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Pakistan Army vows support to end unlawful Israeli occupation of Palestine

Palestinian people have unequivocal diplomatic, moral and political support of the Pakistani nation, says COAS; Military leadership vows to support govt's strategic initiatives for economic revival; Resolves to fully support Govt's decision to repatriate illegal foreigners after Nov 1st

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Tuesday presided over the 260th Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held here at GHQ.

The Forum, during the meeting, resolved to fully support the Federal Government's decision to repatriate and deport all illegal foreigners from November 1st onwards, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The conference participants offered Fateha for the Shuhada of Mastung, Hangu and Zhob incidents during the Holy month of Rabi' al-Awwal.

The Forum also paid

rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices being continuously offered by the Security Forces and the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) for the defence of the motherland while fighting the menace of terrorism.

The participants resolved that all terrorists, their facilitators and abettors, working on the behest of hostile forces to destabilise Pakistan, would be dealt with the unflinching resolve of the state.

The forum was briefed on prevalent geo-strategic environment, challenges to national security and own strategy in response to the evolving threat.

The Forum reiterated Pakistan Army's resolve to defend the sovereignty and

territorial integrity of Pakistan against all kinds of direct and indirect threats.

The Forum viewed with concern the developments taking place in Gaza-Israel War and the enormous human cost being imposed on innocent civilians due to the disproportionate use of force by Israel.

The COAS said: "The Palestinian people have unequivocal diplomatic, moral and political support of the Pakistani nation and we will continue to support the principled stance of our brethren for enduring resolution of the Palestinian issue and end to the unlawful occupation of their territories and Muslims' Sacred Places".

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RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir presides over the 260th Corps Commanders Conference held at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi.

For Pakistan, CPEC proved as 'catalyst of poverty alleviation, job creation': PM

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday termed China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a manifestation of strategic relationship said the project has proved as a "catalyst of growth, poverty alleviation and job creation".

"The CPEC is a beacon of progress and prosperity. It is not just an economic corridor, but a symbol of Pak-China strategic trust," he said in an interaction with representatives of leading Chinese think-tanks and scholars.

PM Kakar, who is in China on an official visit to attend the Belt and Road Forum, said the CPEC had transformed the socio-economic landscape of Pakistan, upgrading modern infrastructure, enhancing regional connectivity and en-

riching energy security. He mentioned that since the launch of CPEC during the landmark visit of President Xi Jinping to Pakistan in 2015, the project resulted in addition of 800 kilometres of roads, and creation of 8,000 mega watt electricity, and 0.2 million job opportunities.

He expressed confidence that as a project of socio-economic prosperity and sustainable development, CPEC would usher in a new era of development and regional prosperity.

The prime minister recalled that the Chinese vice president during his visit to Pakistan this August outlined five corridors of comprehensive development including growth, livelihood, innovation, greenness, and

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QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister Sheikh Mahmoodul Hassan Mandokhail and Advocate General Asif Reki Advocate meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Constitution accords fundamental rights to citizens: SC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that the Constitution had accorded fundamental rights, covering political, social and freedom of expression to every citizen.

"The protection of legitimate rights of citizens is the constitutional responsibility of the state," the three-member bench observed in its 11-page order written by Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail in a case against Imad Yusuf, vice president of a private TV channel.

The court also acquitted Imad Yusuf in the case, filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Shahbaz Gill. The apex court, in its decision, observed that baseless actions against

citizens should be avoided. It noted that the misuse of the authority created fear and insecurity among the people. "An environment of fear creates hatred against the institutions of the state and the media also cannot function freely in such circumstances."

The court said that the critics and political opponents should not be considered as enemies. It added that the print and electronic media were the means of conveying information to the public.

The judgment further said that it was difficult to believe that public representatives, journalists and political workers could indulge in anti-state activities.

PM Kakar attends President Xi's state banquet for world leaders

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday attended a state banquet, hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping for the world leaders participating in the 3rd Belt and Road Forum.

The prime minister was accompanied by senior ministers of his cabinet, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Held at the iconic Great Hall of the Peoples, the banquet was attended by the heads of state/government of Russia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Mongolia, Hungary, Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Papua New Guinea, Mozambique and Chile, among several other world leaders.

At the banquet, the prime minister was welcomed by President Xi and First Lady Madame Peng Liyuan.

On the occasion, Prime Minister Kakar also held informal interactions with the world leaders attending the event.

The prime minister arrived in Beijing on Monday to attend the 3rd Belt and Road Forum at the invitation of President Xi.

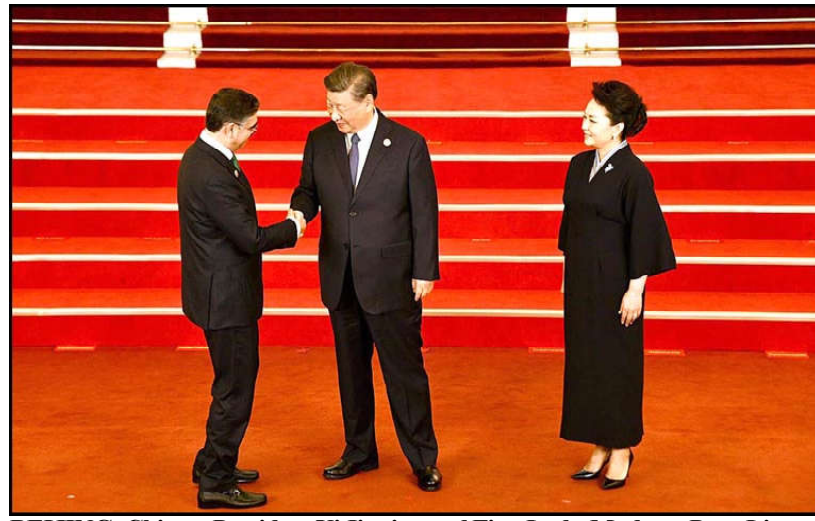
Hand grenade blast in Wadh leaves child dead, multiple injured

QUETTA (APP): A child was killed on the spot while eight others critically injured when a hand grenade exploded in the Zarchain area of Balochistan's Wadh city on Tuesday.

According to details, the police sources said some children from a madrassah were apparently playing with the hand grenade when it exploded, a private news channel reported.

The injured were immediately transported to a local hospital in Wadh.

The police and law-enforcement agencies cordoned off the area and launched investigation.



BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping and First Lady, Madame Peng Liyuan welcomed Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar upon his arrival at Great Hall of the People to attend the banquet hosted by President Xi Jinping in honor of the leaders of the countries participating in the 3rd Belt and Road Forum.

Balochistan Cloud Policy to be approved in next cabinet meeting

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki said on Tuesday that the digitization of public offices is vital to keeping provincial government affairs efficient, which will not only improve administrative affairs but also create an effective check and balance mechanism.

In the briefing given to the caretaker chief minister regarding the Provincial Cloud Strategy and Digital Balochistan Policy, the meeting was informed that the implementation of the Cloud Policy 2023 is aimed at establishing integrated coordination through digitization in departmental af-

airs. The Caretaker Chief Minister, while expressing his views, said that the said policy is an important step towards digitization in the province as the service delivery of the government would be efficient, accessible, and convenient with the implementation of the first-ever cloud policy in the province.

He said that the cloud policy should be equipped with modern requirements so that it can be effectively implemented. It should be mentioned that in the last meeting of the provincial cabinet, it was decided to form a committee for the preparation of the Cloud Policy 2023.

Pakistan to raise serious concerns at OIC over Gaza situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani will raise Pakistan's serious concerns about the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza and emphasize the urgent need for ceasefire as he attends the Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee.

The urgent open-ended Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee being held on October 18 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia has been convened by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to discuss the crisis in Gaza and the humanitarian situation of the besieged civilians there.

"In his statement at the Ministerial Meeting, Foreign Minister Jilani will present Pakistan's serious concerns about the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza and emphasize the urgent need for ceasefire, lifting of the siege and provision of relief assistance to the people of Gaza," a statement from the Foreign Office said.

On the sidelines, the Foreign Minister will also hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts from other OIC member states.

World Bank to provide \$150m to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): The World Bank has expressed its willingness to provide \$150 million to Pakistan, while \$135 million will be provided as a loan for the energy sector projects.

According to documents, the World Bank will also provide \$15 million as a grant. The energy sector plan aims to improve the efficiency of the energy sector. Commercial, industrial and residential buildings will be shifted from gas to electricity.

The implementation on the project is estimated to save Rs291.65 billion annually.

According to sources, private sector investment will also be promoted in the energy sector, while the construction of energy-efficient buildings will also be encouraged.

Sami Saeed says BRI plays pivotal role in fostering regional economic development

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Sami Saeed has highlighted Pakistan's national pride in being a significant contributor to the success of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and emphasized the pivotal role of the BRI in fostering regional connectivity and economic development.

During the meeting with Chinese technology enterprises, the minister underscored Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening its partnership with China with a focus on infrastructure development and sustainable growth. He further said that Pakistan's active involvement in the BRI reflected the country's steadfast dedication to fostering mutually beneficial global cooperation, CEN reported on Tuesday.

Kakar, Putin discuss ways to enhance bilateral, regional cooperation

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday met Russian President Vladimir Putin here wherein the two leaders reviewed bilateral cooperation with a special focus on trade, investment and energy.

In the meeting held on the sidelines of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, the two leaders expressed satisfaction with the steady expansion of Pakistan-Russia relations and stressed the need for enhanced cooperation in diverse fields.

Russian President Putin received Prime Minister Kakar before they held a meeting that encompassed bilateral, regional, and international affairs.

They also discussed the prospects of enhancing Eurasian connectivity and Pakistan's pivotal role in regional integration through rail, road and energy corridors.

Prime Minister Kakar stressed the need for enhanced regional integration for the economic development of the entire region, and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further expanding and strengthening bilateral cooperation with Russia in the areas of trade & investment, energy, connectivity and counter-terrorism.

The leaders also exchanged views on regional and global developments, including the evolving situation in the Middle East. In his opening remarks, Prime Minister Kakar said Pakistan and Russia had a convergence of interests on the issue of terrorism, and called for enhanced cooperation and a common approach among the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan. He said the neighbouring countries should be the foremost to take the initiative and cooperate in the fields of in-

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Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of 3rd Belt and Road Forum, Beijing

CM directed to provide prompt relief to masses after reduction in petrol prices: Jan Achakzai

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has issued standing directives to provide maximum relief to the general public following marked reduction in the prices of petrol and petroleum products in the country.

He said that the divisional and district administration of all the divisions and districts have been issued directives to take effective steps for provision of relief to the masses as there has been marked reduction in the fuel prices in the country a couple of days.

This was informed by the caretaker Provincial

Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai in a video message issued here on Tuesday.

Jan Achakzai said that he has himself talked to the Commissioner Quetta and asked him to take effective measures for relief to the masses after record relief given in form of fuel prices by the caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar.

He said that the administration has been directed to engage the provincial transport authority to talk to the transporters for maximum relief to the masses in transport sector.

Similarly, the adminis-

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CEC for utilization of all available resource to ensure free, fair elections

KARACHI (APP): Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, Tuesday stressed on utilization of all available resources for the peaceful conduct of elections and said that free, fair, and impartial polls will guarantee the strengthening of democracy in the country.

The CEC while chairing a meeting held here at Sindh Secretariat to review arrangements regarding upcoming general elections also directed to prepare a special polling plan for the flood-affected areas of Sindh, said a statement issued here.

Member Election Commission Sindh Nisar Durrani, Member Balochistan Shah Muhammad Jatoti, Member Punjab Babar Hassan Bharwana, Member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (retd) Ikramullah Khan, Secretary ECP Umar Hameed Khan and Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh Ijaz Anwar Chauhan attended the meeting.

Sikandar Sultan Raja said that ECP would provide all possible assistance to the caretaker provincial government for the conduct of free, fair, and transparent elections while assistance of the Pakistan Army and Rangers will also be sought in this regard.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori meets with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar at Governor House

Governor Balochistan asks IGP Sindh: Local Pashtoons must not be harassed under garb of illegal refugees

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that the present government has decided to send back the undocumented Afghan refugees settled in Pakistan to their country respectively, however the local Pashtoon people living in Sindh must not be harassed under the garb of Afghan refugees.

He also urged to resolve the issues being faced by Balochistan transporters in Sindh immediately. The Governor was speaking to the Inspector General of Police Sindh, Raja Riffat who called on him at Karachi on Tuesday. During the course of meeting, matters about the historical brotherly relations between Sindh and Balochistan as well as law and order situation and cooperation between the two provinces in different sectors were also discussed threadbare.

During the meeting, it was stressed to resolve the issues between the two provinces amicably besides strengthening cooperation among people further.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Caretaker Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi addressing to media after Pakistan winning the qualifiers match for FIFA World Cup at Pakistan Sports Complex. Caretaker Sports Minister of Balochistan Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani is also present

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

DAYS REMAINING

13

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Netherlands stun South Africa in major World Cup upset

Sports Desk
DHARAMSALA: Netherlands registered a stunning 38-run win over South Africa in a major upset of the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in Dharamsala, India, on Tuesday.

A disciplined bowling by the orange army helped their side to secure their first win of the ongoing cricket event as they faced defeat in their first two matches against Pakistan and New Zealand.

Netherlands bowled out the favourite team for 207 runs in the rain-hit match, which had been reduced to 43 overs.

South Africa were troubled by the Netherlands spinners in the first 10 overs. Quinton de Kock and Temba Bavuma fell for relatively cheap scores. Soon they lost two more wickets of Rassie van der Dussen (4) and Aiden Markram (1).

Heinrich Klaasen tried

to build a middle-order partnership with David Miller but he was dismissed for 28 by Logan van Beek.

Marco Jansen could not provide support to Miller as he was bowled out for nine. Later, Miller fell for 48, Kagiso Rabada for nine and Gerald Coetzee for 22. Tail-order player Maharaj attempted to give a boost to total but he could not clinch victory for his side.

Logan van Beek took three wickets while Paul van Meekeren, Bas de Leede and Roelof van der Merwe claimed two scalps each.

Earlier, the start of play was marred by rain. The sides finally walked out on the field just prior to 4pm Indian Standard Time (IST) as the match was reduced to a 43-over affair.

South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma won the toss and elected to bowl

first. He hoped that weather conditions might help the bowlers up front.

And he proved right as Netherlands's opening pair Vikramjit Singh (2) and Max O'Dowd (18) were dismissed in early blows. Colin Ackermann and Bas de Leede were removed for 12 and 2, respectively.

Middle order pair Sybrand Engelbrecht (19) and Teja Nidamanuru (20) could not show impressive performance. At that time Scott Edwards held the reins and played unbeaten knock of 78 runs, helping his side to build a challenging total of 245 runs.

