

# Independent

Member APNS &amp; CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vd XXV No 53, Rabi-ul-Awwal 27, 1445 AH Saturday October 14, 2023 Pages 12, Price Rs.15

Caretaker PM says

## No talks with TTP; state powerful enough to fight them even for 100 years

**Vows to wipe out all anti-state elements from country; All available resources to be utilized to improve security situation**

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday ruling out any talks with Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), said that state of Pakistan was powerful enough to fight them even for next 100 years.

"Don't you see that their people are being killed on daily basis. Our people are also being martyred. So what kind of talks or impediments (you are talking about)? They are killing my children and I am killing them..."

The state of Pakistan is so powerful to fight TTP,

not just one year rather 100 years," the prime minister told the media during his visit to Peshawar.

Caretaker KP Chief Minister Azam Khan and Governor Haji Ghulam Ali were also present.

Asked what were the impediments in talks with TTP, the prime minister said the biggest obstacle was that no one was willing to talk to them.

"We don't want to talk to them. Who told you that we have any intention to talk with TTP," he remarked.

Prime Minister Kakar,

who earlier offered Fateha and laid wreath at the grave of former FC Commandant Shaheed Sifat Ghayur said, "If you want me to announce the same in North Waziristan or South Waziristan, take me there. Keep in mind, I may die but not Pakistan."

Rubbishing the notions of any registered Afghan refugees being expelled from Pakistan, the prime minister said only the foreigners living illegally in Pakistan were being ousted.

He said through such measures, Pakistan did not

Continued on page 2

### President confers Nishan-e-Imtiaz (M) to Naval Chief

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Dr. Arif Alvi conferred Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) on newly appointed Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Friday.

The investiture ceremony was held at Aiwan-e-Sadar in Islamabad. Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar ul Haq Kakar also participated in the ceremony.

### Govt appoints four army officers in NAB

ISLAMABAD (Online): Circle tighten against corrupt elements, serving military and military officers have been appointed in NAB.

After the approval of the Prime Minister, the Establishment Division has issued a notification.

According to the separate notification issued by Brigadier Muhammad Khalid has been appointed as Director and Lt. Col. Nadeem Muzaffar as Additional Director of NAB.

The notification of the Establishment Division has been issued after the approval of the Prime Minister.

Likewise, Major Waleed Khalid, hailing from the Military Intelligence Corps, has taken on the role of Deputy Director in NAB. Major Qais Kamran Syed, also from the Military Intelligence Corps, has been appointed as Deputy Director of NAB.

### President has no powers to pardon punishments of Hudud crimes: IIC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamic Ideological Council (IIC) has made it clear that president is empowered under article 145 of the constitution to pardon or reduce the punishment but according to the Holy Quran and Sunnah he is not authorized to pardon punishment of Hudud crimes.

According to IIC spokesperson the statement attributed to Dr Qibla Ayaz regarding the constitutional powers of the president for pardoning punishment is being presented on certain news channels, websites and in whats app groups out of context.

The matter of powers of president about pardoning punishment is laid down in article 45 of the constitution and this matter was not on the agenda of recent meeting.

The participants of rally were carrying the flags of Palestine and placards inscribed with the slogans against Israel.

Similarly, the Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf, Insaaf Lawyers Forum and Pakistan Markazi Muslim League also took out rallies and held demonstrations in favour of Palestine and against Israel's cruelty on the Palestinians.



PESHAWAR: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on the matters related to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

### Govt. warns illegal residents of 'no compromise' after deportation deadline

**Bugti reiterates policy to expel illegal immigrants was not restricted to Afghan nationals**

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti Friday warned illegal immigrants in Pakistan to leave the country by the November 1 deportation deadline or the state would show "no compromise" in taking action against them.

The interim government had earlier this month ordered all illegal immigrants, including 1.73 million Afghan nationals, to leave the country or face expulsion after revealing that 14 of 24 suicide bombings in the country this year were carried out by Afghan nationals.

"In the meetings about the expulsion of Afghan

refugees, all stakeholders were present. In that meeting, it was decided that a grace period should be given them," the minister said in a statement, claiming that some people also told authorities that some immigrants wished to return voluntarily.

The interim security czar reiterated that the policy to expel illegal immigrants was not restricted to Afghan nationals, but all those who do not have the required documentation for residing in Pakistan.

"People, no matter which nationality they belong to, will not be troubled

Continued on page 2

### Balochistan suffered loss of Rs. 700 billion due to flashfloods: Caretaker CM seeks Islamabad's faster assistance for early rehabilitation of affected sectors in Balochistan

**Interim Federal Minister Planning and Special Initiatives Sami Saeed pledges to improve rehabilitation operation in flood affected areas of province further**

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the funds allocated for the province in the world rehabilitation relief are insufficient and as such the federal government may assist us in the 20 percent grant sharing of the province in Geneva fund.

He also sought the very cooperation of federal government for implementation on the programme already decided with the Government of Balochistan for rehabilitation of the af-

affected sectors.

He said that the province is currently facing financial hardships as such the federal government may expedite assistance for implementation on the already decided programme of rehabilitation in the province.

The caretaker Chief Minister was participating through video link in the crucial meeting of policy and strategy committee formed about rehabilitation activities after last year's devastating floods between the government of Pakistan and international relief institutions.

While the caretaker Federal Minister for Planning and Special Initiatives, Sami Saeed chaired the meeting with other concerned high ups and representatives of World Bank, Asian Development Bank, ARBE China and other relief agencies in attendance, the caretaker Chief Minister participated in it through video link.

Expressing his views and talking about the current situation of the province, Mr. Domki told the meeting that financial loss of Rs. 700 billion was

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi conferring the award of Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) upon the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, at a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

### General elections to most likely take place by end of January: Murtaza Solangi

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has expressed confidence that upcoming general elections will be held at the end of January.

He said this while participating in program of News and Current Affairs Channel of Radio Pakistan 'Lahore Insight' today.

Referring to the Election Commission of Pakistan the minister said the final list of constituencies will be finalized on 30th of next and the election date will be announced around this time.

He said it is clearly mentioned in the Election Act 2017 that all the parties will be given at least 54 days which is about two months for election cam-

paigns so it is hoped that the elections will be held at the end of January.

Murtaza Solangi said the actual election activity starts only after the election schedule is announced.

In response to a question, the Information Minister said that Radio Pakistan requires innovation, modern technology and professional freedom in order to thrive.

Murtaza Solangi said caretaker government is taking forward the previous parliament's decision to re-launch the license fee for Radio Pakistan and there will be very good news soon regarding addressing the financial problems of the organization.

Responding to a question

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Activists of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) are holding protest rally against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at Mannan Chowk

### Quettaites show complete solidarity with Palestinians against Israel's barbarism

Independent Report

QUETTA: The people of Quetta demonstrated complete solidarity with the people of Palestine against the Israel and its forces' naked aggression and barbarism in Gaza and other Palestinian territory.

The rallies were taken out and demonstrations held in the provincial metropolis against the Israel's brutality and viciousness against innocent Palestinians.

A rally was taken out by the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) on its central call from the main office on Jinnah road.

The rally taken out under provincial and district leadership of JUI marched through the Jinnah road, Shahrah-e-Iqbal and Adalat



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki attending meeting of Policy & Strategy Committee formed about rehabilitation activities after last year's devastating floods between the government of Pakistan and international relief institutions through video link

### Good governance conditional with accountability, transparency of institutions

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that establishment of good governance is conditional with the accountability, transparency and fulfillment of the responsibility by the government departments.

In a statement issued here on Friday, the Governor said that it is big dilemma of our society that that majority of the people

are playing active and important role in betterment of the society, but the same people of the labour class are deprived of all incentives and facilities. Therefore it is need of the hour to bring balance in it and divide the authority and incentives in an appropriate manner so that the society is saved from the confrontation and chaotic situation, adding he stressed.

He regretfully pointed

Continued on page 2

### Saudi Arabia identifies 12,000 Afghans traveling on fake Pakistani passports

ISLAMABAD (INP): Over 12,000 Afghans have been found traveling on fake Pakistani passports, prompting the Ministry of Interior to form a high-level committee to investigate the matter and take action against those involved.

According to media reports, Saudi Arabia has identified 12 thousand Afghans traveling on Pakistani passports, on which the Ministry of Interior has formed a high-level committee to investigate the matter by taking action on the issuance of fake passports to more than

twelve thousand Afghans. The committee, which includes representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs, FIA, and sensitive agencies, will identify those issuing fake passports and prepare a list of those involved, following which action will be taken against all such elements.

Sources said that Pakistani passports have been issued to Afghans from passport centers across the country. The investigation is ongoing, and further details are expected to be released soon.

### No political pressure accepted, illegal residents will have to leave Pakistan: Jan Achakzai

KARACHI (Online): Caretaker Information Minister of Balochistan Jan Achakzai has said that no political pressure will be tolerated who will crush the state's policy.

Illegal residents will have to leave Pakistan: Jan Achakzai

Speaking to the media at the Karachi Press Club, Jan Achakzai said that the state has taken a few principled decisions and they will be strictly followed, every day many families staying illegally are going back.

Jan Achakzai said that 13 of the 20 suicide bombings in the country this year were carried out by Afghan terrorists.

He said that around 250 madrassas were geo-tagging

which are being used by 80 Afghans, bringing these madrassas legally under Pakistan.

The Provincial Information Minister in charge of operations are under way to prevent smuggling in Balochistan, the smugglers will be drowned in the sea those who are on boats, will maintain the writ of the state with full force.

He said that since the day Army Chief General Asim Munir reined in the smugglers, the dollar has been getting cheaper.

Achakzai said that border smuggling is being dealt with strictly, all measures in Pakistan are in accordance with international laws.



MUZAFFARABAD: Special Envoy of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Secretary General for Jammu & Kashmir Ambassador Yusef Muhammed Saleh Aldobey laying floral wreath at J&K Monument during his visit to Chakothi (LOC) and Muzaffarabad along with High level delegation from brotherly Muslim countries including KSA and Sudan.

### REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

DAYS REMAINING

17

in f @GovtOfPakistan



QUETTA: Secretary Information Balochistan Imran Khan and Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran meeting with Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai



# 'No pressure' of world's biggest stadium on players: Babar Azam

Says will try to give a good performance in match against India

**Sports Desk**  
AHMEDABAD: Pakistan's captain Babar Azam says his team does not feel any pressure from playing at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium — the world's biggest cricket stadium — as they prepare to go head-to-head against India on Saturday.

While addressing a press conference in Ahmedabad on Friday, Babar seemed confident in his team ahead of their most-anticipated match against India on Saturday.

Despite playing in the world's biggest ground for the high-voltage match, Babar said: "There is no pressure of playing in the world's biggest stadium on the players. We will try to give a good performance in tomorrow's match."

The Men in Green, who are scheduled to face India in the world's biggest stadium, could potentially

face challenges as the stadium is quite different than Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium where Pakistan was victorious in first two World Cup matches.

According to ESPNcricinfo, the stadium features an "imposing structure which can accommodate about 132,000 spectators. The stadium was built on a 50-acre land donated by the state government, and took only nine months for its completion."

Babar said: "The more time we spend in a stadium, the more it helps to understand the conditions of the location," he added that like every city, the conditions here are different.

However, Babar, despite the scale of the new stadium, seemed confident to beat India this year.

He said: "We have beaten India in T20 before, it doesn't mean we cannot

beat them here."

Moreover, Babar said that if fans of Pakistan were also permitted to attend the T20 World Cup in India, it would've been good for the team. Nevertheless, he said he was hopeful that the fans in Ahmedabad would support the Men in Green as they did in Hyderabad.

Mickey Arthur shares strategy with players on 'how to beat India'

Earlier today Indian media reported that Director of Pakistan's men's cricket team Mickey Arthur has shared the strategy with the Pakistan players on how to beat World Cup hosts in the high-stakes game.

The Pakistani cricket team arrived in Ahmedabad on Thursday night and is currently undergoing rigorous practice sessions as they gear up for their much-awaited match.

Fans are eagerly anticipating another top-notch performance from Mohammad Rizwan, who was named Player of the Match in their last game against Sri Lanka. The wicketkeeper batsman is also putting in extra effort during practice sessions to prepare for the upcoming match.

Rizwan scored a century as Pakistan completed the tournament's highest-ever successful run chase to beat Sri Lanka by six wickets, in Hyderabad.

According to Indian media, Rizwan spent a whole hour in the nets with a left-arm wrist spinner — like India's Kuldeep Yadav — practising the sweep and reverse sweep shot.



LAHORE: Chairman of Ruet-E-Hilal Committee, Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad Khateeb of Badshahi Masjid Lahore along with others expressing solidarity with the scholars by joining hands on the occasion of the conference.

## Indian forces gagging voices of women rights defenders in Kashmir: Pakistan tells UN

**UNITED NATIONS (APP):** Pakistan Thursday urged the UN to ensure that women human rights defenders in Indian occupied Kashmir, whose voices are being systematically silenced by over 900,000 troops, can continue their legitimate work to promote and protect human rights in the disputed territory.

"Women human rights defenders are faced with enormous challenges in situations of foreign occupation, such as in Indian Occupied Kashmir," Pakistani delegate Hadeeqa Qureshi told the UN General Assembly's Third Committee, which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural issues.

"We must respect, support, honour and acknowledge their invaluable contributions in conflict situations, including situations of foreign occupation," she said in the course of an interactive dialogue with

UN's Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Mary Lawlor.

Ms. Qureshi, a third secretary in the Pakistan Mission to the UN, said women human rights defenders were suffering at the hands of Indian Occupation Forces sexual and gender-based violence, enforced disappearances, torture and inhuman treatment, unlawful detentions, intimidations, stigmatization, smear campaigns, cyberbullying, harassment and threats to their families.

"Through the world's longest internet shutdowns and curb on media and social media, their voices are being systematically silenced," the Pakistani delegate said.

"They are punished under draconian laws for their legitimate human rights work and their activities are banned or subjected to surveillance."

## Williamson's heroics power Kiwis to comfortable victory against BD

**Sports Desk**  
CHENNAI: Kane Williamson, the New Zealand captain, marked his triumphant return to the World Cup after recovering from an injury layoff with a resilient half-century.

