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PM Kakar says Pakistan committed to work with China, regional partners on goals of open global economy, connectivity

Pakistan, China agree to further strengthen high-level engagement, deepen multiple ties

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said Pakistan was committed to working with China and other regional partners in achieving the ideals of an open global economy and promoting connectivity on a trans-continental scale.

"With shared responsibility and by embracing the vision of working together, we can create a brighter, peaceful, and sustainable future for ourselves and for our generations," he said in his address at the high-level event of the Third Belt and Road Forum (BRF) on 'Connectivity in an Open

Global Economy'. The two-day forum, which marked the 10 years of the multi-billion dollar cross-regional Belt and Road Initiative, kicked off in China's capital Beijing with representatives from 140 countries in attendance.

PM Kakar said Pakistan endorsed China's vision of global connectivity and also looked forward to joining hands with other partners across borders and regions to materialize the projects.

"I am hopeful that together we can shape a world with the bonds that unite

us together, rather than the forces that divide us," he said.

The prime minister congratulated President Xi Jinping for his revolutionary idea of the Belt and Road Initiative launched 10 years ago that proved instrumental in bringing common development and shared prosperity.

He termed enhanced connectivity a profound factor in development and progress in the modern age of globalization.

"The BRI's concept of shared future for mankind

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BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets Secretary General of United Nations Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of 3rd Belt and Road Forum, Beijing.

PM urges UN Secy General to ask Israel to stop violence against Palestinians

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday urged the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to play a role in stopping Israel's violence against Palestinians.

"The prime minister and the UN's top diplomat met in Beijing on the sidelines of the Third Belt and Road Forum. We demand an end to this indiscriminate targeting and urge the international community to act swiftly to stop the violence and hold those responsible accountable," the prime minister posted on social media platform X after his meeting with Guterres.

PM Kakar strongly condemned the Israeli attack on Al-Ahly Al-Mamadany Hospital in Gaza, causing immense civilian casualties.

"He termed targeting a hospital, a sanctuary for those in need, an 'indefensible act of inhumanity'. International humanitarian law gives protection to hospitals and medical personnel, he added.

CEC vows to utilize all resources for transparent, peaceful election

QUETTA (APP): Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja on Wednesday stressed the

importance of utilizing all available resources to conduct a transparent and peaceful election in the country.



Chairing a meeting at the Civil Secretariat Quetta to assess the preparations for the upcoming general elections, Raja emphasized

Inside story of PTI leaders meeting with president: Imran ready to talk to everyone including establishment

ISLAMABAD (Online): Inside story of PTI leaders meeting with president Arif Alvi has come to open.

PTI information secretary Rauf Hassan and lawyer Umair Niazi conveyed important message of PTI chairman Imran Khan to the president. Former Prime Minister (PM) is ready to talk to everyone including establishment.

President Arif Alvi has been given the task of holding talks with political parties and establishment.

Sources said chairman

PTI has shown willingness to walk alongside all.

Former PM wants role of president on the matter of participation of PTI in general election freely and independently.

Chairman PTI has directed President to meet and convey his message to military leadership.

Sources further said proposal was given to constitute high level team for talks under president Arif Alvi. Former PM is ready to review his stance with reference to May 9 incidents.

Governor for improving relations of federation with provinces further Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that there are pleasant relations between the federation and provinces, however, these relations are needed to be improved further.

The Governor was speaking to the Governor Punjab, Balighur Rehman, whom he met in Lahore on Wednesday.

During the course of meeting, the matters related to the inter-provincial coordination, political situation and profitable prospects of investment were discussed. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor Kakar stressed the need to strengthen further relations between the federation and provinces.

Both the leaders were of the strong view that the bonds between the federation and provinces should be improved further.

Abdul Hameed Mengal assumes charge of Chairman IRSA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Member Balochistan Abdul Hameed Mengal assumed the charge of Chairman Indus River System Authority (IRSA) here Wednesday for period of one year.

"In accordance with Chapter-II, Section 4, Clause (2) & (3) of IRSA Act XXII of 1992, Abdul Hameed Mengal, Member IRSA (Balochistan) has assumed the charge of the office of Chairman IRSA for a period of one year with effect from October, 18 2023," said a notification issued here.

The Minister for Home, Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has emphasized upon adopting the modern methods of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) based on the local challenges and requirements facing the developing economies.

The Minister for Home was speaking at special ceremony organized at the Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University on Wednesday.

The Minister Home was the chief guest at the session that marked the International Disaster Risk Reduction day.

Meanwhile, an awareness walk was also organized marking the International Disaster Risk Reduction Day in the university.

QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali and Vice Chancellor SBK Women's University Prof. Dr. Sajida Naureen leading a walk in connection with International Disaster Risk Reduction day.



BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Chinese Premier Li Qiang met on the sidelines of 3rd Belt and Road Forum.

President condemns Israel attack on Gaza hospital; calls for immediate ceasefire

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday strongly condemning the brutal Israeli attack on Al-Ahly Al-Mamadany Hospital in Gaza, called upon the international community to hold Israel accountable for its war crimes.

He also urged the world community to take urgent measures to bring an immediate halt to the Israeli bombardment and the ongoing siege of Gaza.

According to media reports, hundreds of Palestinians were killed on Tuesday when Israel carried out air strikes on a hospital and a refugee camp in Gaza, where people had sought

shelter to escape the relentless bombing on residential areas.

The president expressed his deep shock over the tragic loss of innocent lives due to the brutal and inhuman Israeli airstrike, saying that Israel has trampled all international and moral norms by killing thousands of innocent people, women and children and then bombing a hospital, where patients were seeking emergency treatment.

President Alvi voiced concern that Israel continued to commit war crimes by indiscriminately targeting civilian populations and health facilities.

Refugees will be sent back to their country with dignity: Achakzai

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Information Jan Achakzai said on Wednesday that Pakistan will deport all illegal Afghan immigrants by November 1.

While talking to media here, he shared over 1,000 Afghan families have left Pakistan so far, and around

where illegal immigrants are living in the province.

Achakzai said that refugees have been treated with hospitality for the last 40 years, and now they would be sent back to their country with dignity. He added that no political pressure will be tolerated in that regard and illegal migrants will have to leave Pakistan.



250 families are returning to Afghanistan via the Chaman border daily.

The minister also said that the government has compiled complete data on

The state has taken some principled decisions and they will strictly follow it, he said adding that after the deadline, the illegal residents will be sent back.

Jamali emphasizes upon adopting modern DRR methods based on local challenges facing economy

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has emphasized upon adopting the modern methods of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) based on the local challenges and requirements facing the developing economies.

The Minister for Home was speaking at special ceremony organized at the Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University on Wednesday.

The Minister Home was the chief guest at the session that marked the International Disaster Risk Reduction day.

The Vice Chancellor SBKWU, Professor Dr. Sajida Noreen, Dr. Ghulam Murtaza, and other concerned high ups besides the faculty of University and students.

Speaking on the occasion, Zubair Jamali said that natural disasters can't be ended, however we have gathered here to ponder upon how to reduce them.

He said that it is our priority to take necessary steps for provision of the relief to masses during natural disasters.

