of pre-1967 status of Palestine.

He said the Federal Cabinet reiterated Pakistan's principled stance for the resolution of the Palestine issue in line with the aspirations of its people.

Solangi said the forum reiterated the proposal for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with its borders predating Israel's illegal occupation in 1967 as well as Beit-ul-Quds (Jerusalem) as its capital.

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ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi conferring the award of Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon the Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed Forces, Lt. General (Pilot) Salem Hamad Eqaal Al-Nabet, at a special investiture ceremony, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President for stronger economic, defence ties with Qatar

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday called for further strengthening ties with Qatar in the fields of economy and defence for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly countries.

The president expressed these views while talking to the visiting Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed Forces, Lt Gen (Pilot) Salem Hamad Eqaal Al-Nabet, who along with the members of his delegation called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today.

Pakistan's Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, and senior officials of the government also attended the meeting.

The president said that Pakistan and Qatar enjoyed excellent relations, which needed to be translated into mutually rewarding business and economic ties.

Welcoming the delega-

tion, President Alvi said that year 2023 would mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Qatar and expressed the hope that cooperation between the two countries would be further enhanced in the years to come.

He expressed his gratitude to Qatar for providing humanitarian assistance during last year's floods as well as financial support to Pakistan during difficult times.

The president congratulated Qatar for successfully holding the FIFA 2022 Football World Cup.

He also congratulated the Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed Forces on the conferment of the award of Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) upon him in recognition of his role in promoting cooperation between the Armed Forces of the two brotherly countries.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi along with Fawad Hassan Fawad, Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatization briefing the media on Federal Cabinet decisions in Islamabad.

Natural resources are important for province's development: Interim Govt of Balochistan welcomes foreign investors, says Chief Minister

President & Chief Executive Barrick Gold Corporation Mark Baristow briefs about steps taken by Corporation for investment and social welfare; Mr. Ali Mardan Domki satisfied with services, vows to make mutual efforts for success of Reko Dik project

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has expressed satisfaction over the services of Barrick Gold Corporation for investment and social sector under Corporate Social Responsibility.

He said that the caretaker provincial government welcomes the foreign investors in the province. The Chief Minister was speaking to the President and Chief Executive of Barrick Gold Corporation, Mr Mark Bristow, who called on him here on Wednesday.

Mr. Bristow apprised

the Chief Minister about the steps taken by the corporation for investment and social welfare in the province.

While welcoming Mr. Mark Baristow, the Chief Minister expressed satisfaction over the services of his corporation for investment and social sector.

He on the occasion pointed out that Balochistan is rich in the mineral resources and these resources are very important for development and economic self sufficiency of the province.

He said that government of Balochistan considers Barrick Gold Corpo-

ration a key partner and has resolve to expand the circle of investment in future.

He said that this project is of very importance for opportunities of technical training and employment for people of the province.

He hoped that the standard of living would be improved with the resources allocated for social welfare under the project.

In addition to this, the local people would also get opportunities of quality education through scholarships.

He pledged to make mutual efforts for success of the mega project.

Balochistan delegation calls on PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation from Balochistan headed by former Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik on Wednesday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here.

In the meeting, they discussed the issues faced by Balochistan province and the steps for their resolution, under the prime minister's leadership.

The participants of the meeting viewed that the foreign investment in the mining sector of Balochistan under the Special Investment Facilitation Council was welcoming.

Nawaz Sharif leaves for Saudi Arabia

LONDON (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif left for Saudi Arabia on a private visit before returning to Pakistan on October 21.

According to details, the three-time prime minister will depart for Jeddah via Saudi Airlines flight SV 116 as he left for London Airport.

A number of PML-N workers were present outside Avenfield House, from where Nawaz Sharif departed for London Airport.

Apex Committee decides to probe 10 years of dev. projects' funds: Jan

Says corrupt elements will have to face consequences; Sets 10 days' deadline before crackdown on oil smugglers

QUETTA (APP): Caretaker Balochistan Minister for Information Jan Achakzai on Wednesday said that in the Apex Committee meeting has decided to investigate the ongoing development funds released in the province during the last ten years.

He said that the meeting decided that ten days gave time to those involved in oil smuggling, after which the smuggling boats would be destroyed.

He expressed these views while holding a news conference at the press club in Quetta along with In-

terim Home Captain (Retired) Zubair Ahmad Jamali and Interim Minister Agriculture Asif-ur Rehman Dummer.

The Minister said that the Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir said in the meeting of the Apex Committee yesterday that corruption has entered into our DNA, he also warned that if the curse was not removed, there would be great loss.

In yesterday's meeting, the determination to eradicate corruption has been expressed that a clear and

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QUETTA: Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

BITT seeks drastic measures for Balochistan uplift

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan International Think Tank (BITT) and Friends of Universe Society Pakistan organized a seminar titled "Valuable resources of Balochistan and solution to Balochistan's economic problems" at Quetta Press Club here.

Chairman Pashtun-Khwa Milli Awami Party, Mehmood Khan Achakzai chaired the session also attended by the political leaders and former member of the legislative assemblies including Abdul Rauf Mengal, Abdul Rahim Ziaratwal, Dr Hamid Khan Achakzai, Dr Ishaq Baloch, Mir Changez Jamali, Sana Durrani, senior journalist Shehzadar Zulfiqar, President BITT Owais Jadoon

and others. Addressing the seminar Mehmood Khan Achakzai, chairman of the Pashtun Khaw Mili Awami Party said establishing an atmosphere of brotherhood between Afghanistan and Pakistan will bring peace, development and prosperity in the region.

"We do not want charity from anyone, Allah Almighty has given us the resources, acknowledging and provision of due right to Balochistan is the only demand we are striving for," he stressed.

He said, being a pro-democracy party, we do not want to break Pakistan; rather we will fight on every front for the defense of Pakistan. We should be re-

ognized as equal citizens and provided basic facilities of life and access to resources.

This is not such a big demand that it cannot be fulfilled.

PKMAP chairman deplored that natural gas discovered from Sui area of Balochistan is delivered to every nook and corner of the country, but the people of Dera Bugti where it is excavated are still deprived of this blessing.

Speakers including Abdul Rauf Mengal, Abdul Rahim Ziaratwal, Dr. Hamid Khan Achakzai, Dr. Ishaq Baloch, Mir Changez Jamali, Sana Durrani, senior journalist Shehzadar

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Aneeq Ahmed says Holy Quran's wisdom promotes for global citizenship, sustainable dev.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Wednesday highlighted the unique perspective that the Holy Quran provides, linking it with various areas of Social Sciences and offering valuable teachings on their practical aspects.

Addressing the first International Conference on Social Sciences, themed 'Reconsidering Social Sciences Paradigms for Global Citizenship and Sustainable Development' here at National University of Modern Languages (NUML), he said fields such as Education, Psychology, International Relations, Media Communi-

cations, Governance and Public Policy, Pakistan Studies, Islamic Studies, and Area Studies share the common objective of enhancing human societies, human behavior, and interactions between nations and cultures.

Minister Aneeq said in the realm of Education, the Holy Quran emphasizes the acquisition of knowledge, stating that "Seeking knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim." He said this underscores the importance of education for personal growth and societal development. He said the Holy Quran's encouragement of reflection and contemplation also plays a pivotal role in this regard.

He said Psychology, too, benefits from Quranic teachings, promoting self-reflection, mindfulness, and self-control.

He said the Holy Quran encourages believers to control their anger, practice gratitude, and foster positive mental states.

He said in terms of International Relations, the Holy Quran emphasizes peaceful coexistence and diplomacy, inviting people of different faiths to find common ground and work towards mutual understanding and respect.

He said this commitment to resolving differences through dialogue is exemplified through various verses.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Provincial Advisor Mir Danish Lango meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Don't see any possibility....

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However, he said the government would not be responsible if someone was legally barred from the political process.

To a question, he emphasized effective law enforcement saying that his government, with the cooperation from military leadership, had implemented the existing laws to crack down the illegal currency businesses and hoarders. He also called for the capacity building of the civilian institutions for the implementation of the law.

The prime minister said the establishment of the democratic system within the political parties was essential for democracy in the country.

To a question, he said being a political player, he had interacted with all political leaders before assuming the office but never thought of joining any party, though being a citizen, he had the right to join a party or form his own.

Rubbishing the allegations of the caretaker government's tilt towards the PML-N, he said the political parties usually create

such impressions before the elections with a view to attracting public support.

Prime Minister Kakar appreciated the leadership qualities of Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir and said that Pakistan's future was in capable and committed hands.

To a question, he said he was comfortable with the military leadership and that the caretaker government had the final say in the decision-making.

Asked whether Nawaz Sharif was victimized, the prime minister said the questions were always raised about the judicial interventions as different parties had varying views on the respective subjects.

Coming to the cipher issue, Kakar said it was a state's property, and exposing it for other than the prescribed usage was unjustified, though the court has yet to ascertain its illegality. The prime minister said in the 2013 and 2018 elections, he had voted for PTI to seek solutions for the country's issues like infrastructure, economy, foreign policy and branding of Pakistan, not for attacking the GHQ.

SC sustains parliament's act...

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public of Pakistan and to this extent the petitions are dismissed.

It further said, "By a majority of 9 to 6 (Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Sayeed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Ayesha A. Malik and Justice Shahid Waheed dissenting), the sub-section (1) of Section 5 of the Act (granting a right of appeal prospectively) is declared to be in accordance with the Constitution and to this extent the petitions are dismissed.

The short order read, "By a majority of 8 to 7 (Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Athar Minalah and Justice Musarrat Hilali dissenting) sub-section (2) of section 5 of the Act (grant-

ing a right of appeal prospectively) is declared to be ultra vires the Constitution and to this extent the petitions are allowed.

Earlier, the top court had reserved its verdict after all respondent concluded their arguments in the said case. During this day hearing Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan concluded his arguments before the bench.

He also gave answers of various questions raised by members of the full court bench.

It should be noted that earlier, an eight-member bench of the top court headed by former Chief Justice Umar Atta Bandial had issued a stay order against this law in April this year, which has remained in place for about six months, but today (Wednesday) the full court has rejected the petitions filed against the act while declaring it inadmissible.



CAIRO: Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan met with H.E. Minister of Health, Bahriah Dr. Jaleela bint AlSayed Jawad Hasan on the sidelines of the 70th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Middle East held in Cairo.

Malala calls for immediate ceasefire b/w Hamas-Israel

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistani Nobel laureate and human rights activist Malala Yousafzai has called for immediate ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

Human rights activist Malala Yousafzai while expressing her support for immediate ceasefire between Israel and Hamas said as I have seen heart wrenching news of the recent days, my focus is on Palestinian and Israeli children during it who have been adversely affected in war like situation.

Recalling her childhood days she said she was 11 years old when she witnessed violence and terrorism with her own eyes. We woke up with the sound of mortar shelling early in the morning. We witnessed our mosques and schools becoming destroyed. Peace had become such thing which we could dream only.



QUETTA: Former Provincial Minister Haji Ali Madad Jattak meeting with caretaker Provincial Minister for Sports and Culture Nawabzada Jamal Raisani

10 dead and 1188 injured in 1144 road traffic crashes in punjab

LAHORE: The Emergency Services Department (ESD) responded to 1144 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. In these RTCs, 10 people died, whereas 1188 were injured. Out of these, 571 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 617 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals.

Rohit batters Afghanistan as India romp to second consecutive World Cup win

Sports Desk

NEW DELHI: World Cup hosts India sailed to their second successive win of the event following captain Rohit Sharma's incendiary century in one of the finest knocks in the tournament's history set up their eight-wicket thrashing of Afghanistan on Wednesday.

World Cup hosts India cantered to their second successive win of the tournament after captain Rohit Sharma's incendiary century set up their eight-wicket thrashing of Afghanistan on Wednesday.

Rohit belted 131 off 84 balls, clobbering five sixes and 16 fours, as twice champions India chased down a 273-run victory target with 15 overs to spare at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

Virat Kohli made 55 not, sealing the easy win with a boundary as the tournament hosts maintained their red-hot form ahead of Saturday's much-anticipated clash against arch-rivals Pakistan in Ahmedabad.

Electing to bat, Afghanistan were 63-3 in the 14th over before skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi (80) and Azmatullah Omarzai (62) combined in a 121-run stand to frustrate India.

India had to wait until the seventh over for a breakthrough after Hashmatullah elected to bat at a venue, which produced a 754-run slugfest on Saturday.

Jasprit Bumrah (4-39) drew first blood when he had Ibrahim Zadran caught behind for 22.

Apex Committee decides...

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transparent investigation of development funds in Balochistan in ten years would be ensured, he added.

He said that 80 percent of the smuggling in the province was done through sea routes, it was decided to give ten days respite to oil smugglers after that the oil smugglers boats would be destroyed saying that all resources were being used against smuggling.

The orders of the federal government will be implemented in every way, he said that 84 of the 250 madrasas in Balochistan were managed by Afghan citizens but eight thousand five hundred students were studying in these institutions.

He said that Madrasas managed by Afghan citizens would be handed over to Pakistani citizens, Actions against illegal aliens would be intensified while no action would be taken against registered Afghan refugees.

He said Prime Minister

Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that strict action has been taken against the encroachment and sellers of government lands.

The Minister said that provincial government also assured the Army Chief and the Prime Minister of the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) in the meeting.