His remarkable performance guided the 2019 runners-up to their third consecutive victory, as they comfortably defeated Bangladesh by eight wickets in Chennai on Friday.

New Zealand's pursuit of a 246-run target was made possible by the brilliant displays of their pace bowlers, Lockie Ferguson, Trent Boult, and Matt Henry, who dismantled the Bangladeshi batting order.

In his first competitive game since suffering a knee ligament injury in March, Williamson showcased his class by scoring 78 runs.

He partnered effectively with Devon Conway (45) and later held his ground alongside Daryl Mitchell (89, not out).

However, Williamson was forced to retire due to a finger injury, which added to his earlier troubles of being hit on the thumb and experiencing knee soreness.

While Bangladesh's Mushfiqur Rahim (66) and captain Shakib Al Hasan (40) tried to mount a comeback with a 96-run partnership, the team's earlier carefree strokeplay had put them in a precarious position.

Despite a late surge by Mahmudullah (41 not out), Bangladesh managed to post a modest total of 245-9.

In a strategic move, Williamson chose to field

first after winning the toss, and New Zealand swiftly made an impact with Trent Boult dismissing Litton Das with the very first ball of the contest.

Lockie Ferguson's early pace and bounce accounted for Tanzid Hasan and Mehidy Hasan Miraz, while Glenn Phillips dismissed Najmul Hossain Shanto in his first over, leaving Bangladesh at 56-4.

Shakib, despite his injury, attempted to hit Ferguson for a six but fell in the process in the 30th over, and Mushfiqur's stumps were shattered by Matt Henry.

New Zealand's comprehensive victory underlined their strong position in the tournament after wins against England and the Netherlands.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar offers Fateha and lays floral wreath at the grave of Shaheed Sifwat Ghayur, Former Commandant of FC during his visit, in Peshawar.

## Caretaker CM seeks Islamabad's faster...

*Continued from page 1*  
caused to the province due to the flashfloods and heavy rains last year.

He said that Balochistan was the worst affected province due to floods after Sindh.

Sharing detail of the damages and devastations, the caretaker Chief Minister told that 3,21,019 houses had been completely damaged and 96,166 houses were partially damaged during the floods in Balochistan.

In addition to this, 43 bridges were swept away and 2,280 kilometer roads were damaged due to the heavy rains and floods.

Similarly, 1,039 educational institutions were completely damaged, 1,793 were partially damaged in the province.

Moreover, the irriga-

## Good governance...

*Continued from page 1*  
tion infrastructure was also badly affected causing loss to the agriculture sector.

The Chief Minister on the occasion endorsed appointment of an officer included in the panel of officers proposed from Balochistan through the forum of Policy and Strategy Committee as the Project Director.

The panel, it may be mentioned here, would ensure implementation on the National Project of US\$100 million in the province.

Meanwhile, appreciating participation of the caretaker Chief Minister Mr. Domki in the meeting, the Federal Minister for Planning and Special Initiatives made pledge to improve the rehabilitation activities in the flood affected areas of the province further making them coordinated.

## Govt. warns illegal residents....

*Continued from page 1*  
if they have a valid visa and other required documentation. We're just [planning to] expel illegal immigrants," he added.

Thousands of Afghan nationals have started leaving Pakistan after the government announced the deadline, with some citing economic conditions behind their decision to leave.

The decision to ask illegal immigrants to leave is closely tied to the escalating violence in the country, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces, and the growing tension between the Pakistani government and the Taliban administration in Kabul, according to experts and officials.

The United Nations (UN) has also said that refugees residing in Pakistan should be allowed to exit the country voluntarily and no pressure should be exerted on them.

Pakistan has hosted millions of Afghan refugees since the Soviet Union's invasion in 1979.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) data, approximately 1.33 million registered refugees hold Proof of Registration (PoR) cards, and 840,000 possess Afghan citizenship cards.

## General elections...

*Continued from page 1*  
tion, he said that the elected governments have the authority to make policies and it is written in the constitution of Pakistan that the country will be run by its elected representatives.

Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has expressed confidence that upcoming general elections will be held at the end of January.

He said this while participating in program of News and Current Affairs Channel of Radio Pakistan 'Lahore Insight' today.

Referring to the Election Commission of Pakistan the minister said the final list of constituencies will be finalized on 30th of next and the election date will be announced around this time. He said it is clearly mentioned in the Election Act 2017 that all the parties will be given at least 54 days which is about two months for election campaigns so it is hoped that the elections will be held at the end of January.

Murtaza Solangi said the actual election activity starts only after the election schedule is announced.

In response to a question, the Information Minister said that Radio Pakistan requires innovation, modern technology and professional freedom in order to thrive. Murtaza Solangi said caretaker government is taking forward the previous parliament's decision to re-launch the license fee for Radio Pakistan and there will be very good news soon regarding addressing the financial problems of the organization. Responding to a question, he said that the elected governments have the authority to make policies and it is written in the constitution of Pakistan that the country will be run by its elected representatives.

## PM offers fateha at graves of former President Ghulam, martyred Sifwat Ghayur

**PESHAWAR (APP):** Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday offered fateha and laid floral wreath at the grave of former President Ghulam Ishaq Khan here. He also offered fateha and laid floral wreath at the grave of former FC commandant, Shaheed Sifwat Ghayur.

The prime minister prayed to Allah Almighty to elevate ranks of their souls in paradise. On the occasion a contingent of frontier constabulary presented salute to Shaheed Sifwat Ghayur. PM Kakar paying tributes to the martyred, commended his services for the nation and the country.



ISLAMABAD: Commandant (PNWC), Rear Admiral Javid Iqbal, HI (M) calling on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House.



QUETTA: Members of Ittehad Ahlesunnat Balochistan are holding protest demonstration against Mastung tragedy, at Quetta press club.

## No talks with TTP; state...

*Continued from page 1*  
want to undermine its relationship with Afghanistan rather desired to have the ties based on international standards in which the movement of the people would be subject to the visas.

He said as the illegal residents had no registration in Pakistan's database, the state was unable to distinguish between those playing a productive role in the society and the criminals.

He clarified that the expulsion of illegal residents was not out of any vengeance rather the state wanted to rid the country of those causing social ills as well as becoming a challenge of terrorism and crimes.

To a question, he said no reports have so far been received about the burning of houses in North Waziristan, Bajaur or Orakzai. However, he asked the IG Police, Chief Secretary and intelligence agencies to provide a reality-based report on the matter.

Asked about the fate of PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif on his return, the

prime minister said the government would act as per the law.

Regarding the elections, he said the caretaker setup would play its role in accordance with the Election Commission of Pakistan's decision to announce the final date for polls.

Commenting on the economic situation, Prime Minister Kakar said with the depreciation of the dollar, the country's loans had been reduced by Rs4000 billion besides impacting the prices of petroleum products, sugar, ghee and other eatables. All this is going to provide relief to the people, but it is not being duly highlighted, he added.

To another query, the prime minister reiterated that all the political parties registered with the Election Commission would be allowed to go into the electoral process and in case of any complaint, the PM Office could be approached.

Sharing his memories of alma mater Kohat Cadet College and the time he had spent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Prime Minister Kakar, who wore the

traditional turban of Pashtun culture said the people of Peshawar were unique, hardworking and courageous which was evidenced by their immense sacrifices against terrorism.

Earlier, talking to a delegation of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, reiterated that the sacrifices of the soldiers could never be paid in form of salaries instead, the reverence and dignity also promised by Allah Almighty was their due reward.

He said by laying his life for the country, Shaheed Sifwat Ghayur also became a symbol of courage like other 90,000 people martyred during the war against terrorism.

The prime minister, who was on first visit to Peshawar after assuming the office, assured the business community to address their genuine issues through consultation.

He also lauded his cabinet as "capable and dedicated" people who were serving the country within their mandate.

Earlier, the prime minister also listened to the issues highlighted by the delegation members.

### TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Quotations are requested from specialist suppliers of "Janitorial Services And Electronics Lab Items/Equipment's" having valid GST and NTN certificate and also on ATL (Active Tax payer list) with adequate relevant experience & capabilities for the below captioned Tender.

S #	Tender Description	Qty	Last Date for Collection of Documents	Quotation Submission Date	Tender Opening Date/Time
1.	Janitorial Services Contract	01	30/10/2023 On or before 1200 hrs	01/11/2023 On or Before 1430hrs	01/11/2023 at 1500hrs
2.	Electronics Lab Items/Equipment's	Misc	30/10/2023 On or before 1200 hrs	01/11/2023 On or Before 1430hrs	01/11/2023 at 1500hrs
3.	Electronics Lab Items/Equipment's	Misc	30/10/2023 On or before 1200 hrs	01/11/2023 On or Before 1430hrs	01/11/2023 at 1500hrs
4.	Electronics Lab Items/Equipment's	Misc	30/10/2023 On or before 1200 hrs	01/11/2023 On or Before 1430hrs	01/11/2023 at 1500hrs

**Bidding Procedure:** Single Stage – One Envelope Procedure:

**Terms & Conditions:**

- a) Sealed Quotation to be submitted to Snr. Manager Procurement on or before **November 01, 2023 till 1430 Hrs** after which no bid will be accepted. Bids will be opened at **1500hrson November 1, 2023**. The wording "Quotation of Janitorial Services and Quotation for Electronics Lab Items/Equipment's" and "Do Not Open Before 1500 hours, on November 01,2023" to be written on top right corner of envelope.
- b) Bidding documents can be collected from NCP against fee of **Rs.2,000/-** (Non-refundable) for each Tender. Tender fee will be deposited in Askari Bank situated in NCP Complex.
- c) **Single Stage – One Envelope bidding** process is to be followed and the interested parties are required to submit their proposals in sealed envelope with **2% amount** of quoted value as **Earnest Money** with bid. Bids/proposals submitted after the schedule time mentioned above shall not be acceptable.
- d) Only **Specialist** suppliers of Janitorial Services and Electronics Lab Items/Equipment's are requested to submit bid. General Order suppliers bid shall not be entertained.
- e) Quotation through Fax, Email will not be accepted.
- f) Bids will be evaluated on overall lowest cost method.
- g) This advertisement is also available on NCP and PPRA web site [www.ncp.edu.pk](http://www.ncp.edu.pk)

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR PHYSICS**  
SHAHRAH VALLEY ROAD NEAR NIPS, ISLAMABAD. Tel: 051-2077343, 365  
E-mail: [waseem@ncp.edu.pk](mailto:waseem@ncp.edu.pk), [samaira@ncp.edu.pk](mailto:samaira@ncp.edu.pk) Website: [www.ncp.edu.pk](http://www.ncp.edu.pk)

PID (I) No.2294/23



## Senate body seeks world intervention to end Israel aggression in Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights on Friday unanimously passed a resolution to condemn Israel's indiscriminate bombardment and killing of innocent Palestinians, along with the deprivation of their basic human rights.

The Committee that met here with Walid Iqbal in the chaired called upon the international community and the United Nations to immediately intervene to put an end to Israeli aggression.

The Senate Panel emphasized that durable peace would only be ensured upon the establishment of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine on the basis of pre-1967 frontiers, with Al-Quds as its capital.

Senator Walid Iqbal thereafter informed the Committee that, in the last few days, he had been flooded with written and oral communications, saying that the Senate Standing Committee on Interior had recently approved a private member's bill calling for public execution of certain capital offenses,

without proper deliberation and without appreciating the seriousness of the matter from a human rights perspective.

He announced before the Senators present that while one Senate Standing Committee could not interfere in the legislative business referred to another Senate Standing Committee, the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights would be taking up and thoroughly examining in its next meeting, with proper expert advice, the subject of public executions generally. The Committee thereafter deliberated on the rising trend of domestic violence in the country, with special reference to the case of the minor girl, Rizwana, in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani, the mover of the matter, applauded the National Commission for Rights of the Child (NCRC), as well as law enforcement agencies, for their effective response to the incident, and maintained that while there is a dire need for legislation criminalizing domestic child

labor in the country, it would be a real tightrope act keeping in mind that poor and indigent families would deem it an existential threat to their livelihoods.

The Chairperson of NCRC, Ayesha Raza Farooq, apprised the Committee that hazardous child labor has already been criminalized in ICT, but our provinces have failed to legislate effectively towards the prevention of child labor in the country.

The Committee was of the view that besides preventing domestic child labor, Article 25A of the Constitution should also be implemented in letter and spirit, which makes it obligatory for every citizen to acquire the necessary education. Senator Dr. Humayun Mohmand argued that current economic constraints have made it difficult for parents to feed their children, let alone provide education. Chairperson of NCRC remarked that her Commission was working on effective legislation involving the matter and that the bill preventing domestic child labor will be tabled in the Senate quite soon.



ISLAMABAD: The 2nd meeting of Policy & Strategy Committee/Oversight Board on post flood Resilient, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework (4RF) activities held under the chairmanship of the caretaker Federal Minister for P&D and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed.

## Chairperson BISP says: BISP supports poor segments; not promoting beggary or charity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Dr Muhammad Amjad Saqib on Friday said that BISP had been contributing immensely towards supporting the poorest segments of the society through financially empowering them, not promoting beggary and charity.

He was speaking as a guest of honor in a training workshop titled "Social Protection Course Pakistan" held here at a hotel.

The remarkable initiative organized by German Cooperation, Oxford Policy Management, the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für

Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), brought together thoughtful leaders, policymakers, and change-makers to discuss and explore the crucial role of social protection in shaping a more equitable society.

Addressing the participants, Dr Amjad Saqib underscored the significance of a welfare state, emphasizing that the government of such a state makes life easier for its citizens.

He reminded that nobody realizes that Pakistan is the biggest welfare state in the world as it has been supporting 9.3 million families by providing them financial assistance, benefiting overall around 60 million people.

He said that countries

like Sweden, Norway and Denmark are welfare states but these countries do have not much population and they might not support as much number of families. However, with meager resources and much poverty, Pakistan is supporting over nine million families financially.

"No doubt BISP is providing a very modest amount to the families but still this is a great step towards turning this country into a welfare state in true spirit", Dr. Amjad Saqib said.