Meanwhile, an awareness walk was also organized marking the International Disaster Risk Reduction Day in the university.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali and Vice Chancellor SBK Women's University Prof. Dr. Sajida Naureen leading a walk in connection with International Disaster Risk Reduction day.

Strongly condemns Israeli airstrike on Gaza Hospital CM urges UN, int'l community to play effective role for stopping Israeli brutalities against Palestinians

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has strongly condemned the Israeli forces airstrike on a hospital of Gaza that martyred at least 500 people and wounded several others.

In an official condemnation issued here on Wednesday, the caretaker Chief Minister said that the government of Balochistan strongly condemn the cruelties and brutality of Is-

rael against the oppressed Palestinians.

He particularly referred to the Israeli air raid that hit the yard of a hospital in central Gaza and termed it an extreme of brutality and wildest act.

The caretaker Chief Minister said that the martyrdom of over 500 people in the Israeli attack is the biggest human tragedy.

He said that the health establishments and institutions can't be targeted in a war situation under the international laws.

However, by carrying

out airstrike, Israel did extreme of barbarism and cruelty, Mr. Domki condemned adding that the United Nations should play its effective role to stop such extreme brutality ending mum on the Palestine situation and Israel's barbarism.

He also urged the international community to play its role to end the besiege of Israel at Gaza strip. He also appealed to ensure implementation on the international laws for provision of medical emergency treatment in Gaza.

Caretaker Govt to ensure fair elections in country: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi Wednesday said that fundamental responsibility of the caretaker government was to provide a conducive environment for elections and monitor the electoral process.

This was stated by him, during separate meetings with Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) leader Mussadiq Malik and Pakistan People's Party leader Syed Akhuzada Chhattan.

During the meetings, issues of mutual interest including upcoming general elections were discussed.

Murtaza Solangi said that peaceful transfer of power was topmost priority of the caretaker dispensation.

The minister assured both the leaders that caretaker government would ensure that elections were conducted in fair, transparent and impartial elections.

QESCO arrears reach Rs. 578 bn against defaulters in Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) has announced that the arrears of the Company against the defaulters have reached up to Rs. 578 billion in the province.

According to the QESCO spokesman, only the agriculture consumers have to pay Rs. 437 billion to QESCO.

The provincial government has to pay Rs. 48.63 billion on account of the agriculture subsidy.

Similarly, the federal government is required to pay Rs. 23 billion on account of the agriculture subsidy.

Moreover, the dues of Rs. 2.98 billion are payable against federal government departments operating in the province.

The QESCO said that there are arrears of Rs. 34.17 billion against the Balochistan government on account of the electricity utility bills.

According to him, Rs. 32.56 billion are outstanding against the domestic, commercial and industrial consumers in the province.



QUETTA: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi distributing certificates in a graduation ceremony under PM's Youth Skills Development Program at University of Balochistan.

Madad Ali Sindhi says Measures being taken to improve quality of education in country, Balochistan

QUETTA: (APP)- Federal Caretaker Minister for Education Madad Ali Sindhi on Tuesday that practical measures were being taken to improve quality of education in country including Balochistan by addressing issues of education on emergency basis.

He expressed these views while addressing as chief guest at ceremony of certificates distributing among the passed out students under the Prime Minister Youth Skill Develop-

ment Program at the University of Balochistan, Quetta organized by the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission.

In the fourth batch of the Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Program, 3895 students from across Balochistan graduated, out of which 83 students from Quetta were awarded certificates in the ceremony.

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RAWALPINDI: Pakistan conducted successful test of Ababel Weapon System, the test flight was aimed at re-validating various design, technical parameters and performance evaluation of different sub-systems of the weapon system.

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

DAYS REMAINING

12

in v f @govoffpakistan



BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addressing the High Level Forum on Connectivity in an Open Global Economy during 3rd Belt and Road Forum.

“一带一路” 国际合作高峰论坛互联互通高级别论坛

THIRD BELT AND ROAD FORUM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION HIGH-LEVEL FORUM ON CONNECTIVITY

年10月18日 中国·北京 18 OCTOBER 2023 BEIJING, CHINA

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan told a U.N. panel that human rights are being trampled with impunity in many places, with the “most egregious” abuses taking place in the occupied territories of Palestine and Kashmir.

“These violations of human rights are turbo-charged by the rise of racism, fascism, hate speech and ethnic and religious discrimination and rising Islamophobia,” Ambassador Munir Akram said in his address to the General Assembly’s Third Committee, which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural matters, on Tuesday.



ISLAMABAD: Mir Changez Khan Jamali, Provincial President PPP Balochistan called on Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House.

Pakistan urges UN to press India to halt human rights abuses in Kashmir

“It is sad that those who are so eager to criticize human rights violations elsewhere fall silent when it comes to India”, he said, underscoring that it was time for the UN to speak out and press India to halt the human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and against its minorities.

Turning to the alarming situation in Gaza, the Pakistani envoy called for an unconditional ceasefire and immediate assistance to the people of Palestine.

Participating in a debate on ‘Promotion and Protection of Human Rights’, Ambassador Akram said that Islamophobia was practiced in its “most pernicious form” by the Hindutva zealots ruling India.

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh’s ideology replicates the last century’s fascism in Europe, he said, spotlighting massive violations of human rights in the illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and against India’s 200 million Muslims, as well as Christians, Sikhs and the so-called lower castes – the Dalits.

“Between 2014 – when (Prime Minister) Mr. (Narendra) Modi assumed power – and 2018, there was a 78.6% increase in hate speech against minorities, especially Muslims (as noted by the UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues).” The Pakistani envoy said.

immediate assistance to the people of Palestine. Participating in a debate on ‘Promotion and Protection of Human Rights’, Ambassador Akram said that Islamophobia was practiced in its “most pernicious form” by the Hindutva zealots ruling India. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh’s ideology replicates the last century’s fascism in Europe, he said, spotlighting massive violations of human rights in the illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and against India’s 200 million Muslims, as well as Christians, Sikhs and the so-called lower castes – the Dalits.

“Between 2014 – when (Prime Minister) Mr. (Narendra) Modi assumed power – and 2018, there was a 78.6% increase in hate speech against minorities, especially Muslims (as noted by the UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues).” The Pakistani envoy said.

The Chief Election Commissioner instructed the Provincial Election Commissioner to promptly inspect all polling stations in the province. Additionally, the Chief Secretary provided a comprehensive overview of election preparations and compliance with the Election Commission’s directives, pledging to execute all orders accordingly.

The Chief Secretary affirmed that the Balochistan government is fully committed to supporting the Election Commission in the successful conduct of the general elections. Furthermore, he noted that the provincial government is carrying out personnel transfers and postings in accordance with the directives of the Election Commission.

Pakistan, China resolve for enhanced economic cooperation, high-quality CPEC development

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan and China on Wednesday expressed the collective resolve to enhance economic cooperation, with renewed focus on the centrality of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and its high-quality development.

The bilateral relations were discussed in a meeting between Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Member of the Standing Committee of Politburo of Communist Party of China Li Xi.

The prime minister congratulated Li on the successful hosting of the 3rd Belt and Road Forum by China and felicitated him on his election as the member of Politburo Standing Committee.