On this occasion, Caretaker Home Minister Mir Zubair Ahmad Jamali said that the situation of Wadh was also reviewed in the Apex Committee meeting saying that the tense situation in the Wadh area of Khuzdar district would be improved.

The national highway and local businesses have been affected for several days and it has been decided to give four days' respite to both parties, he said.

He said that the parties should move to the position of June 18 in four days, and the forces and mediators would play their role for four days as well.

Federal Cabinet calls for...

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He said the prime minister had directed the federal ministers to undertake only essential foreign visits.

The Federal Cabinet had approved the appointments of former Lahore High Court judge Sohail Nasir as Deputy Chairman of NAB and Syed Ehtesham Qadir Shah as NAB Prosecutor General Accountability, he added.

In the Cabinet meeting, he said the approval was also accorded to the proposal of hiring services of the Consortium for Financial Advisory for the Pakistan International Airlines' (PIA) privatization.

On the recommendation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he said the Cabinet had approved the receipt of the PLA Commemorative Award Medal from China to Brigadier Shahid Amir for his services for the promotion of Pakistan-China relations.

The minister said on the recommendation of the Ministry of Interior, the Cabinet approved the extradition of Pakistani citizen Shahzad Ahmed S/o Wali Muhammad Qureshi to the United Arab Emirates in a fraud case. Similarly, approval for extradition Arshad Ali S/o Mazhar Ali to Kuwait was also given during the meeting.

He said both the accused would be extradited to these countries in line with the extradition agree-

ments signed by Pakistan with them.

Solangi said the Cabinet had ratified the decisions made during the Economic Coordination Committee meeting held on October 3, 2023.

Likewise, the decisions taken in the meetings held on January 21 and 28 regarding the State-Owned Enterprises were also ratified by the cabinet, he added.

No action was being taken against Afghan citizens who had Proof of Registration Cards and residing in Pakistan for the last 40 years, he said, while responding to a query.

He said the government would not take any action against those who had Afghan citizen cards that were verified by the previous Afghan government.

The deadline of October 31 for voluntary return was only applicable to those individuals who did not possess any legal document, he said adding thousands of illegal residents had started returning to their countries.

To another query, he said the electoral history of the country suggested that polls were held in extreme cold and hot weather.

Elections would be held as per the schedule, issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan, he said, adding the caretaker government would provide all-out assistance to the electoral body in this regard.

Qatari Armed Forces chief lauds PAF professionalism, progress through indigenization

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Chief of Staff, Qatar Armed Forces, Lieutenant General (Pilot) Salem Hamad Eqail Al-Nabet called on Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu here at Air Headquarters on Wednesday and praised the professionalism of Pakistan Air Force personnel and the exceptional progress made by PAF over the years, especially through indigenization.

The Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed Forces led a high-level delegation and met the Air Chief whereas evolving regional security and geo-strategic environment, avenues of defence cooperation in the field of technology sharing and development alongside key areas of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting, a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) news release said.

On his arrival, a smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented him a guard of honour following which he

was introduced to the Principal Staff Officers of Pakistan Air Force.

Later, the visiting dignitary called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office. During the meeting, the Chief of the Air Staff shared the broad contours of his vision concerning PAF's modernization drive to further augment current operational capability necessitated in contemporary hybrid warfare, especially in Artificial Intelligence, Niche technologies, Cyber and Space domains.

He also discussed about various ongoing projects of Pakistan Air Force's operational construct, force goals and plans for the force structure with a keen focus on future warfare.

Appreciating the participation of the Qatar Air Force contingent in Exercise Indus Shield at an operational air base of PAF, the Air Chief highlighted that both countries enjoy

historic and unprecedented brotherly relations and reiterated his resolve to further enhance the existing bilateral ties in military-to-military cooperation and training domains.

The Chief of Staff, Qatar Armed Forces appreciated the dynamic efforts of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu in steering PAF towards modernization. Both sides concurred to further optimize the existing military ties between the two countries, with a specific focus on advanced tactical training, emerging technologies and strengthening operational competencies especially in the spheres of electronic warfare and cyber technology.

The dignitaries also discussed the potential for joint military exercises and exchange programs with an aim to facilitate the exchange of expertise, enhancing interoperability and fostering closer ties between the Air Forces of both brotherly countries.



QUETTA: Caretaker Home Minister Mir Zubair Ahmad Jamali addressing participants of a ceremony at Children Academy

Governor calls for...

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(LUAWMS) in Dera Murad Jamali on Wednesday.

The Governor on the occasion inaugurated central library in the premises of Lasbela university and inspected the under construction other buildings there.

He also distributed laptops among the students of university.

Also present on the on the were Vice Chancellor of LUAWMS, Professor Dr Dost Muhammad Baloch, former members provincial assembly, Muhammad Khan Lehri and Amin Umrani, besides other concerned high ups.

Addressing the gatherings in the occasion, Governor said that our youth are very talented, they just need necessary facilities and opportunities.

He said that the world is changing fast, and in the present situation, we didn't mend our way and not decorated our children with ornament of modern education, then we would be ousted from the competition race in the world.

The Governor noted with quite displeasure that it can't be realized that there would have been some development works in last two decades by seeing the situation of remote and backward areas while traveling by road from Quetta to Dera Murad Jamali.

He stressed that it is national duty of conscious people to make accountability of the former public representatives and then elect public friendly genuine people in next elections without any discrimination.

He said that his visits to the remote areas and direct interaction with the people there would help resolve their issues.

He said that we believe in the rights and authority of the people. He said that being the constitutional head of the province, he would take up the issues of immediate nature with the federal and provincial governments. Earlier, the Governor distributed laptops among male and female students of the university.

PML-N, JUI-F for moving ahead via mutual consultation, cooperation

LAHORE (INP): President Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Shehbaz Sharif and chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman have reiterated resolve for moving ahead through mutual consultation and cooperation.

The JUI-F chief on Wednesday called on PML-N's President at his residence in Model Town, Lahore and discussed with him the country's overall situation, including upcoming general elections.

During the meeting, the key leaders of two political parties termed the consultation and cooperation imperative to tackle the crises faced by the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Shehbaz Sharif thanked Maulana Fazlur Rehman for "contributing" to saving Pakistan from bankruptcy in 16 months of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) tenure.

"During the 16 months, all political parties only thought of saving the state not the politics", the PML-N president said, adding that only consultation and cooperation can bring Pakistan out of crises.



GWADAR: Chairman Gwadar Port Authority Pasand Khan Buledi presenting cheque of Rs. 5 lac to CEO Gwadar Off Road Rally Talha Iqbal

BITT seeks drastic measures...

Continued from page 1

Zulfiqar also highlighted the plight faced by the people of Balochistan.

"Balochistan is a resource-rich province and the second-largest producer of natural gas in the country. They said lamenting that, sadly, it remains the most deprived province when it comes to the development, health and education indicators.

They called for taking concrete steps to remove the sense of deprivation prevailing among the people of the province.

BITT chairman Owais Jadoon, on the occasion, said "Balochistan is the largest province of the country in terms of its size, the lack of resources that the province itself is abundant with and back-

wardness has drawn severe criticism.

"Though federal government launched several uplift projects to remove the sense of deprivation, yet more drastic measures are required to cope with the issue effectively," he maintained.

Jadoon noted that BITT is committed to recognising and highlighting the services rendered by the people of various walks of life for Balochistan and the country.

Earlier, people from various walks of life were awarded Quaid-e-Azam, Allama Iqbal, Bacha Khan, Khan Shaheed, Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo, Sardar Attullah Mengal, Nisar Usmani Journalist Awards for their valuable services and distinction in their respective fields.

President stresses upon role of mosques in social development, imparting education to children

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday stressed upon the effective role of mosques and pulpits in imparting education to children, besides preaching on social issues through Islamic teachings.

The president chaired a meeting on the role of the mosques and the pulpits in social development, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was attended by Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmed and provincial ministers of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Relevant provincial secretaries, including from Azad Jammu and Kashmir and chief secretary of Gilgit Baltistan were also present.

The president observed that mosques and

pulpits were the source of imparting education and local connectivity and played an important role in the social training and formulation of Islamic society.

Providing education to 27 million out of school children was a huge challenge and for this purpose thousands of schools were required, he said, adding that about 250,000 mosques across the country could be used for increasing literacy rate.

The president suggested that during the Fajar and Zuhar timings, children could be taught religious education, latest skills and education in mosques.

He also called upon ulema, khateeb and religious seminaries to play their role for the social reforms, eradication of social evils like back-biting, intolerance and fake news.

Increasing population, women's rights, interfaith harmony and promotion of tolerance were the significant social issues, he added.

Commending the role of ulema, mosques and pulpits during Coronavirus pandemic, he said they created public awareness.

The president opined that ulema could also create awareness in the society about different issues like diseases, malnutrition and mental and physical weakness.

The social linkages would be further strengthened with intensifying of religious, educational and social activities, he observed.

During the meeting, the participants also presented different proposals regarding role of ulema on various important national and social subjects.



ISLAMABAD: President, Dr. Arif Alvi chairing a meeting on the role of the mosques and the pulpits in social development held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad.

Minister for providing basic facilities in schools prior to curriculum reforms

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister of Federal Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhvi on Wednesday said that curriculum reform cannot be effective until basic facilities in all public schools across Pakistan are provided.

While addressing the opening session of the National Curriculum Summit held here, Mr Madad Ali Sindhvi lauded the efforts of the NCC towards its role of coordination among the federating units.

He expressed satisfaction with the completed tasks of the National Curriculum of Pakistan (NCP).

The Federal Minister praised the role of provincial governments' stakeholders in upholding the cause of quality education for all children of the nation by championing international standards in curriculum reforms.

He further said the caretaker government will take all possible steps for the improvement of education in the country.

The summit was organized by the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives.

Education experts from public, private, non-government, and development sectors participated in the summit.

Mr Madad Ali Sindhvi ensured that the initiatives regarding the development of the curriculum standards for a range of elective subjects and streamlining technical education across the country will continue in coordination with the stakeholders across the country.

Along with different panel discussions, presentations were also given by the experts on different aspects of the curriculum reforms.

Pakistan, UNICEF join hands to eradicate Polio

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a monumental step towards the eradication of polio, the Government of Pakistan, in collaboration with UNICEF, marked a historic milestone on Wednesday as they signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at a formal ceremony.

The journey to this moment began with the Government of Pakistan declaring a state of emergency in 2011, launching an unwavering effort to combat polio.

Substantial financial resources, including grants and loans, were channelled into the Polio Emergency Program, bringing hope to countless lives.

During this crucial phase, the government committed \$155 million to the cause and, in a testament to global solidarity, secured an additional \$100 million in support from the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

Secretary National Health Services Iftekhar Shallwani expressed profound gratitude for this vi-

tal financial support.

The meticulous groundwork is evident as all necessary documentation was successfully completed, and ISDB recently formalized its commitment by signing the Murabaha agreement just two days ago.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, Federal Secretary Iftekhar Shallwani made a priority call to UNICEF, leading to the signing of the MoU today. This document paves the way for the procurement of vaccines critical to the Polio Emergency Program, bringing hope to countless lives.

The signing ceremony saw the Federal Secretary and the country representative of UNICEF exchange signed documents, cementing their shared vision to eliminate polio.

In a heartfelt expression of appreciation, the Federal Secretary extended gratitude to all individuals and organizations that have steadfastly supported this program during these critical times.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhvi held a meeting with Director Schools and Director Colleges FDE.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting regarding Pakistan International Airlines.

NCRC calls for awareness to protect girls' rights

ISLAMABAD (APP): Member of the National Commission on the Rights of Children, Khalid Naem Wednesday called upon all departments concerned, including the media, government and private organizations to play their role in making institutional and non-institutional sectors free from child abuse and for protecting girls' rights in society.

On the eve of International Day for girls' rights, Khalid Naem talking to a PTV news channel stressed raising grass-root level awareness of the issue of

girls' rights.

He emphasised the society for ensuring education, healthcare, equal rights, safety and security for every girl. He explained the importance of the day that was marked every year on October 11, the International Day of the Girl, United Nations and partners work with girls to amplify their voices and stand up for their rights, adding, it was first celebrated in 2012 as a way to raise awareness about gender inequality and to advocate for girls' rights and empowerment.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib, visited 'Benazir One Window Center'.

Court wraps up petition seeking recovery of former MNA Abbasi

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has disposed of the petition in connection with recovery of former MNA Sadaqat Abbasi.

Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamir Farooq took up the case for hearing Wednesday.

Counsel Babar Awan on behalf of the petitioner, officials of ministry of interior and police authorities appeared in the court.

During the hearing of the case CJ IHC while moving to advocate Babar

Awan remarked "Jee doctor Sahb , Banda has come back.

Babar Awan while giving reply said I want to salute the man who got the man recovered.

Write on my behalf in the order "Brown fruit in the favor of anchor.

The CJ IHC remarked you said all things in one line. Then we dispose of the case.

Later CJ IHC wrapped up petition seeking recovery of Sadaqat Abbasi.

Security personnel briefed about duty in high security zone

ISLAMABAD: The security personnel assigned to the High Security Zone received comprehensive briefings to enhance their preparedness in handling unforeseen incidents promptly.