"Despite our financial constraints, we are extending financial support to the people with compassion and love in a country where tax to GDP ratio is only 8 to 9 percent", he said.

## Hearing of judicial complex riots case against Pervez adjourned till October 24

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Pervez Elahi was taken to judicial complex on completion of his judicial remand in judicial complex riots case.

He was presented before duty judge Shah Rukh Arjumand being ATC judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain on leave.

Defence counsel Sardar Abdul Razaq also appeared in the court along with Pervez Elahi.

Duty judge Shah Rukh Arjumand said on this occasion has challan been filed to the extent of Pervez Elahi.

The court staff said judicial remand of Pervez Elahi has to be extended.

The investigation officer said challan has come

to the extent of Pervez Elahi. Notice has been issued.

Duty judge Shah Rukh Arjumand said we fix the next date of Pervez Elahi alongwith co-accused.

On hearing this Pervez Elahi himself came to rostrum saying he does not want October 24 to be fixed as next date.

Defence counsel Sardar Abdul Razaq said fix the date far beyond October 24. Pervez Elahi has to appear in the court at Lahore.

Duty judge Shah Rukh Arjumand said we have fixed the date of Chaudhry Pervez Elah along with co-accused.

The court adjourned the hearing of the case till October 24.

## SZIAP holds full-scale airport emergency exercise

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sheikh Zayed International Airport Rahimyar Khan (SZIAP) has conducted a full-scale airport emergency exercise on Friday.

According to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), a fire pit simulator was used to mimic a plane crash inferno that was attacked and doused off by the emergency responders. The objective of the exercise was to ensure the efficiency and preparedness of airport stakeholders in case of emergencies. An emergency response time of less than two minutes, as targeted, was achieved during the exercise. Rescue and Fire Fighting Services, Civil Aviation, Sheikh Zayed Hospital and PAF participated in this exercise.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Pakistan Cleft Lip and Palate Association and British Plastic Surgery Team, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## President emphasizes need to raise awareness about children born with cleft lips and palates

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday emphasizing the need to raise awareness about children born with cleft lips and palates, said that treatment for cleft lips and palates could significantly improve the quality of life for children.

He was talking to a delegation of the Pakistan Cleft Lip Association and the British Plastic Surgery Team which called on him here.

The delegation was

led by Chairman of the Association Dr. Ejaz Bashir while officials from the Federal Ministry of Health were also present in the meeting.

During the meeting, the president said addressing current health issues and adopting latest technology to meet future needs would be crucial.

The delegation briefed the president on the work and activities of the Pakistan Cleft Lips and Palate Association.

President Alvi was informed that the Association was providing free and international level treatment facilities to the deserving communities in Gujarat.

The meeting was informed that besides issues of eating and speaking, the affected children might also face discriminative attitude in the society. The president highly praised the efforts of the Association in the treatment and surgery of children with cleft lips and palates.

## Dr. Qibla flays Israel's expansionist policies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) Chairman Dr. Qibla Ayaz and its members on Friday strongly condemned Israel's expansionist policies, as they were using the recent conflict to further their reprehensible colonial objectives.

He, in a statement, said last week's attacks on Gaza by Israel had blatantly violated international laws, targeting civilian populations, including children, elderly and women.

Dr. Qibla emphasized that the Pakistani people stood in solidarity with the Palestinian resistance movement, and the founding father of Pakistan, Q u a i d - e - A z a m Muhammad Ali Jinnah's

policy regarding Palestine was still considered relevant by the Pakistani people.

He said it was imperative for the world to understand that Israel had been occupying Palestine aggressively for nearly 75 years, depriving Palestinians of their rights and disregarding international laws and United Nations resolutions.

He said the council asserted that a viable solution to this issue was impossible without the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

He called for an emergency meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to initiate effective diplomatic actions.

## SC to take up appeals against fuel price adjustment on Oct 16

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) will take up appeals on October 16, pertaining to fuel price adjustment in electricity bills. The top court had issued the cause list on Friday. A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa would resume hearing on the said date. The notices had been served to the Attorney General of Pakistan and electricity supply companies. It may be mentioned here that during the last hearing, the chief justice had stated that no adjournment would be granted.



ISLAMABAD: Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick inaugurates exhibition and a celebration of handicrafts by 600 plus Afghan women refugee artisans from all over Pakistan, hosted by the Indus Heritage Trust.

## Financial assistance to anti state elements case: Court issues notice to respondents

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) while hearing petition of former MNA Ali Wazir seeking quashment of the case registered in Bhara Kahu police station on the matter of providing financial assistance to anti state elements has issued notice to the respondents.

The court has sought reply from them.

The court has clubbed the case with Ali Wazir pending petition.

The case came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb

Friday.

Atta Ullah Kundi counsel for the petitioner appeared in the court and took the plea already in another application of Ali Wazir for quashment of FIR is pending hearing.

Ali Wazir application seeking quashment of terrorism case is fixed for hearing on November 30.

The court issued notice to the respondents for arguments.

The court while clubbing the petition with the case already pending hearing adjourned the hearing of the case till November 30.

## ICP to issue internationally standardized dual-language driving license

ISLAMABAD: In compliance with the vision of Prime Minister of Pakistan and following the directions of Federal Interior Minister, Sarfraz Bugti, the fundamental reforms have been enacted within the Islamabad Capital Police, a public relations officer said.

He said that, these reforms include the enforcement of an internationally standardized dual-language driving license, which will also be recognized on an international level.

Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan emphasized that the driving license issued by Islamabad Capital Police will be internationally recognized.

Additionally, to ensure the convenience of citizens, the traffic office will remain open from 09 am to 04 pm on Saturdays, providing all necessary facilities to the public. This measure allows individuals due for license renewal on Saturdays to complete the process seamlessly.

## Sami chairs meeting of Oversight Board on post-flood 4RF activities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Friday chaired the 2nd meeting of Policy & Strategy Committee/Oversight Board on post-flood Resilient, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework (4RF) activities.

This meeting was attended by high officials including the Gilgit-Baltistan Minister for Planning, Secretary of Planning, Secretary of Economic Affairs Division, GB Chief Secretary, the World Bank Country Director, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Country Director, European Union Islamabad Country Director, UNDP Deputy Resident Director and representatives from National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), a news release said.

Additionally, Chief Minister Baluchistan and Secretaries from all provinces actively participated via video conference.

The meeting addressed several significant aspects of the 4RF projects,

focusing on streamlining project implementation and evaluating the status of approved projects from provinces.

Secretary Planning Awais Manzur Sumra provided a comprehensive overview of the progress, emphasizing the importance of fast-tracking implementation and financing arrangements under the 4RF initiatives.

Planning Minister Muhammad Sami Saeed highlighted the government's commitment to supporting and facilitating donor agencies throughout the implementation and completion of these important projects.

He urged all relevant institutions to ensure that pending PC-1s of the 4RF projects were promptly approved.

During the meeting, donor agencies commended the Ministry of Planning for its diligent oversight and monitoring of 4RF projects and their execution.

Furthermore, they expressed their commitment to continue providing support for these projects in the future.



ISLAMABAD: The founder of Lok Virsa, Uxi Multi speaks a seminar on 'Dying Pakistani Cultures and Youth of Pakistan' organized by Information Services Academy.

## MoITT to introduce standardized quality test in universities: Dr. Saif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT), Dr. Umar Saif, has announced that his ministry will introduce a standardized quality test across universities in Pakistan to ensure job opportunities for fresh graduates. In a statement, he said, "We have made significant decisions to revamp IT education in universities in collaboration with HEC, the National Computing Accreditation Council, the Examination Testing Council, the Pakistan Software Export Board, and the Pakistan Software Houses Association."

Dr. Umar Saif emphasized that students who passed the test will be offered job opportunities through the Industry Placement Program. He added, "We will allocate funds to support special industry courses in universities, designed to prepare students for current industry trends and needs." The minister further explained that the National Computing Accreditation Council will consider the pass rate of students to determine a university's rating and the permissible enrollment of IT students.

## IHC instructs custom office to release containers of auto parts

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday directed the customs office to release all containers, containing old auto parts, from Islamabad dry port after collecting taxes and fines.

The court instructed the department to impose the tax and fine as per the running policy before the introduction of the Finance Amendment Act 2023.

Justice Sardar Ijaz

Ishaq Khan issued a three-page judgment on a petition moved by the Auto Parts Association (APA) against the imposition of heavy fines on old auto parts.

In its judgment, the court instructed the FBR and federal secretary to hold meetings with the association. The court directed to also include secretaries of commerce and secretaries of industries in the meeting.

## Delegation from NACTA visits Safe City Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of National Counter Terrorism Authority

procedures and its effectiveness. Furthermore, the delegation was also briefed



(NACTA) visited Safe City Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the CPO Safe City/ Traffic gave an overview of the Safe City Islamabad operational duties to the delegation.

The delegation visited the command and control center, data hub unit, modern technology-equipped cameras, and the Police operations center hall. They were fully briefed about the

that Safe City Islamabad is playing a significant role in various sectors through modern techniques, including the Police Operations Center, Emergency Control Center, Data Hub, Dispatch Control Center, E-Challan System, and the "Pukar-15" helpline. Face recognition cameras have been installed at the entry and exit points of the city which are playing an important role in identifying suspicious elements. The delegation was also apprised of the functionality and benefits of the Safe City cameras.



ISLAMABAD: Youngsters participating in a rally while thousands of people protested across the country after Friday prayers against Israel's siege and fierce bombing on the Gaza Strip in retaliation to Hamas attacks.



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

Saturday October 14, 2023

## Caretaker contracts

Are the lines blurring between the responsibilities of a caretaker government and the mandate of elected assemblies?

In August, the ECP banned the granting of NOCs to new housing societies in Punjab. It also reminded the interim chief minister that such policies exceed the authority of a caretaker set-up. But, two months later, the KP caretakers seem to have fallen out of line.

On Wednesday, the provincial interim government approved amendments to the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961, to include the "oath of finality of Prophethood [PBUH] in the marriage registration form".

The Lahore High Court issued directives for revisions in the nikah form during the hearing of a writ petition. Subsequently, a joint resolution by the provincial assembly solicited the insertion of the "Khatm-i-Nabuwat oath" in the nikahnama.

Caretaker governments are watched with scepticism so even a slight slip-up ignites flak. Their prime function is to hold the fort; from the dissolution of the assemblies, through the run-up to free and fair elections, and ending with the swearing in of a new, elected dispensation.

They should also execute routine governance and ensure smooth, impartial continuity in matters of the state. For this reason, interim systems impinge on the authority of an elected legislature when they engage with long-term issues.

Instead, the relevant authorities would do well to prioritise women-centric progress.

Take a diagnostic study of Punjab, which found that a resounding 60pc of nikahnamas, registered from 2016 to 2022, were incomplete, or that the bride's CNIC number was absent in 48pc of marriage contracts, 75pc of girls were 16 to 18 years old and the alimony section was blank in 39pc. Admittedly, this paints a grisly portrait for future generations.

Therefore, the time is now to steer away from policymaking and move towards emancipation and empowerment of women with a greater understanding and participation in the nikahnama so that their socioeconomic rights are unequivocally settled.



Faisal Bari

Recently, a friend told me that his driver Sadiq quit his job, saying his salary wasn't enough and he wanted to look for a better job. My friend was paying Sadiq Rs40,000 per month. Though my friend appreciates it is hard to make ends meet with a salary of Rs40,000 now, especially for a family living in an urban area, he felt he could not afford to pay more, so he let Sadiq quit.

Sadiq has three children. He is not educated and has been working as a driver for the last 15 years. He lives in a rented house, which he shares with his brother's family. The rent payment, Rs12,000 per month, is shared equally between the brothers. Each gets one room and shares common spaces like the bathroom, kitchen, veranda

and a small courtyard. One of Sadiq's children is very young but the older two go to a nearby school. Between rent, electricity and gas bills, school fees, and food expenditure, Sadiq ends up with no money towards the end of the month. He has been accumulating a bit of debt every month for the last year or so. He needs a higher income to balance even his monthly budget.

A colleague's daughter completed her Master's degree in sociology from a local public-sector university and started teaching at a school recently. The school is a middle-level-fee school. When I told my colleague about Sadiq's decision to quit, he mentioned that his daughter, a school teacher with 18 years of education, including from recognised universities, was being paid only Rs18,000 a month. After transport costs, her take-home is around Rs13,000 per month. My colleague laughed, saying that maybe his daughter could become a driver in my friend's household!

Perhaps that's not a bad idea. The private

schooling system, which now comprises over 40 per cent of enrolled children across Pakistan, has a very large number of female teachers. In fact, there is research which argues that the reason private schools were able to grow so quickly, across urban and peri-urban Pakistan initially, and now even in many rural areas of Punjab and KP (the rural areas of Sindh and Balochistan have fewer private schools), was that while the student numbers were there, we did not have a supply of teachers in these areas. Investment in girls' education in the 1960s and 1970s, largely through the public-sector schooling system, created a potential supply of educated girls who could be recruited as teachers. This made the expansion of primary-level schooling in the category we know as low-fee private schools possible.

But there are issues. We know Pakistan's female labour force participation rate is one of the lowest, both regionally and globally. It has been consistently low. We have been educating girls for

decades but have not facilitated their entry into the workforce. Teaching is seen as possibly the only 'acceptable' job for many women by a lot of families. This means that where millions of girls have reached the matriculation, intermediate, graduate and postgraduate level, they do not have many options for work. A nearby school might be the only option. This, too, might only be possible until they marry or have their first child. We find a high turnover of teachers in the initial years (in the private sector). But after three to four years of service, those who stay in teaching tend to do so for much longer, making a career out of it. However, the initial dropout rate is high and this does not seem to be because of ability-based sorting. Selection/sorting would not be an issue. It seems that other factors (marriage, children, social/societal considerations) are more important.

So, we have a strange situation. Low-fee private schools boast about providing education that is better than or equal to education in public-sector

schools and at a much lower cost to them; but their cost advantage is mainly due to a fragmented and underdeveloped labour market for female participants. They pay far below the minimum wage, as women have a low reservation wage and few labour market options.