The two leaders reaffirmed the commitment of Pakistan and China to

Words have fallen short to condemn the barbaric act of Zionist state, Shehbaz Sharif

LAHORE (Online): Former Prime Minister, PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif has strongly condemned Israeli attack on hospitals in Gaza.

While expressing grief and sorrow over martyrdom of more than 500 Palestinians, he said that words have fallen short to condemn the barbaric action of Zionist state.

The pain and sorrow of the martyrdom of children, women and old people under treatment in the barbaric Israeli attack on hospital is indescribable.

Silence on the brutal massacre of innocent and besieged Palestinians is tantamount to encouraging a murderous state. Israel is committing

Measures being taken to....

Continued from page 1
A large number of disabled students, Women Technical Training Center (W TTC), and Technical Training Center Quetta (TTC)’s students attended the ceremony.

Addressing at the ceremony, Caretaker Federal Minister Madad Ali Sindhi said that measures were needed on an emergency basis to deal with the problems of education in Balochistan saying that without improving the quality of education, the journey of development could not be set.

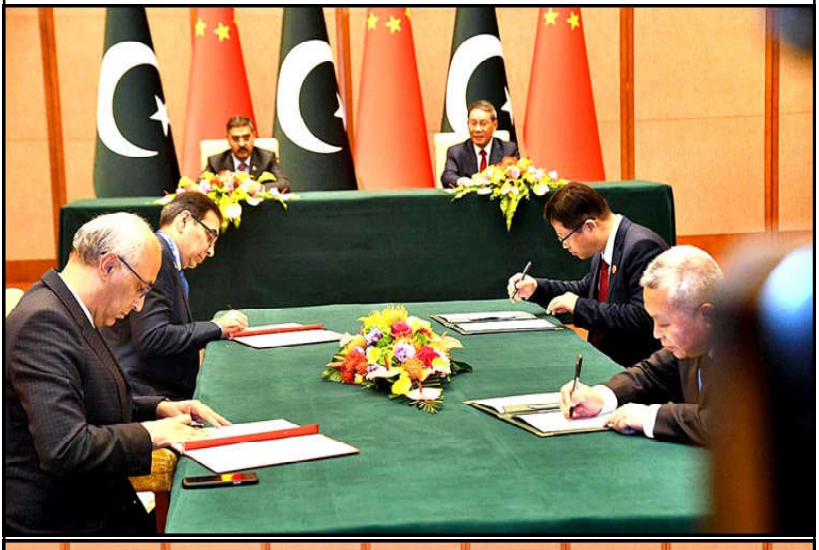
While appreciating of technical institutions, he said that it was a matter of pride to have a large number of women participating in the skill development program.

I am well aware of the educational problems of Balochistan, the improvement of government schools is one of our top priorities, he said.

He said that he was trying to solve all related issues of education after conducting meeting with consultation of vice chancellors of universities of the country and Balochistan.

The Federal Minister said that check and balance was being ensured in education institutions with aim to achieve target of knowledge saying that technical education was essential in present era for progress of

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Chinese Premier Li Qiang witnessing signing of MoUs between China and Pakistan to enhance cooperation in diverse fields



Drugs crop covering many acres eradicated in Manguchar
QUETTA (APP)- Grand operation against drugs was launched in Kalat district by district administration on Wednesday and drugs crop covering several acres was eradicated in Manguchar area of Kalat.

FC Kalat, Levies Force and Anti-Narcotics Force conducted a joint operation against the drugs crop in the area.

The anti-narcotics operation was supervised by Deputy Commissioner Kalat Hafiz Muhammad Qasim Kakar, Wing Commander FC Colonel Muhammad Umar Assistant Commissioner Manguchar Barkat Baloch.

Deputy Commissioner Kalat Hafiz Muhammad Qasim Kakar and Wing Commander FC Qalat Colonel Umar said in their joint statement that drugs were a scourge that was destroying our young generation, we have declared a war against the scourge of drugs, in this regard, a joint operation has been launched against the cultivation of drugs in Kalat.

Pakistan committed to work with China, regional....

Continued from page 1
is not about road and railway infrastructure, but also to create linkages among civilizations and nations,” he said.

Cancellation of Tender

In pursuance of letter of BPPRA bearing No. BPPRA/Pr-Sp(G&S)/01-01-2023-24/338-42 dated 16th October, 2023, and in order to comply with advice of BPPRA conveyed vide letter under reference, bidding process for procurement of uniform & protective clothing having TSE 232409353981 published in daily newspapers vide PRQ No. 692/30-9-2023 is hereby cancelled under Rule-38 of Balochistan Public Procurement Rules, 2014. Fresh tenders shall be floated in due course of time.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman, Pakistan Ulema Council, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi addressing to media during the Palestine Conference at a local hotel.

Ashrafi calls for global support for Palestine, unity among Muslims

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Wednesday unequivocally expressed support for Palestine and called on the global community to acknowledge the rights of the Palestinian people.

Addressing a conference organized to express solidarity with Palestinian people under the auspices of Pakistan Ulema Council here, he raised questions about the alleged military aggression in Syria and Lebanon and said Pakistan stood with Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, and Syria, in case of any aggression from Israel.

Ashrafi hinted that if this war continued, it would not be confined to Egypt and Lebanon, it would ultimately engulf the entire world.

He called on the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to provide a roadmap for the Palestinian cause urging everyone to break their silence, warning that "if Palestinian children are targeted today, it may be children from other regions tomorrow." With the Presidency of the OIC now in the hands of Saudi Arabia, he expressed hope that it would take concrete steps to support Palestine.

He said this conference announced to observe 'Martyrs of Palestine Day' across the nation on Friday, as a mark of support for the Palestinian brethren.

He mentioned that Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir reiterated Pakistan's position in the Corps Commander

Sanjrani strongly denounces barbaric Israeli assault on Al-Ahli hospital in Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, vehemently deplores and condemns the recent Israeli air strike on al-Ahli hospital in the Gaza Strip.

"This barbaric act of spilling Palestinian blood has led to the unimaginable suffering of innocent civilians, with over 500 women and children losing their lives," said Chairman Senate.

Describing the attack as nothing short of a genocide perpetrated by the Zionist Israeli regime, Chairman Senate underscores that this incident is an absolute blot on humanity.

It serves as a stark example of barbarism witnessed by the entire world, particularly with the intentional targeting of medical facilities and a UN-run school, constituting an undeniable war crime that exposes the repugnant brutality of the actions taken by the Zionist regime.

He called upon the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to assume a proactive role in the wake of the barbaric Israeli airstrike on a hospital in Gaza.

Emphasizing the urgency of the situation, he asserted that it is high time for the UNSC to intervene and address the humanitarian crisis.

Furthermore, he pledged the Senate of Pakistan's commitment to shedding light on these heinous acts of aggression by bringing the matter to the forefront utilizing forums like Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) and other international forums through parliamentary channels.

The Chairman strongly condemned the biased and unfair reporting perpetuated by certain international media outlets and Western journalists, accusing them of disseminating falsehoods that seek to humanize Israeli barbarism.