During this initiative, SP Security conducted visits to the security pickets within the high-security zone, providing crucial guidance to the dedicated Islamabad Capital Police personnel responsible for security.

The High Security Zone encompasses critical government and private facilities, diplomatic missions, and other invaluable assets, emphasizing the paramount importance of their protection.

Security personnel were reminded of the importance of remaining vigilant and were advised to abstain from using mobile phones during their duties.

Additionally, they were instructed to wear bulletproof jackets and helmets for their own safety. Officials are expected to maintain a keen watch on suspicious vehicles and individuals.

Furthermore, SP Security underscored the significance of upholding the highest standards of diligence and professionalism, fostering positive relationships with the community.

Citizens are strongly encouraged to report any perceived suspicious activities or individuals to the helpline "Pucar-15" without delay.

Motorway police reunites lost child with family

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) north zone has reunited a lost child with his family after a tireless search on Wednesday.

The child, who is around seven to eight years old, was found wandering alone at the M-1 toll plaza in Islamabad.

According to NHMP officials, the child was initially unable to provide any information about his identity or family. However, after some gentle coaxing, he was able to tell the police that his family had recently shifted from Bannu to Rawalpindi.

ECP adjourns contempt case hearing until Oct 24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) adjourned the hearing of the contempt case against the Chief of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), former minister Fawad Chaudhry and Asad Umer until October 24.

A four-member bench, led by member Sindh Nisar Durrani conducted the hearings on the case for making contemptuous remarks against the election commission as well as the chief election commissioner (CEC) by PTI chief and other accused.

Mushaal urges HR world orgs to help end rights violations by India in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Caretaker Prime Minister Mushaal Hussain Malik on Wednesday urged international human rights institutions and international rights organizations to end human rights violations in India's illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and to protect human rights defenders. Talking to a private news channel, she expressed his concern over the plight of illegally detained Hurriyat leaders and appealed to the UN Secretary-General to release the detainees and resolve the Kashmir issue by the Security Council resolutions.

She said that the silence of world powers has encouraged India to conduct a cold-blooded campaign of human rights atrocities against innocent Kashmiris.

He said that giving self-determination to the

Kashmiri people is very important for world peace and development, adding that India is involved in state-sponsored terrorism at the regional and global levels. SAPM said the international community should stop appeasing India and should contain India's fundamentalism and extremism because it will affect the peace and stability of the entire world.

Pakistan is exposing India at international forums to refrain India from State-sponsored terrorism, particularly in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, she added. In response to a question, she said that Pakistan is committed to peace, stability and UN resolutions that support the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people, adding that the Indian government should ensure the welfare of its citizens.

APHC pays tribute to martyr Hurriyat leader Altaf

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) Wednesday paid rich tribute to martyred senior Hurriyat leader Altaf Ahmad Shah who had embraced martyrdom in Indian captivity on this day, last year.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Altaf Ahmad Shah, who was son-in-law of the icon of Kashmir freedom movement martyred Syed Ali Gilani, had been languishing in New Delhi's infamous Tihar Jail since his arrest in 2017 and was diagnosed with late-stage renal cancer.

Islamabad admin rounded up 13 beggars

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration on Wednesday launched a massive crackdown on professional beggars, arresting 13 people in different areas of the city. The operations were carried out under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner Secretariat Aneel Saeed and assistant director civil defence. The professional beggars were arrested and transferred to the police station, while the remaining minor children were sent to the Edhi Center. The ICT administration has been carrying out operations against beggars on a daily basis under the supervision of assistant commissioners.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Country Representative of UNFPA Latika Maskey Pradhan presents Souvenir to a girl student of grade 9th Malaiqa Arif during conference entitled "Ending Child Marriages" at local hotel to mark the International Day of the Girl Child, in Federal Capital.

US envoy calls attention to acute malnutrition emergency in Sindh

ISLAMABAD (Online): One year after Pakistan's devastating 2022 floods, millions of Pakistanis still need urgent support. As UNICEF reported, more than 1.5 million children require lifesaving nutrition interventions; floods damaged vital infrastructure, including 30,000 schools, 2,000 health facilities, and 4,300 water systems; and access to safe drinking water and sanitation remains worryingly low.

During his trip, the Ambassador celebrated the opening of the 100th school constructed as part of the Sindh Basic Education Program. By 2024, more than 80,000 girls and boys will study in 106 new, climate-resilient school buildings funded by USAID. These state-of-the-art facilities come with science and computer labs, a library, and modern furniture. They also serve as flood-resilient safe

filtration plan and delivery system, and improvement of the city's wastewater sewage system. During his visit, the Ambassador visited the Municipal Services Program Water Filtration Plant, completed in 2020, part of a \$24.4 million water filtration and delivery system project funded by USAID.

The Ambassador also toured the Basic Health Unit in Khairpur, a frontline facility helping respond to Pakistan's acute malnutrition emergency and improve lives and health outcomes in flood-affected districts across Sindh. With support from USAID.

The program includes improved garbage collection, installation of a water

filtration plan and delivery system, and improvement of the city's wastewater sewage system. During his visit, the Ambassador visited the Municipal Services Program Water Filtration Plant, completed in 2020, part of a \$24.4 million water filtration and delivery system project funded by USAID.

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Meeting of senate standing committee on interior held

ISLAMABAD: A Meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Interior was held here at Parliament House on Wednesday with Senator Mohsin Aziz in Chair.

The Senate Committee deliberated on the bill titled "The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023." Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi, the mover of the bill, stated that the increasing trend of false accusations and malicious criminal prosecution has become an alarming issue these days.

The bill aims to enhance the time period of punishment for these offenses by amending Section 182 of the Pakistan Penal Code and Schedule-II of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The Special Secretary of the Interior informed the committee that the matter falls under the ambit of the provinces, and a letter has also been written to request their response which is still

awaited. However, the committee will be updated after receipt of response. The committee directed the Ministry to submit the provinces' intake within the next ten days.

Furthermore, the Senate body was briefed by Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG) about the functions, performance and achievements of Organization along with its strength and weaknesses. Additional Director General (PCG) apprised that the major goal of Organization is to prevent smuggling and illegal immigration along the coastal belt, however, the PCG draws additional powers from Customs Act, Police Act 1861 and Control of Narcotics Substance Act 1997 for the fulfillment of their objective. Senator Mohsin Aziz inquired about the strength of the Organization. Additional Director General replied that the total strength of PCG is around 5,671.



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong viewing painting at "Art And Cultural Show 2023" powered by China Media Group in collaboration with PNCA during 10 Year celebration of CPEC.

Dr. Saqib conducts surprise visit to One Window Center; interacts with beneficiaries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib, made an un-

announced visit to the Benazir One Window Center in Islamabad on Wednesday.

During this visit, he was accompanied by Mr. Naveed Akbar, Director General National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER).

The purpose of the visit was to personally inspect the operations and interaction with the beneficiaries present at Benazir One Window Center.

Dr. Amjad Saqib was given a comprehensive brief by staff of One Window Center about its functions and operations.

The Benazir One Window Center is a unique initiative that brings together multiple organizations, including BISP, NADRA, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund

(PPAF), Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Akhuwat, and HBL, under one roof.

This consolidated approach streamlines and enhances the efficiency of services offered to beneficiaries. At the One Window Center, beneficiaries can access services related to registration in BISP, eligibility assessment, enrollment of their children in the Benazir Taleem Wazaif program, and benefits from the Benazir Nashonuma Programme. On average, the center serves approximately 200 to 500 women beneficiaries daily. During his visit, Dr. Amjad Saqib took the time to engage with beneficiaries who were there for registration and to receive their stipends under the Benazir Kafaalat program. He expressed keen interest in understanding the challenges and issues faced by beneficiaries and inquired how BISP's financial support has positively impacted their lives.



Senator Mohsin Aziz, Chairman Senate standing committee on interior presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House Islamabad.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Thursday October 12, 2023

Crucial Apex committee session in Quetta

The 14th meeting of Balochistan's Apex committee was held with the caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaarul Haq Kakar in the chair on Tuesday last. Also participated in the crucial session was by the Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir, Federal Interior Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Chief Minister Ali Mardan Khan Domki, his cabinet members and other senior officials.

During the meeting, officials briefed the participants on the revised National Action Plan (NAP), law enforcement operations, anti-smuggling and anti-narcotics operations in Balochistan.

The officials also briefed the participants on the security of foreigners employed on CPEC, non-CPEC and private projects, the repatriation of illegal immigrants, foreign currency regularization measures, and progress on SIFC initiatives in Balochistan.

The PM expressed confidence in the progress made by the provincial government and assured full support from the Centre.

He emphasized that Balochistan's socio-economic development was imperative to ensure peace and development of the province. "Initiatives taken by the SIFC at federal level should have a trickle-down effect in each province for the people of the area," the premier said.

The Premier said that 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.

He highlighted that Balochistan possessed abundant mineral resources, and fostering development would stimulate economic activity and create job opportunities for the local population.

Furthermore, he stressed the importance of directing investments toward agriculture and IT, in addition to human resource development.

He stressed the necessity of collaboration and coordination among all relevant departments to maximize the positive impact of these initiatives.

Mr. Kakar also mentioned that initiatives taken by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) at federal level should have a trickle-down effect in each province. Anwaarul Haq Kakar said on Tuesday.

At the meeting, the Army Chief highlighted that the military would provide full support in concert with law enforcement agencies and other government departments to enforce actions against a spectrum of illegal activities with full force to deny pilferage of resources and economic losses that the country suffered due to these activities.

The participants expressed their collective commitment, affirming that state institutions, government departments, and the people are unified in their pursuit of progress and prosperity for the province.

While the crucial Apex meeting has expressed its firm resolve against certain issues, the Army chief has already asserted that the law enforcement agencies and the government would continue efforts against a "spectrum of illegal activities with full force to deny pilferage of resources and economic losses." What's great to note and commendable is that the state institutions, government departments and people were united for the progress and prosperity of the province. Above all, the COAS has also promised the interim government of the army's "all-out support" for continuity of policies in a bid to revive the economy and steer the country towards progress and prosperity.



Zahid Hussain

Living under the worst kind of repression for more than half a century, the Palestinians of the occupied Gaza Strip, described as the world's 'largest open-air prison', struck back against their subjugator last week, with a ferocity that has shaken the Zionist state.

They took the battle inside Israel, inflicting the worst kind of humiliation on the most powerful military force in the region. More people died in Israel in a single day than in any other conflict since it became a state. Inevitably, the retaliation has been extremely brutal.

The Gaza Strip, home to a Palestinian population of some 2.2 million, has witnessed many bombings by the Israeli occupation forces but never like the one being witnessed now.

The Israelis are deliberately killing the civilian population including children. Hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to leave their homes. There is a complete blockade of the area which has been sealed off, with no food, fuel or other supplies getting in. The siege that intends to starve the entire population is clearly a war crime.

It is unprecedented for the occupiers to declare a war against the subjugated population. But despite their massive use of force, the resistance has not been defeated. Palestinian fighters are still battling inside Israeli territory.

There is no sign of the war ending soon; in fact, there is a danger of its spreading to the West Bank that already has a massive presence of Israeli forces. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has threatened the Israeli response will change the Middle East.

Indeed, the ongoing war is already changing regional geopolitics. Not surprisingly, the US and other Western countries have backed Israel's brutal actions. The conflict has once

again exposed Western hypocrisy.

While condemning Hamas for killing civilians and taking women and children hostage, the Western world has approved the Israeli bombardment of Gaza that has killed a large number of women and children on the pretext of 'Israel's right to defence'.

For the so-called civilised world, the oppressed do not even have the right to resist the colonisation of their land and fight for their freedom.

Last week's stunning assault led by Hamas may have come as a surprise to Israel and its Western allies but its roots lie in the long occupation of Palestinian land and the ongoing atrocities carried out by the Israeli forces. There has been a constant expansion of Israeli settlements, displacing the Palestinian population.

Gaza has borne the brunt of Israeli atrocities over the past five decades. The situation has become intolerable. Among the world's most densely populated areas, Gaza has been described by the current UN secretary general as a 'hell on earth'. It has

been in a constant state of blockade, making the territory a picture of humanitarian crises.

Over half the people of Gaza live in utter poverty. A large percentage of the children don't make it past their fifth birthday. Children have been major victims of the constant Israeli bombardment and blockade. Hundreds of Palestinian children have died over the past several years in Israel's repeated bombing campaigns on Gaza.

Israel's latest aerial strikes have turned a large part of the territory into rubble. The situation in other occupied Palestinian territories is not very different. The eviction of Palestinians from their homes is a regular phenomenon. Now the hapless population of Gaza is bracing for a ground invasion by Israel.

All these miseries of a long-colonised people have not shaken the conscience of the West, which never stops lecturing us on human rights. It looks away from Israel's apartheid policies. Israel's use of brute military force and the West's backing for it may kill many more Pal-

estines but will not crush the force of the resistance.

Israel's declaration of war on Gaza will have far-reaching implications for the Middle East and beyond. The most significant fallout of the war is the derailment of the US effort for rapprochement between Israel and Saudi Arabia.

The process initiated by US President Joe Biden has made significant progress with the first-ever visit of an Israeli minister to Saudi Arabia last month. The visit may not be directly linked to negotiations on normalisation but the event was seen as a thaw between the two countries.