Whether seen as exploitation or the good use of market forces, the rapid, large growth in private schooling has been due to an increasing supply of educated females who do not have many other job options. It is difficult to make teaching a career though. Why would you do so if you put in six to eight hours a day for wages that are below the minimum level? Why would you invest in your own training and development? If the market does not recognise individual differences in quality and commitment much, and the turnover story suggests that, why would you strive for excellence? Is it any wonder then that learning outcomes are where they are?

How do we move forward? The market view would be to allow things

to develop on their own. Other jobs and markets for women will slowly open up as private schools start moving up the pyramid towards high and higher secondary schools. If they want better and more specialised teachers, they will have to invest in teacher training, selection/sorting and retention. We can wait for the markets to work. We could also use social policy to force the change to happen faster, and open other job markets for women through legislation and policy (quota is an easy option). We can also impose a minimum wage for teachers. It will shock the system and might even force many low-fee schools to close down, if the government has the ability to enforce this. We have options. Should we exercise one? Irrespective of which option we take, if any, the current state is not one of equilibrium and there will be change. It might be evolutionary and slow, or it can be faster and more disruptive, but it will happen. And it needs to happen if teaching and teaching quality are to improve. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Teaching and gender

## Caged justice and numbed brains



Raouf Hasan

"Out of the huts of history's shame, I rise./ Up from the past that's rooted in pain, I rise./ I am a black ocean, leaping and wide,/ Welling and swelling I bear in the tide." -- Maya Angelou It is said that being caged is not a good feeling. Not only does it deprive you of your physical freedom to move around and perform your normal daily chores; it numbs your faculties and transforms you into a virtual comatose state that, over time, could even become a permanent feature. That is how and when you start loathing the idea of being free again and prefer to wear the comfort of being a hostage of someone else's whims and fancies.

When I look around, I feel that some unwieldy forces have been unleashed upon us to take us prisoner and transform us into dum-

mies to be tossed around when and where needed. It is also hoped by the architects that, with the passage of time, we will get used to our caged state and happily wear the apparel of slavery. But it is neither an easy transformation nor a convenient one to assume roles which may have been anathema in another phase of life that we lived.

But then so much else is also symptomatic of this ailment in our society, most lethally our attitudes and our apt readiness to compromise with mediocrity, even crime. The judicial theatre that played its act in public view is a classic example of the below-par performance which has become a norm. Beyond the domain of self-projection, I am yet to discover the rationale necessitating this show. It is a matter of serious concern how patiently some pre-orchestrated mindsets set about demonstrating their culpability and their penchant to play to the gallery. Wisdom demands that when there is nothing to display by way of merit and substance, it would work better to keep the stuff under wraps.

But when such advice is not heeded, and when anger and intolerance, being the absolute antithesis of the letter and spirit of law, become publicly visible, one knows that the rails of justice are in unsteady hands, treading a highly bumpy path. This was amply demonstrated at the commencement of the hearing of the cipher case against Imran Khan when a cage-like contraption was built inside the courtroom for him to stand in. Beyond it being a reprehensible act to humiliate him, it also generated ominous symbolism associated with the Morsi trial in Egypt. What was the message being conveyed and whose ego was being assuaged? What precedence are we setting to be emulated by others in the future?

Provision of justice, or its derailment, often become visible in such-like demonstrative optics. But the more they try to humiliate Khan and inflict pain upon him, the more they diminish themselves before the eyes of the people and communities throughout the world which are irretrievably wedded to the cause of

justice, even under the most daunting of circumstances.

What is the justification for courts reserving judgments and why is it enacted ever so often in cases concerning Imran Khan? It is said that justice delayed is justice denied. Maybe, our courts need a refresher course to be reminded of this dictum so that it may henceforth proceed to dispense justice without any let or hindrance.

Notwithstanding the brutal use of the state machinery, there is one reality that Imran Khan has established beyond a shade of doubt: that, with an unprecedented demonstration of faith, grit, courage, and perseverance, he is rewriting the political history of Pakistan. Gone are the days of leaving the country under pressure, benefiting from the illicitly earned billions in foreign lands and planning a comeback by employing petty political tricks. Gone are the days of showing weakness in the face of unmitigated unleashing of state power. Gone are the days of enacting compromise and surrendering on matters of principle

which are integral to defending and promoting national interests.

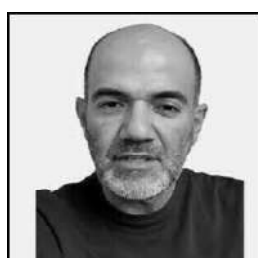
Instead, there is an unbending resolve to stand firm while confronting tyranny and to act with courage in a display of conviction and self-assurance. Terror and torture can only delay the inevitable, but it cannot be prevented. The more the stock of fake and fraudulent accusations piles up to create a distance between Khan and the people, the quicker it will be obliterated under its unwieldy weight. Truth shall ultimately surge forth to blow away the false and fabricated narratives which are routinely floated around the person of Imran Khan.

Much is being sold in pre-packaged containers in the country, most importantly confessions which are secured under duress. Instead of creating confusion in the minds of the electorate, these are acting as testimonials for the truth that Khan is propounding and the veracity of his narrative, thus adding further to his strength at the grassroots level.

A cage is an inappro-

priate weapon that we have invented to control the nation's thought process. Much that it has been tried through times, it has not worked. It is more suited to empowering dictatorships, but its relevance in democracies is a far-fetched contraption. In an age of social media and enhanced awareness, such cages are more likely to be dismantled to give free flow to human endeavours to fashion a society that would cater to furthering their freedoms and faculties and contribute to alleviating the sufferings that growing multitudes of afflicted people are enduring. The age of offering caged justice and numbed brains is over. People yearn for freedom that caters to their appetite for a country that would be caring and compassionate towards their problems and committed to solving them and creating hope for a future that has been elusive for an eternity. It is time to make a transition in the right direction by ensuring human freedom and justice rather than curbing them. The latter time in history is well-nigh over. It lies beyond recall. -- Courtesy TheNews

## Deadly culture wars



Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

It has been almost 50 years since the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delivered a speech on the floor of the UN General Assembly imploring the world to end the Israeli occupation and deliver peace to all of the region's people.

It was a different world then. Colonised peoples in Asia and Africa were being admitted into the 'international community' after centuries of enslavement. The same UN in which Arafat made his plea also featured emergent Third World countries calling for a New International Economic Order to undo what Ghana's first president Kwame Nkrumah called economic neo-colonialism.

Until the early 1990s, the oppressed peoples of the world were still relatively unified and hopeful. In 1994, South Africa's brutal apartheid regime was tossed into the dustbin of history. Nelson Mandela — once branded a 'terrorist' in the 'civilised world' — made the leader of a new multiracial polity.

But the 1990s also marked the end of 20th-century socialism and the onset of 'culture wars' afflicting almost every part of the world today. Put simply, ideas of liberation and emancipation have become increasingly limited to the concerns of one's own specific identity groups rather than the cause of all oppressed peoples.

The Palestinians are amongst the biggest victims of this rightward shift. To-

day, they are subject to an ever more genocidal policy of apartheid, while the narrative of the intellectual and political mainstream is framed almost exclusively around Israeli 'victims' and Palestinian 'terrorists'.

The 'war on terror' is a big reason for why such framing is commonplace. While such binaries have animated the logic of empires throughout history, the 'us versus them' story that was widely propagated after 9/11 has shaped an entire generation of people everywhere. This is the same generation that has come of age through globalised, digital networks and the entirely distinct modes of political communication and ideological contestation that such networks have ushered in.

In effect, then, many ordinary young people have become foot soldiers for the dominant narrative around 'terrorism'. Indeed, notwithstanding the announcement made that the so-called war on terror ended in August 2021 when American troops pulled out of Afghanistan, the truth is that wars of terror led by contemporary states are endless.

The language is always the same: the scourge of terrorism will be eliminated at all costs. The forces of evil will never be allowed to overwhelm us. The rhetoric is timeless by design so as to suppress inconvenient historical truths about state terror.

What we should have learned from the 'war on terror' is that violence perpetrated by the state — it can be Israeli, American, Pakistani, Indian, Russian, Ukrainian, French, Saudi Arabian, Iranian, Turkish or any other contemporary nation-state — cannot solve political conflict.

In fact, what has happened due to the deadly culture wars and the relative retreat of the progressive left is the rise of hate-mongering right-wing

forces that ostensibly target one another.

The prime minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, for instance, has more than once made clear that he prefers the continued influence of Islamist groups like Hamas than to give an inch to progressives of any stripe. The PLO has lost all the legitimacy it once had because it surrendered so many fundamental demands of the Palestinian movement.

There is an analogy in how many who would call themselves progressive in our part of the world were either supportive of or silent about the 20-year US occupation of Afghanistan, and ultimately this benefited the militant right wing (whether the Taliban or IS or whoever else).

Ultimately, if there is ever to be peace and justice for Palestine, and an end to the cycle of hate that engulfs all identity groups, it will require us to rejuvenate a wider, universal anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist politics.

It is the same in Pakistan — the Baloch and other ethnic peripheries, feminists and those who speak for oppressed genders, religious groups and all others who decry majoritarianism, must do so together around a left-progressive political-economic project. Crucially, they must try and win over as many who presently support majoritarian tyranny to their side.

Remember that successful national liberation projects all over Asia and Africa took decades to win over even those brown and black subjects of empires that were more loyal than the king.

The challenge for the Palestinians is to preserve their own humanity, and, indeed, that of their oppressors, and thereby transcend deadly culture wars. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Rapid growth



Amin Valliani

Most developed nations are worried about their dwindling populations, along with the growing number of seniors. They see their future as uncertain. Therefore, they have embarked upon the path of solving the problem of their stagnant or dwindling populations by various means. Many countries have eased their migration/immigration laws, allowing work visas to outsiders who fulfil their criteria.

Contrary to this, Pakistan is facing the problem of rapid population growth. This has been termed a ticking time bomb, having a high risk of imminent explosion. Others have declared rapid population growth as the mother of all problems. Feeding their entire population is amongst the greatest challenges every government faces. In the Global Hunger Index, Pakistan is ranked 99th out of 121 countries due to the rapid growth of its population. This condition is likely to get worse with unbridled and unplanned population growth.

Population is a valuable resource of a country, provided its growth is planned. Unchecked growth has been responsible for many of our economic and social issues. The youth segment is considered to be the driving force of a country. But young people are in search of greener pastures overseas, sometimes falling victim to human trafficking. Not too long ago, hundreds of people lost their lives in the open sea when an over-

loaded boat sank off the Greek coast. Many of the victims were from Pakistan and were trying to make it to Europe illegally.

Many experts suggest that the government should focus on population control, otherwise, all developmental efforts would prove futile. Moreover, the youth need to be nurtured via skill-oriented education. They have a passion to acquire new skills and pursue higher education. The government should, therefore, engage them in nation-building. But unfortunately, our performance in educating our population and providing employment has remained dismal. Many youths are disappointed with the recent economic meltdown. The promise of jobs has remained a pipe dream. Increasing population at the present speed might foil our entire planning efforts.

In order to make Pakistan a country of opportunity, where our youths may find an attractive future, with jobs of their choice, the government should reset its focus on engaging the youth and controlling the excessive population. The Holy Quran says "Verily! Allah does not change a people's condition unless they change their inner selves" (13:11).

The government may guide people about the ideal size of a family and make them realise the importance of smaller families. It should start a fully fledged drive to convince the masses that an unbridled increase in population numbers is not in the interest of the country. In an ideal family setting, children get enough attention, quality time, love, guidance and patronage. But when the family size is large, the parents may not be able to pay the required attention to each child. Consequently, young ones feel alienated and develop behavioural problems. The Holy Quran directs believers to ward off your fami-

lies from a fire whose fuel is men and stones (66:6).

As experts have noted, "families are self-stabilising systems, with members interacting and exerting influence to preserve and maintain stability in the face of perturbation". But when the family size is large and parents do not pay the required attention to their offspring, there are chances of children developing negative traits. Sometimes, they turn recalcitrant and create problems in society.

Uncontrolled population growth needs to be tackled jointly by the government and the people on a war footing. A country becomes developed when the government and its people jointly work on a national agenda. Here, uncontrolled population growth is the main hindrance in our national development. Large-size families may devour familial and national resources with little contribution. They tend to create immense pressure on the food supply as well as health and educational facilities. The rapidly growing population also contributes to scarcity and depletion of natural resources including water, forests, clean air, etc.

Recently, the government constituted a national health and population advisory committee to deal with health- and population-related matters and reforms. The committee will play a role in bringing funding for population control. This is a laudable effort. Just as the government is distributing laptops to the youth or paying money under BISP to the poor, it can also encourage people to adhere to a smaller family size and get monetary rewards. Besides, it should make family planning clinics active and contraceptives widely available, as well as increase awareness about this key issue. -- Courtesy Dawn



## Sindh CM approves medical insurance policy of all the policemen of province

**Police start collecting data on illegal immigrants to repatriate them**

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar, presiding over a meeting, approved the medical insurance policy of all the policemen against over Rs 1 billion and issued directives for strengthening and renovating all the police stations.

He took this decision while presiding over a meeting to review the progress of the implementation of decisions taken in the Special Apex Committee meeting held on October 6, 2023, at CM House.

The meeting was attended by Minister Home Brig (ret'd) Haris Nawaz, Minister Law Omar Soomro, Chief Secretary Dr Fakhre Alam, PSCM Hassan Naqvi,

Home Secretary Iqbal Memon, IG Police Riffat Mukhtar, Secretary Finance Kazim Jatoi, and Adl IG Karachi Khadim Rind, DIGs.

Home Secretary Iqbal Memon briefed the chief minister about the implementation status of the Special Apex Committee decisions. He said that the Provincial, Divisional, and District Implementation Committees have been notified in pursuance of the Ministry of Interior policy on the 'Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan.'

The decisions taken in the 1st meeting of the Provincial Implementation Committee held on October 12, 2023 are as follows:

The Special Branch (SB) is designated as the

lead agency for the implementation of the repatriation plan. It would identify the localities, including business areas, with the help of the other law enforcement agencies (LEA).

The Special Branch would ascertain illegal foreigners through effective ground check-in. The areas identified would be targeted. The Divisional and District Implementation Committees would also collect data and share it with the home department. The law enforcement agencies (LEAs) would assess the identified areas and decide on combing operations if required.