Lungi Ngidi, Marco Jansen and Kagiso Rabada took two wickets while Gerald Coetzee and Keshav Maharaj claimed one scalp each. After overcoming Sri Lanka and Australia challenges with ease, Temba Bavuma's South Africa look to ensure that their unbeaten run in the tournament

continues against the Netherlands.

The Proteas batters have got plenty of runs, while their bowlers have been picking up wickets with ease.

Even though all seems to be going well for the side, they'll know the value of points in long-drawn tournaments such as these. A close loss to Netherlands in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 saw the Proteas lose out on a semi-final spot.

While Bavuma's side will look to make amends on that front, Netherlands will be keen to lift their game after losing their first two matches in India.

The Dutch are a much better side than the results show, and will be keen to prove that in Dharamsala. They'd love to take some inspiration from Afghanistan, who managed to up-end higher-ranked England in their Cricket World Cup clash on Sunday.



Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addressing a round table of Chinese Think-Tanks, researcher and scholars from Chinese Institutes in Beijing.

Israel must lift illegal blockade on Gaza, allow aid to Palestinians: Pakistan

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has called on Israel to lift its inhumane blockade on the Gaza Strip and allow unhindered access to humanitarian aid for the Palestinian people suffering under the relentless Israeli bombardment that has ravaged the enclave.

At a debate on the Palestinian question in a UN panel, Ambassador Muhammad Usman Iqbal Jadoon, the Pakistani deputy permanent representative to the UN, said that the Tel Aviv regime must fulfill those obligations as an occupying Power under international law.

"The Palestinian people need protection, immediate and urgent humanitarian aid, and an end of the mass displacement," he told the General Assembly's Second Committee, which deals with economic and financial matters, on Monday.

In the Committee's ensuing debate, 34 other speakers condemned Israel's actions, with the Observer for the State of

Palestine, Sahar Nasser-Abushawesh, warning that the conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip, have witnessed a horrific and unimaginable deterioration due to Israel's destructive practices.

She said Israel's recent declaration of war on the Palestinian civilian population was exacerbated by its decision to starve and completely cut off the Palestinian population from water, fuel and electricity, elevating an "already dangerous situation into a humanitarian, sanitation and environmental catastrophe".

In his remarks, Ambassador Jadoon said that Pakistan has been providing humanitarian assistance to the "besieged and helpless" Palestinian people, adding, "We are actively exploring avenues for reaching the needy population in Gaza with essential supplies."

The Pakistani envoy voiced deep concern about the alarming and dire security and humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, as a re-

sult of Israel's illegal practices.

More than 1 million people in Gaza and in the surrounding area have been asked to move south of the territory amid continuous air bombings in flagrant breach of international law and in grave violation of relevant UN resolutions, Ambassador Jadoon said.

"These Israeli actions amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity," he added.

The unprecedented gravity of the situation de-

mands the international community's urgent intervention, the Pakistani envoy emphasized, urging the UN to play a proactive role in facilitating a ceasefire to alleviate the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza. "The international community must work in concert 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," Jadoon added.



BEIJING: President, Grandview Institute Ren Libo, calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq in Beijing.

For Pakistan, CPEC proved....

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openness.

He proposed that the next phase of CPEC should be deeper integration of economy so as to tap the potential of development for the mutual benefit of two countries.

Kakar said being the native of Balochistan, he was cognizant of the potential of the area and added that "in collaboration with China, we are poised to unlock opportunities of progress and regional connectivity in Gwadar."

As part of green technology, he invited the Chinese companies to invest in solar energy sector and called for strengthening energy linkages between Gilgit and Xingiang region.

He said during his upcoming visit to Urumqi in China, he would discuss with stakeholders the opportunities to bring closer collaboration with the Chinese in diverse fields.

Kakar said Pakistan's huge youth bulge could contribute to the country's economy provided they are given opportunities besides learning from the Chinese experience. He said Pakistan enjoyed close and valuable ties with China and would not allow anything to undermine this unique relationship.

Noting the progress of CPEC over the last 10 years, the prime minister underlined the importance of reflecting on the journey thus far, identifying the successes, reviewing the lessons learned, and charting out a map for the next phase of high-quality development of the project.

He also shared that the two sides had agreed to convert the CPEC into a corridor of growth, livelihood, innovation, openness and green development. In their remarks, Chinese academics and scholars underscored the importance and significance of CPEC as a great partnership between Pakistan and China under

BRI. They also reaffirmed the continued interest of Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan's Special Economic Zones and to contribute to the further growth of CPEC, enhanced regional connectivity and sustainable development.

At the roundtable, the participants agreed that through collective efforts of the two nations, CPEC can become a pivot for regional trade and connectivity and a bridge for people-to-people contacts.

Prior to his address to the think-tanks, the prime minister in his post on social media platform X said he had a productive meeting with Ren Libo, President of the Grandview Institution.

"We discussed shared goals and vision for the future. Grateful for his useful input and looking forward to further strengthening the fraternal bond between Pakistan and China," the prime minister said.

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, one of the signature projects under the Belt and Road Initiative, is a practical manifestation of win-win cooperation and shared prosperity and a commendable endeavor in building a China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

"All these elements also form the bedrock of President Xi Jinping's visionary Belt and Road Initiative," he said in an exclusive interview with China Daily published here on Tuesday. The prime minister lauded the Belt and Road Initiative for having "advanced inclusive development to reduce poverty and inequality, improved people's ability to pay taxes and enhanced governments' ability to retire their debts".



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori briefing the new Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf in the Governor House about historical items used by the Fathers of the Nation

Solangi hails Pakistan football team's victory in WC qualifier as triumph for sports

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday lauded the momentous victory of Pakistan's football team in the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers as a triumph for sports and sportsmanship.

"It is not a victory for a country or team, rather it is a win for football and all the sports," said the minister while talking to the media after the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifier football match between Pakistan and Cambodia.

Murtaza Solangi congratulated the Pakistani nation, football fans and football team for Pakistan's first-ever victory in the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers.

He said both teams - Cambodia and Pakistan - should be lauded and congratulated for displaying exceptional game to the spectators who had immense passion for the game.

The minister said both teams had represented the flag of Pakistan today with their green and white kits during match.

He recalled his passionate love for football which was a game for the hardworking athletes sans any extraordinary expenses.

Unfortunately, football

in Pakistan did not get the significance, that it enjoyed before and after the independence of Pakistan, he noted.

Solangi commended the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination for organizing the match in a remarkable way.

The minister said politics proved to be a nightmare for sports in the country, adding now all-out efforts were underway to give it a distant status, sans any politics.

The minister said that tolerance was once a hallmark of the national politics but growing intolerance had ruined this culture.

He noted that players of both teams greeted each other before and after the match, adding the gesture ought to be promoted in the country.

He also stressed the need for imbuing sportsmanship political arena, especially in the view of looming election in the country.

The minister expressed the optimism that both the federal and provincial governments would play proactive role in the promotion of football. There was a need to celebrate each other's victories with a spirit of sportsmanship, he remarked.

Maulana Azad urges unity, harmony in Muslim world

ISLAMABAD (APP): Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khair Azad emphasized the dire need for unity and harmony in the Muslim world.

He expressed these views in a meeting with the Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed. During this meeting, the discussion revolved around religious harmony, human respect, tolerance, and the promotion of Paigham-e-Pakistan.

Maulana Azad said Pakistan was a great blessing from Allah Almighty, and religious scholars could play a significant role in fostering unity among people through their sermons and teachings.

He also underlined the importance of expressing solidarity with oppressed Muslim communities in Palestine.

CM directed to...

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tration has also been asked to talk to the traders organization for provision of the relief to the public in prices of the daily used commodities and edibles.

Meanwhile, in an official statement issued here the same day, the Minister Information Jan Achakzai stressed that the effects of reduction in fuel prices must reach the common men. In this regard, the sale of edibles and other commodities should be ensured on the official rates, adding he stressed.

He also directed to give punishment to those who are fleeing the people and refuse to provide relief to the people.

The Minister said that the interim provincial government is determined to provide relief to the masses under leadership of Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki.

He said that the Prime Minister Kakar has also issued orders to provide relief to the masses at every cost.

He said that the federal and provincial governments are striving together for interests of the public.

He regretfully pointed out that the prices of commodities start increasing soon after the increase in fuel price, but no reduction is made when the prices are decreased. But, this practice would no more let repeated, and those found involved in profiteering would be taken to task, adding he asserted.

Pak-China academic MoU signed to cooperate in engineering sector

BEIJING (APP): A Pakistani delegation led by Javed Mahmood Bukhari, President of Pakistan National University of Science and Technology (NUST) recently visited Xi'an Shiyu University (XSYU) in Xi'an, China. A cooperation forum was held in the conference center of the campus, presided over by Zhang Rongjun, deputy president of XSYU.

During the meeting, Chang Jiang, party secretary of XSYU expressed a warm welcome to the delegation. "We hope that in the future, the two universities can cooperate in promising fields including energy research, information technology, and infrastructure," Chang Jiang said. Then, the two universities had in-depth discussion on talent training in civil engineering, mechanical engineering, electronic engineering, computer engineering and other majors, CEN reported on Tuesday.



QUETTA: Former Provincial Minister Mir Sikandar Ali Umrani meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Highway cooperation between China, Pakistan to make best use of CPEC infrastructure projects

BEIJING (APP): As Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has kicked off his visit to China ahead of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation to be held in Beijing, a Chinese expert said a reported cooperation between the two countries on fostering highway cooperation is an innovative approach to the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and will bring more benefits to Pakistani people.

During the trip, it is expected that a cooperation agreement will be inked to the establishment of a modern Highway Research & Training Center with Chinese assistance.

Upon completion, the institute will conduct studies of long-term surface performance and research projects in reclaimed asphalt, bridges and tunneling, training and degree courses in China and de-

Pakistan Army vows support... Continued from page 1

The participants vowed to fully support the strategic initiatives planned by the Government of Pakistan for the revival of the economy by providing all possible support for the overall well-being of the people of Pakistan.

The Forum also took holistic review of the ongoing actions, being taken against illegal economic activities.

The Army Chief emphasized that "Pakistan Army will continue to provide all-out support to the government and LEAs in taking strict lawful actions against illegal economic activities across the country. Actions against hoarding and smuggling mafias and cartels in different domains will be further strengthened in coming days to rid the country from the negative impact of such ill practices".

The COAS directed all concerned to support and facilitate the smooth, respectable and safe repatriation and deportation of all illegal foreigners.

velopment of engineering design manuals and standards for Pakistan.

The CPEC is a flagship project under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative.

Lan Jianxue, director of the Department of Asia-Pacific Studies at China Institute of International Studies, told the Global Times that bilateral cooperation on highway research is an innovative idea as the CPEC enters a new phase of development featuring a broadened scope of cooperation and focuses on socio-economic development, science and technology, agricultural cooperation, and industrialization.

Soft cooperation on highway operation and maintenance with trained Pakistanis taking the lead, will unleash the potential of many of the CPEC infrastructure projects in the years to come and yield concrete benefits to Pakistani people, Lan said.



KARACHI: Chief Collector Customs Sindh Yaqoob meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Kakar, Putin discuss...

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telligence, defence and counter-terrorism.

Coming to bilateral cooperation, Prime Minister Kakar said Pakistan was an energy-deficient country of 240 million population. Pakistan's energy minister had recently attended an Energy Week event in Russia where he had a "fruitful and constructive engagement" with the Russian team.

The Russian team had come up with concrete proposals for enhancing energy cooperation, he added.

Citing his previous visit to Russia as a senator, the prime minister said he was "mesmerized" by the Russian architecture particularly representing Christianity and churches. He said both countries were also close in terms of cul-

tural and ethical values which were not popular beyond that region.

In his remarks, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Pakistan and Russia celebrated the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this year.

Citing friendly bilateral relations, he said there existed a huge potential for cooperation between Pakistan and Russia.

President Putin said both sides, during interactions here, would exchange views and discuss the vision, and steps needed to be taken to strengthen cooperation in multiple areas.

He said trade relations between the two countries had increased and this year, Russia had supplied around a million tons of cereals to Pakistan.



QUETTA: Principal Secretary of Chief Minister Balochistan Rashid Razaq holding an introductory meeting with officers of CM Secretariat

CORRIGENDUM

The Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for the Outsourcing of rights of market fee collection for Lasbella District for the period 21st October, 2023 to 30th June, 2024 (8 months & 11 days) vide PRQ No.693/03-10-2023 published in the Daily Newspaper Quetta, dated 04-10-2023. The Base Rate per year may be read as Rs.10,620,000/- instead of Rs.11,500,000/-

All other terms & conditions remains same/unchanged and intact.

Director Agriculture Economics and Marketing
Balochistan Quetta
081-9211504

PRQ No.774/17-10-2023
www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob @dpr_gob @dpr_gob

Senate body urges Saudi reconsideration of reduced HGOs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on Tuesday held a thorough discussion on the reduction of Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs) from 905 to 46, following directives from the Saudi government relayed through the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah.

The meeting of the committee was held at the Parliament House which was chaired by Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri.

The committee included distinguished members such as Senators Gurdeep Singh, Moolvi Faiz Muhammad, Professor Sajid Mir, Naseebullah Bazi, Hafiz Abdul Karim, and Haji Hidayatullah.

In attendance were also additional secretary of religious affairs, his team and other senior officials.

The officials informed that a letter in this regard had already been dispatched to the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah in light of the recommendation

of the committee, urging a deferral of this reduction for the current year and a gradual reduction in subsequent years, adding that the ministry eagerly was awaiting a response from the Saudi quarters concerned.

The representatives from the Hajj Organizers Association of Pakistan were also present during the meeting. They emphasized the necessity for representatives of the religious affairs ministry to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Director-General Hajj and officials of the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah to address their concerns.

Expressing their lack of knowledge regarding the Hajj Policy for 2024, the religious affairs ministry clarified that ongoing discussions and policy sharing with the Hajj Organizers Association of Pakistan were in progress, attributing the communication gap as the reason for their lack of awareness.

The committee was informed that altering the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and

Umrah's decision to reduce the number of organizers seemed improbable.

Consequently, the committee Chairman Haideri stressed the importance of being fully prepared for the upcoming Hajj arrangements.

He emphasized the continuation of efforts by the religious affairs ministry to address the issue.

He suggested engaging with the Saudi authorities to convey Pakistan's concerns and to request a reconsideration of their decision. Following a thorough deliberation, it was decided that another letter would be penned to the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, recommending the Caretaker Minister Aneeq Ahmed to engage with the Saudi counterpart to further advocate for Pakistan's position.