But the outbreak of the latest round of fighting has dealt a huge blow to any negotiations. According to media reports, Saudi Arabia has told US Secretary of State Antony Blinken that it is "ending all negotiations" on normalising relations with Israel. The Biden administration's initiative was seen as part of a larger move to reassert Washington's position in the Middle East.

Washington's move

came after Beijing brokered a peace pact between Riyadh and Tehran, that had, for years, engaged in a proxy war in the region. That agreement demonstrated China's growing clout in one of the world's most volatile regions.

Despite some progress in the US-sponsored process, a peace deal between Riyadh and Tel Aviv was still not close because of the ultra-right Israeli government's refusal to concede on the settlements issue. Unlike past US presidents, Biden has made no direct effort to foster peace talks between the Israelis and Palestinians. Keeping out the Palestinians from the process will not bring long-term peace to the Middle East.

There seems to be no possibility now for the resumption of the peace negotiations between Israel and Saudi Arabia in the current atmosphere of heightening tensions and the danger of the war turning into a wider conflagration. The only solution to the crisis is to end the Israeli occupation and recognise the Palestinian right to a state. -- Courtesy Dawn

The path forward



Atta-ur-Rahman

The transition to a knowledge economy represents a paramount challenge and opportunity for nations around the world. In the case of Pakistan, this transition is not only essential but also a strategic imperative for sustainable socio-economic development. We need to implement the comprehensive plan developed by me on the lines indicated below encompassing various facets of agricultural and industrial development to transform Pakistan into a technology-driven knowledge economy. The plan involves Science, Technology, Innovation, and Production (STIP) as the key pillars that will rest on the foundations of quality education and an ecosystem that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship in the private sector.

To achieve a science

and technology-driven knowledge economy, Pakistan must integrate STIP into its planning strategy for sustained and equitable socio-economic development. The national STIP policy should be the result of comprehensive consultations with all stakeholders, including private sector experts and opposition parties. A national consensus is essential to ensure its effectiveness. Action plans stemming from the STIP policy should be time-bound, involving all relevant government ministries and institutions responsible for science, technology, innovation, and production.

For this purpose, Foresight Technology Assessment and Forecasting Performance (TAFP) organizations should be established for guidance. Integration of such an approach across all government ministries and the private sector is vital. In this effort, the establishment of world-class STIP policy research institutes is imperative, fostering evidence-based policy research and science advisory functions. Key areas on which we must focus include Information Technology (with empha-

sis on Artificial Intelligence, machine learning, robotics, Big Data, and the Internet of Things), advanced agriculture, mineral extraction and processing as well as alternative energy.

Solid foundations for such a national approach must involve a complete restructuring of our school, college and university education systems so that students are encouraged to think for themselves, solve real life problems, and not accept the printed word blindly. Critical thinking should be encouraged, and innovation promoted so that each student who passes out is a budding entrepreneur. This would involve a departure from conventional approaches to teaching.

The integration of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) that are now widely available would be an important step in providing quality education. In this connection a huge leap forward was achieved by us when we prepared and launched an integrated version of MOOCs that now provides 73,000 courses at school, college and university levels and that can be freely accessed at

www.lej4learning.com.pk Quality benchmarks for colleges, technical education, and higher education should be established, with faculty promotions linked to performance evaluations.

The need for highly qualified technicians is growing the world over. With a population of about 240 million, of which 67 per cent are below the age of 30, Pakistan should strengthen its technical education by establishing an international quality assurance system in the thousands of technical training schools that exist in the government and private sectors in various provinces and ensure international quality certification of their skill sets. This step alone can bring in tens of billions of dollars in much needed foreign exchange through remittances of such professional technically trained people working in foreign countries.

A revolutionary programme to strengthen faculty in our universities was begun under my charge as chairman of the HEC in 2002 under which about 11,000 students were sent for foreign training in the subsequent 15 years. This programme of faculty de-

velopment was strengthened by a project approved by the Knowledge Economy Task Force under my charge and given to the HEC for implementation. We need to continue this effort on an even grander scale so that we have at least a couple of our universities in the top 100 universities of the world within the next 15 years. We have none today.

The initiative to establish foreign engineering universities offering degrees to Pakistani students was begun by us in 2005 but abandoned by the government in 2008. It was restarted under my supervision and the Pak Austrian Fachhochschule in Hariapur Hazara is a shining example of an excellent entrepreneurial university that is being developed in close collaboration with nine foreign universities (three from Austria, one from Germany and five from China). A similar university is also being developed in Sambrial, Sialkot.

Government procurement policies can play a huge role in bringing about such a transformation. Government purchases of software/hardware should prioritize local manufacturers, ensuring technology transfer. All development projects submitted for approval should include a mandatory element of technology development, thereby enhancing self-reliance and export capabilities.

In conclusion, Pakistan's journey to becoming a knowledge economy requires a multifaceted and holistic approach. The outlined recommendations, spanning STIP, education, technology transfer, and industrial development focused on the manufacture and export of high technology goods, offer a comprehensive roadmap.

As Pakistan advances toward this transformative goal, it is essential to foster collaboration among government, private sector, academia, and the diaspora to unlock the nation's full potential and drive sustainable growth and development. The transition to a knowledge economy is not merely a choice; it is a necessity for Pakistan's prosperity and global competitiveness in the 21st century. -- Courtesy TheNews

Migration crisis



Arif Azad

Migration has been in the media and policy spotlight lately. Several international migration-related developments have refocused attention on migration and asylum issues. Recently, the small Italian town of Lampedusa received a sudden surge of new migrants. The surge, though small, was portrayed as gigantic as it exceeded the size of the local population which had been tiny anyway.

In the US, refugees are streaming into the state of Texas, which has chosen to bus them onward to bigger cities such as New York. In the UK, reducing the number of asylum seekers crossing the English Channel is one of the five policy ambitions of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. This has given the hard-line home secretary, Suella Braverman, carte blanche to employ whatever means necessary to stop boats carrying migrants. Here in Pakistan, we have seen new arrivals from Afghanistan after the Taliban's takeover of Kabul.

The Lampedusa migration crisis occasioned an emergency visit from EU President Ursula von der Leyen to the island town. While pledging extra help, she asserted it was the EU that would ultimately determine who could come into Europe. Her fleeting visit aimed at shoring up the struggling right-wing government was followed by an EU justice and home ministers' conclave on the new

migration crisis. There remain differences over how to tackle the crisis and chart a lasting way forward. The differences centre on the Italian objection to German-funded support to rescue operations at sea. The Italian proposal to do away with certain legal protection in asylum detention centres in a crisis is also a stumbling block.

Earlier, EU governments had agreed on the principle of 'mandatory solidarity', requiring member states located beyond the front-line states of Italy and Greece to accept 30,000 migrants a year. In case of a country not accepting the allotted number of refugees and asylum-seekers, that country would pay 20,000 euros per migrant to an EU-wide fund to boost the money available to the front-line states dealing with the growing number of new arrivals. The US has further extended protections to Venezuelan migrants already living in the country.

In a related development, Ms Braverman chose the venue of a Washington think tank to lay out her vision for a most reactionary immigration policy. She called for a new definition of 'refugee' to be fashioned, besides the updating of the Geneva Convention. In the same anti-migrant vein, she railed against multiculturalism and inadequate integration of incoming migrants. In recent times, she has also singled out the role of the European convention on and court of human rights in frustrating her plans to deport all asylum-seekers to Rwanda. Her speech attracted widespread criticism from the UN refugee agency, politicians and civil society in the UK, with UNHCR rejecting her calls for reforming the Geneva refugee convention and pointing out that

rather than updating it, its provisions must be implemented and adhered to by all signatory countries.

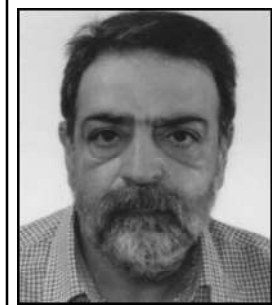
Many commentators linked her pronouncements on immigration to her domestic agenda of seeking the leadership of the Conservative Party. (Braverman has been very popular with the extreme right wing of the party for her hard-line views on migration and asylum.) The British prime minister has defended multiculturalism in an apparent rebuff to his own home secretary.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has received successive waves of refugees from neighbouring Afghanistan since the 1970s. Yet due to Pakistan's not signing the Geneva Convention on the status of refugees, the country's refugee and asylum policies have not been framed. Despite its long engagement with Afghan refugees, Pakistan has lived in denial insofar as the historical presence of Afghan refugees is concerned, and now wants them to leave the country.

Two contradictory impulses are at work. On the one hand, the Afghan refugees have been given a final date by which to leave the country. On the other, in a landmark judgement of the Islamabad High Court, the judiciary has ruled that Pakistan recognises the right to asylum. This sets a new judicial precedent in the evolving refugee law in Pakistan, with implications for all those being rounded up with a view to deporting them to Afghanistan.

This news can only be welcomed. Yet in the long term, as well as in the light of revising our flawed foreign policy towards Afghanistan, Pakistan needs to work towards signing the Geneva Convention and fulfilling its obligations in line with international law. -- Courtesy Dawn

Distant echoes



Mahir Ali

Israel prides itself, not unreasonably, on its intelligence-gathering capabilities. This applies internationally, with Israeli apps offering the go-to spying software to a range of reprehensible regimes. But within Israel and the Palestinian territories it occupies, it's on a different scale.

The sweeping up of electronic data is supposedly supplemented by informers in every Palestinian organisation. Further, as former UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter puts it, "Gaza is the most photographed place on the planet, and between satellite imagery, drones and CCTV, every square metre of Gaza is estimated to be imaged every 10 minutes."

How Shin Bet and the various military intelligence agencies were apparently clueless in advance about last Saturday's events may perhaps be explained by the Israeli inquiries that inevitably lie ahead. Ritter blames it on an overreliance on AI to sift through massive data troves, and suggests that Palestinian tech warriors worked out how to fool Israeli algorithms.

If true, that exposes the inadequacies of state-of-the-art surveillance technology. It has also been reported, though, that Egyptian warnings about Hamas planning "something big" went unheeded, reflecting a parallel with the Yom Kippur war when, 50 years earlier, a joint Egyptian-Syrian attack took Israel by surprise. Back in 1973, the information suggesting

something was in the offing was disregarded because, surely, 'they wouldn't dare'. Israel shortly regained the upper hand with US help, but that war shifted the dynamics in the Middle East. So will the current conflict, even though this time the surprise blow to Israel's arrogance comes not from the largest Arab army, but from a relatively small militant group that controls a festering wound called the Gaza Strip.

But there's another imperfect parallel to be drawn from 80 years ago, when the surviving inmates of what was then the world's largest prison — superseded only by Gaza — decided to resist the odds. The Warsaw Ghetto had been set up in late 1940 by the Nazi occupiers to incarcerate the Polish capital's Jewish population. It was essentially a way station to Treblinka or other death camps where the hellish process of industrialised mass slaughter was being honed. The fewer than 60,000 Jews who remained in the ghetto by early 1943 resolved they would not take any further depredations. Despite being infiltrated by informers, they mapped out their response, mostly with improvised weapons, and when the Nazis came for them in April, they fought back almost for a month, the last of them dying when the Germans burned the area down. Jürgen Stroop, the SS commander in charge of the extermination, was later hanged. What's striking is the similarity between the language he used for the Jews, and the words Benjamin Netanyahu and his colleagues are deploying in describing Gaza's imminent fate, with the prime minister talking about reducing the enclave to rubble, and his defence minister, Yoav Gallant, decreeing that "no electricity, no food, no water, no gas" will be allowed into Gaza, because "we are fight-

ing animals".

Such terminology might once have been considered verboten but the Zionist hierarchy has always looked upon the natives of Palestine as Untermenschen — lesser beings — and treated them accordingly. It seems the lesson they learned from the Nazi experience wasn't "never again, full stop", but rather, "never again until we are the unchallengeable arbiters of everyone's fate".

Not surprisingly, that hasn't worked out well for Palestinians since 1948, and the vague promise of the Oslo Accords 45 years later has since been buried alongside the fantasy of a two-state solution. There have been sporadic explosions ever since, and what's surprising about the latest one is that it did not occur in the West Bank, which has lately been the focus of brutalisation under the neo-fascist reincarnation of the Netanyahu regime.

No one can condone the war crimes committed by Hamas after its audacious prison break-out last Saturday. At the same time, no one who condemns them should ignore the state and settler terrorism to which Palestinians are subjected, with no end in sight.

Israel will no doubt reclaim the hierarchy in the mathematics of death — at the time of writing, Israeli fatalities apparently outnumber Palestinian casualties — but what lies beyond is uncertain. Likewise, the international dynamics, stretching from Iran and the Saudis to the US and the moribund Palestinian Authority. What cannot be overlooked, though, is the reminder of the past few days that peace in the Middle East will remain elusive as long as the occupation persists. The so-called international community recognises that much in Ukraine. Whether it can stretch its horizons as far as Palestine remains to be seen. -- Courtesy Dawn

KP Caretaker Cabinet approves soft loans for youth, SMEs

PESHAWAR (APP): The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has given in-principle approval for the provision of concessional loans for youth and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the province.

The cost of the Bank of Khyber's additional concessions on the loan schemes with flexible conditions will be covered by the provincial government.