The chief secretary said that the federal government has already directed the NADRA.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali and the Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Azam Khan call on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

## Naqvi inaugurates Nankana Sahib Safe City project with 136 cameras

LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated the newly established Safe City Project at Nankana Sahib's Model Police Station Sadar on Friday.

During his visit, he toured the Safe City Center, where he personally reviewed the city's surveillance through modern camera systems. He also monitored traffic movement and surveillance on the screens at the Safe City Centre, said a handout issued here.

The Chief Minister

further inspected the Integrated Command and Control Room, Operation and Monitoring Room, and Data Room. Taking time to acknowledge the dedication of the Safe City staff, Mohsin Naqvi encouraged them to continue their hard work.

The CM praised both the Punjab Safe Cities Authority and the police team for their collaborative efforts in establishing the Safe City Center in Nankana Sahib. During the briefing, it was revealed that the Punjab Safe Cities Authority installed over

136 cameras in Nankana Sahib, along with the implementation of six checkpoints at the entry and exit routes. This significant project, costing a total of Rs 350 million, was completed in a span of just one and a half years, saving approximately Rs 50 million in costs. The Nankana Sahib Safe City Project was a joint endeavor involving local and international companies, which will also take on the responsibility of operation and maintenance for the next three years.

## KP Caretaker CM takes notice of MTIs' financial issues

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan has taken notice of financial issues being faced by the Medical Teaching Institutions (MTIs) of the province in a meeting with his advisor on health Dr. Riaz Anwar and Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry who called on him to discuss the matters related to the financial issues of MTIs here at Chief Minister's House on Friday.

CM directed his advisor on health and the Chief Secretary to take immediate appropriate steps to arrange the required funds for these hospitals on a priority basis. He said that all kinds of emergency services at

MTIs should not be affected in any way, adding that required funds should be arranged on priority so that uninterrupted emergency services must be ensured in these hospitals.

The Chief Minister said that it was the top priority of the caretaker provincial government to keep uninterrupted healthcare facilities continued for the public, and added that despite financial crunches, the provincial government would make no compromise on the provision of treatment facilities to the masses. He stated that the health sector would be given top priority in the allocation of available financial resources.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan in a meeting with Governor Gilgit Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah at his office.

## LHC disposes of PTI's plea for permission to hold rally at Liberty Chowk

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday disposed of a petition, filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), seeking permission for holding a rally at Liberty Chowk on October 15.

Justice Raheel Kamran heard the petition, filed by PTI Lahore President Azeemullah Khan. During the proceedings, a law officer stated that the request of the petitioner for holding a rally at Liberty Chowk had been declined through an order by the deputy commissioner Lahore in view of the security threats

posed at the proposed venue.

However, the request of the petitioner will duly be considered, if he approaches the deputy commissioner for holding rally at another venue, he submitted and added that the petitioner could visit the office of the deputy commissioner along with an application for the purpose.

The law officer further assured that if any such application was moved by the petitioner, the same shall be considered and decided within 72 hours.

## ANF seizes 88 kg drugs in five operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country managed to recover 88 kg drugs and arrested nine accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday.

He informed that 15.6 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted on M-1 Motorway Islamabad. The recovered charras was concealed in secret cavities of the car. During the operation, weapons were also recovered from two accused residents of Charsadda.

In another operation,

ANF arrested an accused along with a woman riding a bike near Sangiani Toll Plaza Islamabad. During the operation, drugs weighing 2.2 kg hashish, 500 grams opium and one kg Ice drug concealed in the seat of the motorcycle were recovered.

In third operation at Bacha Khan International Airport, 87 Ice-filled capsules were recovered from the possession of a passenger. The accused, resident of Khyber, was leaving for Qatar by flight number QR-601.

In fourth operation, ANF conducted a raid in Jamrud Khyber area.



FAISALABAD: Former Federal Minister Khuram Dastgir addressing during corner meeting on 12 October, for the preparation of the reception gathering of Muslim League (N) on the arrival of Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

## PMML leaders rally for Palestinian freedom, call for end to Israeli occupation

LAHORE (APP): In a massive nationwide rally held in solidarity with Palestine, leaders of the Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMML) asserted that the only solution to the Palestinian issue is the end of Israel's occupation.

The event, which took place on Friday, saw tens of hundreds of participants from diverse backgrounds coming together to express their deep sorrow and anger against what they see as Israeli injustices.

PMML President Khalid Masood and other leaders addressed the crowd and emphasized the

urgency of Muslim nations uniting to support Palestinian freedom. They declared this ongoing struggle as the "Freedom of Palestine," portraying Israel as an unholy state, a symbol of terrorism in the world.

The PMML leaders stated that the responsibility for the longstanding conflict lies squarely on Israel, which they consider an unlawful state that has oppressed innocent Palestinians for the past 74 years. They described the situation as a mountain of injustice and cruelty faced by the Palestinian people.

## 10 dead, 1,391 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE: At least 10 people were killed and 1,391 others injured in 1,289 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 692 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 699 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

The data analysis showed that 670 drivers, 44 underage drivers, 169 pedestrians, and 559 passengers were among the victims of road traffic

crashes. The statistics showed that 296 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 327 persons, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by 96 in Multan with 97 victims, and at third Faisalabad with 89 accidents and 97 victims.

According to the data, 1,125 motorbikes, 89 auto-rickshaws, 132 motorcars, 31 vans, 15 passenger buses, 31 trucks and 126 other types of vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the road accidents.

## GCWUS restarts bus service for students, staff

SIALKOT (APP): The University Transport Service has been restarted at the Government College Women University Sialkot (GCWUS) to provide cheap and safe travel facility to students.

At the relaunch ceremony, Vice Chancellor (VC) GCWUS Prof. Dr. Zarin Fatima Rizvi said the transport service, which was closed during corona, had been restarted to provide cheap, safe and comfortable travel facility to students. She said that after assuming charge as the vice chancellor.



PESHAWAR: Activists of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Women Wing are holding protest rally against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at GT road in Peshawar.

## Health minister warns of glaucoma's silent threat to sight on World Sight Day

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Dr. Jamal Nasir emphasised the importance of raising awareness about glaucoma, a condition he referred to as the "silent killer of sight."

Speaking at a seminar in observance of World Sight Day, organized by the Al-Mustafa Trust here on Friday, Dr. Jamal Nasir underscored that glaucoma is not only the most dangerous eye disease but also the leading cause of blindness worldwide.

Dr. Nasir revealed alarming statistics, stating that over seven million people worldwide are affected by glaucoma, and tragically, about one million

individuals in Pakistan have lost their sight due to this insidious disease. He stressed that to combat eye diseases effectively, it is imperative to control diabetes, blood pressure, and air pollution, as these factors have a detrimental impact on vision. Dr. Nasir highlighted that individuals with diabetes and high blood pressure are more susceptible to developing glaucoma. The minister also shared a ray of hope, noting that early diagnosis and treatment can control a staggering 80 percent of glaucoma cases. He pointed out that individuals aged 40 and above, as well as those with weak eyesight, are at higher risk of developing glaucoma.



LAHORE: Pakistan's political party Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam and activists participating in a rally outside press club while thousands of people protested across the country after Friday prayers against Israel's siege and fierce bombing on the Gaza Strip in retaliation to Hamas attacks.

## Five arrested for issuing illegal SIMs on Afghan passports

PESHAWAR (APP): The officials of Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) have arrested five accused for issuing illegal phone SIMs on Afghan passports.

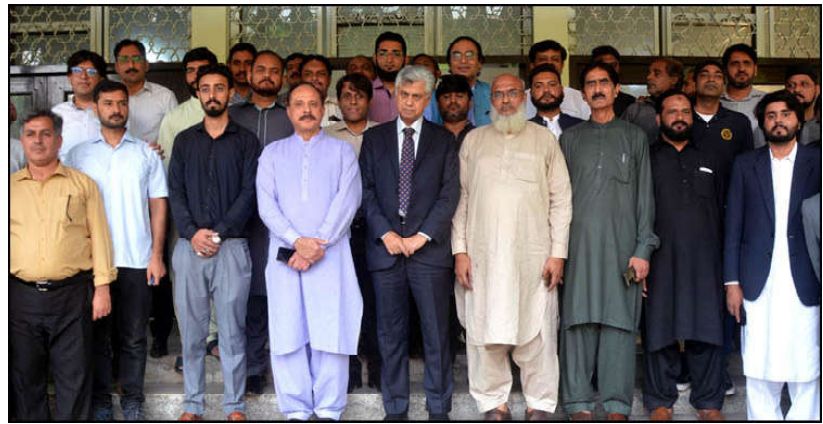
FIR spokesman told media on Friday that action was taken at Kohat Road, Peshawar from where five accused were arrested from a franchise of a mobile phone company.

The accused had issued illegal phone SIMs on Afghan passports, the official said adding that five laptops containing the data of scanned passports and eight mobile phones were confiscated from the franchise.

## DC inspects various schools, THQ Hospital

SIALKOT (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sialkot Shah Mir Iqbal made surprise visits to various schools and Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital in Pasrur tehsil on Friday.

Under the Chief Secretary Model School Programme, he reviewed the ongoing development work during his visit to the Government High School for Boys.



LAHORE: A group photo of Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi with Radio Pakistan Staff.

## CM Aide urges campaigns to curb vehicle emissions in KP

PESHAWAR: Zafar Ullah Khan Umarzai, the Special Assistant to the Caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Transport and Housing, has instructed the relevant authorities within the transport department to initiate campaigns in various cities across the province aimed at reducing the harmful emissions from vehicles.

He emphasized that all department officers should collaborate as a team to enhance the performance of the transport department. Umarzai issued these directives during a meeting held at the Directorate of

Transport, which was attended by the Secretary of Transport, Director General, Secretary of the Provincial Transport Authority, and other officials.

During the meeting, the secretary provided a comprehensive overview of the department's performance and its various divisions. The discussions covered topics such as the Motor Licensing Authority, Motor Vehicle Examiner, Vehicle Emission Testing Stations, Government Driving School, Peshawar Bus Terminal, Bannu Transport Complex, and the Road Transport Board, among others.

## BRT operator fears suspension of bus service from Oct 19

PESHAWAR (APP): The private operator of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) bus service in the provincial capital had urged the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to release Rs 560 million outstanding dues fearing suspension of service from October 19 in case of non-payment.

In a letter written to the transport department and Trans Peshawar, the operator of the BRT bus service said that the company was already facing losses and it was hard to meet the expenses including payment of salaries to the staff and others.

When contacted

the spokesperson Sadaf Kamil confirmed the issue and said that Trans Peshawar was in contact with the Finance Department for early payment of the dues to the operator of the BRT bus service. She hoped that the issue would be resolved soon.

## Five people killed in a road accident

KOT ADDU (APP): Five people died in a collision between a car and a trailer on Noor Shah Talai Road in Kot Addu on Friday.

Rescue 1122 sources said that the vehicle collided with the trailer coming from behind standing on the road.

According to information, the occupants of the car were killed on the spot.

The deceased were heading to their home in Kot Addu from Multan and were identified as Muhammad Iqbal (32), Ghulam Qasim (50), Saeed (35), Bilal (45) and Ghulam Fareed (35), the sources informed.

The rescuers shifted the bodies to THQ after legal procedure. Saddar Police Station registered an FIR of the accident.

FAO, GCF organized event "Water is life" in Sanghar

## AJK to celebrate 76th Founding Day of AJK State Govt

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): Brisk preparations have been started to celebrate the 76th founding day of the Azad government of the State of Jammu & Kashmir on October 24 in a befitting manner with the renewal of the pledge to continue the Kashmir freedom struggle till it reaches its logical end - besides to lend all of due contributions for the progress and prosperity of the liberated territory, official sources said here.

This year too, the anniversary of the emergence of the AJK government is being observed when India, through her shameful, forced, sinister unlawful act of August 5, 2019, scrapped the special status of the internationally acknowledged disputed Himalayan state of Jammu & Kashmir through abrogating article 370 and 35-A of her own constitution by blatantly defying the United Nations



PESHAWAR: Minister Higher Education, Archives & Libraries KP Dr. Muhammad Qasim Jan addressing during 1 day session on National Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023 here at SBBWU.

## Dir Lower admin arranges first science exhibition

DIR LOWER (APP): The district administration in collaboration with the Youth Affairs Department, for the first time in the district arranged a "Science Exhibition" at Al-Qalam School Khungi, Timergara on Friday. More than 30 schools and colleges participated in the Science Expo.

Additional Deputy Commissioner General Abdul Wali Khan and Assistant Commissioner Timergara Dr. Nida Iqbal inaugurated the expo as

chief guests before inspecting various science and food stalls and science model.

They appreciated the Science Exhibition and stated that it was the age of science and technology. The chief guests stated that those who get advanced technology will rule the world in future. The chief guests further stated that science and technology play a very vital role in the economy of the country.



## Stabilization measures start yielding results: SBP Governor

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Jameel Ahmad said on Friday that stabilization measures had started yielding results with inflation coming down and position of external account improving.

The governor was briefing international investors during events organized by global banks, including Barclays, JP Morgan, Standard Bank, and Jefferies on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank meetings in Marrakech, Morocco.

He said, inflation had come down to 31.4 percent in September 2023 after peaking at 38.0 percent in May 2023 and was expected to continue its downward trajectory over the coming months,

whereas the external account had improved considerably and foreign exchange buffers were being built up.

Jameel shared that with the policy rate at 22 percent, the SBP assessed the real interest rates turning substantially positive on a forward-looking basis, as inflation was expected to come down significantly during the second half of this fiscal year.

Going forward, the Stand-By arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is expected to support the ongoing policy efforts to stabilize the economy.

The governor briefed the investors about the recent macroeconomic developments, policy

responses to current challenges, and the outlook of Pakistan's economy, and also answered their questions.

He informed the investors that the current policy mix adopted by the government and the Central Bank was geared towards achieving stabilization through addressing macroeconomic imbalances.

He apprised that the SBP was among the first central banks that began to tighten monetary policy in the wake of the rising inflation globally.