Conference the other day, reemphasizing their unwavering support for Palestine.

Highlighting the enduring blockade of Gaza, he said it had been a prison for sixteen years raising questions about the incident on October 7, which he attributed to the denial of Palestinian due rights.

Ashrafi called for international human rights organizations to investigate the hospital attack in Gaza, stressing that the suffering of Muslim children remained unseen.

He emphasized that children were children, regardless of their origins expressing concerns over America's intention to cover up this disastrous incident.

He acknowledged improved relations between

Saudi Arabia and Iran and Syria and Arab nations.

He reaffirmed the commitment to maintaining unity within the Ummah, rejecting any sectarian division.

"We will not allow anyone to divide the Muslim Ummah based on the Shia-Sunni divide," he stated.

He emphasized the importance of global unity among Muslims and discouraged any division, highlighting the need to stand up against imperialism and extremist groups that aimed to divide and weaken the Muslim Ummah.

Ashrafi warned that colonial powers sought to establish extremist organizations to disrupt the unity of Islamic countries, referencing bomb blasts and terrorist attacks as part of this

conspiracy.

He shared insights into past attempts to incite religious tensions in Pakistan, noting that the national security institutions and scholars had worked together to thwart such nefarious designs.

In his closing remarks, Ashrafi called for a boycott of Israeli products and expressed that Muslim nations should come together to protest the violence against Muslims in various regions including Kashmir, Palestine, and other parts of the world.

Palestinian Deputy Head of Mission Nader K. Alturk, expressed heartfelt gratitude towards Ashrafi and the people of Pakistan for their unwavering support for the Palestinian cause.

President for early diagnosis, detection of breast cancer

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has said that since Pakistan has limited breast cancer screening and treatment facilities, they can address the grave issue by ensuring its timely detection in women and providing treatment in early stages.

"There is a 98% possibility of a permanent cure from breast cancer, if diagnosed at early stages," he said in a message on the occasion of the International Day Against Breast Cancer, being observed on October 19.

The president said today, they observed the International Day Against Breast Cancer to raise awareness about breast cancer, and promote women's access to its timely diagnosis and treatment.

He said breast cancer was the most common type of cancer among women throughout the world, and most of the deaths due to the deadly disease occurred in low and middle-income countries.

In Pakistan too, he observed that almost 100,000 breast cancer cases

occurred annually, out of which 40,000 women die.

"Pakistan also has one of the highest mortality rates due to breast cancer in Asia. This is indeed an alarming situation," he added.

To overcome this challenge, the president said, they had been raising awareness for the past five years to encourage women to perform self-examination every month.

He also appreciated that the media had played an instrumental role in educating women about the disease.

NCHR, IOM Pakistan sign MoU to protect human rights of migrants

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Pakistan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation and collaboration on initiatives relating to the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants, especially those in vulnerable situations.

The MoU signifies the commitment of both organizations to prioritize the well-being and human rights of migrants, recognizing that while migration in the context of globalization brings significant opportunities, it is critical to facilitate the safe, orderly, and regular movement of people.

Under the MoU, NCHR and IOM Pakistan will engage in joint activities aimed at generating evidence and research, improving awareness and outreach, and providing policy advice, in line with the priorities of the Government of Pakistan.

Rabiya Javeri Agha, Chairperson NCHR, highlighted the lack of rights for migrants and the dangerous journeys they undertake stated, "The Greek migrant's boat disaster was a heart-wrenching reminder of the risks people take in their desire to seek a better future."

She Said With over 2,000 lives lost in the Mediterranean this year alone, irregular migration demands our immediate attention. Through collective efforts, we can work towards a safer and more compassionate approach to migration, one that upholds the well-being and dignity of those in search of a better future.

Authority, all Assistant Commissioners, and Magistrates to continue inspecting various routes and bus stands on a daily basis.

Since yesterday, Assistant Commissioners and Magistrates have seized and taken action against 62 vehicles for overcharging the notified rates of the District Administration, while others have been issued warnings.

This crackdown on overcharging vehicles is a welcome move by the Islamabad District Administration.

DC cracks down on overcharging vehicles

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, accompanied by Secretary Transport Authority Islamabad, has been checking on the reduction of fares at various places in the city.

In light of the notification issued reducing fares by 10 per cent, all magistrates have been inspecting various transport routes and bus stands to ensure that the reduction is being implemented in letter and spirit. The DC has directed the Secretary of Transport

Authority, all Assistant Commissioners, and Magistrates to continue inspecting various routes and bus stands on a daily basis.

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ISLAMABAD: A view of damaged bus stop shed at Islamabad Expressway needs the attention of concerned authorities.

Speakers emphasize raising awareness of breast cancer in AIOU

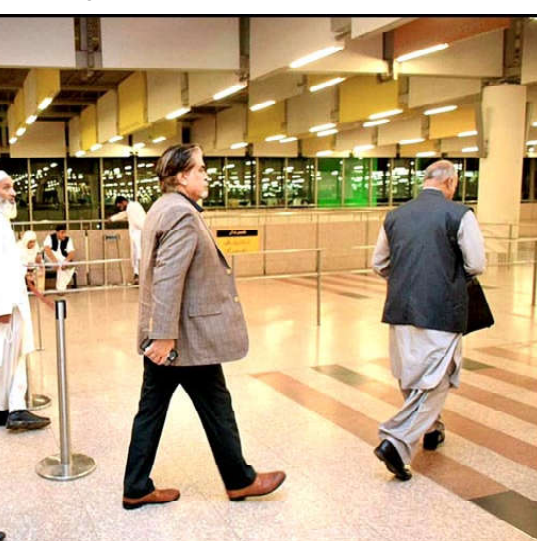
ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on Wednesday organised a seminar to raise awareness about breast cancer.

Dr. Ayesha Isani Majeed, Head of the Department of Radiology at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) was the keynote speaker.

During her lecture, Dr. Majeed explained the causes, symptoms, and diagnosis of breast cancer. She emphasized that early detection is crucial as breast cancer can be treated if diagnosed on time.

Therefore, women should perform self-examination every month, and if they notice lumps or any unusual changes in their chest or its sides, they should consult a doctor immediately.

She also highlighted that maintaining a healthy diet and regular exercise can help prevent breast cancer.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah departed for Korea to represent Pakistan in MAMF to be held from Oct 20 to 22, 2023.

Minister Shah departs to South Korea for 18th Migrant Multicultural Festival

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah departed for South Korea to represent Pakistan at the 18th Migrant Multicultural Festival (MAMF), celebrating diverse Asian cultures from October 20 to 22.

MAMF, in its 18th year, is South Korea's largest cultural diversity festival, taking place at Changwon Yongi Cultural Park and Seogsan Art Hall.

Nations from across Asia, Pakistan included, will join the diverse MAMF 2023 festival, each contributing distinct cultures, heritage, and values.

Pakistan will take the lead at MAMF 2023 under the theme "Pakistan Zindabad," which translates to "Long Live Pakistan."

The country will showcase its cultural richness and values by presenting traditional attire, accessories, Henna, and performing traditional music, including Dhol, Anthem, and Zindabad, as well as traditional dances like Bhangra, Dhamal, Luddi, and more.