This approval was granted by the caretaker

provincial cabinet in a meeting held the other day with caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan in the chair, according to an official handout issued here on Wednesday.

In addition to the members of the caretaker cabinet and chief secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, the concerned administrative secretaries also participated in the meeting. On this occasion, the representatives of the

Bank of Khyber gave a detailed briefing to the Cabinet about State Bank of Pakistan loans for SMEs and youth, the benefits of the province's participation in such schemes, and the benefits of this initiative of the provincial government. The interest rate will be reduced to zero for youth and institutions taking out loans. The caretaker provincial cabinet also approved the transfer of 2 kanal and six marla of land

for the establishment of a public library in Upper Karam, while it also approved the construction of a judicial complex on 13.5 kanal of land in Sarai Naurang (Lucky Marwat).

The provincial cabinet rejected both the payment of the provincial government's portion of the 155 million dollar loan for the future and the at-source deduction of the 88.673 million dollar debt owed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman posing for a group photo with participants at the Sustainable Development Goals Excellence Awards 2023 ceremony of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali addressing the ceremony of All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association.

Governor links development with advancement in new fields of education

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here on Wednesday stressed making advancement in new fields of education and said that a country cannot prosper and achieve a respectable position among the comity of nations without making progress in education.

He was addressing a ceremony of the All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association (APPSMA).

The ceremony was also attended by the provincial caretaker

education minister, Dr. Qasim Jan President APPSMA, Dr. Zakir Shah, Secretary Education, Mutasim Billah and a large number of teachers and students.

The governor highlighted the significance of education in the existing age of transformation and said that education guarantees the progress and development of a nation. He said that our religion has also given due importance to education while the constitution of the country also gives a right of education to every citizen.

He said that private

educational institutions have shared the responsibility of the government to educate its people and added we must recognize the efforts of private schools and prepare a strategy to support them. He also urged private school management to open schools in villages to educate children irrespective of their profitability.

He admitted that priority has not been given to the education sector and said that still thousands of children are uneducated due to the absence of needed facilities.

Caretaker CM orders recovery of kidnapped SHO, policemen

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqar, while taking serious note of the kidnapping of six policemen, including the SHO of Kot Shahu police of District Shikarpur, has ordered their recovery within three days and issuing of explanation to the DIG and SSP concerned.

Expressing his displeasure and dismay, the chief minister said police stations have been made so vulnerable and weak that the dacoits attack them and kidnap policemen easily. "This shows that the police officers who are in command in the districts have failed to control, deliver and perform," he said and added that he had learned that most of the

SSPs did not go to their offices and do the policing sitting at their homes which led to emerge such a shocking situation.

Justice Baqar talked to the IG Police on the telephone and directed him to visit the Shikarpur district and get the kidnapped policemen recovered within three days. "I want you (IG police) to issue explanations to the DIG Larkana and SSP Shikarpur for their failure to strengthen the police station and secure the police."

The CM said that inefficient, ineffective and unwilling police officers must be replaced with efficient officers. "I am sorry to say that as such incidents are earning a bad name for the government and governance".

Minister says: KP gov spends 24% budget on education

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Minister for Elementary, Secondary, and Higher Education, Prof Dr Mohammad Qasim Khan has said that the education-friendly policy of the provincial government is evident from the fact that about 24 percent of the provincial budget is being spent on education.

He expressed these views while addressing a function organized under the auspices of All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association at Nishtar Hall, Peshawar here on Wednesday.

Besides the secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education, Mutasimillah Shah, the central president Private Schools Management Association Kashif Azeeb Javadani also addressed the function.

He said that in the current era of globalization and our effort is to prepare students to compete at the international level, equip them with IT skills, and introduce them to scientific education along with new innovations. He added that we still need to work harder to focus on quality education as well as bring out-of-school students.

ANF seizes 49 kg drugs in five operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations managed to recover 49 kg drugs and arrested four accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday.

He informed that in an operation, 38 grams weed was recovered from a parcel sent from UK at the courier office in Chaklala, Rwp.

In a raid in Mianwali, over 2.7 grams of heroin was recovered from a motorcycle. A resident of Mianwali was arrested during the operation.

2 kg hashish concealed in a vehicle was recovered near M-2, Ravi Toll Plaza Lahore. Two accused residents of Khyber were arrested during the operation.

185 narcotic (ecstasy) tablets were recovered from the accused, a resident of Islamabad, near Passport Office Karachi.

FIA unearths illegal foreign exchange center, arrests two

PESHAWAR (APP): The Commercial Banking Circle of FIA during a raid on the directive of Deputy Director Rizwan Shah on Wednesday unearthed an illegal money exchange unit and arrested two accused.

Spokesman FIA told media persons that the raid was conducted in Saddar area of Peshawar from where two accused namely Hazrat Bilal and Waqas were taken into custody. The accused were doing an illegal money exchange business without any license.

AJK minister announces Rs 1,000,000 for District Press Club Hattian Bala

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): The Minister of the government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Javed Ayub, has pledged Rs 1,000,000 from the Annual Development Program (ADP) to allocate fund for the construction of the District Press Club Hattian Bala building.

He made this announcement while addressing a press conference in Hattian Bala here Wednesday. Prominent local political figures, including Sahibzada Muhammad Ashfaq Zafar Advocate, Central Senior Vice President of Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir, and Raja Parvez Iqbal Advocate, District President of Pakistan People's Party Jhelum Valley and others were present on the occasion.

Sardar Javed Ayub acknowledged the efforts

of Sahibzada Muhammad Ashfaq Zafar Advocate for initiating the construction of the District Press Club Hattian Bala building during the tenure of Chaudhry Abdul Majeed's government. He also mentioned that the People's Party had provided the land ten marlas for this purpose but unfortunately due to some political hurdles, these efforts were not cemented and the building could not be completed to date, however, now the political environment is free from confrontation which would help in constructing the press club building. Sardar Javed Ayub emphasized the importance of the District Press Club in Hattian Bala and expressed his commitment to contribute one million rupees from his personal ADP to provide financial assistance for its construction.

KP gov approves programs to increase literacy rate in merged districts

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has approved the "Sabawoon Schools Initiative" (SSI) and "Establishment of Middle Community Schools" (MGBCS) program of the Department of Education aimed to increase the literacy rate in the merged districts.

According to a document of the Merged Areas Education Foundation (MEF), the SSI programme would focus on children in areas where they do not have easy access to education facilities, adding that under the initiative MEF would

involve the management of renowned educational institutions to open their branches in merged district and sub-divisions to impart quality education to the children.

It said that MEF would provide grants to bear the initial start-up cost at the rate of 100,000 each as one time grant to cover school supplies and teaching, learning material for students and teachers while the foundation would also pay minimal tuition fees of Rs 1,000 for KG students, Rs 1,500 for first to fifth-grade students and Rs 2,000 for eighth to seventh-grade students.



FAISALABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) Mushaal Hussein Mullick addressing a seminar on "Harmony Unbound Fostering Peace for Marginalized Communities and Minorities" at Government College University Faisalabad (GCUF).

Minister orders removal of encroachment, illegal occupation from govt land

HYDERABAD (APP): The compliance of the Supreme Court orders about removal of encroachment and illegal occupation of government land should be ensured and a report should be prepared and the wrong entries in the revenue records should be rectified.

This was said by the caretaker provincial Minister for Revenue and Industries Muhammad Younus Dhaga during a meeting with the Revenue officials at the Commissioner Office here Wednesday.

Commissioner Hyderabad, deputy commissioners of Hyderabad division, additional deputy commissioners, assistant commissioners and other officials were present in the meeting.

The caretaker minister said that the Sindh Revenue Department was starting e-service with the help of the Punjab Information Technology

178 new cases of dengue in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): As many as 178 new cases of dengue were reported in the province on Wednesday as per the latest data of the health department.

This year, a total of 5,895 confirmed dengue cases had been reported in the province. Lahore leads the tally with 2,316 cases, closely followed by Rawalpindi with 1,673 cases, Multan with 661, Gujranwala with 303, and Faisalabad with 260 cases.

The situation remains serious, with an additional 76 new cases reported in Lahore, 38 in Rawalpindi, 24 in Multan, 13 in Gujranwala, and nine in Faisalabad. During the last 24 hours, Kasur recorded four new cases, Sargodha three, while two new cases were reported from Lodhran, Attock, Chakwal, Narowal, Okara, Sahiwal, Dera Ghazi Khan, Bahawalnagar, Khanewal, and Pakpatan confirmed each one case. Currently, 139 dengue patients are receiving treatment in various hospitals across Punjab.

Govt striving to provide equal educational opportunities to females: Mushaal Mullick

FAISALABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights & Women's Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Wednesday said that women were sharing 54 percent population of the country and the government was striving hard to provide equal educational opportunities to this segment for greater national interest.

She was addressing a seminar on "harmony unbound fostering peace for marginalized communities and minorities" at Government College University Faisalabad (GCUF) here.

She said that the best educational facilities were

being provided in educational institutions so that the young generation could play their active role in national progress and prosperity.

She said that there should be no discrimination between the rich and the poor but talent matters in all issues and achievements.

Therefore, the talented people should come forward to expedite the pace of national development, she added.

Expressing concern over latest situation in Palestine and Gaza, she said that world class leaders of all religions should play their role to control the situation.

She strongly

condemned whatsoever happened in Palestine and said that Israel had demolished schools and hospitals and more than one lakh people had so far lost their lives in this war.

She also stressed the need to resolve Palestine and Kashmir issues through dialogue and said that negotiation was the best way to solve the disputes.

She said that there was a war of ideas in the world. She said, "Negotiation with India does not mean that we have given up the Kashmir. However, if we could achieve any success through negotiation, then it is the best way because there is no harm in it."

Action against pigeons' keepers around airport starts

PESHAWAR (APP): The district administration, assisted by the area police, has started an operation against people indulged in pigeon flying and business around the Peshawar Airport to avert disruption in air traffic and possible mishap.

The administration had already imposed a ban under Section-144 on sale and purchase and flying of pigeons in the surrounding areas of the airport and confiscated dozens of pigeons from the shops the other day. Additional Assistant Commissioner, Samira Saba during a crackdown arrested over 12 people for flying pigeons in surrounding areas of the airport. The administration had also made announcements over loudspeakers.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan giving away certificate among the participant of workshop for the local Bodies Election.

Entry of smoke-emitting vehicles banned in city

LAHORE (APP): On the direction of Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqi and Inspector General of Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar (IG), the entry of vehicles causing environmental pollution in the city has been stopped from Oct 11, 2023.

The campaign would be carried out in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to stop smog, as a precautionary measure.

An awareness campaign has also been launched in this regard, while, vehicles with pressure horns will also be barred from entering the provincial metropolis.

Vehicles causing environmental pollution will not be allowed to enter Punjab Capital, from Oct 11, 2023.

The IG has directed that a certificate be issued to any unfit vehicle and

assistance will be sought from the motor vehicle examiner on a need basis.

The divisional administration has also decided to shut schools and other public and private organisations/departments while adopting a work-from-home policy, to be implemented from next Wednesday, subjected to the Punjab government's approval to this proposal, district administration official sources told APP.

The decision regarding the closure of commercial areas and markets was taken at a meeting held at the headquarters of the Lahore Metropolitan Corporation, recently.

In this meeting, jointly presided over by Commissioner and LDA Director General Muhammad Ali Randhawa and CCPO Bilal Siddique Kamyana, issued directions on increasing smog and the expected poor



KARACHI: Rescue workers searching at site where an under-construction building collapsed. 5 dead, 4 injured as under-construction building collapses in Karachi's Shah Faisal Colony.



KARACHI: Ex-Sindh Governor Muhammad Zubair, Convener Nawaz Sharif welcome committee Bashir Memon talking to media persons at Karachi Press Club.

Ombudsman expresses satisfaction over resolution of widow's complaint

KARACHI (APP): The provincial Ombudsman Sindh Aijaz Ali Khan has expressed his satisfaction that after his intervention the widow complainant was able to get service dues and appointment order of her son against deceased quota.

A widow, Fozia Perveen in her complaint stated that her husband was ward Boy in DMC Central who died while in service in July 2017 and since then she was pursuing for payment of service dues and appointment of her son against deceased

quota, but department failed to provide relief hence she requested to intervene. The complaint was admitted and referred to the concerned authorities and after protracted persuasion the pension was sanctioned and dues on account of gratuity, provident and financial assistant paid to her besides her son also appointed as Ward Boy against deceased quota. The complainant expressed her gratitude and expressed thankfulness to Ombudsman Sindh for resolving her issues.

SOEs running into losses add to economic woes: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said that the country was facing financial problems and those state owned enterprises (SOEs) which had been incurring losses, were adding to these economic woes. The prime minister chaired a high-level meeting over the affair of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). The meeting was given a detailed

briefing over the different issues of PIA. The meeting was attended by Caretaker Minister for Privatization Fawad Hassan Fawad, Adviser to PM Ahad Cheema and other relevant authorities, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. During the meeting, the prime minister expressed his concerns over the delayed decision making with regard to issues of PIA. He stressed upon expediting the privatization process of PIA and other SOEs running into losses, adding that their losses could not be met with the public tax money. The caretaker prime minister said that reforms in the aviation sector could bring better facilities to the public. Transparency in the privatisation process should be ensured, he emphasised, adding of responsibility for the losses was requisite so that necessary steps should be taken to avoid further losses. The meeting was apprised of the progress on the financial situation of PIA and its privatization process. All the hurdles in its privatization process were removed, it was further added. The prime minister directed for accelerating privatization of the national flag carrier to avoid further burden on the national exchequer.