In addition, the ministry should urge Director-General Hajj to take serious steps with the relevant authorities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to resolve the issue.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Central Information Secretary, Mr Rauf Hassan, and Barrister Umair, called on President Dr Arif Alvi.

Pakistan envoy emphasises science diplomacy to solve global problems

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan in Belgium Anna Baloch on Tuesday underscored the need for science diplomacy and cooperation for solving global problems including food security and climate change.

The ambassador said this in an information session on the Horizon Europe grant scheme held as part of science diplomacy initiative held by the embassy and Directorate General of Research and Innovation of the EU Commission (DG RTD), according to a press release.

Ambassador of Pakistan Anna Baloch and EU Head of Delegation Ambassador Riina Kiona empha-

sized the need to foster research collaboration in order to address emerging global challenges and attain sustainable development goals.

Head of Unit (Global Approach and International Cooperation in Asia) Nienke Buisman, in her opening remarks, shared the theme-specific approach of Horizon Europe and the strategic focus of international cooperation.

Horizon Europe is the European Union's flagship funding program for research and innovation. It has a substantial budget of 95.5 billion Euros and aims to support various areas of research and innovation to address challenges such as

climate change and contribute to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

This program spans a seven-year period (2021-2027) and is a successor to the Horizon 2020 program.

During the information session, the audience was also briefed on modalities of participation from Pakistani entities in the Horizon Europe grant scheme by Senior Policy Officer Tania Friederichs.

Subsequently, experts from the European Commission shared details regarding diverse grants calls in the themes of agriculture, circular economy including sustainable textiles and disaster management.

HR Minister shows concern over the situation of Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Human Rights George Khalil has expressed concern over the situation in Palestine and strongly condemned the Israeli attacks on innocent Palestinian women and children.

In his statement here on Tuesday, he huddled a set to review the Israeli atrocities and aggressive actions against the Palestinian's airstrikes in Gaza and also condemned the killing of the 6-year in-

nocent child who was brutally killed by his owner with an appeal for Israel to respect the resolutions of the United Nations.

He showed concern about the current hostilities, which have resulted in thousands of civilian casualties and widespread destruction. He added that the international community must uphold its moral and legal responsibilities to break this endless cycle of violence.

AIOU extends admissions deadline for ODL programs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University, Prof. Dr Nasir Mahmood, has approved the extension in admission date till November 07, for open distance learning (ODL) programs offered in phase 2 of autumn semester 2023 due to the hundreds of applications received from interested students. According to the AIOU, the programs offered in this phase include Associate degree in Arts (BA General).

Afghan education delegation visits IUI

ISLAMABAD (APP): An official Afghan delegation headed by Dr. Nazar Muhammad Irfan, Director of Foreign Affairs and Examination Prof. Dr. Muhammad Khan.

On this occasion, possibilities of the joint faculty exchange and research programs were discussed. It was agreed that ways to exchange experiences and training-related projects shall be deliberated.

The delegation also included Dr. Rafiullah Ata, Chancellor of Afghan International Islamic University (AIU), Abdul Hai Kaiwan, Dean of Engineering Faculty AIU, Nisar Ahmed Zahid Dean of Agriculture Faculty AIU who

was accompanied by Jehanzeb, Project Director HEC and Waqar Khan, Project Manager, HEC, said a press release.

The delegation was given a detailed briefing about the IUI's profile, vision and future goals by Director Academics and Examination Prof. Dr. Muhammad Khan.

On the occasion, Dr. Nazar Muhammad Irfan said that education is the top priority of the Afghan government and it is working day and night to improve higher education.

He said the Afghan government is eager to welcome capable faculty members who can help in building recently established departments in various fields of education.

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ISLAMABAD: Students of National College of Arts viewing the displayed artwork during an exhibition in the college.

APCFA, Chinese embassy collaborate for Friendship Festival

ISLAMABAD (APP): All Pakistan-China Friendship Association (APCFA), in collaboration with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan on Tuesday organized the Pakistan-China Friendship Festival to celebrate the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the 10th anniversary of the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and "Belt and Road" (BRI) initiative.

The event featured activities such as Chinese calligraphy classes, culinary training sessions, workshops on Chinese calligraphy, musical band performances, and various stalls showcasing traditional

items from both countries to promote bilateral culture.

The guest of honor for the event was Zhang Heqing, who serves as the Cultural Counselor and Director of the China Cultural Center in Pakistan.

During his address at the event, he conveyed his sincere gratitude to APCFA for their diligent efforts in arranging this important gathering and for their active involvement in various cultural promotion activities that encourage youth in both Pakistan and China.

He added that China and Pakistan, as neighboring nations connected by rivers and mountains, had been steadfast partners since the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Foolproof security being ensured at Diplomatic Enclave

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan the Islamabad Capital Police is ceaselessly dedicated to preserving law and order within the federal capital, a public relations officer said.

He said that, to fortify the security of the Diplomatic Enclave, police personnel stationed at different entry gates diligently executing their responsibilities, meticulously verifying the particulars of individuals accessing the diplomatic enclave and meticulously documenting vehicle information.

The diplomatic enclave encompasses pivotal government and private es-

tablishments, diplomatic missions, and other vital assets, necessitating an unwavering focus on their safeguarding.

Citizens entering the diplomatic enclave are now mandated to display their identification cards. Additionally, individuals with private business within the diplomatic enclave are urged to carry their requisite documentation and extend their full cooperation to on-duty personnel. Senior officers have directed the personnel on duty to uphold the highest standards of diligence and professionalism, cultivating a positive rapport with citizens. Citizens are also urged to promptly report any perceived suspicious activity or individuals to the helpline "Pucar-15."

Two days road safety workshop organized for HEC drivers

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police is seamlessly ensuring smooth flow of traffic in the federal capital, a public relations officer said.



He said that, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) delegation of drivers visited Traffic Headquarters, and met with Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad, where the Islamabad Capital Police organized a two days road safety workshop for them.

During the workshop, the HEC drivers were educated about road safety and traffic laws. The drivers appreciated the initiative taken by the Islamabad Capital Police.

The Islamabad Capital Police officials also provided awareness to the participants about the benefits of seat belt usage, the dangers of using mobile phones while driving, the hazards of over-speeding, lane violations, overloading, and other traffic laws.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister GB Haji Gulbar Khan presenting a souvenir to Khazar Farhadov Ambassador of Azerbaijan in GB House.

PODA struggle for women rights

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the European Union in Pakistan Dr Riina Kionka Tuesday said eliminating child marriage requires a collective effort to ensure that girls have access to education, health information, services, and life-skills education.

She was speaking at the concluding session of the 3-day 16th Annual Rural Women Leadership Conference held here. She said that child marriage is fundamentally an issue of gender inequality. It is also a multifaceted problem, with varying legal dimensions and immensely rooted socio-cultural norms.

During the conference around 3000 rural women leaders representing around 150 districts of the country including the four provinces and regions of AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan explored different dimensions of the issue of child marriage from legal to human rights perspectives demanded to raise the minimum age of marriage

of girls in Pakistan excluding Sindh to 18 years of age through legal amendment in the existing laws.

The conference participants unanimously passed a resolution to raise the minimum age of marriage of girls to 18 years to ensure the fundamental rights of the girls in the country to harness the underutilized potential that women represent in the country, it is imperative to break free from the gender norms to ensure these women and girls have essential services, economic resources, and gainful employment and that they actively participate in their communities as voters, leaders, member of political parties as candidates.

Emphasizing the right to education Article 25-A enshrined through the Constitution of Pakistan, Executive Director and founder of PODA, Sameena Nazir demanded that women have equal representation at all levels in all sectors.

Islamabad transport authority crackdown on overcharging vehicles

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a crackdown on overcharging vehicles, the Islamabad Transport Authority (ITA) and a team of magistrates seized sixteen vehicles and issued warnings to several others on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon.

The team inspected various transport routes and bus stands to ensure that the recently announced fare reduction was being implemented.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the ITA said that the seized vehicles were found to be overcharging

passengers at rates higher than the notified rates of the district administration.

The ITA has warned all transport operators to adhere to the notified fares and to refrain from overcharging passengers. Failure to do so will result in strict action, including the seizure of vehicles.

The crackdown on overcharging vehicles is a welcome move by the ITA and the district administration.

It will help to protect the interests of passengers and ensure that they are not exploited by unscrupulous transport operators.

NCA holds art exhibition for students

ISLAMABAD (APP): National College of Arts (NCA) Islamabad Campus held an art exhibition on Tuesday for students who had completed a six-month diploma program under the Community Outreach Program.

The event showcased over 100 paintings by participants who came from various walks of life, including diploma students and even a special child.

The initiative of the Community Outreach Program at NCA Islamabad Campus was launched to provide individuals from different backgrounds, particularly those who are deprived of speech and hearing abilities, with an opportunity to create art.

After completing the six-month diploma program, participants, including those who are differently-abled, presented their final projects in the form of these remarkable paintings.

Secretary Power Division to inaugurate "The Mardan Model" today

ISLAMABAD (APP): In continuation of the ongoing theft crackdown, Secretary Power Division, Rashid Langrial is set to inaugurate "The Mardan Model" aimed at the "Zero-Theft, Zero Load-shedding Mardan" initiative on Wednesday (October 18).

"The reason for selecting Mardan district for this initiative is that it was identified at the national level due to 56% losses on 17 feeders and a recovery shortfall of Rs. 1.2 billion," said a statement issued here Tuesday.

With the cooperation of district administration and 48 teams of Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO), the accountability was strengthened.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Moulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and Senators offering Fateha for the departed soul of Mother in Law of Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman, Chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) at his residence in Islamabad.

Investors show strong interest in diverse plot auction by CDA

ISLAMABAD (APP): The investors are demonstrating a strong interest in the auction of residential and commercial plots of diverse-sized residential and commercial plots in Islamabad organized by Capital Development Authority (CDA).

The four-day open auction of residential and commercial plots of various sizes and categories is set to run until October 20 here at the Jinnah Convention Centre.

The primary objectives are to increase revenue for the department and encourage investor participation in the auction.

During the auction's inaugural day, plot identified as 53F, covering an area of 666.67 square yards in I-8 Markaz, was successfully auctioned for an impressive Rs 1.42 billion.

Plot number 53D located in I-8 Markaz was sold at the auction for

an amount totaling Rs 1.09 billion.

During the auction, plots located in the Blue Area and Northern Strip of E-11 will also be up for bidding.

Throughout the four-day auction, Park Enclave Commercial, as well as petrol pumps and Class III Shopping Centers, will also be available for bidding.

The public auction will include a variety of offerings, such as agro farms, apartments, and industrial plots.

In this auction, plots designated for fruit, vegetable, and meat shops in the I-11 markets will be available for sale.

Additionally, it marks the first time that plots designated for hostels will be included in the auction.

The four-day auction will encompass the sale of residential plots as well. A committee headed by a Member of the State is overseeing the auction process.

Pakistan's top literary awards to be announced on Oct, 19

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) will announce the country's top literary awards, the "Life Time Achievement Awards-2021" and the "National Literary Awards for 2021," on Thursday.

The "Life Time Achievement Award" is the country's most prestigious literary award, and is conferred upon a writer for their lifelong literary services. The award comes with a cash prize of Rs 1 million.

The award is decided by a panel of eminent and respected writers and intellectuals from across the country.

The "National Literary Awards for 2021" will also be announced at the ceremony, and are given to the best books published in Urdu, Sindhi, Pashto, Punjabi, Balochi, Seraiki, Brahui, Hindko, and English during the year 2021. The award for each category is Rs 200,000.

The PAL awards are considered to be the highest honor in Pakistani literature, and are eagerly awaited by writers and readers alike.

The announcement of the awards is a major event in the Pakistani literary calendar, and is often accompanied by much fanfare and excitement.

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Two rules

Having accepted unquestioningly political objectives dictated by unelected quarters, the entire apparatus of our state has been acting with all the subtlety of a bulldozer.

Nowhere is this more obvious than in the federal and provincial capitals, whose respective interim administrations have remained unapologetic about the duplicity apparent in their decisions as they go about enforcing a stricter set of rules for the PTI while allowing other parties freer rein.

Just last week, a dozen PTI supporters were arrested outside the National Press Club in Islamabad, where they had gathered to express support for the Palestinian cause.

The party and its supporters had a right to react angrily; no other religious or political entity seems to have faced similar treatment in recent days as they have gone about conducting political outreach activities or organising rallies for the people of Gaza. To deny one party the privileges being enjoyed by others seems petty and smacks of victimisation.

More recently, the enthusiasm that the Lahore administration has shown for the PML-N's plans for a grand rally at the Minar-i-Pakistan even as it simultaneously denied the PTI a similar gathering at Liberty Chowk has made it abundantly clear why the PML-N's political rivals fear there will be no 'level playing field' before the upcoming general election.

Both the PTI and the PPP have been questioning the circumstances in which Nawaz Sharif has 'agreed' to return to the country from his self-imposed exile. Both parties believe that the elder Sharif's homecoming is happening thanks to an alleged covert deal with the 'concerned quarters', ie, the security establishment.

Both parties are also right in asking why an individual who is a proclaimed offender, who has been on the run from the Pakistani justice system, is being 'welcomed' by the state upon his long-delayed return with pomp and pageantry rather than a solemn reckoning with the law.

Unless the state immediately backs down from its manipulation of the political domain, there is a good chance that the upcoming elections will be preceded and followed by the kind of intense controversies that will never allow a civilian-led set-up to stand on its own feet.

The 2018 elections are a case in point. If the country is to be run by a political leadership that lacks a democratically acquired mandate, and is partnering with an unaccountable elite that has no tangible, lasting solutions for the country's problems, we should stop thinking about progress.

The only way forward is to let the people choose the leaders they think can best lead them and for non-political forces to stop interfering in this process. Finally, the ECP and the caretaker governments should take stock of their mistakes. They have constitutional duties to fulfil, which they seem to be failing in quite spectacularly.



By Qamar Bashir
Former Press Secretary to the President;
Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France;
Former MD, SRBC

As the Press Minister at the Embassy of Pakistan in France, I was acutely aware of the sensitivity and significance of handling confidential ciphers. Almost every day, the Ambassador and trusted staff sent ciphers to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, addressing matters of utmost confidentiality.

On numerous occasions, ciphers related to the Press Section were shared with me in person, and I ensured they were safely returned to maintain their confidentiality.

At that time, I had no inkling that these routine embassy ciphers would become so perilous, putting the lives of the former Prime Minister and former Foreign Minister at grave risk, particularly following the amendment of the Official Secrets Act in 2023, which now imposes the death penalty for violations of the official secrets.