28 outlaws including five professional beggars arrested

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Police apprehended 28 outlaws including five professional beggars from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered liquor, drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city.

Following these directions the Secretariat police team arrested an accused namely Anees Ali and recovered 830 gram heroin from his possession. Ramna police team arrested two accused namely Akbar Hussain and Usman Ali and recovered 150 gram hashish and one 30 bore pistol from their possession. Likewise, the Golra police team arrested an accused namely Shamsair Ahmed and recovered 540 gram heroin from his possession. Tamol police team arrested an accused namely Adnan Sami and recovered one 9mm pistol from his possession.

Afghan delegation calls on Chairman HEC

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of senior officials from Afghanistan called on Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed at HEC Secretariat here on Wednesday. The two sides discussed issues of mutual academic interest, including joint research programmes, student and faculty exchange efforts, training of Afghan faculty and civil servants, and scholarships for Afghan students to study in top universities of Pakistan.

The Afghan delegation was led by Dr. Nazir Muhammad Irfan, Director of Foreign Affairs and Scholarships, Ministry of Higher Education of Afghanistan.

The Chancellor of the Afghan International Islamic University Kabul, Dr. Rafiullah Ata, along with two Deans, Mr. Abdul Hai Kaiwaan, Faculty of Engineering and Nisar Ahmed Zahid, Faculty of Agriculture were part of the delegation.

49 more power thieves held

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Wednesday apprehended 49 more power pilferers during the ongoing anti-theft and recovery campaign.

The IESCO spokesperson said that the power pilferers were charged over 66,000 units besides imposing a fine of Rs 2.9 million.

The spokesperson said that a total fine of Rs 133.7 fine has been imposed on 2,145 power pilferers so far. Some 435 FIRs have been registered against the power thieves and police have arrested 358 power pilferers so far.

He requested the consumers to inform power pilferage in their respective areas at toll free number 118.

Japan, Pakistan sign grant agreement for flood affectees in Sindh

ISLAMABAD (APP): Japan and Pakistan on Wednesday signed a grant agreement for reconstruction of educational facilities in the flood-affected areas of Sindh.

A signing ceremony for the Exchange of Notes and Grant Agreement between the Governments of Pakistan and Japan regarding "The Programme for Reconstruction of Educational Facilities in Flood Affected Areas in Sindh" was held at the Economic Affairs Division, said a press release issued by EAD here.

The Japan has extended grant assistance worth JPY 794 million (Approx US\$ 5.3 million) to Pakistan through JICA.

This grant is aimed at addressing the educational infrastructure challenges caused by floods-2022 and heavy monsoon rains in Sindh. A total of nine (09) fully damaged School buildings will be reconstructed in six (06) districts of the province.

Under this grant, the reconstruction of damaged buildings of schools will help to ensure a safe and conducive learning environment for students, with a special focus on enhancing the access of girls to education.

The notes of the project were signed and exchanged by Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary of the Economic Affairs Division (EAD), and Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, WADA Mitsuhiro, on behalf of their respective governments.

The Grant Agreement was signed by Saeed Ashraf Siddiqi, Joint Secretary EAD and Yasutsumu Kinoshita, Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

ICP initiates legal proceedings against violators of traffic laws

ISLAMABAD (APP): tickets were issued including violations such as riding a motorcycle without a helmet, wrong-way driving, lane discipline violations, failure to use seat belts, speeding violations, using a mobile phone while driving, jaywalking violations, tinted glasses, and driving unregistered vehicles, among others.

The ICPO has issued directives to all zone officers to make legal actions against traffic law violators more stringent and effective under their supervision.

They are also providing citizens with special awareness regarding the dangers and consequences of traffic law violations on a daily basis, he added.

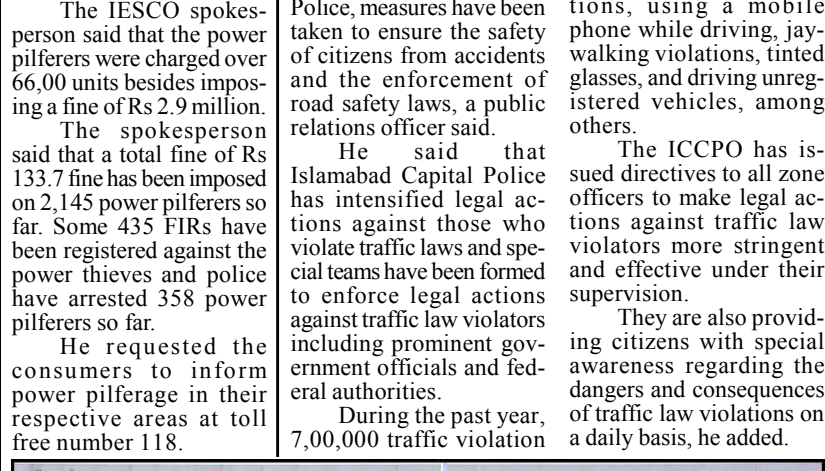
Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: According to details, under the special directives of the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, Islamabad Capital Police, measures have been taken to ensure the safety of citizens from accidents and the enforcement of road safety laws, a public relations officer said.

He said that Islamabad Capital Police has intensified legal actions against those who violate traffic laws and special teams have been formed to enforce legal actions against traffic law violators including prominent government officials and federal authorities.

During the past year, 7,00,000 traffic violation

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Palestine announced three-day mourning after Israel bombing on a hospital more than 700 martyrs, the flag of Palestine half mast on the embassy of Palestine.



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Governor Punjab says Youth should play role in driving country to knowledge based economy

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab/Chancellor Punjab University Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the youth should play their role in driving the country to knowledge based economy.

He stated this while addressing the laptop distribution ceremony under Prime Minister Youth Programme Scheme Phase 3 at Punjab University. Governor Punjab said that the future of Pakistan is connected with merit and transparency. He said that digital divide is increasing

in the modern era, those who have access to technology are ahead while those who don't have the access to technology are lagging behind.

Governor Punjab said the distribution of laptop among students would bring them at par with the modern world, adding he said that the laptops are being distributed on merit to encourage students and equip them with IT skills. He said that Punjab University is a prestigious institution, and it is a great honour to study in it.

The Governor Punjab said that when the laptop

scheme was initially started and laptops were distributed among brilliant students on merit, it contributed towards the development of the country in IT sector. He further stated that Pakistan was fast moving among the e-lancing countries, software exports were also increasing, and the talent of Pakistani youth in gaming apps was getting recognition in the world.

Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman, while stressing the importance of logic and research said that educated people decide on logic and

facts. He said that a disappointed nation can never develop. We must avoid those who spread despair, he added. He said that we have to get the nation out of despair. Therefore, the positive aspects should be highlighted. He said that respecting the opinion of others is also very important in a pluralistic society. Governor Punjab said that teachers should also focus on character building of students.

He said that our religion has taught us not to believe without verifying the facts.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with students during laptop distribution ceremony under Prime Minister Youth Programme Scheme Phase 3 at Punjab University.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker KP Health Minister Dr. Riaz Anwar addressing during High Achievers ceremony of Beaconhouse FC Campus.