ISLAMABAD: General Manager, China Energy International Group Company, Mr. Wang Huihua met with Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed on Wednesday to discuss matter related to energy sector.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Simon J. Stolp, Practice Manager (Energy & Extractives), World Bank South Asia Region along his WB team called on Federal Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hasan Fawad.

Fawad vows to privatize all loss making SOEs to reduce financial burden

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Fawad Hassan Fawad here on Wednesday reiterated his government's commitment to privatize all loss-making State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) to reduce financial burden and enhance capabilities, and efficiencies for the sustainable economic development of the country. He said that current economic conditions were not able to bear further losses of these SOEs, adding that the other objective of the privatization of such enterprises was to attract potential foreign investment for the development of these enterprises. Addressing a news conference along with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi, he said that the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar was also briefed about the privatization of such loss-making enterprises including Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). He said that these permanent loss-making enterprises were not only wasting the financial resources of the government but also enhancing the burden on the common man and increasing inflation. He said that the accumulated losses of PIA were recorded at Rs713 billion out of which Rs263 billion comprised of debt, besides an additional amount of Rs13 billion was provided by the banks on government guarantee, he added the government also provided Rs150 billion from its own resources.

PTA, SECP sign MoU to promote mutual cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalise mechanisms for information sharing and cooperation between both regulators. The MoU was signed by Director General PTA, Muddasir Naveed, and Executive Director SECP, Khalida Habib, at a ceremony held here, according to a press release issued here. Chairman PTA, Maj Gen @ Hafeez Ur Rehman; Chairman SECP, Akif Saeed; Commissioner SECP, Mujtaba Ahmed Lodhi; Member Compliance and Enforcement PTA, Dr. Khawar Siddique Khokhar; and senior officers from both organisations were in attendance. The objective of the MoU is to establish a framework for bilateral cooperation between the PTA and SECP in various areas of mutual interest, encompassing a wide spectrum of initiatives and objectives, including the realisation of a digital society to contribute towards the Government of Pakistan's "Vision 2025"; e-government initiatives; the exchange of information; the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—ICTs as contributors and enablers to achieve respective targets; policy and regulatory input on areas of common interest, such as business process efficiency, cybersecurity, data management, capacity building, etc.

Cotton output increased by 126%, production estimated to reach 11.8 mln bales

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Committee on Agriculture (FCA) on Wednesday was informed that cotton output during the season 2023-24 witnessed a bumper increase of 126.6 per cent and crop production was provisionally estimated at 11.8 million bales as it cultivated over 2.4 million hectares. The FCA met here under the chairmanship of Caretaker Minister for National Food Security & Research Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik, whereas it was also attended by S.M. Tanyveer, Minister for Agriculture, Punjab and Asif Rafiq, Minister for Agriculture, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said a press release. The Committee reviewed the performance of the Kharif Crops (2023-24) and the production plan for Rabi crops (2023-24), besides discussing the situation of inputs during the upcoming season. The committee was apprised that rice output during the season grew by 12.7 per cent as compared to the production of the same period of last year. It was informed that the rice production for 2023-24 was provisionally estimated at 8.64 million tons from an area of 3.35 million hectares showing an increase of 12.7% and 18% in area and production respectively over the last year. Mung bean production for 2023-24 is estimated at 143.6 thousand tons from an area of 198 thousand hectares showing a decrease of 9.2% in area however, an increase of 6.4% in production over the last year. Mash output was estimated at 5.28 thousand tons from an area of 7.36 thousand hectares showing an increase of 12.95% and 24.65% in area and production respectively over the last year. The chili production during the season was estimated at 1.36 thousand tons from an area of 122.1 thousand hectares showing an increase of 1.4% and 2.3P in area and production respectively over the last year.

Planning minister, Chinese official discuss energy projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami on Wednesday met with the General Manager of China Energy International Group Limited Wang Huihua and discussed matters pertaining to bilateral relations with a special focus on energy projects. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on exploring new opportunities for cooperation in diverse fields including energy and green energy, a news release said. The Planning minister appreciated the China Energy International Group Limited's investment efforts in Pakistan, which is working on various projects including Suki Kinari (SK), Neelum-Jhelum and Mohmand Dam projects. Highlighting the importance of all the projects being carried out by the Chinese Energy International Group, Sami Saeed assured the Chinese companies of the government's full support for the smooth execution of the projects.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Five ships namely, MSC Jemima, Maersk Kensington, MSC Vilda-X, TRF Kobe and Limra carrying Containers, Palm oil and LPG, berthed at Container Terminal, Liquid Terminal and Sui Southern Gas Terminal respectively on Tuesday. Meanwhile three more ships, Livar Den, Seaway Huron and Al-Rayyan carrying Palm oil, Gas oil and LNG also arrived at outer anchorage of the port during last 24 hours. A total of six ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them four ships, Maersk Kensington, MSC Vilda-X, TRF Kobe and Mei Lin Wan are expected to sail on today afternoon. A cargo volume of 113,650 tonnes, comprising 79,310 tonnes imports cargo and 34,340 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 5,310 Containers (3,290 TEUs Imports).



MOROCCO: Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar met with Chairman of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, Dr. Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser.

ICCI for re-activation of SME Bank to promote SME sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Workers Federation's Steering Committee, Mian Akram Farid, Chairman (Central) Employers Federation of Pakistan, President SME Bank Employees Union, President Punjab Bank Employees Union, President Zarai Taraqati Bank Employees Union, President State Life Insurance Corporation Employees Union were in the delegation. Zafar Bakhtawari former President ICCI & Secretary General UJB Pakistan and Mehfooz Elahi former President ICCI were also present on the occasion. Ahsan Bakhtawari lauded the efforts of Pakistan Workers Federation for protection of workers rights and legislative reforms in labor laws and assured that ICCI would try to raise their genuine concerns with the relevant quarters for redress. He said that already SMEs are facing great problems in getting credit from banks as the SME sector in Pakistan receives only 6-7% of the private sector financing as compared to 25% in Bangladesh and 18% in India. He said that the closure of SME Bank would create more hurdles for SMEs in expansion and growth. He said this while talking to a delegation of employees' unions that called on him led by Zahoor Awan, Chairman, Pakistan

FPCCI-TDAP Success of Gems, Jewelry show can boost exports

ISLAMABAD: The Core Committee meeting on Gems and Jewelry Show 2024 was held at FPCCI Capital Office Islamabad yesterday led by Mr. Umar Masudur Rahman Vice President FPCCI. The meeting was attended by Mr. Saqib Rafiq President gemstones in the international market. He appreciated the role of TDAP Islamabad to bring all related trade bodies on our platform under the patronage of TDAP and FPCCI to organize a befitting show to attract foreign buyers. The Gems expo will



Rawalpindi Chamber, Petron Chief APCEA Haji Mamoor Khan, Chairman syed Minhaj ud Din Bacha, Chairman Mining Association, Farukh Alvi, RCCI Members Akhtar Amin, Muhammad Fayaz Qureshi, member Islamabad CCI Ayesha Asif, and Trade Development Authority Islamabad representatives Ishaq Shinwari and Moin Ahmed. Mr. Umar Masood ur Rehman Vice President FPCCI said that he believed the Gems and Jewelry Show 2024 would go a long way to showcasing

Pak, IsDB explore ways to promote economic cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar met the Chairman of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, Dr. Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser in Morocco on Wednesday. According to a press statement issued by the finance ministry, the meeting aimed to foster productive discussions on economic cooperation and development initiatives.



LAHORE: Anjuman-e-Tajran Lahore Quaid-e-Azam Group President, Mian Waqar addresses to media persons during press conference, at Lahore press club.

Rashakai SEZ project vital for industrial uplift: Dr. Aamir

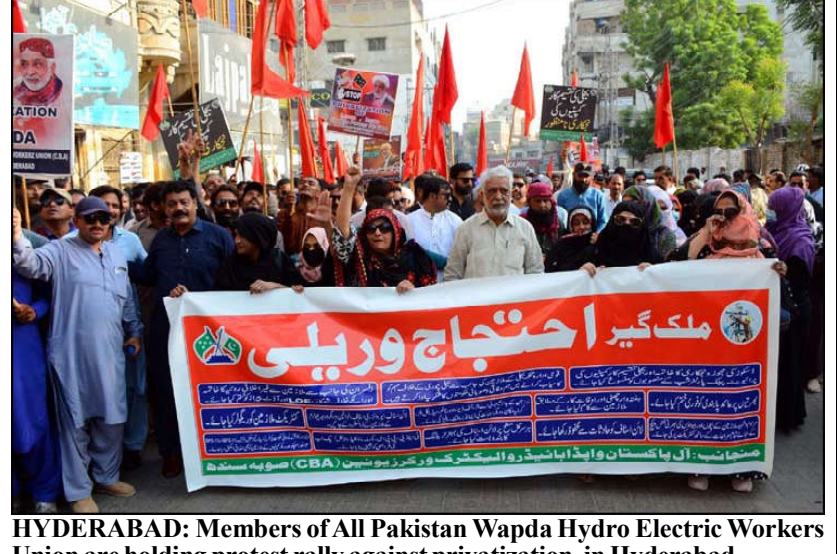
PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC), Javed Iqbal Khattak and other officers of the Company, officers of the CPEC project and "China Roads and Building Company" (CRBC) representatives, who are working with the provincial government in the construction work of the Zone were also present on the occasion. On this occasion, the caretaker minister was given meticulous briefing on the special economic zone, established under CPEC for industrial development, its unique features and the completion of its construction infrastructure in the first phase. He was also briefed about the facilities to be provided in the zone in the future phases. The caretaker minister was told that the establishment of the special zone.

Rupee gains 99 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Wednesday witnessed the 25th consecutive recovery session as it gained 99 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs279.51 against the previous day's closing of Rs280.50. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs276.5 and Rs279.25 respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by Rs1.23 to close at Rs 296.31 against the last day's closing of Rs297.54, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen lost one paise to close at Rs1.87, whereas a decrease of 96 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs343.15 as compared to the last closing of Rs344.11. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal declined by 27 and 26 paise to close.

PTCL awarded 'Best Place to Work in Technology & Telecom'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's largest telecommunications and ICT services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G) has bagged the coveted 'Best Place to Work in Technology & Telecom Sector' award for its exemplary workplace culture and standards of employee satisfaction. The awards were held by Pakistan Society of Human Resource Management (PSHRM) and Engage Consulting said a news release. PTCL Group's victory reflects the success of its initiative to transform its workplace culture. Over these years, the Group has undertaken profound initiatives to foster a progressive workplace, strongly grounded in diversity, inclusivity, equality, with personal and professional development. The company offers competitive remunerations, performance incentives, active mentorship, work-life balance, and mental and physical well-being to promote employee satisfaction.



HYDERABAD: Members of All Pakistan Wapda Hydro Electric Workers Union are holding protest rally against privatization, in Hyderabad.

Under heavy bombing, Palestinians in Gaza move from place to place, only to discover nowhere is safe

Monitoring Desk
GAZA CITY: Over 180,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are packed into U.N. shelters as Israeli warplanes pound the tiny territory of 2.3 million people after their Hamas militant rulers launched an unprecedented weekend attack on Israel. Among them is 27-year-old Sabreen al-Attar. She sprang into action when she heard rocket after rocket whoosh over her farmland in Beit Lahiya just south of the Israeli border on Saturday. She knew from experience that Israeli retaliation would be swift and severe.

Grabbing her children, al-Attar rushed to one of the dozens of shelters set up in schools run by the U.N. agency for Palestin-

ian refugees in Gaza City. There, blasts of unprecedented intensity punctuated hours of steadily declining conditions Monday as food and water ran out.

"When I escape, I do it for my children," she said, her hands trembling. "Their lives rest on my shoulders."

But residents say there is no real escape in Gaza, which has been under a suffocating 16-year blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt. When war breaks out, as it has four times since the Hamas militant group seized power in 2007, even U.N. facilities that are supposed to be safe zones risk becoming engulfed in the fighting. The United Nations said that an airstrike directly hit one of its shelters Sunday and

damaged five other schools-turned-shelters on Monday. There was no immediate word of casualties.

In the downtown Rimal area, Gaza City's bustling commercial district with high-rises home to international media and aid organizations, al-Attar hoped she would be safe. Rimal had until then not been an immediate Israeli target, unlike border towns or densely populated refugee camps.

But as the Israeli military went neighborhood to neighborhood with rapid and intensifying airstrikes, the heavy bombardments reached the heart of Gaza City, transforming the affluent neighborhood into an uninhabitable desert of craters.



A dove flies over the debris of houses destroyed in Israeli strikes, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

As another 6.3 magnitude quake hits, Afghanistan lowers toll from earlier tremors to 1,000

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: Afghan authorities on Wednesday significantly lowered the death toll from a series of quakes that struck western Herat at the weekend to around 1,000.