However, certain domestic challenges, most notably the unprecedented floods in the beginning of the previous fiscal year, complicated SBP's efforts to bring down inflation.



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of France HE Nicolas Galey called on Federal Minister for Privatization Fawad Hasan Fawad.

## Turkish CG, LCCI President discuss SIFC, see good results

LAHORE (APP): Consul General of Türkiye Durmus Bastug said here on Friday that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was a good step for both investors and countries as the embassy of Turkey was closely monitoring the activities of the SIFC and was hopeful that the initiative would produce good results.

He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry during a meeting with LCCI President Kashif Anwar.

The consul general said that the SIFC initiative would bring new investment and also help in resolving the issues being faced by investors in the country. He said that Türkiye was aware of the potential of Pakistan as the investors of Türkiye had invested around \$2 billion in Pakistan and half of its

investments was in Punjab which would hopefully rise to \$5 billion.

"We want to solve the problems being faced by the investors," said Durmus Bastug, adding that "we are monitoring the PTA with Pakistan and will move to the second phase which is FTA after the results of PTA".

LCCI President Kashif Anwar, while appreciating the SIFC, said "we are really keen to take a reasonable share in the overall trade of Türkiye. The global exports of Türkiye were around 225 billion dollars while total imports were nearly 271 billion dollars in 2021. Taking the latest bilateral trade figures in consideration, we come to know that the share of Pakistan in total trade of Türkiye is just 0.25 percent.

## KCCI demands fact-finding committee to unearth root causes of power crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has demanded the constitution of a fact-finding committee to delve into the underlying factors responsible for the ongoing power crisis in Indian Jammu and Kashmir.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the KCCI President, Javid Tenga, in a statement in Srinagar said, "Despite assurances from the authorities regarding the procurement of additional power from external sources, the situation on the ground has not seen any improvement. This power crisis is affecting not only businesses and industries but also the people's lives."

He urged the authorities to establish a fact-finding committee

aimed at identifying the problematic links responsible for the plight of consumers, especially vulnerable citizens such as senior citizens, the sick, students, and the vital sectors of health, education, industries, tourism and industrial estates due to the persistent power shortages during the impending cold winter months.

He said the KCCI has been closely monitoring the increasingly erratic electric power supply situation in the valley over the past several weeks, which has severely impacted all types of trade and businesses, as well as households.

He expressed grave concern and disappointment with the contradictory policies of the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC).

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships namely, Express Rome, Aurelia and Ginga Saker carrying Containers, Palm oil and Chemicals, berthed at Container Terminal, Liquid Terminal and Multi-Purpose Terminal respectively on Thursday.

Meanwhile two more ships, Clemens Schulte and Sea Affluence also arrived at outer anchorage of the port on same day.

A total of nine ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them five ships, Express Rome, Al-Rayyan, Zoe Schulte, Nav Andromeda and BBG Forever left the port on today morning, while another containership Clemens Schulte is expected to sail on today afternoon.

Cargo volume of 115,048 tonnes, comprising 101,567 tonnes imports cargo and 13,481 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 2,017 Containers (1,224 TEUs Imports and 793 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

## SMBR reviews tax collection, facilities

LAHORE (APP): Senior Member Board of Revenue (SMBR) Nabil Javed, during a meeting held here on Friday, reviewed the tax collection and provision of public facilities in the Board of Revenue.

Member Tax briefed the meeting about the progress in Tax Collection Abiyana.

The SMBR issued instructions to develop revenue collection on modern lines.

He directed PITB (Punjab Information Technology Board) to prepare an app for all heads of revenue collection and issued instructions to include Abiyana Agricultural Income Tax municipal fees and chowkidara charges in the app.



PESHAWAR: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar talks to a delegation of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

## Jehanzeb highlights GB's investment-attraction potential

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission (PC) Dr Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan has highlighted the potential of Gilgit-Baltistan in attracting investment for the uplift and sustainable development of the region.

Addressing the GB Investment Roadshow held here the other day, he underscored the significance of the GB region as the 'Land of Opportunities,' presenting a compelling case for investment by highlighting its strategic geographical location, natural resources, and rapidly evolving infrastructure.

Dr Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan presented three fundamental aspects including 'people, nature

and value, commending the GB government's investment in its people and stressing the importance of respecting the distinct culture and values of the region.

He emphasized the need for sustainable and nature-sensitive development, advocating for community-led and nature-oriented tourism to preserve the pristine ecology of the region.

Addressing the challenges of development, Dr Khan emphasized the critical role of digital connectivity and urged investment in digital infrastructure to unlock the region's full potential.

The event served as a platform for the GB government to showcase the attractive incentives available to investors across these sectors. It brought together dignitaries, ambassadors, members of the Federal Cabinet, representatives of the Special Investment Facilitation Cell (SIFC), and participants from diverse sectors including tourism, information technology, power, agriculture, mining, and food security.

## French envoy calls on Privatisation Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Nicolas Galey, French Ambassador to Pakistan on Friday met with Caretaker Minister for Privatization, Fawad Hasan Fawad, and discussed matters related to mutual interest.

Both sides expressed their firm resolve for the enduring bilateral relationship, as well as an in-depth discussion aimed at expanding collaboration in essential sectors, including education and agriculture economic cooperation. The meeting embodied the unwavering dedication of Pakistan and France to intensify their strategic partnership and explore new frontiers for economic and cultural exchange.

The Ambassador also conveyed France's strong desire to engage in collaboration and investment across various sectors. He highlighted areas where French enterprises have already made significant inroads.

## Tokyo markets end lower

TOKYO (APP/APP): Tokyo stocks closed lower on Friday, extending falls on Wall Street as US inflation data renewed concerns over higher interest rates.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index was down 0.55 percent, or 178.67 points, to end at 32,315.99, while the broader Topix index lost 1.44 percent, or 33.74 points, to 2,308.75.

The dollar stood at 149.70 yen, against 149.79 yen in New York late Thursday.

A forecast-topping US inflation report revived fears the Federal Reserve will hike interest rates again before the end of the year.

The reading showed the consumer prices index rose slightly more than expected in September.

## Measures being taken for economic stability: Shahid

### Pakistani trader must focus to enhance trade in Central Asian region, Umar

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Communications, Railways and Maritime Affairs Shahid Ashraf Tarar has said that measures are

also being taken to improve the performance of Commercial Consulars in Pakistani missions abroad. Federal Minister Shahid Ashraf Tarar said that measures are

Chairman Capital Office Aminullah Baig, Vice President FPCCI Umar Masoodur Rehman.

On this occasion, Convener FPCCI Capital Office Syed Asad Haider



being taken for economic stability. Efforts are also being made to attract local and foreign investments. On the proposal of establishing tunnel at Wah Khan Corridor, he expressed that it will connect Pakistan with Central Asia and attract large-scale trade that will change the fortune of our country. He visited FPCCI Capital Office, Islamabad and he was also accompanied by the Customs Collector Asif Hargan. The Minister further said that steps are

working on the IT sector, which have great potential to provide opportunities to a large number of youths to work and earn.

In order to save the time of people of KP, it was proposed that a separate connectivity on motorway may be constructed for KP people to enable them direct access to Islamabad airport, the Federal Minister assured that this proposal is under consideration of his ministry. The views were exchanged by Vice President FPCCI and

Mashhadi, Former Vice President FPCCI Sohail Altaf, Founder President Haripur Chamber Safdar Zaman Shah, President Rawalpindi Chamber Saqib Rafiq along with members of Haripur Chamber Aun Ali Syed, Saqib Imran and others were present. Speaking on the occasion, FPCCI Vice President and Chairman Capital Office Aminullah Baig and Vice President Umar Masoodur Rahman thanked Federal Minister Shahid Ashraf Tarar for visiting FPCCI Capital Office.

## Power Division says: No extension in PRA with HUBCO, KAPCO

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Power Division on Friday clarified that the term of Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with HUBCO would end on March 2027 adding that no extension has been made in any contract with HUBCO.

"The plant is designed to be operated on Residual Furnace Oil. No conversion has been made to operate the plant on coal. Till date, HUBCO is available on Residual Furnace Oil," a statement issued by the ministry here.

Similarly, the Ministry clarified that KAPCO had also completed its PPA term of 25 years on October 24,

and no extension had been made to the agreement for purchase/sale of electricity with KAPCO. "Since expiry of the PPA in October 2022, plant is shut down and not generating any electricity.

However as of today KAPCO is providing grid station facilities to the electricity consumers of MEPCO without any charges. Government of Pakistan is holding 45% share of the KAPCO," it further said.

Moreover, Engro Power Project has no investment from Govt. of Sindh; therefore, the provincial government did not have any shareholding Engro Power Project.

## Rupee gains 96 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Friday witnessed the 27<sup>th</sup> consecutive recovery session as it gained 96 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.62 against the previous day's closing of Rs278.58. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs275.9 and Rs278 respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by Rs 2.85 to close at Rs 293.08 against the last day's closing of Rs 295.93, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen lost one paise to close at Rs1.85, whereas a decrease of Rs 3.43.

## Shamshad holds meeting with top leadership of Deutsche Bank

ISLAMABAD (Online): Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar held a meeting with the top leadership of Deutsche Bank, on the sidelines of annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Morocco on Friday.

The discussions were marked by a constructive exchange of ideas and insights, focusing on fostering economic cooperation and financial stability.

Both parties expressed their commitment to strengthening ties and highlighted the potential for mutually beneficial initiatives in the financial sector.

Meanwhile, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar also met

her Iranian counterpart and discussed strengthening economic cooperation and exploring avenues for bilateral trade and investment.

Both Ministers expressed their commitment to further strengthen economic ties for advancing mutual interests.

Besides, the Finance Minister held a meeting with CEO Islamic Trade Finance Cooperation Hani Salem Sonbol.

During the meeting, they exchange views on strengthening economic cooperation, fostering trade, and advancing financial strategies.

Both sides expressed their commitment to promote mutual growth and prosperity in the global financial landscape.



SUKKUR: Sukkur Electric Power Supply Company (SEPCO) Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Saeed Ahmed Dawach addresses to media persons during press conference, at his office in Sukkur.

## Weekly inflation goes up by 0.30 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.30 percent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on October 12, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 282.86 points as compared to 282.00 points during the past week, according to the PBS data.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 38.28 percent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 = 100 covers 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs.17,732, increased by 0.25 percent and went up to 287.01 points from last week's 286.29 points.

The SPI for consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888 and Rs

22,889-29,517 increased by 0.51 percent and 0.16 percent respectively whereas it witnessed nominal decrease of 0.02 percent for consumption group from Rs 29,518-44,175 and 0.25 percent increase for consumption group above Rs 44,175.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 17 (33.33%) items increased, 17 (33.33%) items decreased and 17 (33.33%) items remained stable.

The items, which recorded a decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week (WoW) included sugar (4.47%), pulse gram (2.75%) bananas (2.47%), tulsi moong (2.44%), gur (1.93%), chicken (1.69%) rice irri-6/9 (1.46%) and pulse masoor (1.26%).

The items that recorded an increase in their average prices on a week-on-week (wow) basis, included tomatoes (6.28%), eggs (3.48%), salt powdered (2.75%), cooked beef (1.06%), garlic (1.04%), beef (0.39%), potatoes (0.35%), electricity charges for Q1 (8.59%), energy sever (0.55%), shirting (0.47%) and LPG (0.31%).

## ICCI for promoting domestic commerce to enhance exports and stabilize the economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The business community on Friday urged the government to focus on promoting domestic commerce that would stimulate economic activities, enhance exports, and stabilize the economy.

Faaz Waheed, Acting President ICCI while addressing a seminar on "The State of Domestic Commerce in Pakistan" organized in collaboration with the Policy Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), said that domestic commerce is an important segment, that provides employment to 40 percent of the non-agricultural workforce, but the development of domestic commerce and domestic markets has been neglected in the policy-making even though it contributes significantly to the GDP.

He urged the government to improve the infrastructure for domestic commerce in wholesale and retail sectors and focus on developing a network of business centers, markets, and shopping malls to make Pakistan a thriving economy.

He lauded the initiative of PIDE for developing a research study on The State of Domestic Commerce in Pakistan and hoped that the government would benefit from this study report to bring needed policy reforms for the promotion of this sector.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Nadeem ul Haq, Vice Chancellor, PIDE highlighted the too many regulations, complicated documentation & registration processes, complexity and multiplicity of taxes, high cost of compliance, fear of penalties.



FAISALABAD: Poultry workers distributing eggs during a walk on the eve of World Egg Day organized by Shabbir Poultry Services.



MULTAN: Farmers harvesting corn plants through a harvester machine in their fields to be used as fodder for their animals.



## Countries urge Israel to hold off on Gaza assault with civilians in firing line

**Monitoring Desk**  
JERUSALEM: Countries urged Israel on Friday to hold off on plans for an all-out assault on northern Gaza, where more than a million civilians largely defied its order to evacuate before it goes after Hamas militants who slaughtered Israelis a week ago.

Hamas, which controls the densely populated Palestinian territory, vowed to fight until the last drop of blood and told residents to stay put after Israel said they should move to the south within 24 hours.

While some heeded the call to leave, by Friday afternoon there was little sign of a mass exodus.

"Death is better than leaving," said Mohammad, 20, standing in the street outside a building reduced

to rubble in an Israeli air strike two days ago near the centre of Gaza.

"I was born here, and I will die here, leaving is a stigma." With power supplies cut and food and water in the Palestinian enclave running short after a week of retaliatory air strikes and a full Israeli blockade, the U.N. said Gaza's civilians were in an impossible situation.

"The noose around the civilian population in Gaza is tightening. How are 1.1 million people supposed to move across a densely populated warzone in less than 24 hours?" U.N. aid chief Martin Griffiths wrote on social media.

White House national security spokesman John Kirby said such a huge evacuation was a "tall or-

der", but that Washington would not second guess its ally's decision to tell civilians to get out of the way.

"We understand what they're trying to do and why they're trying to do this—to try to isolate the civilian population from Hamas, which is their real target," he said on MSNBC. The northern half of the Gaza Strip includes the enclave's biggest settlement Gaza City. The U.N. said it had been told that Israel wanted the entire population to move across the wetlands that bisect the enclave.