In general, government correspondence is often classified into different levels of sensitivity, such as "Top Secret," "Secret," "Confidential," or other designations. The highest levels of classification, such as "Top Secret," are reserved for the most sensitive information. Access to classified information is typically granted on a "need-to-know" basis. This means that only individuals who require access to specific classified information for their official duties are granted that access.

In the context of diplomatic communication,

the term "cipher" is commonly used to refer to a coded or encrypted message. Diplomatic ciphers are employed to protect sensitive or confidential information from unauthorized access or interception during transmission. These codes are usually complex and may involve various cryptographic techniques to ensure security.

Diplomatic ciphers are essential for maintaining the confidentiality of diplomatic correspondence. They are employed when discussing matters of national security, sensitive negotiations, confidential information, or any communication that needs to be shielded from prying eyes. Though, typically the heads of the state or government are authorized to declassify the cipher information but they can do so after following an elaborate procedure which may involve, seeking formal recommendations and views from the concerned ministries, the agencies, departments or institutions of national security and safety and other relevant departments before declaring any cipher subject matter as declassified. Even when the head of state and government take such decision he is required to remove any sensitive parts of the cipher which can jeopardize national security or could potentially harm the relationship with another friendly or important country.

If the head of state or government discloses classified or cipher information in a public meeting without following the established protocol and proper declassification procedures, it can have serious legal, political, and national security implications. It can potentially harm national security by revealing sensitive intelligence, military operations, or diplomatic negotiations. It can lead to political backlash, undermining the leader's credibility and reputation. Opposition parties, lawmakers, and the public may de-

mand accountability and investigations. In some cases, a head of state or government who engages in such behavior may face calls for resignation or impeachment, the severity of the response depends on the nature of the disclosed information and the political climate, erode trust within the government and among intelligence and security agencies, career professionals may lose confidence in the leader's ability to protect sensitive information, can strain diplomatic relations with other countries, potentially leading to diplomatic crises. The consequences of such actions can be significant; however, the specific outcome may depend on the legal and political systems in place in a given country and the extent of the breach. Legal processes, investigations, and, if necessary, legal action can follow such incidents to ensure accountability.

According to one legal opinion, the Prime Minister or Finance Minister of Pakistan were not authorized to disclose the cipher to the public as the Official Secrets Act 2023 clearly states that any classified information, including diplomatic correspondence, cannot be disclosed to the public without the prior approval of the appropriate authorities. It is a serious crime, and the consequences can be punished with imprisonment for up to 14 years, or with the death sentence in certain cases. The next important question is, who is the proper authority for seeking permission to disclose the cipher matter to the public? In the case of the Prime Minister or Foreign Minister, the proper authority for seeking permission to disclose classified information, including cipher matter, to the public is the National Security Council (NSC), a high-level body that is responsible for advising the Prime Minister on matters of national security.

The NSC meets

regularly to discuss matters of national security and to make recommendations to the Prime Minister. If the Prime Minister or Foreign Minister wishes to disclose classified information to the public, they must first seek the approval of the NSC. The NSC when making the decision will consider the factors such as the sensitivity of the information, the potential impact on national security and the public interest.

If the NSC approves the disclosure of the information, the Prime Minister or Foreign Minister will then need to obtain the approval of the Cabinet. The Cabinet is the highest decision-making body in the government, and it is responsible for approving all major decisions.

Once the Cabinet has approved the disclosure of the information, the Prime Minister or Foreign Minister can then make the information public. If official procedure is not followed, the provision of the amended Official Secret Act 2023 can be evoked.

The original section of the Act, Section 9, states that anyone who discloses classified information without authorization can be punished with imprisonment for up to 14 years. The amended section adds a new subsection, Subsection (3), which states that anyone who discloses classified information with the intent to injure the interests of Pakistan or to benefit a foreign power can be punished with death.

The amended section also expands the definition of classified information to include "any secret official code or password." This means that anyone who discloses a secret official code or password without authorization can now be punished with death. This is a significant increase in the severity of the punishment for this offense.

The amended section of the Official Secrets Act has not yet been tested in court. It is possible that the courts

will interpret the amended section in a way that limits its scope.

However, it is also possible that the courts will uphold the amended section in its entirety, which would mean that anyone who is found guilty of disclosing classified information with intent to injure the interests of Pakistan or to benefit a foreign power could be sentenced to death.

In many countries, the heads of the state or government are immune from prosecution during their time in office. Therefore it is exceedingly rare for heads of state or government to be punished for disclosing the content of diplomatic ciphers to the general public.

Disclosure of diplomatic ciphers would typically be an action taken while in office and is often a matter of national security and foreign relations, subject to legal and political processes that differ from those applied to ordinary citizens. Therefore, the legal actions related to disclosures of classified information are generally directed at lower-ranking officials or employees.

For example, Daniel Ellsberg, a former military analyst, leaked the "Pentagon Papers" to The New York Times in 1971. The Pentagon Papers were a classified Department of Defense study of U.S. political-military involvement in Vietnam from 1945 to 1967. Ellsberg faced charges under the Espionage Act but was not ultimately convicted.

Chelsea Manning, a former U.S. Army intelligence analyst, leaked classified documents to WikiLeaks in 2010, including diplomatic cables and military information. Manning was convicted of multiple charges under the Espionage Act in 2013. Edward Snowden, a former National Security Agency (NSA) contractor, leaked classified information in 2013, revealing extensive surveillance programs. Snowden faced charges under the Espionage Act but was granted asylum

in Russia.

It is relatively uncommon for former heads of state or government to be sued and punished for disclosing diplomatic ciphers after leaving office. Diplomatic secrets are typically subject to the authority and discretion of the sitting government or head of state. Once out of office, former leaders often enjoy certain legal protections or immunity from prosecution for actions taken during their time in power. However, the extent of legal protection varies by country, and the political circumstances surrounding the disclosure play a significant role. Laws and legal systems differ, so it is possible, albeit rare, for legal action to be taken against former leaders.

The former Prime Minister of Pakistan does not have immunity from charges related to the disclosure of cipher content under the Official Secrets Act 2023. This law does not provide any special protection for former government officials, including former Prime Ministers. Parliamentary privilege, which shields members of Parliament from prosecution for statements made within Parliament, does not extend to disclosures made outside of parliamentary proceedings, such as the release of cipher information.

Consequently, the former Prime Minister is subject to the same legal provisions as any other Pakistani citizen and could face prosecution for revealing classified information, carrying penalties of up to 14 years in prison or even the death penalty.

While the former Prime Minister argues that his actions were justified in the public interest and that his previous immunity protects him, these arguments await judicial determination. It's essential to emphasize that the former Prime Minister is considered innocent until proven guilty and retains the right to a fair trial and the opportunity to mount a legal defense against the charges.

Cipher a hanging sword

A slippery slope



Samar Masood

A few weeks ago, the Supreme Court struck down two acts that amended the National Accountability Ordinance. The amendments were primarily introduced to limit the applicability of the NAO to certain persons and transactions, alter the definition of 'offence' and limit the offence of misuse of authority to only those actions taken in bad faith or where there was evidence of monetary benefit.

The amendments were struck down on the grounds that they were in excess of the legislative powers of parliament and in violation of fundamental rights. However, the reasons given by the Supreme Court rest on a slippery slope. They undermine the trichotomy of powers, the supremacy of parliament and when the principles set in the judgement are applied to other cases, the results can be absurd. Two examples explain this concern. One of the main amendments that was struck down pertained to the definition of an 'offence' in s.5(o) where the National Accountability Bureau's jurisdiction was excluded if the value was below Rs500 million. The reason for striking down s.5(o) was based on the premise that by increasing the threshold and excluding NAB's jurisdiction, parliament had given immunity to persons against being tried for corruption of value between Rs100m to Rs500m, without a judicial pronouncement, which encroached on the domain set

exclusively for the courts.

While corruption is a huge problem and ought to be prosecuted seriously, if we apply the reasoning behind the decision to cases dealing with similar legal issues, the outcome will defeat the constitutional structure.

Applying this principle to a less controversial issue makes the problem obvious. Take the example of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2022, through which Section 325 of the Pakistan Penal Code was repealed, ie, the offence of attempting suicide was decriminalised. If the same reasoning is applied to the CLA's legality, parliament could not have decriminalised attempted suicide and the determination of liability would always have to be made by the court. If that is the case, can parliament never decriminalise an offence or reduce punishment for any offence without a judicial decision?

Take another example, the amendment acts amended s.4, which mainly, ousted the jurisdiction of NAB and courts where there was a decision of the cabinet, the Economic Co-ordination Committee, SOEs, etc, only if there was no monetary benefit involved. The Supreme Court, however, did not consider this. The amendment to s.4 had the effect of limiting the perverse incentives created by NAO for good-faith actions, a fact recognised by the court, by tying it together with collective decision-making and giving immunity to those decisions—an idea loosely based on the Condorcet jury theorem, ie, the probability of a group of individuals arriving at a correct decision is more likely than one individual.

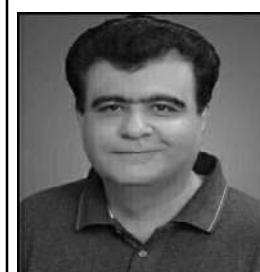
The apex court struck down the amendment on the ground that it impinged on the right to life, dignity, property and equality by taking away the only forum of accountability of public

office holders created by the legislature. In other words, what the court was saying is that when the legislature provided a forum for accountability in 1999, it did so to guarantee certain rights since it could prosecute accountability-related offences, and once parliament created that forum, it could not take it away because if it did, it would end up violating fundamental rights. That is an implausible proposition. Does that mean that before 1999 when there was no forum, or before the Ehtesab Bureau, parliament's failure to legislate on the issue was a violation of fundamental rights such that the failure to legislate would also become justiciable?

The point to consider for implications of the reasoning on other matters is the institutional difference between the legislature and judiciary. For the former, there is greater reliance on the electoral process for selection of legislators, and provided the system is allowed to work, accountability will always be there (among other legal options); while the courts play a vital role in structuring the overall process of representation or checking against legislative excesses, they cannot impeach laws that are clear. The courts cannot be expected to safeguard and guarantee all rights that do not directly affect fundamental rights, and even though these laws may be "uncommonly silly", it "is not for the courts to substitute their social and economic beliefs for the judgement of legislative bodies, who are elected to pass laws". (Griswold vs Connecticut).

But with the Supreme Court upholding the Practice and Procedure Act relating to prospective appeals, there is now room to revisit the NAB decision. Here's hoping that the court takes this opportunity and controls the impact of the decision on subsequent cases. -- Courtesy Dawn

Pro-poor reforms



Dr Niaz Murtaza

Every so often, one sees the World Bank, IMF or a local think tank come up with weighty advice on reforming our economy. The advice is, directly or indirectly, harm elite interests by killing current economic activities run by them. Thus they are never implemented. They may have better success if they present a new economic vision that provides new avenues for them to make money, while also upgrading the economy, providing more tax and exports revenues for the state and better life opportunities to the poor and protecting the environment. Without such a vision, reforms, even if implemented, may only lead to capital flight or expand the informal economy.

The latest set of advice is to be found in 'Reforms for a Brighter Future', a campaign unveiled by the World Bank and the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics. The focus is on certain discrete areas, without them being part of a new and holistic economic vision. There is scant mention of women. The first policy is about helping the poor but through a narrow focus on better health, education and social protection services rather than a broader agenda of empowering them by expanding their assets, rights, political voice, market power and opportunities.

The poor are mentioned under a few other points too but in a tangential way rather than making their interests central to each policy. The policy ad-

vice often lack holistic visions and don't talk to each other, the advice is sectorally disjointed rather than being part of a holistic vision where its various parts synergistically build on and feed each other to ensure rapid progress.

The advice focuses on fixing the ills in various parts of our economy, but without a new overall economic vision of how we could upgrade our economy within the global one to benefit the masses directly and significantly. The reform ideas, directly or indirectly, harm elite interests by killing current economic activities run by them. Thus they are never implemented. They may have better success if they present a new economic vision that provides new avenues for them to make money, while also upgrading the economy, providing more tax and exports revenues for the state and better life opportunities to the poor and protecting the environment. Without such a vision, reforms, even if implemented, may only lead to capital flight or expand the informal economy.

The latest set of advice is to be found in 'Reforms for a Brighter Future', a campaign unveiled by the World Bank and the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics. The focus is on certain discrete areas, without them being part of a new and holistic economic vision. There is scant mention of women. The first policy is about helping the poor but through a narrow focus on better health, education and social protection services rather than a broader agenda of empowering them by expanding their assets, rights, political voice, market power and opportunities.

The poor are mentioned under a few other points too but in a tangential way rather than making their interests central to each policy. The policy ad-

vice on agriculture mentions small farmers, but without making them the backbone of agriculture. A key component of the Special Investment Facilitation Council is to encourage large-scale corporate agriculture, with the military reportedly requiring a million acres for this aim in Punjab. But a poor-centred vision would give this land to small farmers and provide them with technical, marketing and financial support and political voice so that they have ownership rather than being mere labourers on corporate, mechanised farms. There is hardly focus on the poor in the other policies suggested for fiscal, energy, public-sector and private-sector issues.

The caretaker government's policies reflect the same disregard for the poor. They emphasise the privatisation of SOEs, rather than undertaking a thorough review of the middle options that exist between complete nationalisation and privatisation, and which may better ensure the interests of the poor and even enterprise productivity and profitability. This includes fully independent professional boards under state ownership, state ownership but private management, employee-owned enterprises, partial privatisation etc.

It is also undertaking a crackdown on many economic sectors. These may give short-term gains but are unlikely to help upgrade the economy sustainably and equitably. Many think that technocratic regimes can handle the economy better. However, like politicians, this caretaker technocratic regime has no new economic vision. Thus, whether it is different regimes or economic institutions, they all focus on reforms of, by and for the elites while short-changing the poor. -- Courtesy Dawn



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman addressing a ceremony held in connection with International White Cane Safety Day organized by Blind Professional Association.

Sindh CM, Chinese company agreed to remove bottlenecks to start KCR project

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (rt) and Vice President of Chinese company (CRCC) Li Samaa in their meeting at CRCC International Headquarters, agreed to remove the only two remaining bottlenecks to start the much-awaited Karachi Circular Railway (KCR).

According to the CM house press release issued here on Tuesday, the meeting was held on the

sideline of The Third Belt and Road Forum (BRF) for International Cooperation in Beijing.

Justice Baqar said that in a Review meeting of CPEC Projects held on Feb 9, 2023, it was decided that China Railway Authority required afresh feasibility based on Chinese standards to establish funding/ project cost of the KCR Project.