Naqvi lays foundation stone of FIEDMC management office

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi along with the cabinet members laid the foundation stone of FIEDMC management office at Faisalabad Industrial Estate and Management Company. Acting Consul General of China Cao Ke welcomed CM Mohsin Naqvi on reaching FIEDMC. Mohsin Naqvi was given a detailed briefing about the FIEDMC management office.

He after planting a sampling formally inaugurated the plantation

campaign. CM visited the under construction hospital for ten years at FIEDMC. Mohsin Naqvi and the cabinet members also visited VIVO Mobile Factory. Provincial Ministers, Chief Secretary, IG Police, Chairman P&D, Commissioner Faisalabad and other officials were also present on the occasion.

Later, CM Mohsin Naqvi while addressing a ceremony being organized at Faisalabad Industrial Estate and Management Company said that a club will be established for the Chinese friends as a gift

working in FIEDMC. Provincial Ministers, Chief Secretary and the whole team members are endeavouring to set up one window operation centre. Hopefully one window operation centre will become functional by January. Chinese investors will be provided NOCs by different departments under a single roof. One window pilot project will be launched simultaneously at Lahore and FIEDMC. The under construction ten-bedded hospital in FIEDMC will be completed in coming few weeks.

Thalassemia affected children visits Governor House

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: As many as fifty thalassemia-affected children and their parents on Wednesday visited Governor House Peshawar on Wednesday on the invitation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali.

The children were accompanied by the Founder of Hamza Foundation, Hamza Ejaz, Professor Abaseen Yousafzai and Khalid Khan. KP Governor intermingled with children and distributed snacks and juice among them. Talking to the media, on the occasion, he said that these children deserve our special attention, love and

help owing to their sufferings.

He said that these children have confronted many difficulties in their life and we should provide them hope, assistance and kindness enabling them to overcome hardships and lead a normal life. "I am honoured to arrange a luncheon for them, and would always strive to give them happiness and hope", he added.

Haji Ghulam Ali said that free education has been announced for special children in universities and steps would be taken for the facilitation of children suffering from thalassemia and other blood-related disorders.

CM asks illegal immigrants to voluntarily return before October 31

Independent Report
PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan here Wednesday asked the foreign nationals illegally living in the province to voluntarily return to their countries before the 31st of this month.

He added that the government would extend its all-out support and facilitations them with

regard to their repatriation.

In a statement issued here, the chief minister said that the district administrations and other relevant quarters had already been directed to facilitate the repatriation process within the stipulated time frame, as the government wanted a dignified repatriation of all such foreigners to their homelands.

Sindh Police says: Rejects rumors circulating on social media no threats to law & order in Karachi

Independent Report
KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Police on Wednesday rejected the rumors circulating on social media regarding threats to the law and order situation in the megalopolis.

The police spokesmen termed the viral news, regarding any possible threats to law and order situation, as fake and a mere propaganda.

The citizens were appealed not to pay heed to any such fake news and also not to spread them, he added.

Earlier, a message was circulating over social media according to which there were threats to peace of the city.

The said message further read "Some miscreants, who apparently are non-natives were spotted by a number of people in suspicious vehicles carrying heavy arms and ammunition and the next 72 hours were most sensitive for the city."

Besides the news also mentioned the names of different city areas.

However, terming the message to be fake, Additional IGP Karachi Khadim Hussain Rind said the message was a nefarious tactic of evil elements, people should never pay attention to such rumours.

Police and law enforcement agencies were taking all measures to maintain complete control over the law and order situation at the provincial level and especially in Karachi through cooperation and strategy.

NCP items worth over Rs. 6.6 million siezed

Independent Report
DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The district police have foiled a smuggling attempt and seized non-custom paid (NCP) items worth over Rs 6.6 million during the checking of several vehicles here in the limits of Daraban and Mughalkot Police station.

According to the police spokesman, a police team of Mughalkot Police station led by SDPO Darazanda circle Sherullah Khan along with SHO Rehmatullah Khan and in-charge Mughalkot check post HC Muhammad Ejaz inspected various vehicles.



GARHI KHUDABUX: Peoples Party (PPP) Women Wing President and Former MPA, Faryal Talpur along with PPP activists are showering rose petals and offering Fateha for the departed souls on the graves of people killed in PPP Rally Carnage-2007 on the occasion of 16th anniversary of the 2007 Karsaz carnage, in Garhi Khuda Bux.

Cabinet Committee reviews service rules for provincial Ombudsman employees

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: The second session of the cabinet committee tasked with assessing the service rules and terms and conditions of provincial ombudsman employees took place in the committee room of the law department. The committee was led by the caretaker provincial minister for law and human rights, Justice Retired Syed Arshad Hussain Shah. Attendees included Dr. Amir Abdullah, the caretaker provincial minister of industries and tribal affairs, the secretary of law, representatives from the establishment and finance departments, and officials from the

provincial ombudsman's office. During the meeting, the Provincial Ombudsman Employees Service Rules for 2023 were examined, and a comparative analysis of the service rules from the Federal Government and other provinces was also conducted. Caretaker provincial minister of law and human rights, retired Justice Syed Arshad Hussain Shah, emphasized the need to enhance the service rules further, with the goal of ensuring that the law is implemented in a manner that benefits the employees.

The implementation of these service rules is expected to enhance employee performance.

Two killed, 3 injured over land dispute in Swat

By Haroon Siraj
SWAT: Two people were killed and three police personnel were wounded in firing between rival groups over a property dispute in Chinar Colony amankot saidu sharif area here on Wednesday.

According to police, there was a long-standing dispute over the land exchange between Muhammad Ali, Amin Khan, and Badshah Hussain resident of chinar colony and Ijaz, Akbar Khan and sabir khan resident amankot saidu sharif.

On Wednesday, as a result of firing between the two groups over the said dispute, badshah Hussain and Amin Khan, from Muhammad Ali group was killed while Ijaz group suspects managed to make good their escape. An FIR has been registered and investigation of the incident is underway. A police spokesman said that DPO Swat Shafullah Khan Gandapur took notice of the incident and directed to SP lower Swat and SDPO saidu sharif to arrest the accused immediately, he said.

CM visits victim girl's house near Dijkot

Independent Report
FAISALABAD: Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday visited the house of a six-year-old girl who was killed after being raped in a village near Dijkot.

The CM met parents of the victim girl and promised to provide them justice under the law.

He expressed his heartfelt sympathy and condolences with the parents of the victim girl.

Expressing compassion, the CM said that it was his duty to give you immediate justice, adding that Inshallah, you would be provided justice. "I promise that no effort will be spared in providing you justice", he said and added that the accused would not escape from the grip of law. He said that whoever wronged you, will soon be brought to justice.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi also offered Fateha Khawani for the departed soul. Provincial

Minister for Information Amir Mir, Chief Secretary, IG Punjab, Commissioner Faisalabad Division, CPO and other officers were present on the occasion.

Earlier, the Chief Minister visited the Divisional Public School (DPS). He went to an Autism center, met with the children suffering from autism and loved them. He also met the staff.

Mohsin Naqvi appreciated the efforts of Commissioner Faisalabad for setting up an autism center.