The Taliban government had originally said over 2,000 people had been killed in Saturday's magnitude 6.3 quake, centred on rural communities northwest of Herat city. The initial quake was followed by a series of powerful aftershocks.

Public Health Minis-

ter Qalandar Ebad on Wednesday lowered the toll to around 1,000, attributing the confusion to the remoteness of the area and double reporting by agencies involved in the rescue effort. "We have over 1,000 people martyred from the first incident," Ebad told reporters in Kabul.

Another earthquake of magnitude 6.3 struck on Wednesday morning in the same area, where thousands were spending a fourth night in the open.

The quake occurred at a shallow depth at around

5:10am local time (12:40am GMT), with its epicentre about 29 kilometres north of the city of Herat, the United States Geological Survey said. "It's horrible, the whole of Herat is terrified," said 32-year-old Abdul Qudos. "We are so scared that even when we see the trees moving (in the wind), we think it's another earthquake coming."

At least one person was killed and 120 injured by the latest quake, said Abdul Zahir Noorzai, ambulance manager for Herat Regional Hospital.



Jordan's King Abdullah II speaks at the opening of a new parliamentary session in Amman, Jordan.

Germany to send \$1.1 billion in air defense tech, plus more tanks

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: Germany will send about €1 billion (U.S. \$1.1 billion) worth of air defense systems to Ukraine as part of a second "winter package" for the embattled country, the German Defence Ministry said in a statement Tuesday.

The support will include a Patriot air defense system and two IRIS-T surface-to-air systems, as well as 10 more Leopard 1 A5 main battle tanks, three Gepard anti-aircraft guns, armored trucks and ambulances, in addition to more than €20 million in kit specifically for Ukraine's special forces.

The latest support follows a €400 million package for Ukraine announced in September that included ammunition, mine-resistant combat vehicles and drones. After initial reluctance to provide Ukraine with military aid following Russia's invasion of the country, Germany has now overtaken the U.K. and

Poland in terms of support, with only the U.S. providing more equipment.

"I'm grateful to Germany for today's large military aid package," Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter. "As winter approaches, this is exactly the support we need."

"I'm grateful to Germany for today's large military aid package. Patriot, IRIS-T, Gepard, tanks, armored vehicles, and other items. As winter approaches, this is exactly the support we need and the one we discussed with @Bundeskanzler in Granada. Our agreements are working????????"

Volodymyr Zelenskyy / А́ндрі́євіч Зеленський (@ZelenskyyUa) October 10, 2023 The new package includes a second Patriot air defense system to be supplied by Germany, including a fire control unit, radar array and eight launchers, as well as more than 60 missiles.

Israel bombs south Lebanon after Hezbollah rocket fire

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Israeli shelling hit southern Lebanese towns on Wednesday in response to a fresh rocket attack by powerful armed group Hezbollah, as cross-border violence extended into a fourth day.

Hezbollah said it had fired precision missiles at an Israeli position in response to the killing of its members in Israeli shelling earlier this week, pledging "decisive" responses to attacks on Lebanese territory, especially deadly ones.

The Israeli military said it had hit a Hezbollah position with an air strike and had also "attacked" Lebanon after a military post near the Israeli town of Arab al-Aramshe was targeted with anti-tank fire on Wednesday.

It did not immediately provide details on casualties.

A Lebanese security source said Hezbollah fired two precision missiles into Israel, which the group considers its sworn enemy.

Jordan's king says no stability in region without Palestinian state

Monitoring Desk
AMMAN: Jordan's King Abdullah said on Wednesday no peace was possible in the Middle East without the emergence of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.

The latest violence - which broke out when Hamas militants assaulted Israel at the weekend - showed the region would not "enjoy stability, security or peace" without a sovereign Palestinian state on land that Israel had captured in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, he said. A two-state solution was the only option, the monarch told deputies in a speech at the opening of a new parliamentary session.

"Our region will never be secure nor stable without achieving just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the two-state solution," the monarch said.

A two-state solution has long been the bedrock of international peacemaking efforts, but the process has been moribund for years and the possibility of it happening has dimmed even before the renewed bloodshed. King Abdullah has since the start of the latest conflict been engaged in a flurry of diplomatic efforts with Western and regional leaders urging swift action to de-escalate the situation, officials say. Officials said the monarch, whom US President Joe Biden called, will voice the kingdom's concerns with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken when he arrives in Amman.

Hezbollah says US is 'responsible' for attacks in Israel

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group on Wednesday blasted the United States for its support of Israel, saying that sending an aircraft carrier to the region "will not scare our people or the resistance movements that are ready for the confrontation."

Hezbollah said that the U.S. "is a full partner of the Zionist aggression and is responsible for the killings, crimes, siege, the destruction of homes and horrifying crimes against innocent civilians." The group added in a statement that sending an aircraft carrier to the region reveals the weakness of Israel's military and its need for continuous foreign support.

US carrier Ronald Reagan to visit South Korea in show of force

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: The U.S. nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan is due to dock at the South Korean port of Busan on Thursday, as Seoul warned of a greater threat from North Korea and held joint maritime drills with the United States and Japan. The carrier, which is expected to remain in Busan until Oct. 16, will strengthen the defence posture of South Korea and the United States in case of any North Korean provocations, South Korea's defence ministry said. The Ronald Reagan last visited South Korea in 2022 for the first time in about four years, joining other military vessels in a show of might intended to send a message to North Korea.

North Korean state media KCNA on Tuesday criticised the deployment of U.S. strategic assets, including submarines and bombers, in the Asia-Pacific re-

gion while defending its plans for a spy satellite program as "indispensable".

Pyeongyang has failed twice to place a spy satellite in orbit, in May and August, and has vowed to try again as early as October. South Korea's defence minister Shin Won-sik told reporters on Tuesday that South Korea faces a more severe threat from North Korea, according to news agency Yonhap. The visit of the carrier comes after the United States pledged to enhance the "regular visibility" of its strategic military assets in the Washington Declaration, which President Yoon Suk Yeol and U.S. leader Joe Biden issued during a summit in April.

The South Korean and U.S. navies held joint maritime drills with Japan's defence force in waters near South Korea's Jeju Island on Monday and Tuesday, the South Korean navy said.

Arab backing for Palestinians grows

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: In mosques, football stadiums and towns across the Arab world, pro-Palestinian sentiment has surged after the Hamas raid on Israel, sparking a groundswell of solidarity for Palestinians.

From Ramallah to Beirut, Damascus, Baghdad and Cairo, people have distributed sweets, danced and chanted prayers in support of the resistance to Israel's occupation of Palestinian land.

"My entire life, I have seen Israel kill us, confiscate our lands and arrest our children," said Farah Al Saadi, a 52-year-old coffee vendor from Ramallah, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

"I was pleased by what Hamas did," said the man, whose son is in Israeli detention, adding however that he feared the scale of "Israeli crimes in Gaza" in retaliation.

Medical personnel attend a wounded victim after earthquake in Herat.

Taiwan seeks 'peaceful coexistence' with China, president says

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: Taiwan seeks "peaceful coexistence" with China with free and unrestricted interaction but the island will be democratic for generations to come, President Tsai Ing-wen said in her last national day speech on Tuesday.

Taiwan, claimed by China as its own territory, has come under increasing military and political pressure from Beijing, including two major sets of Chinese war games near the island since August of last year, heightening fears of a conflict

which would have global ramifications. Tsai, who cannot stand again as president at elections in January after two terms in office, has repeatedly offered talks with China, which has rejected them as it views her as a separatist. Speaking in front of the presidential office, Tsai said the strength of international support for Taiwan had reached an "unprecedented height". "Since this is a time we can now face the world with confidence and resolve, we can also be calm and self-assured in facing China."

US talking to Israel, Egypt about safe passage for Gaza civilians: White House

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The U.S. is talking with Israel and Egypt about the idea of a safe passage for Gaza civilians as Israel strikes the enclave after a deadly Hamas attack over the weekend, U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan said on Tuesday.

"We are focused on this question, there are consultations going on," Sullivan told reporters at the White House.

Author Arundhati Roy faces prosecution in India over 2010 speech

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: The Booker prize-winning author Arundhati Roy faces prosecution in India for a speech about Kashmir she gave 13 years ago after a top official approved the move, local media reported on Wednesday.

A social activist from Kashmir filed a police complaint in 2010 following speeches by Roy and three others at a conference organised by a rights group, the reports said.

Roy, a fierce critic of India's policy in Kashmir, is accused of saying at the conference that the dis-

puted Himalayan territory was not an integral part of India.

Under Indian laws, the state government's permission is needed for the prosecution of certain crimes, including hate speech, sedition, and promoting enmity. Vinai Kumar Saxena, the federally-appointed lieutenant governor (LG), has allowed Delhi Police to prosecute Roy and Central University of Kashmir professor Sheikh Showkat Hussain under laws relating to promoting enmity, making assertions prejudicial to national integration, and causing public mischief, the reports said.

Stockholm to ban petrol, diesel cars in city centre

Monitoring Desk
STOCKHOLM: Stockholm will ban petrol and diesel cars in a central 20-block area of the city as of 2025 in a bid to improve air quality, a vice-mayor said Tuesday.

"Nowadays the air in Stockholm causes babies to have sick lungs and the elderly to die prematurely. It is a completely unacceptable situation," Lars Stromgren, the city's vice-mayor for transport and urban environment, said in a statement.

"We need to limit the harmful exhaust gases from petrol and diesel cars," he said.

29 killed in army strike on refugee camp in Myanmar

Monitoring Desk
BANGKOK: Twenty-nine people were killed and dozens wounded in a military strike on a camp for displaced people in northern Myanmar, a spokesman for an ethnic rebel group that controls the area said on Tuesday.

Myanmar's junta has been accused of carrying out multiple bloody attacks on civilian targets as it struggles to quell resistance to its 2021 coup.

The latest attack happened around 11:30pm on Monday (1700 GMT), Colonel Naw Bu of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) said.

"We found 29 dead bodies including children and older people... 56 people were wounded," he

said, adding they were investigating what kind of strike had hit the camp.

"We did not hear any aircraft," he noted, saying they were looking into whether the military had used a drone to target the camp near the town of Laiza, on the Chinese border. Local media images purporting to show the aftermath of the strike showed rescuers working by torchlight to recover bodies from wooden debris.

At least 10 bodies were shrouled in towels and tarpaulins on the ground. Colonel Naw Bu said that 42 people were being treated at a hospital near Laiza, which is located in Kachin state. Junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun said the military was "investigating" the reports.

Ukraine President Zelenskyy at NATO defense ministers meeting seeking more support to fight Russia

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: For the first time, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy joined a meeting of more than 50 defense leaders from around the world Wednesday to make a personal pitch for military aid, in the face of lagging political support in the U.S. and new pressure on allies to send weapons to bolster Israel's war with Hamas.

His presence underscored growing concerns about cracks in what has been staunch international backing for Kyiv in its war against Russia's invasion, and worries that Ukrainian forces haven't made measurable progress in the counteroffensive, as winter closes in.

"Next Monday, we will mark the 600th day of our resistance to Russia's full scale aggression against our people, against Ukraine. And today, no one can say for sure how many more days we will have to defend our independence and to defend our identity," Zelenskyy told the gathering as they opened the meeting. "But we can already say several things which I think are important. First, Putin will not achieve Ukraine. Second, Russia cannot afford a new arms race. And third, democracy can win this battle."

The meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, hosted by the U.S., comes as Ukraine is desperately seeking more weapons to help its troops regain ground from Russian forces before the muddy weather sets in.

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Two US House Republicans make their bid for the speaker's gavel

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Republicans who control the US House of Representatives heard pitches on Tuesday from prominent party members Steve Scalise and Jim Jordan, who are vying for the powerful role of speaker, under mounting pressure from a war in the Middle East and another looming government shutdown.

Lawmakers exiting a closed-door forum said neither Scalise, the House majority leader, nor Jordan, who chairs the Judiciary Committee, will have a clear advantage when Republicans begin to vote for a nominee by secret ballot on Wednesday.

"We've got two good leaders within our party, with good perspectives on where the party needs to go and an understanding and an emphasis on reuniting the party," Representative Mike Garcia told reporters.

But before voting for a candidate on Wednesday, Republicans will have to decide whether to keep internal disagreements behind closed doors by requiring any nominee to win 217 Republican votes, enough to

elect the next speaker on the House floor over Democratic opposition. Current rules require only a simple majority.

"The first order of business is figuring out a rules change that works for the conference," said Representative Kat Cammack.

Republicans hold a narrow 221-212 majority in the House.

The narrowly divided caucus raised some worries that neither candidate would be able to win enough support to be elected speaker in the first round of voting.

"We're going to go get this done tomorrow, and the House is going to get back to work," Scalise told reporters after the candidate forum, which ran over two hours.

Scalise and Jordan each pledged to back whichever candidate ultimately emerged as the nominee, lawmakers said.

Republicans' narrow majority in the House made it possible for a fraction of their members to force Kevin McCarthy, who was ousted as speaker last week, to endure 15 grueling floor votes to become speaker in January.

EU warns Musk's X spreading 'illegal' disinfo after Hamas attack

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: The EU's digital chief Thierry Breton warned Elon Musk on Tuesday that his platform X, formerly Twitter, is spreading "illegal content and disinformation", in a letter seen by AFP.