The Sindh government Transport dept completed the KCR

Feasibility Study along with the collaboration of a Chinese Firm (CRCC) with a revised cost of \$2.002 billion.

At this CRCC Vice President said that a joint survey conducted by the Sindh government in collaboration with ICRC International has been submitted to the Chinese authorities. He pointed out that only two issues were left to resolve before starting the project.

The CRCC vice

president urged the Sindh CM to settle the issues of Right Of Way (ROW) and Sovereignty guarantee to be issued by the Pakistan government. At this, the interim CM said that his government and the Ministry of Railways of Pakistan have discussed ROW issues and the agreement between the two would be achieved shortly. He added that as far as sovereignty guarantee was concerned that has not been an issue now.

In a first: Punjab cabinet holds meeting in Faisalabad; makes key decisions

Independent Report
FAISALABAD: For the first time in the district's history, a special meeting of the Punjab cabinet was held at the divisional commissioner office here on Tuesday.

Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi presided over the 30th meeting of the Punjab cabinet.

Commissioner Silwat Saeed briefed the meeting about the ongoing development projects across the division. CPO Faisalabad Cap (Retd) Muhammad Ali Zia briefed it about law and order and actions taken against criminals. The Punjab cabinet accorded approval for appointing commissioners at all departments for redressing public complaints. The commissioners will listen to citizen's complaints and

take measures for redressing them.

The meeting also decided to repair, maintain and renovate historical as well as ancient buildings not only in the provincial capital but also in other cities of the Punjab province. The meeting also approved to expand the scope of Walled City of Lahore Authority across Punjab province.

The Punjab cabinet decided to declare Bukhara, a city of Uzbekistan and Lahore as twin cities, to make the Chaukidari system at the village level more effective rather than increasing salaries of watchmen (Chaukidars). The Ravi Urban Development Authority in collaboration with Punjab Agriculture Market Regulatory Authority will establish vegetable and fruit markets.

CM Naqvi sets example by travelling in coach

Independent Report
FAISALABAD: Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi set a new example by travelling in a coach with members of the Punjab cabinet and officers here on Tuesday.

He travelled from the office of commissioner to hotel with the Chief Secretary, IG police, Advocate General Punjab and Secretaries.

The Chief Minister also held separate meetings with representatives of the Pakistan Flour Mills Association, Karyana (Merchant) Association and Punjab Bar Council.

In a meeting with the Pakistan Flour Mills association, the matter of curtailing flour prices was discussed after the cut in

petroleum prices.

The Chief Minister said that people should get relief from reduced prices of flour. Wheat release policy would also be announced soon, he said.

During a meeting with the Karyana (Merchant) association, the Chief Minister directed to cut edible items prices to provide relief to the people.

He also assured the District Bar Association delegation for extending coordination for establishment of a library.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi also chaired a meeting about ongoing operations against power pilferers and took briefing from Chief Executive Officer FESCO.

Baligh underlines need to improve social attitudes towards special people

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended a ceremony organized by Blind Professional Association of Punjab in connection with White Cane Day at Al Hamra Lahore today as chief guest.

Addressing the ceremony, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Allah Almighty has given special abilities to special people and these people set an example for many

people due to their courage and determination. He said that whether it is in the field of education or sports, these differently abled persons are not less than anyone.

Governor Punjab said that it is the duty of every individual in the society to help the visually impaired to face the challenges. Governor Punjab said that for the first time, the historic building of Governor House is being made suitable for the needs of special persons.

The facilities,

including ramps for wheel chairs, and lift facilities are being provided. The elevator will also have Braille instructions for the visually impaired persons, he added. Governor Punjab underlined the need to improve social attitudes towards special people in society. He said that he has also issued a letter to the Vice Chancellors of the universities in this regard. He urged the teachers, especially school teachers, to work on improving social behaviour towards differently abled persons.

Sindh HRC conducts training for newly appointed judges

Independent Report
KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) successfully conducted a 2-day "Human Rights Education" training session at the Sindh Judicial Academy for the recently appointed Civil Judges and Judicial Magistrates.

SHRC in a statement on Tuesday said that a total of 45 trainees participated, including 5 females and 40 males. The training was held on the 16th and 17th of October 2023.

Mohammad Omer Soomro, Sindh Minister for Law, Religious Affairs, and Human Rights served as the Chief Guest at the training session.

He emphasized the challenging journey ahead for the judges as they begin a new chapter in their careers.

He encouraged them to recognize the significance of their roles, the power and responsibility they hold.



LAHORE: Members of Teachers Union are holding protest demonstration against privatization of government schools, held at Lahore press club

Durrani inaugurates solarise tube-wells

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Caretaker Minister for Local Government Elections and Rural Development Department (LGE&RDD) Engineer Aamer Durrani inaugurated three tube wells here on Tuesday.

In an attempt to harness solar energy and reduce dependency on the national grid, Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP) on Tuesday converted three tube wells with financial assistance from the Islamic Relief.

The solarized tube wells located in Audit Colony, Gullay Baba, and Bahadar Kalay.

The company has also installed an automated water testing machine to

check and analyze the water quality.

The company installed the SCADA system on 87 more tube wells, taking the tally of tube wells with the SCADA system to 133 in localities under its administrative jurisdiction. Earlier, WSSP installed it on 46 tube wells with financial assistance from UNICEF.

The shift will help the company save expenses it incurs on payment of electricity bills. Planning for the solarization of three more tube wells is underway. Caretaker Minister for Local Government Elections and Rural Development Department (LGE&RDD) Engineer Aamer Durrani inaugurated the tube wells.

Mayor Karachi directs law dept to defend cases of KMC pending in courts

Independent Report
KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the Law Department should defend the cases of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation pending in various courts.

If the law department performs well they can get incentives as well, he said this while presiding over a meeting of the law department in his office on Tuesday. In the first stage recovery cases and in the second stage cases related to land be given priority, after which other routine cases should also be dealt

with, he said. Municipal Commissioner Syed Afzal Zaidi, Law Advisor Azra Moqem, lawyers, and other officers of the Law Department were also present on this occasion.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that practical steps are needed to correct the mistakes that happened in the past, so the lawyers and officers of the law department should start improving things from today, especially in the hearing of cases related to property.

Swat police arrest five members of inter-provincial dacoit gang

By Haroon Siraj
SWAT: Police have arrested five members of an inter-provincial gang that used to loot businessmen and locals. Following a FIR lodged by Abdul Kareem, a flour dealer, who fell victim to an armed robbery on October 8, 2023, Abdul Kareem reported the incident at the Mingora police station, detailing how he was held at gunpoint and robbed of Rs. 1.7 million by unknown assailants on Gumbad Meira Pathane road. Promptly responding to the complaint, RPO Malakand Muhammad Ali Khan and DPO Swat Shafiqullah Khan Gandapur took notice and assigned

the task of investigation to SDPO City Amjad Khan, under his supervision, a specialized team was formed, consisting of SHO Mingora Police Station Majeed Alam Khan and other skilled officers.

Utilizing advanced technical methods, the police team successfully traced the inter-provincial dacoit group responsible for the robbery. The breakthrough in the case came on October 12 when a police source provided information about the whereabouts of the gang leader, Hayat alias Hayate, who had sought refuge in a relative's house in Tangi District Charsadda.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali and others during Celebrations of International White Cane Safety Day organized by Pakistan Association of the Blind (PAB) held in Peshawar.

Minister visits Social Welfare Department

Independent Report
KOHAT (APP): Caretaker Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Justice @ Irshad Qaiser on Tuesday paid a detailed visit to the Social Welfare Department Kohat here.

On arrival she was welcomed by District Social Welfare Officer, Amjad Afridi and Superintendent Welfare Home Kohat Rizwanullah. The minister visited Darul Aman, Nishtar Special Education Center and Welfare Home Kohat.

District Social Welfare Officer Amjad Afridi gave a detailed presentation regarding the activities and mandate of the department.

The caretaker provincial minister appreciated the efforts of the administration and staff of the department and assured her complete cooperation to further boost the performance of the institution.

At the end, the supervising provincial minister awarded cash prizes to the special education students for their performance.

200 Afghan refugees leave for Afghanistan

Independent Report
HARIPUR (APP): In a significant development, 176 unregistered and 24 registered Afghan refugees from camps in Haripur have returned to Afghanistan. The news was disclosed by the Security In-charge of Haripur and Mansehra Afghan Refugee Camps, Muhammad Naveed, while talking to APP.

He told that Haripur is home to a significant population of Afghan refugees, with 73,082 people residing in both the refugee camps and urban areas. Of these numbers, 47,905 lived in Paniyan Afghan Refugee Camp, 4,912 in Basso Mairan, 4,313 in Pedhana, and 11,952 in various urban areas. He added that This development came after the wake of the Pakistani government's announcement of a crackdown on non-citizens lacking proper documentation. Consequently, the process of evacuating Afghan refugee camps in Haripur has been set into motion.

Governor KPK directs varsities to appoint visually impaired persons on allocated quota

Independent Report
PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here on Wednesday directed universities to employ visually impaired and disabled persons on their quota and announced to provide them free education in universities.

He said this as a chief guest in a ceremony organized by the Pakistan Blind Association in connection with World White Cane Day. He said that visually impaired persons are part of our society and people must play a role for their empowerment and facilitation.

He said that visually impaired persons are being confronted with many difficulties and the social

welfare department should take steps to provide them needed assistance and financial help.

The governor also sought a comprehensive report from concerned departments and welfare organizations about problems of visually impaired people and said that we must identify flaws in our system that are impacting these people.

He also underscored the need to establish schools for visually impaired children at the district level and stressed people to play the role of making them a useful part of society. He also urged affluent and welfare organizations to provide maximum support and help to visually impaired people that are part of our society.



MUZAFFERABAD: Students of Boys Degree College holds protest by the call of Awami action committee against the inflation in country.

Prof. Dr. Javed Akram says It is our real commitment to make govt. hospitals best treatment centers for patients

Independent Report
LAHORE: The caretaker provincial health minister Prof. Dr. Javed Akram paid a detailed visit to Allied Hospital Faisalabad, Civil Hospital Faisalabad, Children's Hospital, Faisalabad Teaching Hospital and Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology. Additional Secretary Ashfaq Rahman and Deputy Director Abdul Mateen from Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department and Vice Chancellor Faisalabad Medical University Prof. Dr. Zafar Chaudhry were also accompanied by the provincial health minister.

The provincial health minister, Prof. Dr. Javed Akram visited the emergency, outdoor, TB

screening room, dengue counters and hepatitis counters in Allied Hospital Faisalabad and reviewed the medical facilities. MS Allied Hospital Faisalabad Dr. Faheem Yusuf informed the caretaker provincial health minister Prof. Dr. Javed Akram about the details of the medical facilities provided to the patients. The caretaker provincial health minister Prof. Dr. Javed Akram also visited the cardiac center, emergency, dental center and liver center in Civil Hospital Faisalabad. MS Civil Hospital Faisalabad Dr. Mohammad Zafar briefed the caretaker provincial health minister Prof. Dr. Javed Akram about the details of the medical facilities.



FAISALABAD: Caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab Muhsin Naqvi taking to media persons after visiting the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI), in City.

Govt wants speedy, equal uplift in newly merged districts: Dr Aamir

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) Dr Aamir Abdullah has said that the purpose of the establishment of the steering committee for the region was to include the region in development process on equal basis and to speed up the government's initiatives and get awareness about problems of the tribal areas.

He expressed these views while presiding over the first high-level steering committee formed by the provincial government for the merged districts here on Tuesday.

The meeting held in the committee room of the Home & Tribal Affairs

Department. Besides, the Additional Chief Secretary Abid Majeed, the representatives of all concerned departments attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Additional Chief Secretary gave a detailed briefing to the caretaker minister regarding aims and objectives, and responsibilities of the steering committee.

The minister was briefed that in order to solve the problems faced by the people of the erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA), the especially established this separate ministry by the provincial government has been working to address the issues of the region under its mandate.

Commissioner Bannu for enhanced disaster preparedness

Independent Report
PESHAWAR (APP): Commissioner Bannu Division, Pervaiz Sabat Khel Tuesday underscored the pivotal role of all departments in reducing losses caused by climate induced natural disasters emphasizing the need for preparing effective plans to cope situations in case of disasters.

He was addressing the inaugural session of a one-day consultation workshop regarding provincial disaster management. The workshop was attended by officials from various government departments including Additional Deputy Commissioner Finance and Planning Bannu, Hamid Iqbal, and Additional Deputy Commissioner Lucky Marwat Planning.



KARACHI: College student hold protest against Israeli government.

'Look Africa' a good initiative by Pakistan govt, says Nigerian HC

LAHORE (APP): High Commissioner of Nigeria Mohammed Bello Abioye has said that Nigeria is the most populous and biggest economy in Africa and 'Look Africa' by the government of Pakistan is a good initiative for the enhancement of mutual trade and economic ties.

Addressing the business community here at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), the High Commissioner, who was on his farewell visit, said that Pakistan is his second home and he would continue to facilitate Pakistani businesses in Nigeria.

He said, "We are introducing medium of communication between Pakistani and Nigerian business people in order to increase trade opportunities and the Nigerian High Commission has eased visa processing."

The HC said that facilitating and fast tracking business activity is what they are working for, and they were trying to encourage investments in Nigeria.

in his welcome address, LCCI President Kashif Anwar appreciated the High Commissioner for keeping regular interaction with the LCCI. He said, "We attach a lot of value while talking about trade and economic relations with Nigeria which is one

of the largest economies in Africa with GDP touching 500 billion dollars."

Kashif Anwar said that as per trade data taken from State Bank of Pakistan, the volume of bilateral was around 117 million dollars in 2021-22 which came down to 52 million dollars in 2022-23. He added that the main reason for this fall was an instant dip in imports from Nigeria which drastically decreased from 50 million dollars to 4 million dollars during that period. "In the meantime, the exports from Pakistan to Nigeria also contracted from 67 million dollars to 48 million dollars. These trade trends call for making some serious efforts from private as well as public sectors from both countries."

The LCCI president said that Pakistan's main exports to Nigeria consist of pharmaceutical products, tractors & parts and some textile products etc. On the other hand, Pakistan imports from Nigeria include petroleum gas, cotton and resins etc. He added that the total global imports of Nigeria are above 60 billion dollars while the total exports of Nigeria are above 63 billion dollars.

There is considerable potential for both countries to take the trade volume to at least 1 billion dollars.



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Investment/ Minister of State, Muhammad Tahir Javed meeting with a delegation of Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA) at BOI office.

Pakistan's to learn from Malaysia's innovative approach, policies regarding rollout of 5G: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Digital Economy of Malaysia here in Dubai at the GITEX-23 Sidelines meeting. The meeting encompassed crucial technology topics with the objective of strengthening collaboration between the two nations.