When the CM Mohsin Naqvi was on his way back from DPS, he stopped his car to see the children at the main gate. He went to the children and talked to them.

The children asked for a library and a computer lab in the junior school, on which the CM issued necessary directions to the Commissioner. The Chief Minister also visited the canal road.

Feroze condoles death of Prof. Ajmal

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel, the Caretaker Minister of Information and Public Relations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, conveyed his condolences on the passing of the distinguished educator and former vice chancellor of Islamia College University, Prof. Ajmal Khan. In his message of sympathy, he extended heartfelt condolences to the grieving family and prayed for their solace and patience during this difficult time. The caretaker information minister also acknowledged the significant contributions made by the late Ajmal Khan in the realm of education within the province, affirming that his services in teaching and learning will be remembered forever.

ANF recovers 466 kg drugs in four operations; arrests six

Independent Report
RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting four operations across the country managed to recover 466 kg of drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday.

He informed that in an operation at Pakistan International Terminal Karachi, ANF recovered 12 kg heroin from a container booked for Maldives.

Heroin was being smuggled in salt packets. A resident of Karachi was also arrested during the operation.



KARACHI: Supporters of the religious and political party Jamaat Ahle Sunnat attend a demonstration against Israeli airstrikes on Gaza, to show solidarity with Palestinian people, in Provincial Capital.

Orientation session strengthens child protection efforts in KP's merged areas

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: The Case Management and Referrals System conducted an orientation session for child protection focal points from various government departments and organizations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's merged districts. The session aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively coordinate and provide child protection services, including addressing the unique needs of children on the move and Afghan refugees.

The Directorate of Social Welfare in Merged Areas is addressing child protection issues within communities, including those involving children on the move and Afghan refugees. To achieve this,

the department has approved a PC-I for establishing child protection units and providing support to orphans in merged districts. Nine Child Protection Units have been set up in specific merged areas.

During the one-day orientation session held on October 18, 2023, participants from government departments, civil society organizations, media, and other sectors were encouraged to apply their newly acquired knowledge and skills to protect children's rights. The importance of collective action, collaboration with Child Protection Units, and building strong partnerships with parents and communities was emphasized.

PFA discards 220 litre fake carbonated drinks.

Independent Report
LAHORE: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has unearthed a fake beverages manufacturing unit producing carbonated drinks of different popular brands on Mustafabad Road in the provincial metropolis.

The authority discarded 220 litres of spurious carbonated drinks; prohibited chemicals, sweeteners and hazardous artificial flavours. Further, PFA confiscated 1,000 empty bottles, 65 crates, four cylinders, five blue non-food grade drums, five filling machines, labels, stoves, RO and filtration plants. This was informed by PFA Director General Raja Jahangir Anwar. He said that the authority also filed an FIR against the factory owners on account of adulteration and forgery.

He said that the authority took action against the factory owner for violating the Punjab Pure Food Regulations. He said that fabricated fizzy drinks were being prepared with loose colours, hazardous chemicals, artificial sweeteners and unclean tap water. Fake beverages with fake labelling were to be supplied to the different local shops in the subpar areas of Lahore.



SARGODHA: Volunteers demonstrating their rescue skills while participating in Inter Union Council Community Emergency Competition organized by Rescue 1122 Sargodha held Rescue Main Office at University Road.

Commissioner launches one-stop driving license service

Independent Report
MARDAN: Shaukat Ali Yousafzai, the Commissioner of Mardan Division, inaugurated a one-stop operation for the issuance of driving licenses at the Motor Vehicle Examiner's office. During the briefing by Secretary Regional Transport Authority Dr. Mohsin Habib and Motor Vehicle Examiner Inayatullah, it was explained that the new system provides intending drivers with token, medical, and traffic sign test services all under one roof, a similar setup is now

available in Swabi too. Commissioner Mardan, Shaukat Ali Yousafzai, also directed action against vehicles emitting harmful emissions to ensure environmental cleanliness. It was mentioned that tests for smoke-emitting vehicles, supervised by the transport department, are conducted at the Motor Vehicle Examiner's office, and mobile labs check vehicles for environmental pollution. Moreover, a qualified government doctor is available at the MVE office to provide free medical tests.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali distributing food items among children suffering from thalassemia during their visit to Governor House.

PM Kakar says Pakistan as initial beneficiary appreciates, supports BRI

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan has consistently expressed great appreciation and strong support for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping and was willing to learn from China's development experience, Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said talking to the Chinese media.

Kakar, who was invited to attend the

third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing, said that the Pakistanis valued the great vision embodied in the BRI, which advocated bringing peace and prosperity through economic development.

The Pakistani delegation, comprising top-level officials from the economic, industrial, security, and other

departments, was eagerly anticipating bilateral discussions with Chinese officials during the visit, engaging in dialogue and interaction with Chinese think tanks and media as well, he said.

Emphasizing the significant accomplishments of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), an exemplary project of the BRI, Kakar said the CPEC

has brought great development and bright prospects to his hometown of southwest Balochistan province.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC was a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.



Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Caretaker Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali witnessing the signing ceremony of MoU between United Energy Group of China and Pakistan Refinery Limited for investment in the petroleum sector of Pakistan, Beijing.



DUBAI: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif in a group photo after meeting with Regional GM of Cisco at GITEX Global 2023.

Direct air flights between Pakistan, Nigeria can enhance trade: High Commissioner

FAISALABAD (APP): High Commissioner of Nigeria in Pakistan Mr. Mohammad Bello Abioye has said that direct air flights between Pakistan and Nigeria can play a key role in enhancing bilateral trade.

Addressing the business community in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he said that he has taken various measures to ensure exchange of information, B2B meetings and simple visa policy to facilitate the serious entrepreneurs. He said that during the last two years visa applications are being

processed within 48 hours.

He acknowledged the socio-economic importance of Faisalabad and said that textile is an iconic representation of this city at the global level. He said that he has developed friendly relations with the business community and 'we are exploiting this friendship to promote bilateral trade'. He also termed Nigeria as a land of opportunities and said that the Pakistani business community should avail from this facility.

He said that China and Malaysia are investing in Nigeria and Pakistan

should also explore new opportunities for investment in various sectors. He said, "Textile owners should also set up their units in Nigeria as we have surplus cotton."

Responding to a question, he said that Pakistani businessmen could also invest in the cashew-nut processing sector. Earlier President FCCI Dr. Khurram Tariq welcomed the guests and said that Faisalabad is designed on the pattern of Union Jack in 1898. "It made tremendous progress and now it has emerged as textile capital of the Pakistan".

Govt's strategy succeeds in arresting dollar rate: KP Minister

PESHAWAR (APP): KP Caretaker Minister for Food, Livestock and Environment, Asif Rafiq has said that the rate of the dollar has been controlled due to the best strategy adopted by the government, while prices of petroleum products have also been cut down.

He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting here in the Food Department said an official handout issued here on Wednesday. Besides, Secretary Food, Zarif Almani, District Food Controllers from across the province attended the meeting.