"Civilians of Gaza City, evacuate south for your own safety and the safety of your families and distance yourself from Hamas terrorists who are using you as human shields."



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) leaders' summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

## 7 killed in suicide attack on Afghan Shia mosque: official

**Monitoring Desk**  
KABUL: At least seven people were killed and 15 more wounded when a suicide blast tore through a Shia mosque in northern Afghanistan on Friday, the Taliban government said.

The number of bomb blasts and suicide attacks has reduced dramatically since the Taliban ended their insurgency after seizing power in August 2021, ousting the US-backed government.

However, a number of armed groups—including the regional chapter of the Islamic State organisation

—remain a threat.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast, which rang out as Shia worshippers gathered for Friday prayers at the Imam Zaman mosque in Pol-i-Khomri, the capital of Baghlan province.

"Security and investigative forces went to the area of the incident to investigate how this heartbreaking incident happened," said provincial information and media chief Mustafa Asadullah Hashimi. "Investigations are still ongoing," he said in a statement confirming the

casualties. A source at Baghlan Provincial Hospital—who asked to remain anonymous—put the tally higher, saying 19 bodies and 40 wounded patients had been brought to the facility so far. "Some of the dead and wounded were taken to other private hospitals as well," he told AFP.

Local resident Abdul Hamid said he heard a "terrible sound" as the bomb detonated.

"After the explosion, a large number of martyrs and injured people were transferred to the hospital," he said.



A rescuer looks on amid debris in the aftermath of Israeli strikes, in Gaza City.

## In Beirut, Iran's foreign minister warns war could spread if Israeli bombardment of Gaza continues

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: Iran's foreign minister warned Friday that if Israel's attacks on the Gaza Strip don't stop immediately, the violence could spread to other parts of the Middle East.

Hossein Amirabdollahian is on a tour that took him to Baghdad before Beirut, and later in the day he is scheduled to travel to the Syrian capital, Damascus. Iran heads the so-called "axis of resistance" that includes powerful militant groups in the region, such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Popular Mobilization Forces in Iraq.

Amirabdollahian spoke to reporters in Beirut after a meeting with his Lebanese counterpart, during which the two officials called for an end to Israel's attacks on Gaza. He also met with Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, as well as caretaker Prime Minis-

ter Najib Mikati and the speaker of parliament.

There have been concerns that the war could spread to Lebanon's border where Hezbollah fighters have been on alert following Hamas' attack on southern Israel on Saturday that left hundreds of people dead.

On Thursday, Israel's military struck two of Syria's main international airports, in Damascus and Aleppo, putting them out of service. Flights were diverted to an airport in the coastal province of Latakia. The strikes came after shells were fired from Syria into the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

Sporadic acts of violence along the Lebanon-Israel border over the past days left three Hezbollah fighters dead on Monday. Israel's military said one Israeli soldier was killed in an anti-tank missile attack on Wednesday.

## US, Qatar to halt Iran's access to \$6bn fund, says Post

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The United States and Qatari officials have agreed to prevent Iran from using a \$6 billion humanitarian assistance fund, according to the Washington Post. The money had been transferred to Iranian accounts in Qatar, in a US-Iran prisoner swap deal announced in recent weeks where five US detainees were released by Iran.

But Washington Post reported on Thursday that a decision was made to halt access to the funds, while President Joe Biden faces rising pressure on the matter given Iran's declared support to Hamas. "We have strict oversight of the funds and we retain the right to freeze them," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told a press conference in Tel Aviv on Thursday. The White House added in a separate briefing that "every single dime of that money is still sitting in a Qatari bank." "Not one dime of it has been spent," according to National Security Council spokesman John Kirby, adding that the US is watching the account closely but refusing to speculate.

## Egypt facilitating aid flights to Sinai for besieged Gaza

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: Egypt said on Thursday it was directing international aid flights for Gaza to an airport in northern Sinai, though delivery of relief into the Palestinian enclave has so far been hampered by Israeli bombardments around the border.

The Rafah crossing between Sinai and Gaza remained open, the Egyptian foreign ministry said, adding that Egypt had asked Israel to avoid targeting the Palestinian side of the crossing after strikes that prevented normal operations there.

Israel's massive bombardment and imposition of a total siege on Gaza Strip has caused alarm in Egypt,

which shares a border with the south of the narrow coastal territory and controls the main exit point for the 2.3 million people living there. Stocks of aid and medicine in Gaza, as well as fuel for generators, have been running low.

At Arish airport in northern Sinai, 45 kilometers from the Gaza border, was prepared to receive aid deliveries from Qatar and Jordan, but these would not leave the airport until humanitarian corridors had been established, Egyptian security sources said.

They said Egypt and Jordan had received assurances from the United States that aid would be delivered to Gaza.

## 200 evacuees arrive in India from Tel Aviv

**Monitoring Desk**  
DEHLI: India's first chartered flight brought over 200 Indian nationals back home from Tel Aviv on Friday, nearly a week after the latest Israel-Hamas war erupted. "Everyone is scared. We have no idea what would happen there. We had to move to shelters when there were missile attacks. This was not normal," said Deepak Sharma, a 20-year-old student who was studying physics at a college in north Israel.

There are about 18,000 Indian citizens living in Israel, a small percentage of them students, according to India's External Affairs Ministry. Nearly one-third of them have registered with the Indian embassy ready to fly back home.

## Putin says civilian losses from Israeli ground operation in Gaza would be 'unacceptable'

**Monitoring Desk**  
BISHKEK: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday said an Israeli ground operation in Gaza would result in a level of civilian casualties that would be "absolutely unacceptable".

Putin was speaking after Israel's military called for all civilians of Gaza City, more than 1 million people, to relocate south within 24 hours, as it amassed tanks ahead of an

expected ground invasion in response to a devastating weekend attack by the militant group Hamas.

Putin said that using heavy weaponry in residential areas was "fraught with serious consequences for all sides".

"And most importantly, the civilian casualties will be absolutely unacceptable. Now the main thing is to stop the bloodshed," he said.

## Thousands flee north Gaza in search of refuge after Israel evacuation warning

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA STRIP: Thousands of Palestinians fled to southern Gaza in search of refuge on Friday after Israel warned them to evacuate before an expected ground offensive against Hamas in retaliation for the deadliest attack in Israel's history.

The order came as Israel amassed tanks near the Gaza Strip.

Nearly 1,800 Gazans—including over 580 children—have been killed in waves of missile strikes on the densely populated enclave, the health ministry said. According to Israel, Hamas took an estimated 150 Israeli, foreign and dual-national hostages back to Gaza during its initial attack.

Hamas said today that 13 hostages had been killed

in Israeli air strikes. It has previously said four hostages died in bombardments, complicating any Israeli ground offensive.

Tensions meanwhile rose across the Middle East and beyond, with protests in support of the Palestinians, while Israel faced the threat of a separate confrontation with Hezbollah in Lebanon.

In the occupied West Bank, at least nine Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire during protests supporting Gaza, taking the toll there to 44 since Saturday, the health ministry said.

In its statement, the Israeli military warned it would operate "significantly" in Gaza City in the coming days and civilians would only be able to return when another announcement was made.

## Ecuador to elect a president amid bloody gang war

**Monitoring Desk**  
QUITO: Shell-shocked by the eruption of a bloody drug war that has spilled from the country's prisons into the streets, Ecuadorians will vote for a new president Sunday just weeks after a popular candidate was assassinated in public.

A climate of fear hangs over the campaign in which the two finalists—socialist Luisa Gonzalez and banana empire heir Daniel Noboa—have both vowed to address the escalating violence.

Whoever wins will be elected to only 16 months in office—completing the term of incumbent Guillermo Lasso, who called a snap vote to avoid possible impeachment for alleged embezzlement.

The main concerns of Ecuadorians, according to recent polls, are crime and insecurity, followed by unemployment.

Long a peaceful haven between major cocaine exporters Colombia and Peru, the South American nation has exploded in violence in recent years as enemy gangs with links to Mexican and

Colombian cartels vie for control.

The fighting has seen 460 inmates massacred in prison since February 2021—many beheaded or burned alive—while gangs have dangled headless corpses from city bridges and detonated car bombs outside police stations in a show of force.

The country's murder rate quadrupled in the four years to 2022, and some 3,600 Ecuadorians have been murdered so far this year, according to the Ecuadorian Organized Crime Observatory.

In August, the violence claimed the life of anti-graft and anti-cartel journalist and presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio, mowed down in a barrage of submachine gun fire after a campaign speech. He had been polling in second place.

A state of emergency was declared after Villavicencio's assassination, and Noboa and Gonzalez both campaigned in bulletproof vests, surrounded by heavy security details.

## US corridor proposal sparks concerns of 'ethnic cleansing'

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: A US suggestion to create a safe passage for civilians trapped in Gaza has prompted criticism from several quarters, who see the suggestion as furthering Israel's agenda of emptying the Gaza Strip in a bid to lay claim to that territory as well.

There is a distinction between the two demands: the call for a humanitarian corridor, which has been supported by UN chief Antonio Guterres, the WHO and MSF, among others, would allow food, aid and essential supplies into the besieged enclave, which has been without living essentials such as water and electricity for several days.

This is separate from the US proposal, which would see Gazans being allowed to flee Israeli bombing by taking refuge in Egypt. Cairo has been discussing

the proposal with Washington, but has only consented to providing humanitarian aid through its border with Gaza, rejecting any move to set up corridors for refugees fleeing the enclave.

One of the few people to support both calls was Scotland's First Minister Humza Yousaf who urged the government of Israel to ensure that innocent civilians are protected and to put in place an immediate ceasefire to allow the safe passage of civilians.

He also called for the opening of a humanitarian corridor into Gaza to allow supplies, including food, fuel, water and medical supplies, for those civilians who are trapped, helpless and cannot leave. But while Mr Yousaf fully supports the creation of a passage, Palestinian-origin poet Samah Sabawi vehemently opposed the move, labelling it as "ethnic cleansing."

## Pro-Palestinian protests banned in France

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: France has decided to ban pro-Palestinian protests as they are "likely to generate disturbances to public order". Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said on Thursday in a letter to prefects across the country.

Earlier this week, Hamas called for protests across the Muslim world on Friday to support Palestinians. Two pro-Palestinian demonstrations in Paris had already been banned on Thursday for fear of outbreaks. France is home to some of Europe's largest Muslim and Jewish populations and conflicts in the Middle East can stoke tensions there—which the interior minister said the government aimed to avert.



Protesters hold Palestinian flags during a demonstration in Paris.

## Israeli shelling strikes Lebanese army post after infiltration warning

**Monitoring Desk**  
JERUSALEM: Israeli shelling struck a Lebanese army observation post at the border on Friday, three sources in Lebanon told Reuters, after the Israeli military warned of a suspected armed infiltration that it said it was responding to with artillery fire.

Israel later ruled out that any incursion had occurred and residents of a village near the border, who had been instructed to hole up at home and lock doors and windows, were told they could again go outdoors.

The alert was issued in Hanita, 500 metres (yards) from the tense border and

opposite Alma El-Chaeb. Lebanon's Iran-backed, heavily armed Hezbollah group later said it had carried out attacks on a number of border areas as a response to attacks Israel carried out earlier in the day on south Lebanese towns.

The military statement said there had been an explosion at the adjacent border fence, which was lightly damaged. Lebanese state media reported that shells struck near Alma El-Shaab and Dhayra, the sites of repeated clashes in the past week, the deadliest at the border since Hezbollah and Israel fought a brutal month-long war in 2006.

## UK withdraws families of embassy staff from Israel

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: Britain said Thursday that it was "temporarily" removing the families of staff at its embassy and consulate in Israel from the country amid ongoing unrest. "We are temporarily drawing down dependants of staff at our Embassy in Tel Aviv and our Consulate in Jerusalem as a precautionary measure," said a Foreign Office spokesperson. "Our Embassy and Consulate remain fully staffed and continue to provide consular services to those who require assistance," it added.

## WHO says forced evacuations would be a 'death sentence' for some hospital patients

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: The World Health Organization says the forced evacuation of severely ill or badly injured people from hospitals in northern Gaza would amount to a "death sentence" for some.

WHO spokesman Tarik Jasarevic told a U.N. briefing in Geneva on Friday that the two major hospitals in northern Gaza have already exceeded their combined 760-bed capacity, and warned of a shortage of blood in hospital blood banks across Gaza.

Furthermore, several medications are in short supply, including for diabetes, seizures and asthma, as well as painkillers and dialysis solution. In general, "hospital corridors are overflowing. Dead bodies are piling up as there is no more space in morgues," he said.

Jasarevic said some patients—many of whom are children—were on life support systems like mechanical ventilators, "so moving those people is a death sentence. Asking health workers to do so is beyond cruel."

## Eight UN peacekeepers detained over sex abuse claims in DR Congo

**Monitoring Desk**  
NORTH KIVU: The UN mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) announced on Wednesday that it had taken "strong measures" against peacekeepers suspected of "serious misconduct". According to internal documents of the MONUSCO peacekeeping mission, seen by AFP, the eight peacekeepers deployed in Beni, eastern DR Congo, were arrested on October 1 and an officer suspended a week later in connection with alleged sexual exploitation and violence.

## US cities beef up security ahead of expected Mideast protests

**Monitoring Desk**  
LOS ANGELES: U.S. law enforcement agencies have escalated security measures to safeguard Jewish and Muslim communities ahead of global pro-Palestinian protests expected on Friday, but urged members of the public to go about their daily routines.

Police in the two most populous U.S. cities—New York and Los Angeles—said they would step up patrols, especially around synagogues and Jewish community centers, though authorities insisted they were unaware of any specific, or credible threats.

"There's no reason to feel afraid. No one should feel they have to alter their normal lives," New York Governor Kathy Hochul said at a news briefing on Thursday. New York City Mayor Eric Adams said his office had directed police to "surge additional resources to schools and houses of worship to ensure they are safe and that our city remains a place of peace."

Adams said extra police patrols were being deployed in Jewish and Muslim communities alike.

Heightened U.S. secu-

city concerns, particularly over a possible flare-up of antisemitic and Islamophobic violence, have followed an attack last Saturday by Hamas gunmen from parts of southern Israel. In the deadliest Palestinian attack in Israel's history, more than 1,300 Israelis were killed and scores were taken captive.