During the meeting, Dr Umar Saif explored the realm of financial technology (Fintech) and touched upon Starlink, the satellite internet company, making inroads into Malaysia.

The discussion extended to the potential implementation of LYNC, with a commitment to sharing experiences and

knowledge. Dr Umar Saif drew attention to Pakistan's network coverage challenges, underscoring the importance of adopting best practices from the Malaysian Regulator.

Both ministers engaged in a dialogue regarding Pakistan's path to adopting 5G technology and the challenges impeding this transition.

The Malaysian minister pledged to share best practices to facilitate this transition.

The meeting also featured a discussion on the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and its potential benefits for both Pakistan and Malaysia in the technology sector.

The meeting involved a commitment to enhance coordination and discussions in the forthcoming months, signifying the growing partnership between the two countries.

Additionally, the minister also informed about recent policy changes in Pakistan aimed at supporting the IT and telecom sectors. Dr Umar Saif said, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has authorized a 50% retention of IT export remittances in foreign currency.

Haris Khan, Senior Brand Manager and Rabel Sadozi, Director of Sales and Marketing at Fatima Fertilizer received the Digital Experience of the Year for Pakistan award at the Asian Experience Awards 2023 recently held in Singapore.

Jafri assures APTMA of solving textile industry issues on priority

LAHORE (APP): Large Tax Office (LTO) Lahore, Chief Commissioner Syed Mahmood Hussain Jafri has assured the APTMA (All Pakistan Textile Mills Association) members of solving the textile industry issues related to sales tax refunds, deferred claims, adjustment of pending refunds and liabilities and exemption certificates on priority.

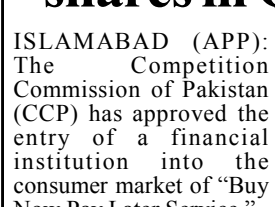
In a meeting of textile millers here at APTMA House on Tuesday, he said the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has established the LTOs to address the issues of large taxpayers while acknowledging their role in revenue generation. He appreciated APTMA role in export and employment enhancement. He said the FBR has paid Rs 10 billion refunds since July 2023

including the deferred ones. However, he sought a list of APTMA members not able to receive refunds so far for speedy processing.

To a suggestion that LTO should allow tax adjustment, he said, the FBR is already processing inter-tax adjustments to facilitate the taxpayers.

According to him, the problem being faced by the APTMA members due to staff shortage would be addressed soon. He also sought proposals to improve sales tax refund system.

On this occasion, APTMA Chairman (Northern Zone) Kamran Arshad said tax refunds of a large number of taxpayers are pending with the LTO, causing financial crunch for already crisis-driven textile industry.



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CCP approves Bank Alfalah acquisition of shares in Qistbazaar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the entry of a financial institution into the consumer market of "Buy Now Pay Later Service."

CCP received an application for acquisition from QistBazaar (Private) Limited for the subscription of 7.2% of its shareholding by Bank Alfalah Limited.

The Phase-I competition assessment of this transaction revealed that the proposed acquisition would not lead to the dominance of the Acquirer in the relevant market post-transaction,

said a press release issued here. Therefore, CCP granted its authorization under Section 11 of the Competition Act, 2010, and CCP's Merger Regulations, 2016.

QistBazaar sells white goods, electronics and home goods online on the "buy now pay later" model. In the current inflationary situation in the economy, it is a major facility for those who are struggling financially.

The purchase of shares by Bank Alfalah will provide the necessary financing for Qistbazaar to provide better service and improve its infrastructure.

LCCI, NAB organise seminar, walk against corruption

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) and the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) here Tuesday organized a seminar and a walk against corruption which were participated in by people from different walks of life.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Director NAB Imran Sohail and Additional Director Atiya Azmat were prominent among others.

Kashif Anwar informed the participants that he had discussed the difference between inter-

bank and open market dollar rate, reduction in the rate of sales tax and income tax on electricity bills and grey economy during his meeting with the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS). He was of the view that elections should not be held until the charter of economy was signed by all the political parties. He said that all stakeholders should be taken on board while formulating trade and economy-related policies. There should be a close liaison between the institutions to get the desired results, he stressed.

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QUETTA: Chairman Kisan Ittehad Khalid Hussain addressing press conference along with others at press club in Provincial Capital.

PSGMEA inks MoU with Beaconhouse National University

SIALKOT (APP): The Pakistan Sports Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PSGMEA) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Beaconhouse National University, Lahore, for strong academia-industry collaboration by developing close ties between the faculty, students and sports goods industry.

The signing ceremony was attended by Chairman Pakistan Sports Goods Manufacturers and

Exporters Association (PSGMEA) Arshad Latif Butt, Senior Vice Chairman (SVC) PSGMEA Zahir Ahmed Dohdy, Vice Chairman (VC) PSGMEA Umar-uz-Zaman, Secretary General PSGMEA Mohsin Masood, PSGMEA Executive Committee Members, Vice Chancellor (VC) Beaconhouse National University, Lahore, and former National Security Adviser to Prime Minister of Pakistan Dr. Moeed Yusuf, Executive Director Student Affairs.



Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, is presenting the commemorative shield to H. E. Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador of Türkiye in Pakistan. Mr. Muhammad Suleman Chawla, SVP FPCCI; Engr. M. A. Jabbar, VP FPCCI; Mian Anjum Nisar & Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo, former Presidents FPCCI; Mr. Amjad Rafi, Chairman of FPCCI's Pakistan - Türkiye Joint Business Council (PTJBC); top diplomats of Türkiye and other prominent business leaders were also present on the occasion.

PTCL Group posts double-digit revenue growth of 26.3%

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), the leading provider of telecom and ICT services in the country, has announced financial results for nine months ended September 30 2023 registering double-digit growth of 26.3 per cent.

The announcement was made during the Board of Directors' meeting held in Dubai on Tuesday said a news release.

In the first nine months of 2023, PTCL Group has maintained its strong performance, strengthening its status as Pakistan's top integrated telecom service provider. Despite the

challenging economic environment, the Group has achieved an impressive 26.3% increase in revenue compared to the same period last year.

This substantial growth can be attributed to outstanding performance in various sectors, including fixed broadband, mobile data, business solutions, and mobile banking services. The business environment in 2023 remains affected by the unfavorable macroeconomic challenges that emerged in 2022.

Increasing energy and fuel costs persist as hurdles for telecom companies, making it challenging to offer top-notch services to consumers at reasonable rates.

As many as 347 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 149 of them recorded gains and 186 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 12 companies remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Ltd with 65,958,036 shares at Rs 3.11 per share, Pak Int. Bank with 21,502,500 shares at Rs 4.61 per share.

PSX loses 200 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Tuesday, losing 200.34 points, a negative change of 0.40 per cent, closing at 49,531.01 points against 49,731.35 points the previous day. A total of 368,340,627 shares valuing Rs 10.404 billion were traded during the day as compared to 467,383,787 shares valuing Rs 14.119 billion the previous day.

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SAPM Tahir Javed says Pakistan, world's leading manufacturer, exporter in pharmaceutical sector in 90s

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Investment, Tahir Javed Tuesday said that Pakistan was the world's leading manufacturer and exporter in the pharmaceutical sector in the 1990s.

At one time, Pakistan Pharmaceuticals was the leading exporter of Europe and America, whose exports held a special place in the important markets of the world, he said.

He said this while addressing to meeting with Pakistan Pharmaceutical

Manufacturing Association (PPMA) delegation led by its Chairman, Mian Khalid Misbah-ur-Rehman here in BOI office.

The SAPM said that the pharmaceutical sector was a major player in the country's exports and the trend of investment in the special economic zone was increasing and pharmaceutical companies should come and invest in it.

He said that the government would support the pharmaceutical sector in every aspect and Ease

of Doing Business was the priority of the Board of Investment.

The SAPM said that problems of the pharmaceutical sector would be resolved to make the country's economy strong and increase its exports.

He said that providing quality and affordable medicines to the people was the first priority of the government, for which the government and pharmaceutical manufacturers would try to work together.



ISLAMABAD: Acting President of RWCCI Saboohi Hussain and Chairman IDC Dr Rizwan Uppal signing the MOU for "Breast Cancer awareness Session" in Federal Capital.

JazzCash, Total PARCO partner to set new benchmarks for convenience

ISLAMABAD (APP): JazzCash, Pakistan's fintech platform, has joined forces with Total PARCO, a Oil Marketing Company, in a historic collaboration that promises to redefine convenience for people across Pakistan.

This landmark partnership signifies one of the most significant alliances between fintech and the energy sector in recent years.

Total PARCO's Infini wallet users can now top-up their wallets using JazzCash as a payment gateway and unlock a wide range of services on the platform, said a press release on Tuesday.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Aamir Aftab, Chief Product Officer JazzCash, said, "At the heart of this

partnership is a commitment to driving digital financial inclusion by offering innovative solutions that simplify lives.

JazzCash and Total PARCO have taken a giant leap forward by opening up avenues of ease and convenience, a key milestone in creating accessibility through fintech." For JazzCash users, this partnership opens up a world of possibilities, allowing them to effortlessly manage their fuel expenses, track transactions, and access a host of value-added services, all within the Infini app. Whether it's topping up your fuel card or exploring the latest offers and promotions, JazzCash and Total PARCO.

Institutional economic reform's credit goes to Army Chief: RCCI

RAWALPINDI (APP): The credit of Pakistan's economic recovery, institutional economic reforms has steered the country out of economic uncertainty, and the establishment of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) goes to the Chief of Army Staff (COAS).

Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Saqib Rafiq in a statement said that meetings and consultations with the industrial community and elimination of gray zones, especially the illegal trade and smuggling of dollars, were important steps towards the end of economic uncertainty.

He said that mobilizing all resources through SIFC, ensuring transparency in dollar rates in open and inter-bank markets, besides bringing money exchanges under the purview of taxation, eliminating smuggling at the borders with Iran and Afghanistan and improving tax collection were the visible results of guidance and directions placed by COAS.

"Within one month we have seen visible improvement in economic indicators.

NTDC BoDs summoned for non-implementation of Senate's body recommendations

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Power Tuesday summoned Board of Directors (BoDs) National Transmission and Despatched Company (NTDC) in the next meeting to explain its position about non-implementation of the committee's recommendations.

The committee which met with Saifullah Abro in the chair, unanimously decided that members BODs breached the privilege of the committee and sent the matter to the Chairman Senate for referring to Senate

the Mardan Model for "zero theft zero load shedding" was being inaugurated and invited the members of the committee to attend and take briefing on it.

Senator Tangi suggested the power division to hold meetings with the local Police and the judiciary for a strengthening collaboration in this regard.

While taking briefing by MD, NESPAK on ADB project ACSR Bunting Conductor LoT-II A, the chairman committee raised objection and said that in the previous meeting.

The power division apprised that tomorrow



ISLAMABAD: Senator Saifullah Abro, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Power presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament Lodges.

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 Wednesday October 18, 2023

Two rules

Having accepted unquestioningly political objectives dictated by unelected quarters, the entire apparatus of our state has been acting with all the subtlety of a bulldozer.

Nowhere is this more obvious than in the federal and provincial capitals, whose respective interim administrations have remained unapologetic about the duplicity apparent in their decisions as they go about enforcing a stricter set of rules for the PTI while allowing other parties freer rein.

Just last week, a dozen PTI supporters were arrested outside the National Press Club in Islamabad, where they had gathered to express support for the Palestinian cause.

The party and its supporters had a right to react angrily: no other religious or political entity seems to have faced similar treatment in recent days as they have gone about conducting political outreach activities or organising rallies for the people of Gaza. To deny one party the privileges being enjoyed by others seems petty and smacks of victimisation.

More recently, the enthusiasm that the Lahore administration has shown for the PML-N's plans for a grand rally at the Minar-i-Pakistan even as it simultaneously denied the PTI a similar gathering at Liberty Chowk has made it abundantly clear why the PML-N's political rivals fear there will be no 'level playing field' before the upcoming general election.

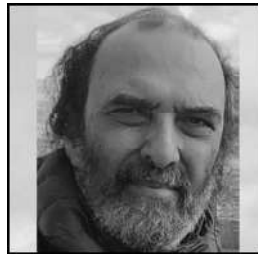
Both the PTI and the PPP have been questioning the circumstances in which Nawaz Sharif has 'agreed' to return to the country from his self-imposed exile. Both parties believe that the elder Sharif's homecoming is happening thanks to an alleged covert deal with the 'concerned quarters', ie, the security establishment.

Both parties are also right in asking why an individual who is a proclaimed offender, who has been on the run from the Pakistani justice system, is being 'welcomed' by the state upon his long-delayed return with pomp and pageantry rather than a solemn reckoning with the law.

Unless the state immediately backs down from its manipulation of the political domain, there is a good chance that the upcoming elections will be preceded and followed by the kind of intense controversies that will never allow a civilian-led set-up to stand on its own feet.

The 2018 elections are a case in point. If the country is to be run by a political leadership that lacks a democratically acquired mandate, and is partnering with an unaccountable elite that has no tangible, lasting solutions for the country's problems, we should stop thinking about progress.

The only way forward is to let the people choose the leaders they think can best lead them and for non-political forces to stop interfering in this process. Finally, the ECP and the caretaker governments should take stock of their mistakes. They have constitutional duties to fulfil, which they seem to be failing in quite spectacularly.



Jawed Naqvi

It isn't concealed from the keen observer of politics that the Five Eyes Anglosphere created the modern state of Israel in 1948, which in turn birthed the Hamas as a foil to the non-sectarian and avidly secular PLO. In both instances, the objective was to vacate the threat of leftist fervour striking roots around the fabled Arab oil wells.

It was not insignificant that Arthur Balfour's letter to Lord Rothschild, cited as laying the grounds for a future state of Israel, was drafted and delivered on Nov 2, 1917. In other words, the overture came as the Bolshevik Revolution set off alarm bells in European capitals.

A handy asset to this end arrived only a year before the Balfour Declara-

tion. The secret Sykes-Picot accord of 1916 carved up former Ottoman territories in the Middle East, to become areas of influence between France and Britain. The accord enabled Lord Balfour to draft his promise to the Jewish elite as an overdue quid pro quo.

The Rothschild support for England's war efforts had climaxed with the campaign against Napoleon. From London in 1813 to 1815, Nathan Mayer Rothschild almost single-handedly financed the British war effort, organising the shipment of bullion to the Duke of Wellington's armies across Europe.

He also arranged the payment of British financial subsidies to their continental allies. In 1815 alone, the Rothschilds are said to have provided £9.8 million (equivalent to about £1 billion today) in subsidy loans to Britain's continental allies.