The letter said concerns had heightened after the Hamas attack against Israel, and demanded Musk respond to the complaint within 24 hours and contact "relevant law enforcement authorities".

As the European Union's commissioner for industry and the digital economy, Breton is charged with regulating internet giants that trade within the bloc, and can launch legal action. "Following the terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas against Israel, we have indications that your platform is being used to disseminate illegal content and disinformation in the EU," Breton wrote.

Breton reminded Musk that EU law sets tough rules on moderating content, "especially when it comes to violent and terror-

ist content that appears to circulate on your platform". He asked that X respond to his complaint within 24 hours and also get in touch with Europol, the EU police coordinating agency. "We will include your answer in our assessment file on your compliance with the DSA," Breton said, referring to the new EU Digital Services Act, which regulates online platforms.

"I remind you that following the opening of a potential investigation and a finding of non-compliance, penalties can be imposed," it said. Musk, responding later on X to a user who had posted the letter, invited Breton to "please list the violations you allude to". "Our policy is that everything is open source and transparent, an approach that I know the EU supports," Musk wrote.



Protestors wave the national flag of Palestine as they shout slogans during an anti-Israel demonstration in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

OIC's special envoy asks India to reverse illegal change of Jammu & Kashmir's status

ISLAMABAD (APP): Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Special Envoy on Jammu and Kashmir, Yousef M Al-Dobeay on Wednesday demanded India to reverse its illegal and unilateral action of changing the autonomous status of J&K and grant the people of the valley their due rights.

In a joint press stake-out along with Foreign Secretary Syrus Sajjad Qazi here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the visiting OIC envoy said the OIC would continue to support Kashmiris for their right to self-determination.

The OIC's Special Envoy is in Pakistan and will also visit Azad Jammu and Kashmir to undertake a first-hand assessment of the human rights and the

humanitarian situation in the valley.

Yousef Al-Dobeay expressed concern over the illegal and unilateral actions taken by India on August 5, 2019, that turned the Kashmiris into a marginalized minority.

He said his visit to AJ&K was about getting knowledge about the factual and on-ground situation in the valley ahead of the upcoming 15th OIC Islamic Summit to be held in Gambia this December.

He mentioned that Jammu and Kashmir was an old agenda at the platform of OIC, where the organization from time to time strongly condemned the human rights situation in the Indian-held Kashmir.

The OIC envoy re-

called that the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir that met on the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September reaffirmed the inalienable right to self-determination of the people of J&K.

He said the meeting also expressed deep concern over the persistent curbs on the fundamental rights and freedom of the people in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The OIC envoy appreciated the government of Pakistan in highlighting the issue of Jammu and Kashmir at the international fora and expressed the OIC's resolve of its continued support to the cause.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of politicians from Balochistan led by former Chief Minister Dr. Abdul Malik called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

907 local bodies are functional in Balochistan: Domki assures every possible support to LG institutions

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that it's need of the hour to strengthen local government (LG) institutions as their role is critical in resolving basic issues of the masses.

He assured that the interim provincial government would extend every possible support and facilities to the LG institutions remaining in its jurisdictions.

This was stated by the Chief Minister while chairing the meeting of Local Council Grant Committee (LCGC) here on Wednesday.

The meeting discussed the matters related to the Local Council Finance Commission in detail.

It was informed that in all 907 local bodies institutions are functional in the province.

It was informed that around 11,000 local bodies representatives have been elected in the province.

However, LG elections are yet to be conducted in Quetta district.

In addition to this, the meeting was also briefed about the issues related to LCGC, distribution of funds and proposed distribution formula in this regard.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister directed to the concerned authorities to improve the municipal services so as to rid the people of civic problems.

He also directed to present report of performance in next review meeting.

Mr. Domki also directed to launch special drive for removal of the garbage from all zones of Quetta city for desired funds have been released.

To support breast cancer awareness drive President writes letters to Caretaker PM, Governors, Chief Ministers

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has written letters to Caretaker Prime Minister, Caretaker Ministers, Governors and Caretaker Chief Ministers, seeking their cooperation over the breast cancer awareness drive and wearing of pink ribbon during the month of October.

The president also sent letters to President and Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Senators and Governor and Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan in this regard, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Wednesday.

He said that the month of October was dedicated every year to create awareness about breast cancer.

The president observed that their cooperation over public awareness would yield tangible results. With public awareness, they could play their parts in transforming a healthy and well-aware society.

He said breast cancer in Pakistan caused about 40,000 deaths every year which was the highest ratio in Asia, adding delayed diagnosis was the main cause of these deaths.

Awareness about self-examination could save many lives, he added.



MOROCCO: Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue & Economic Affairs Dr. Shamsah Akhtar held a meeting with the Governor of the Central Bank of Morocco.

Home Minister concerned about selling petrol without precautionary measures

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain Mir Zubair Jamali has expressed concern about selling petrol in small localities and streets without adopting necessary precautionary measures and directed to take stern action against those involved in the practice.

This situation can cause major mishap causing destruction at in the local settlements.

The Minister Home was speaking to a delegation who called on him under leadership of the country manager of a private petroleum company, Syed Muhammad Hasnain, here on Wednesday.

During the course of meeting, delegation pointed out that the private petrol pumps have been selling petrol without precautionary measures in the small localities and streets of the province.

On this, Minister Home directed the concerned authorities to take stern action against those selling petrol without preventive measures as per the law.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Farooq Ahmed Naek, Chairman Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and members of the Committee in a group photo with a delegation led by Ambassador Yousef Mohammed S. Aldobeay, Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs/Special Envoy of the OIC Secretary General for Jammu and Kashmir at Parliament House.

Solangi says: CPEC bolsters people-to-people contacts between Pakistan-China

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi Wednesday said the launch of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had not only deepened the economic cooperation between the two brotherly countries but also bolstered people-to-people contacts in a remarkable way.

"Over 28,000 Pakistani students were currently studying in China. This aspect of cooperation is of prime importance in the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative," the minister said while addressing the Art Exhibition & Cultural Show at Pakistan National Council of Arts.

Since the launch of CPEC, he said people-to-people connectivity between Pakistan and China had soared to new heights.

In Pakistan, the minister said the number of

Cooperation signed in November 2021, Solangi said the two sides agreed to celebrate the Pakistan-China Year of Tourism Exchanges in 2023 and to establish strong linkages between the tourism promotion agencies and private enterprises of the two countries.

The minister said in May 2023, the Pakistan-China joint exhibition at the Palace Museum featured 173 Gandhara artifacts from Pakistani museums, promoting shared heritage and cultural exchange between the two nations, fostering cultural cooperation and offering insights into Pakistan's heritage for the general public and Chinese scholars.

"These exchanges are not new. In fact, from 138 B.C. until our modern age, the Silk Road has managed to represent one of the longest-established and permanent hubs for exchange.



QUETTA: A delegation of district Lasbella led by Caretaker Provincial Minister Prince Ahmed Ali Baloch meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki.

MoU signed to electrify New Gwadar International Airport

GWADAR (INP): To provide electricity to the new Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) through the national grid, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has officially been signed between the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) and Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO).

Under the MoU, approximately 12 MW of electricity will be provided to the New Gwadar International Airport by October 17, fulfilling its 24-hour electricity needs without interruption.

The MoU states that commercial tariffs will be charged based on electricity usage.

On special directives from the Ministry of Planning, Quetta Electric Supply Company, which handles power supply across Baluchistan, has approved 12 MW to electrify NGIA.

A QESCO official told Gwadar Pro that testing and commissioning has been completed, with all required equipment like poles, transmission lines, and electrical circuits aligned to the installed power system.

To ensure uninterrupted electricity, 12 MW will be available to NGIA around the clock through three transmission lines.

"This means if one line fails, the second will automatically connect, and if that goes down, the third will serve as a backup," he added.

"One supply is coming from the 286 km long, 132kV dual-circuit line through Naal-Basima-Naag-Panjgur. The second is from the Mund-Pishin-Turbat line to the Gwadar grid station. The third is from the Gabd-Remden line to the Jiwini-Gwadar grid station," he explained.

With the electrification process complete, NGIA is expected to start welcoming domestic and international flights, marking a new era of modern aviation connecting Gwadar to the world.

Major airbase components of the China-funded NGIA, including the runway, taxiway and apron, were already unveiled on July 27, coinciding with the 10-year commemoration of the Belt and Road Initiative.

The new airport is located 26km northeast of Gwadar City on the Arabian Sea coast.

ZAC stage dharna against power load shedding, QESCO operation

Independent Report
QUETTA: Zamindars belonging to Quetta and different other parts of the province took out protest rally and staged dharna in the provincial metropolis on Wednesday.

Led by the Chairman Balochistan Zamindars Action Committee, Malik Naseer Shahwani, the farmers marched through Jail road and Jaffar Khan Jamali road from the Ayub Stadium to reach the Fayyaz Sunbal Chowk on way to the Quetta press club.

However, they staged dharna right at the Fayyaz Sunbal Chowk for couple of hours before the interim Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai approached and convinced them to end protest.

On the assurance that their problems would be resolved and demands would be met, the zamindars ended their protest.

Earlier, the zamindars gathered at the Ayub stadium for protest.



KACHHI: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar being briefed by Deputy Commissioner Captain (ret'd) Jumma Dad Khan Mandokhail during his visit.

Never compromised on ideological stance, says Rahim Ziaratwal

Independent Report
LORALAI: Despite our sacrifices for democracy and rule of law in Pakistan, we are being punished. As a political party we have contributed our part in upholding the doctrines of Parliamentary supremacy and Rule of Law. Unfortunately, our party has always been severely punished and our blood has been shed, said Pashtoonkha Milli Awami Party General Secretary Abdul Rahim Ziaratwal on Wednesday.

Ziaratwal was addressing a seminar organised in Loralai on Wednesday in remembrance of 40th and 33rd anniversary of the martyrs. On 7th October 1983, Mehmood Khan Achakzai, Chairman Pashtoonkha Milli Awami Party, was leading a rally against the tyrannical Zia's dictatorial regime and police opened fire on them. In attempt to save the chairman, four party workers laid their lives. Likewise, on 11th October 1991, six party workers were martyred in an attack on party's office in 1991.

Ziaratwal said that our stance on Parliamentary Democracy, Parliamentary Supremacy, Rule of Law, and parity amongst the different ethnicities living in the country have remained unchanged. He added, the solution to current political turmoil lies in strict adherence to Civilian supremacy and empowering federating units.

Ziaratwal reiterating party's political role in country's politics said that our chairman, Mehmood Khan Achakzai, has always unequivocally stated the truth and remained steadfast in the adherence to the constitutional principles. Our political stance has now become the stance of all major political parties.

Though we had some reservations on the constitution, we believe the solution to run this federation lies in the full implementation of the constitution. All the state Departments must remain in the contours enshrined.



QUETTA: Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai negotiating with Chairman Zamindar Action Committee Malik Naseer Ahmed Shahwani, Haji Abdul Rehman and others who are staging sit-in in Red Zone against power load shedding, QESCO operation

Cabinet gives green signal for auction of 5G spectrum: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif Wednesday said that the Federal Cabinet has given the green signal for the auction of the much-anticipated 5G spectrum.

Dr. Saif in a statement said that a Spectrum Auction Advisory Committee, led by the finance minister, had been established to oversee the impending spectrum auction.

He said that this committee included members from the Ministry of Information Technology, Telecommunication and the Ministry of Industries and Production.

The eagerly awaited 5G spectrum is set to make 300 Megahertz of spectrum available, with the potential to revolutionize Pakistan's telecommunication landscape, he added.

Dr. Saif emphasized that a consultant would soon be appointed through the Pakistan Telecommuni-

WB delegation calls on Chairman WAPDA

ISLAMABAD (APP): A four-member World Bank delegation, headed by South Asia Region Practice Manager for Energy Simon Stolp on Wednesday called on Chairman WAPDA Engr Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd).

The delegation was briefed about progress on the World Bank-funded WAPDA projects, which included the Dasu Hydropower Project, the Tarbela 5th Extension Hydropower Project and Tarbela Floating Solar Panel Project, said a press release.

NAB, UoB collaborate to combat corruption through students

Independent Report
QUETTA: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan hosted a seminar at the University of Balochistan, to foster awareness and a strong aversion to corruption among the students.

The seminar, themed "Engaging Students in the Fight Against Corruption," was essentially acted as an educational platform, motivating students to come together in their anti-corruption efforts. Subsequently, a significant number of students took part in an awareness walk that followed the event.

Mrs. Zainab, the Dean of the Faculty of Management and Information Sciences, alongside faculty members, staff, and a significant number of students attended the seminar.

Addressing the students, Khawar Ilyas, Director of NAB (Balochistan), emphasized the workings and procedures of NAB and underscored the importance of students in the fight against corruption.

He emphasized the need for a collective effort to combat this societal issue for more effective results.

Otherwise, this problem will corrode society from the inside. He highlighted the impactful ways in which students can contribute to fostering a transparent and accountable society.

Mrs. Zainab, the Head of the Management Sciences Department, expressed her thoughts on the subject.

Director NAB provided comprehensive responses to the inquiries and questions posed by the young students.



QUETTA: Speaker addressing the students during a seminar on "Role of Students in Eradication of Corruption" at University of Balochistan.