Heavy aerial bombardment of Gaza by Israeli armed forces in response has killed at least 1,500 people and injured 6,600 others in the crowded Palestinian coastal enclave, according to health officials there.

Former Hamas chief Khaled Meshal called for protests across the Muslim world on Friday in support of Palestinians, a message amplified on social media by calls for a day of resistance on behalf of the people of Gaza. New York City officials said they were bracing for at least one major demonstration planned for Times Square on Friday. "Every member of the New York Police Department will be ready and be in uniform tomorrow," NYPD Chief of Patrol John Chell told reporters.



Members of the New York City Police Department (NYPD) Counterterrorism unit patrol in Times Square, as the city takes security precautions ahead of planned demonstrations, in New York City, U.S.



# Israel committing war crimes in Gaza, Pakistan tells UNGA committee

**Expresses concerns over cycle of occupation, violence; Stresses need for two-state solution to Palestine issue**

NEW YORK (INP): Pakistan has expressed deep concerns over the cycle of occupation, oppression and violence in Palestine.

Speaking at the UN General Assembly's sixth committee meeting in New York, Second Secretary at Pakistan's Permanent Mission to the UN Rabia Ijaz said the rapidly deteriorating and dire humanitarian situation in Gaza due to the

indiscriminate aerial bombardment and an inhumane blockade of food, fuel and medicines, as collective punishment of the entire Palestinian population of Gaza by Israeli Occupation forces are unacceptable. These actions amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

She said the current cycle of aggression and violence is a sad reminder and

a direct consequence of over seven decades of illegal Israeli occupation, aggression, and disrespect for international law, including UNSC resolutions that recognize the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinian people.

Rabia Ijaz said the international community must work together for a just, comprehensive and lasting two-state solution

with a viable, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine on the basis of pre-1967 borders, with Al Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

Exercising its rightly of reply, Second Secretary Rabia Ijaz said Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognized disputed territory and is not at all a so-called integral part of India nor is it India's domestic matter.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over a meeting regarding National Program for Agriculture Development and Alternate Energy.



CAIRO: Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr. Nadeem Jan met Minister of Health Iran Dr. Bahram Eynollahi on the sidelines of 70th Session of the WHO's Regional Committee for Eastern Mediterranean.

## PM reiterates sternness against smuggling, corruption as efforts coming to fruition

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday reiterated that the government would in no way tolerate smuggling and corruption in the country and its ongoing efforts against the menaces were coming to the fruition.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to discuss the matters pertaining to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said the dollar's value had depreciated in the market consequent to the timely action by the government.

The prime minister, who also interacted with the media during the visit, told that the dollar depreciation had led to reduction of country's loans by

Rs4,000 billion besides impacting the prices of petroleum products and eatables. Addressing the participants of the meeting, the prime minister said that support extended by the Pakistan Army in the efforts to curb smuggling and hoarding was laudable.

The prime minister who was on his first visit to Peshawar after assuming the office, was briefed on the law and order situation as well as the financial issues confronting the province. He said only the illegal foreign nationals were being expelled from the country and directed the authorities to ensure that the registered foreign nationals faced no difficulties

during the process. He instructed the relevant authorities to utilise all-out resources to improve the security and law and order situation and also emphasised the strengthening of KP Police and Counter Terrorism Department. Appreciating the KP Police and administration's efforts against incidents of terrorism, Prime Minister Kakar said no outfit or group would be allowed to pick up weapons and challenge the state's writ.

He instructed to equip the KP Police with modern equipment to build its capacity against the challenge of terrorism, and assured the federal government's maximum support to the provincial government.

## 427 more power connections suspended on non-payment as QESCO drive continues

Independent Report QUETTA: As many as 427 more power connections were suspended on non-payment of arrears by the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) in different parts of the province including Quetta on Friday.

According to the spokesman of QESCO, the drive against power pilferers and defaulters remained continued all over the province.

As part of the campaign, some 427 connections were disconnected on

non-payment of the dues. Moreover, nine transformers were also removed during the campaign.

In addition to this, five more FIRs were registered against power pilferers in Naseerabad and Sui areas.

Moreover, the recovery of amount against the dues of QESCO is also continued as over Rs. 83 crore were collected from the defaulters. Similarly, over Rs. 12 crore were also recovered from the pilferers on charges of electricity theft in the province.



HUB: Activists of Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI-F) are holding protest rally against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at RCD road in Hub.

## Commissioner directs to initiate construction of Quetta Sports Complex

QUETTA (APP): Commissioner Quetta Division Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat on Friday directed the official concerns to initiate the construction work of Quetta Sports Complex and remove all obstacles in the construction project as soon as possible.

He said that football, cricket, tennis court, futsal and other sports fields will be constructed in the Quetta Sports Complex.

He said that the construction of a sports complex is necessary to attract the youth towards sports, so all the relevant institutions should remove the obstacles with mutual co-operation so that the construction of the sports complex can be started.

Under the direction of Commissioner Quetta Division, a meeting was conducted to discuss the challenges facing the development of the Quetta Sports

Complex and Cricket Academy. The Quetta Sports Complex and Cricket Academy's construction status was discussed during the discussion.

On the occasion, it was decided that the Sports Department will send a summary to the Chief Secretary Balochistan for the acquisition of the land of Radio Pakistan, which will be sent to the Prime Minister office for approval.

Apart from that, the land acquisition for the construction of cricket academy should be done as soon as possible.

He said all possible steps should be taken to establish a 60-acre sports complex and a 12-acre cricket academy in Quetta. In that regard, the reservations of all concerned institutions should be removed so that the work can be started as soon as possible.

## ECP rebuts 13 million ineligible voters allegations

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) strongly refuted a news report that was replete with inaccuracies and false information, incorrectly suggesting that 13 million people won't be able to vote in the next general elections.

ECP spokesperson said in a statement that the news report featured in Friday's edition of Dawn is saturated with inaccuracies and misinformation.

The spokesperson clarified that voters' registration was based on their permanent or current address as per their computerized National Identity Card (CNIC), and this process has no connection to population statistics.

## CPEC project completes 1st decade, Pak-China eternal friendship

ISLAMABAD (Online): CPEC project, an eternal example of Pakistan-China friendship, has completed 10 years.

Major projects are underway in Pakistan under CPEC, including Karachi Motorway, Karakoram Highway Phase 2, Lahore Orange Line Metro and other projects. According to details, CPEC project was laid in 2013 to take China-Pakistan friendship to greater heights.

The year 2023 marks a decade of the CPEC project. Beijing has released a comprehensive document to review the historic BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) this year on the 10th anniversary of CPEC.

## Ensuring better use of water reservoirs Barren land can be brought under cultivation: Domki

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the barren land can be brought under cultivation by ensuring better use of the water resources in the province.

The Chief Minister was chairing the meeting regarding water projects here on Friday.

The caretaker Provincial Minister, concerned Secretary and other high ups were in attendance.

Addressing the meet-

ing, the Chief Minister said that the issues of uneven voltage and power suspension can be overcome by transferring the agricultural tube wells on solar energy. It can also rid the consumers of heavy billings, he maintained.

The Chief Minister directed the concerned high ups to ensure transparency in the projects at every cost.

He announced that he would personally visit and inspect the projects, which have been completed in the province.

## PUC observes 'Palestine Solidarity Day' across nation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) on Friday observed 'Palestine Solidarity Day' across the nation expressing unity with the oppressed Palestinians and offering special prayers in Friday sermons.

The PUC Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, along with other prominent religious leaders, spoke out in support of Palestine.

They highlighted the critical juncture in the Palestinian issue and called on Muslim leaders to play their role immediately.

Addressing the issue of human rights, PUC Chairman Ashrafi deplored the silence on the mass killings of the oppressed Pal-

estinians. He emphasized that for decades, Israel had been subjecting innocent civilians, hospitals, schools, and ambulances to its ruthless aggression. Notably, he said the United States, India, the United Kingdom, and other Western nations remained silent in the face of Israeli brutality, disregarding the principles of human rights. He called for swift action from the Muslim leaders to halt Israel's aggression stressing that at this moment, the entire Muslim world stood with their oppressed Palestinian brothers and sisters. He appreciated the unwavering efforts and stance of the leadership of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey, Iran, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan.

## Communication to be faster by laying 1733 km long railway line under CPEC: Qadir

QUETTA (APP): Chairman Standing Committee for Petroleum and Resources Senator Muhammad Abdul Qadir said that on the occasion of the Belt and Road Forum between Pakistan and China, 15 including the ML-1 project of railways, memorandum of understanding (MoUs) of more than projects to be signed on October 17 & 18.

In statement issued here on Friday that he said that the third Belt and Road Initiative Forum would be held in Beijing, the capital of China saying that on the occasion of the forum, Pakistan and China would make a major breakthrough in the second phase of China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He said that under the ML1 project, the 1733 km long railway line of Pakistan from Karachi to Peshawar would be upgraded and a new track

could also be laid to bring the speed of the train up to 160 km per hour.

He said that China's rail system was a masterpiece system equipped with the most advanced technology in the world, the quality of China's railways was in no way lower than the quality of the railways of the United States, Europe and the United Kingdom, rather, being the most modern, it was more upgraded than the rail system of these countries.

An example of the quality of China Railways is in front of us in the form of Lahore Orange train service, he mentioned.

He said that the agreements for infrastructure, energy and other projects would be signed saying that announcements would also be made regarding further promotion of cooperation in various sectors of CPEC.

CPEC is the first and most important project of

the Belt and Road Initiative which started between China and Pakistan ten years ago, he noted adding that China has invested more than 30 billion dollars in the project so far.

In the second phase of CPEC, other projects including ML-1 and Thakot, industry and energy projects will also be considered in detail and contracts will be signed, he said.

The chairman of the standing committee further said that the project of upgrading Pakistan Railways has been stalled for ten years, adding that this grand project should have been completed a decade ago with the cooperation of China, by laying a 1733 km long railway line, communication would be faster.

Pakistan Railways would play an important role in the development of Pakistan by being equipped with modern technology from China, he said.

## Man shot dead in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): A man was killed on Friday on Qambrani Road, police said.

The man identified as Tariq Bangulzai died instantly when armed men opened fire at him, police said adding that the motive behind the killing is yet to be ascertained.

Further probe is underway.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanging views with Shahid Ashraf Tarar, Caretaker Minister for Maritime Affairs during meeting held at Naval Headquarters.

## Preparations reviewed for launch: All set to launch Health Cards in Balochistan, Secretary Health

Independent Report QUETTA: All is set to launch the much-awaited Health Card Programme in Balochistan province.

A crucial meeting was held to review the preparations of Health Card Programme with Secretary Health Department, Asfandiyar Khan Kakar in the chair here on Friday.

The Chief Executive Officer of Health Card Programme, representatives of State Life Insurance Corporation and NADRA were also in attendance at the meeting.

The preparations were reviewed for launch of the Health Cards in the province. The Chief Executive

Officer of Health Card Programme informed the meeting that all preparations are complete for the launch of Health Cards in the province.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Health directed the concerned authorities that there should be no issue in provision of health facilities under the Health Cards.

He said that all available resources would be mobilized to ensure quality medical treatment to the people under Health Cards.

It may be mentioned here that the interim government has already announced to launch Health Cards in the province by end of this month.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi visit Radio Pakistan.

## Jan concerned about delay in restoration of 8-hours' power supply to growers

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has expressed concern over delay in restoration of power supply to the growers for eight hours daily despite willingness of the Chief of QESCO the other day.

In an official statement issued here on Friday, Jan Achakzai regretfully pointed out that the daily eight hours power supply has not been restored despite the willingness made by the QESCO Chief.

He termed the delay in restoring power supply is extremely concerned. He said that if the power supply was not restored immediately then the crops of billions of rupees can be destroyed in the province.

We would be forced to import necessary food grains if the loss was caused

to agriculture and crops. As a result, there could be financial burden on the province rather on the country, he maintained.

The Minister Information mentioned that unfortunately the growers had already faced huge losses due to the floods last year as a result their production was just devastated.

He stressed that it is unavoidable to save the source of livelihood of the farmers from further loss.

Jan Achakzai said if WAPDA remain failed to restore electricity supply as per its commitment and consensus with the provincial government, then the matter would be taken up with Prime Minister.

He said that the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki would be compelled to take up the matter with caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar.

## Health minister meets Iranian counterpart

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr. Nadeem Jan on Friday met Minister of Health Iran Dr. Bahram Eynollahi on the sidelines of 70th Session of the WHO's Regional Committee for Eastern Mediterranean in Cairo.

Dr. Nadeem Jan stated that historical relations between Pakistan and Iran were bound by common faith, history and culture. The leadership and people of Iran and Pakistan enjoy cordial relations.

The minister of Iran stated that Iran not only view Pakistan as a neighbouring but also as a brotherly country.

The two ministers discussed the new challenges for the health sector and identified way forward to respond such challenges for the betterment of residents of the two countries and the region.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA Lt. General Inam Haider Malik presenting Shield to MD USAID Ms Kate Somvongsiri.

## Sanjrani commends Pak Navy's exemplary professionalism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Friday emphasized that the indelible contributions of the Pakistan Navy in safeguarding the country's maritime boundaries would be etched in golden letters in the annals of the nation's history.

He said this during a meeting with Rear Admiral Javed Iqbal (HI), distinguished with the Hilal Iftiaz Military award, led the 53rd staff course delegation comprising faculty and administrative personnel from Naval War College Lahore during their visit to the Parliament House.

The meeting took place at the Parliament House where Sadiq Sanjrani

engaged with Rear Admiral Javed Iqbal in productive discussions concerning professional matters concerning the Pakistan Navy and topics of mutual interest. He, acknowledging the exemplary professionalism exhibited by the officers and personnel of the Pakistan Navy, commended their valour in creating enduring stories of bravery that resonate with the nation. He emphasized their immense value as vital assets to the nation.

Highlighting the steadfastness and resolve of the Pakistan Navy akin to the Army and Air Force, he underscored their historical response to enemy aggression, fortifying our maritime borders.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafiqat presiding over a meeting regarding repatriation of Afghan refugees.