Balfour's letter to Walter Rothschild, however, spoke plainly of a "national home" for Jews in Palestine, "it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing

non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country". There was pointedly no mention of a theocratic state exclusively for the Jewish community, much less any expulsion of non-Jews from Palestine.

There could, in any case, not be a religious state in the sense Benjamin Netanyahu and his right-wing cohorts would conceive Israel in their time. The idea didn't excite the Anglosphere, which initially favoured a multicultural milieu, the kind that would one day produce a Rishi Sunak or a Barack Obama in their own drawing rooms.

The religious genie was never, however, completely exorcised. The Christian trope of turning the other cheek was meant to be a challenge to the Old Testament's prescription of an eye for an eye or a tooth for a tooth. It never found traction in the real world.

European wars, colonial armadas and the West's ceaseless duels with each other reinforced the sombre truth, not to speak of the slave trade they plied to manage the conquest of

other's lands. Colonial competitors built churches across the world but thumbed their noses at the injunction against stealing and killing. Rwanda massacres took place between two tribes that both went to the same church installed by their colonial masters.

Some Hindu activists in India were, however, ranged on opposite sides of the Christian-Jewish-Muslim injunctions about the text and spirit of their faiths. Gandhi was a pacifist in the Christian mode, so much so that Martin Luther King Jr, the civil rights leader and Christian preacher, saw him as his inspiration.

On the other side stood Hindutva, which proposed as early as 1939 to do to the Muslims and Christians in India what Hitler was doing to Jews in Germany. In his admiration of Hitler, M.S. Golwalkar was as staunchly anti-communist as Narendra Modi would soon be. Anti-communism became a clear reason for Hindutva to flip its mockery of Jews subsequently to side with Israel. Intense Islamophobia only fortified the ties.

There was a seminal piece published in the Indian Express, curiously a day before the Indian parliament was attacked on Dec 16, 2001.

An erstwhile Hindutva votary and journalist-politician from A.B. Vajpayee's stable pontificated on how to deal with the collusion, which he swore he could see, between Muslim extremists and Indian Marxists, who he branded as terrorists. (There's a useful protocol followed by the BBC on why the media should not describe Hamas and other serial offenders, including Jews, Muslims, Christians, Hindus or Naxalites, as terrorists.)

The journalist-politician advocated a jaw for a tooth, unwittingly subscribing to the biblical dictum, a trope his worldview otherwise shunned. To the relief of his critics, the journalist-politician has evolved as an opponent of Prime Minister Modi's politics.

Israel's bloodthirsty pursuit of revenge against the religiously inspired Hamas — if that ever helped the US in Afghanistan after 9/11 — is not different from the West's eye-for-an-eye avatism. It was used to destroy secular states at the altar of an entity the West created to brush off its guilt of mocking and murdering Jews for centuries.

As Noam Chomsky and others persistently remind us, the defeat of Hitler didn't find the Americans or anyone in Europe welcoming the exodus. They needed someone else somewhere else to do the job. The Holocaust was not on the historic firmament until 1967, respected Jewish scholars like Norman Finkelstein would tell you.

The price was recognition of Israel with security guarantees, something Iraq, Syria, Libya and South Yemen turned down. It was precisely these secular pro-USSR states that were dealt with one by one when the Cold War ended. They were systematically destroyed at the altar of the feudal-tribal satraps installed as rulers by Britain.

They say the Hamas assault on Israel has disrupted a likely Israel-Saudi accord. The question is when was the accord not there? -- Courtesy Dawn

A world sacrificed at Israel's altar

Palestine exposes a vacuum in Pakistan



Mosharraf Zaidi

The crisis in the Middle East is going to further expose the helpless, rudderless, and purposeless nature of Pakistani leadership. Today's Pakistani social contract is defined, more than anything else, by the absence of a compact between the country's elites about how to make sure order is maintained and power is exercised.

A country's elite must have a raison d'être that excites and engages a large enough swathe of a country's populace for that populace to assent to being governed by the same elite. All of these key ingredients of a stable economic, social and political order have been rendered ineffectual and untenable in the past seven years. Since the country is based on aspirations and ideals that are — by ev-

ery stretch of the imagination — international in character, any kind of contact between global events and Pakistan's economy, its society or its polity represents both enormous opportunity and huge risk.

Pakistan has been in the throes of a multi-layered poly-crisis for nearly two full years. The root cause of this crisis is largely the same as the root cause of all sustained national crises of the past: an informal and unaccountable veto power enjoyed by the military overall civilian decision-making authority.

Any time there is a touchpoint between an international or global event and Pakistan, the country is at grave risk of being rendered even more dysfunctional than usual. This is exactly what happened in February 2022 when then Prime Minister Imran Khan engaged with Russia's President Vladimir Putin at a time when the domestic gap between the civilian leadership and the military command had grown to the widest Khan had known. The economic and political crisis today is a product of many micro-errors, poor decisions and institutional obduracy across the spec-

trum of important national structures. But at the heart of the now two-year-long Pakistani poly-crisis is the flammability of the Pakistani system when it comes to large, shape-shifting global events. What this means is simple, but also quite scary.

Whether it was Memogate in 2011, or Dawn Leaks in 2016, or the CIPHER case in 2021, the Pakistani elite tends to be at its absolute worst behaviour when the stakes involve Pakistan's global standing and its relationships, as a sovereign country, with the rest of the world.

The global disquiet around violence in Palestine and Israel since the Hamas invasion of Israeli targets on October 7 this year is a new chapter in a book that is as old as Imran Khan, Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari and older than the Chief Justice and the chief of army staff. No one among the elite is in any way disloyal to the Palestinian people and the long-standing Pakistani position of the need for a two-state solution based on the 1967 borders. But because so much of regional and global politics is now going to

hinge on reactions and responses of key actors in the region to the systematic genocide that Israel has begun in Gaza, the likelihood of a metastasizing humanitarian crisis for Palestinians becoming a noose for the Pakistani leadership to hang the system on is going to increase.

It is what happens every time there is a moment of reckoning and the Pakistani elite needs to engage the people of Pakistan in a serious conversation. Every time, this country's elite do the same thing. They choose to deal with international challenges by turning on one another. Every second, every minute, every hour and every day that the country's elite continue to operate without an 'elite compact' the risks of yet another cataclysm continues to lurk.

The cataclysms from the last decade or so have taken a very serious toll and the systemic risks in the Pakistani governance ecosystem have grown dramatically. The CIPHER case is a good example of a stage 4 version of the same cancer that has previously manifested itself as a stage 2 or 3 progression.

In the CIPHER case, three conversations converged into one — the role and tone of US officials in how they speak of elected leaders in Pakistan, the choice of engaging with Vladimir Putin at a time when the benefits of such an engagement were likely overwhelmed by the costs, and the deteriorating trust of Beijing in the consistency and sincerity of Pakistani leaders. Remember also how far and wide the shrapnel has flown because of the divorce between Imran Khan and the military leadership: many PTI supporters may now be permanently disabused of the importance of the Pakistani national security apparatus.

Three developments have made Pakistan even more vulnerable to international events and how those events are reported on, through the tickers and moods on X, CNN, Fox, BBC, Al Jazeera and RT. The first is the 2021 withdrawal of the US military from Afghanistan. Suddenly, with dramatically lower stakes in that country, American attention and understanding for the Pakistani state's unique challenges shrunk rapidly.

Sooner or later, the rhetoric of Pakistani officialdom will need to be coordinated with the response of key regional Middle Eastern allies — and ideally not aligned with the unceasing trouble-generating regime in Iran. This will likely be at odds with the dominant narratives on Main Street in Pakistan. Every time this disparity appears, Pakistan's already emaciated governance takes another body blow. The only way to avoid the next cataclysm therefore is for the elite to begin to establish a compact — starting with a coherent and sustainable position on Palestine that balances the demands of the people of Pakistan with the country's immediate and short-term compulsions.

Threading this needle is the price of not taxing the rich, not educating the young and not empowering Pakistani women. A longer-term freedom for Pakistanis and Pakistani elites thus hinges on tackling those more foundational challenges. -- Courtesy TheNews

A slippery slope



Samar Masood

A few weeks ago, the Supreme Court struck down two acts that amended the National Accountability Ordinance. The amendments were primarily introduced to limit the applicability of the NAO to certain persons and transactions, after the definition of 'offence' and limit the offence of misuse of authority to only those actions taken in bad faith or where there was evidence of monetary benefit.

The amendments were struck down on the grounds that they were in excess of the legislative powers of parliament and in violation of fundamental rights. However, the reasons given by the Supreme Court rest on a slippery slope. They undermine the trichotomy of powers, the supremacy of parliament and when the principles set in the judgement are applied to other cases, the results can be absurd. Two examples explain this concern. One of the main amendments that was struck down pertained to the definition of an 'offence' in s.5(o) where the National Accountability Bureau's jurisdiction was excluded if the value was below Rs500 million. The reason for striking down s.5(o) was based on the premise that by increasing the threshold and excluding NAB's jurisdiction, parliament had given immunity to persons against being tried for corruption of value between Rs100m to Rs500m, without a judicial pronouncement, which encroached on the domain set

exclusively for the courts. While corruption is a huge problem and ought to be prosecuted seriously, if we apply the reasoning behind the decision to cases dealing with similar legal issues, the outcome will defeat the constitutional structure.

Applying this principle to a less controversial issue makes the problem obvious. Take the example of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2022, through which Section 325 of the Pakistan Penal Code was repealed, ie, the offence of attempting suicide was decriminalised. If the same reasoning is applied to the CLA's legality, parliament could not have decriminalised attempted suicide and the determination of liability would always have to be made by the court. If that is the case, can parliament never decriminalise an offence or reduce punishment for any offence without a judicial decision?

Take another example, the amendment acts amended s.4, which mainly, ousted the jurisdiction of NAB and courts where there was a decision of the cabinet, the Economic Co-ordination Committee, SOEs, etc, only if there was no monetary benefit involved. The Supreme Court, however, did not consider this. The amendment to s.4 had the effect of limiting the perverse incentives created by NAO for good-faith actions, a fact recognised by the court, by tying it together with collective decision-making and giving immunity to those decisions — an idea loosely based on the Condorcet jury theorem, ie, the probability of a group of individuals arriving at a correct decision is more likely than one individual.

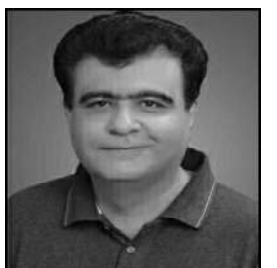
The apex court struck down the amendment on the ground that it impinged on the right to life, dignity, property and equality by taking away the only forum of accountability of public

office holders created by the legislature. In other words, what the court was saying is that when the legislature provided a forum for accountability in 1999, it did so to guarantee certain rights since it could prosecute accountability-related offences, and once parliament created that forum, it could not take it away because if it did, it would end up violating fundamental rights. That is an implausible proposition. Does that mean that before 1999 when there was no forum, or before the Ehtesab Bureau, parliament's failure to legislate on the issue was a violation of fundamental rights such that the failure to legislate would also become justiciable?

The point to consider for implications of the reasoning on other matters is the institutional difference between the legislature and judiciary. For the former, there is greater reliance on the electoral process for selection of legislators, and provided the system is allowed to work, accountability will always be there (among other legal options); while the courts play a vital role in structuring the overall process of representation or checking against legislative excesses, they cannot impeach laws that are clear. The courts cannot be expected to safeguard and guarantee all rights that do not directly affect fundamental rights, and even though these laws may be "uncommonly silly", it "is not for the courts to substitute their social and economic beliefs for the judgement of legislative bodies, who are elected to pass laws". (Griswold vs Connecticut).

But with the Supreme Court upholding the Practice and Procedure Act relating to prospective appeals, there is now room to revisit the NAB decision. Here's hoping that the court takes this opportunity and controls the impact of the decision on subsequent cases. -- Courtesy Dawn

Pro-poor reforms



Dr Niaz Murtaza

Every so often, one sees the World Bank, IMF or a local think tank come up with weighty advice on reforming our economy. The reform advice, directly or indirectly, harm elite interests by killing current economic activities run by them. Thus they are never implemented. They may have better success if they present a new economic vision that provides new avenues for them to make money, while also upgrading the economy, providing more tax and exports revenues for the state and better life opportunities to the poor and protecting the environment. Without such a vision, reforms, even if implemented, may only lead to capital flight or expand the informal economy.

The latest set of advice is to be found in 'Reforms for a Brighter Future', a campaign unveiled by the World Bank and the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics. The focus is on certain discrete areas, without them being part of a new and holistic economic vision. There is scant mention of women. The first policy is about helping the poor but through a narrow focus on better health, education and social protection services rather than a broader agenda of empowering them by expanding their assets, rights, political voice, market power and opportunities.

The poor are mentioned under a few other points too but in a tangential way rather than making their interests central to each policy. The policy ad-

vice on agriculture mentions small farmers, but without making them the backbone of agriculture. A key component of the Special Investment Facilitation Council is to encourage large-scale corporate agriculture, with the military reportedly requiring a million acres for this aim in Punjab. But a poor-centred vision would give this land to small farmers and provide them with technical, marketing and financial support and political voice so that they have ownership rather than being mere labourers on corporate, mechanised farms. There is hardly focus on the poor in the other policies suggested for fiscal, energy, public-sector and private-sector issues.

The caretaker government's policies reflect the same disregard for the poor. They emphasise the privatisation of SOEs, rather than undertaking a thorough review of the middle options that exist between complete nationalisation and privatisation, and which may better ensure the interests of the poor and even enterprise productivity and profitability. This includes fully independent professional boards under state ownership, state ownership but private management, employee-owned enterprises, partial privatisation etc.

It is also undertaking a crackdown on many economic sectors. These may give short-term gains but are unlikely to help upgrade the economy sustainably and equitably. Many think that technocratic regimes can handle the economy better. However, like politicians, this caretaker technocratic regime has no new economic vision. Thus, whether it is different regimes or economic institutions, they all focus on reforms of, by and for the elites while short-changing the poor. -- Courtesy Dawn

PM seeks Kenyan president's facilitation over investigation of journalist Arshad's murder

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday sought facilitation from Kenyan President Dr William Ruto over the finalization of the investigation into the murder of Pakistani journalist Arshad Sharif.

Journalist and news anchor Arshad Sharif was shot dead last year on October 23 during his stay in Kenya.

"The prime minister requested the Kenyan President for facilitation and finalization of the report of Special Joint Investigation Team in the murder case of

late Pakistani journalist Arshad Sharif," the PM Office said in a statement following the meeting of the two leaders in China.

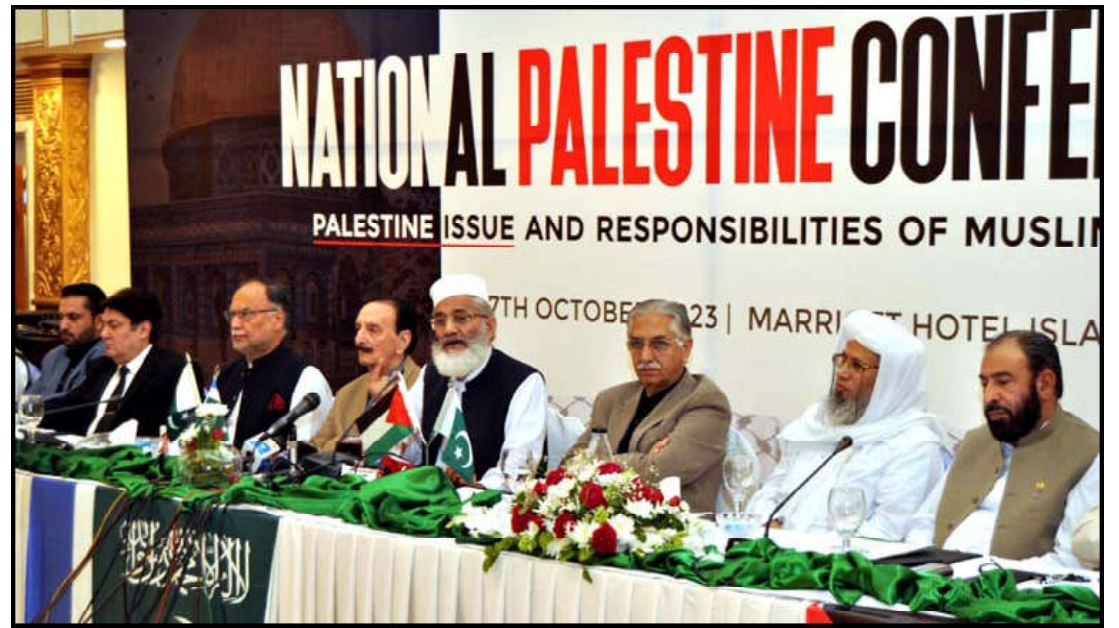
The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 3rd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation being held in Beijing, China.

PM Kakar and the Kenyan president discussed bilateral cooperation in diverse fields and reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing bilateral relations in areas of trade, investment, education and people-to-people contacts.

Both leaders emphasized the importance of economic cooperation and agreed to enhance engagement to realize the true potential of bilateral trade.

PM Kakar said as a fellow member of the Belt and Road Initiative, Pakistan would like to enhance collaboration with other BRI member countries including Kenya to identify and develop new projects and initiatives. "This commitment underscores Pakistan's dedication to furthering development and shared prosperity through increased cooperation and partnerships," he said.

President Dr. William Ruto echoed the sentiments and expressed his country's interest in learning from Pakistan's expertise in sectors like agriculture and healthcare. PM Kakar extended an invitation to the President of Kenya to visit Pakistan at an early date, which was accepted by him. He also invited the Prime Minister to visit Kenya at his earliest convenience. It was agreed that the visits would be finalized through diplomatic channels.



ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Siraj-ul-Haq addresses during the National Palestine Conference held in Islamabad.



BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets President of Kenya Dr. William Ruto on the sidelines of 3rd Belt and Road Forum.

Governors of Balochistan and Sindh stress on strengthening more bonds among provinces

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governors of Balochistan and Sindh have underlined the need to strengthen the relations among two provinces further besides making them more pleasant.

The Governor of Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar was in meeting with the Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori at Karachi on Tuesday.

The Governor Balochistan discussed with his Sindh counterpart the overall political situation, matters about the acquittance with the modern technology, besides other matters of mutual interests.

In addition to this, the two leaders also discussed as how to utilize the potential of youth in very interest of the provinces and country.

Former CNS conferred with honorary award of Malaysian Armed Forces

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Navy's former Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Anjad Khan Niazi has been conferred with "Honorary Award of Malaysian Armed Forces Order for Valour (First Degree) - Gallant Commander of Malaysian Armed Forces (Panglima Gagah Angkatan Tentera)".

The award was conferred by the Malaysian King Abdullah of Pahang at an impressive investiture ceremony held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, a Pakistan Navy news release on Tuesday said. The award has been bestowed in recognition of untiring efforts and dedication of Admiral



Muhammad Anjad Khan Niazi to strengthen bilateral relationship and mutual cooperation between the Armed Forces of Pakistan and Malaysia.

Pakistan make FIFA WC qualifying history by beating Cambodia

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan created history on Tuesday as they defeated Cambodia 1-0 at the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifier first round match, Harun Hamid scored the winner for the host at Jinnah Stadium, Islamabad.

The team was playing their World Cup qualifier at home after 12 years and this was also the first international match that Pakistan played at home in eight years, the last one being in 2018, a friendly against Afghanistan.

The England-born Hamid scored the winner in the 68th minute as he slipped the ball smoothly through the Cambodian goalkeeper.

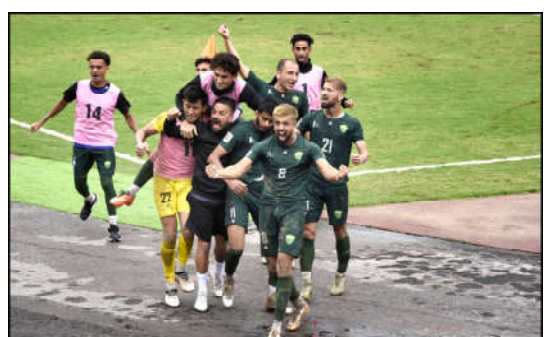
Pakistan pulled off an upset of sorts as they, ranked 19th in the world, defeated Cambodia, ranked

177. The men in green played a goalless draw in the first leg earlier, and with the 1-0 win in the second leg, they won the tie 1-0 on aggregate.

With this win Pakistan also broke their miserable losing streak of in their last 13 matches out of which eight were played from November 2022 June this year. Throughout this period they conceded 18 goals and scored only one, which was against Djibouti in a friendly.

The 2026 World Cup will also be the first time 48 teams will be featured in the main event with a new format.

But on the continental front, Pakistan joined Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Tajikistan in Group G, while second-round matches will begin on November 16.



ISLAMABAD: Players of Pakistan Football Team are celebrating after scoring goal as Pakistan football team has now qualified for the second round of FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifiers, for the first time after scoring goal by Harun Hamid in the 67th minute of the match to edge Cambodia, at Jinnah Stadium in Federal Capital.

Govt files appeal against NAB law amendments case verdict

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Government on Tuesday filed an appeal against the Supreme Court's decision in the NAB law amendment case.

Naming the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and PTI chairman as respondents, it prayed the top court to set aside its judgment and restore the amendments in NAB law.

The government pleaded that the NAB law amendments were not in violation of fundamental rights and that the legislation was the mandate of the Parliament.

Indictment of PTI chairman in cipher case postponed till Oct 23

ISLAMABAD (APP): A special court on Tuesday provided copies of challan to PTI chairman and vice chairman and postponed their indictment in the cipher case till October 23.

Special Court Judge Abul Hasnat Muhammad Zulqarnain heard the case, registered against the two accused under the Official Secrets Act, at the Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi.

At the outset of hearing, the defence lawyer informed the court that they had yet to receive the copies of case challan. On this, the judge directed for provision of the documents to the defence lawyers and postponed the indictment of the accused till next date.

The PTI chairman requested the court to grant permission for provision of home food and a cycle for exercise in jail.

The judge observed that it was the responsibility of the jail administration to provide food to the accused. He, however, instructed the administration to provide exercise machines to the PTI chairman PTI as per the jail manual.

Govt takes serious notice of issuance of CNICs, Passports to Afghans

ISLAMABAD (Online): Ministry of Interior on Tuesday taken a serious notice regarding the alleged issuance of CNICs, Passports to Afghans.

According to a press release by the Ministry of Interior, Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) to Afghan nationals who have, in some instances, obtained Pakistani passports and subsequently traveled to Saudi Arabia.

In a significant development, Royal kingdom of Saudi Arabia has dispatched 12,096 Pakistani passports from the procession of Afghan nationals to the Pakistan Embassy Riyadh in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

As a result, a high-level committee, chaired by the Director General of Immigration & Passports is constituted to conduct a detailed probe and investigation regarding issuance of fake/forged CNICs and Passports to Afghan Nationals traveling to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Martyrs of Karsaz created history: Bilawal

KARACHI (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the martyrs of the Karsaz tragedy created an unforgettable story in history by sacrificing their lives, which is also proof that the Pakistani nation is determined to face and win every challenge for the sake of the democracy.

The PPP Chairman, in his message issued on the 16th anniversary of the Karsaz tragedy, said that the grief and anger of the most horrible and bloodiest tragedy is still fresh in the minds of the nation. He said that on this day we pay tribute to the 180 martyrs of the tragedy and pray for them, and added:

"I, on behalf of the Party, also extend solidarity to families of the martyrs and pay tribute to them for showing unparalleled patience and courage."

Bilawal said that the Karsaz tragedy will continue to remind us that the nexus of dictatorship and terrorism is the enemy of civilization and humanity. "October 18, 2007, in the form of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's return from exile, was actually the rebirth of democracy in the country," he said, adding that Shaheed Bibi's mission was to make Pakistan a democratic and economic power in the world by providing basic rights and employment opportunities to the poor people.



BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets President of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe on the sidelines of 3rd Belt and Road Forum.

Pakistan, Sri Lanka express support for establishing independent Palestinian state

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Sri Lanka have called for establishing a viable and contiguous Palestinian state with pre-1967 borders and Al-Quds Al Sharif as its capital.

The understanding to this effect came at a meeting between Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and President Ranil Wickremesinghe today on the sidelines of 3rd Belt and Road Forum.

During the meeting, the two leaders expressed deep concern over the grave humanitarian situation in Gaza caused by the ongoing Israeli attacks. They further urged for establishing a humanitarian corridor to provide aid to the besieged people of Gaza.



QUETTA: Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai meeting with Executive Director Stella College of Medical and Allied Sciences Dr. Babras Barech

Vice Chancellor says Smart research lab to be established in BUIITEMS

BUIITEMS partners with China and NDMA for Cutting-Edge Disaster Prevention Research Lab

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Vice Chancellor, Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS), Professor Dr. Khalid Hafeez has announced that smart research lab would be established for prevention of the natural disasters at the BUIITEMS.

According to the Vice Chancellor, the smart research lab would be set up in collaboration with China.

Dr. Khalid Hafeez said that research would be done for prevention of the natural disasters and other related matters at the University's lab.

The Vice Chancellor informed that the smart lab would operate under the patronage of Faculty of Engineering.

Meanwhile In an unprecedented move that promises to revolutionize the field of disaster prevention, BUIITEMS (Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering, and Management Sciences) has been selected to lead the charge in establishing a "Smart Research Lab on Disaster Prevention for Mega Structures."

Vice Chancellor BUIITEMS Dr. Khalid Hafeez in a statement issued here on Tuesday told that BUIITEMS alongside Southeast University Nanjing, China, the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), and the Provincial Disaster Management Agency (PDMA), will spearhead research and innovation in disaster prevention for mega structures.

Ashrafi urges OIC to take strong stance on Israel's bombardment of Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulama Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Tuesday said it was almost 10th day that Israel was continuously doing bombardment on Palestine and particularly on Gaza causing casualties of innocent people of all ranks including women, children and civilians.

Talking to media persons, he said due to inhuman policies of Israel, the Palestinian people were suffering from shortage of food, water, medicines and other necessities of life adding that trucks carrying relief goods were queuing at the border of Egypt but, Israel was not giving permission to enter them in the territory.

Ashrafi urged the Organization of Islamic Coop-

eration (OIC) to take a solid stance on the issue of Palestine in its meeting scheduled to be held on Wednesday.

He said Pakistan's Foreign Affairs Minister Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jillani was leaving for OIC's meeting expressing hope that he would make significant development on this issue.

He said the Muslim world should not be silent spectator anymore and devise an effective strategic plan to deal with this long-standing issue with collective efforts in letter and spirit on permanent basis.

He said the entire Muslim Ummah was united under the leadership of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as it the centric point of all faith around the world and moreover, it was at the helm of affairs of the OIC.

in the United Nations Security Council, the resolution presented by Russia could not be passed as it aimed to stop the war between Palestine and Israel on the humanitarian grounds.

He said it was a good omen that Russia and China were standing by the stance of Muslim countries on the issue of Palestine.

He further said the United States (US) President Joe Biden was making an extraordinary wartime visit to Israel this week as he sought to demonstrate staunch support for the country. Besides other Muslim leadership, he appreciated the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for demanding to stop the Israel's aggression on Palestine in his recent meeting with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Hungarian Air Chief admires PAF personnel's professionalism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Commander Hungarian Air Force, Brigadier General Jozsef Koller along with his delegation called on Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu during his visit to Air Headquarters here on Tuesday.



The Hungarian Air Chief expressed his admiration for the professionalism of PAF personnel and praised the remarkable progress made by Pakistan Air Force (PAF) through indigenization, a PAF news release said.

The first-ever visit by the Hungarian Air Chief to Pakistan marks a significant milestone in the bilateral relations between the two countries and a new opening in Air Force to Air Force relations.

The historic event highlights the growing cooperation and friendship between Pakistan and Hungary, particularly in the realm of defence industry and military partnership.

The meeting emphasized the exchange of insight and sharing of ideas to explore potential areas of joint collaboration particularly in the domains of military technology and training programs.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Pakistan Air Force and Hungarian Air Force is expected to be finalized in the near future, outlining a framework for Pakistan Air Force to provide basic and tactical level training to Hungarian Air Force pilots.

Upon his arrival, the visiting dignitary was warmly received by Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force.

Passport office consisting of 10 counters established in Chaman town

Independent Report
QUETTA: A passport office has been established in the border town of Chaman on Tuesday.

Consisting of 10 counters, the Passport office has been set up at the college road.

The Deputy Commissioner Chaman, Raja Athar Abbas and Director Passport Balochistan, Abdul Wadood besides other concerned high ups visited the passport office.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director Passport

said that we have managed to provide maximum relief to the public at the office.

In addition to this, a separate counter has been allocated for the women while four other counters have been specified for men. Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Quetta reviewed the arrangements made for people approaching the passport office.

The passport office team coming from Islamabad briefed Deputy Commissioner about over all functioning of the office.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Sports Minister of Balochistan Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani presenting a souvenir to Ambassador of Thailand