PSX sheds 99 more points as profit-taking continues

KARACHI (INP): Profit-taking continued at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) for the second straight session on Wednesday, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index losing 99.54 points (-0.20 percent) to close at 49,431.47 points.

The market opened on a slight positive note but took a dip soon. The dip proved short-lived and the indices turned towards the green territory. The benchmark index later hit the day's high and remained in the positive during the first half of the

session. However, selling pressure took the indices in the red territory again where it stayed till the end of the session. However, good corporate results of some companies eroded some of the losses of the day.

A sharp decline in rupee's value for the second straight day after making gains for 28 consecutive sessions also acted as a catalyst for profit-taking. The benchmark index briefly crossed the 50,000 points level for the first time since January 2017.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): The movements of ships was reported at the port where five ships namely, Maersk Santosa, MSC Maria Elena, Sea Treasure, Chem Harvest and Al-Deebal scheduled to load/offload Containers, Furnace oil, Palm oil and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, Oil Terminal, Liquid Terminal and Gas Terminal respectively on Tuesday.

A total of nine ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them Neutron Gas carrier 'Al-Zubarah' left the port on today morning, while four more ships, Maersk Santosa, MSC Maria Elena, Cap Andreas and Xin An Ping are expected to sail on today afternoon.

A cargo volume of 193,448 tonnes, comprising 131,346 tonnes imports cargo and 62,102 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 5,066 Containers (3,477 TEUS Imports and 1,589 TEUS export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are five ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships, Chem Harvest, Sea Treasure and Maersk Santosa & two more ships, MSC Maria Elena and Al-Deebal Carrying Palm oil, Furnace oil, Containers and LNG are expected to take berths at LCT, FOTCO, QICT and PGPC.

PM highlights govt's business friendly, pro-investment initiatives

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said that the government was taking business-friendly and pro-investment initiatives to bring about the economic development in the country.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of East Sea Group led by Chairman Fang Yulong, highlighted pro-business policies of the government.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the Belt and Road Forum held here.

He said the government was encouraging the private sector and providing a conducive atmosphere to

enable it play an effective role for country's economic development.

Fang Yulong told the prime minister that East Sea Group was making investments in Gwadar Free Zone and refinery sector and that the Chinese firms were taking keen interest in increasing their investment in the country.

Prime Minister Kakar welcomed the East Sea Group's interest in investment in Pakistan and called Gwadar a key factor for Pakistan's economic development and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He said that Pakistan and China were time-tested friends as the latter stood by the former in every difficult time.

PCJCCI for resolution against genocide in Palestine

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Moazzam Ghurki Wednesday suggested for making a resolution for an immediate end to the genocide of Palestinians by Israel.

The joint chamber conducted a think-tank session here at PCJCCI Secretariat in which other office-bearers, members and the people from different walks of life actively participated to show solidarity with Palestinians.

PCJCCI President said, "We condemn the continued Israeli military aggression on the Gaza Strip which causes Palestinian civilian

casualties, including children and women, and destruction of civilian property and infrastructure. Pakistan and China both vowed to contribute the 'Chinese wisdom, Chinese strength' to resolve the long-standing conflict between the Palestinians and Israel."

Ghurki condemned Israeli terrorism against innocent Palestinians and said that they stood with Palestine and would continue to raise this issue at every forum. He said all Muslim countries of the world would have to unite for the cause of Palestine freedom.

PCJCCI Senior Vice President Fang Yulong said that when the Gaza conflict last flared up in 2021,



BEIJING: A delegation of East Sea Group led by Fang Yulong calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

China-Pak cooperation yields benefits for growers

BEIJING (APP): Two high-yield wheat varieties developed by Chinese and Pakistani scientists could be approved for commercial production in Pakistan as early as next year, said a lead researcher of the project.

The new varieties have strong resistance against yellow rust a destructive crop disease widespread in Pakistan and are expected to boost local wheat output by a large margin, said He Zhonghu, director of the China-Pakistan Joint Wheat Molecular Breeding

International Lab. He is also a top wheat scientist at the Institute of Crop Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences as well as the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, a nonprofit research and training centre headquartered in El Batan, Mexico. "The crops are still being tested in experimental fields in Pakistan," he said, adding that the team is waiting for clearance from local authorities to mass produce the new varieties outside lab settings.

Tractor production increase 44.98% in Jul-Sep

ISLAMABAD (APP): The production of farm tractors in the country witnessed an increase of 44.98 per cent to 11,586 units during the first three months of the financial year 2023-24, against the production of 7,991 units during the same months last year 2022-23.

During July-September, the production of trucks witnessed a decreasing trend as it went down from 946 units as compared to 391, showing a decline of 58.66 per cent,

according to the Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA).

Production of pickups, Light Commercial Vehicles (LCVs) and Jeeps also dipped by 35.80 per cent to 5,827 units during the months under review from 9,077 units during the fiscal year 2022-23.

The production of buses witnessed a decline of 60.48 per cent from 248 units to 98 units during the fiscal year 2024, the PAMA added.

Agricultural development is prerequisite for country's uplift: CM Naqvi

Seeds of wheat, sugarcane, soya bean ready for three times increase in production; A positive economic change will occur with the seed giving three times more production

Independent Report

FAISALABAD: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi has said that agricultural development is prerequisite for the country's uplift, for which agricultural scientists should develop high-yielding varieties resilient to climate change in order to increase productivity and ensure food security.

He stated this while addressing the scientists of University Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF). Punjab Agriculture Minister SM

Tanvir, Agriculture Secretary Punjab Nadir Chattha, Planning and Development Punjab Chairman Ifikhar Ali Sahu, IG Punjab Usman Anwar and others attended the meeting.

UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan gave a briefing about the history of the university, ongoing educational and research projects and agricultural issues.

Chief Minister Punjab Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi while appreciating the role of UAF said that

UAF in collaboration with Washington State University, developed new high yielding varieties of wheat which are in testing phase for the second year. It is a hallmark step, he said, adding that after fulfilling the requirement, it would reach to the farmers' fields by next year.

He said that India had been producing soybean for the last fifteen years. But unfortunately no sufficient work has been done so far in Pakistan to promote its cultivation.

Gold rates up by Rs.6,400 to Rs.206,500 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.6,400 and was sold at Rs. 206,500 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs. 200,100 the previous day of trading.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.5,487 to Rs.177,040 from Rs.171,553 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.162,287 from Rs. 157,257, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola silver increased by Rs.50 to Rs.2,550 whereas that of ten gram silver went up by Rs.42.87 to Rs.2,186.21.



ISLAMABAD: A man is buying grocery from Utility store at Sitara Market as after the decline in dollar and fuel prices, such stuff also seems decline in prices, which a good gestures for the People in Federal Capital.

KP Govt decides to develop fruits, vegetable processing sector

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: KP Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Dr Aamir Abdullah has said that the provincial government has decided the processing of fruits, vegetables, and other agricultural products on international standards as edibles and its development as a profitable business sector.

He made this announcement while presiding over a meeting here in the Committee Room of Industries, Commerce and Technical Education Department here in the Civil Secretariat on Wednesday. Besides, Secretary, of

Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah and authorities of all subsidiary sectors, the head of Agriculture Business and Training Institute, Saleem Abne Fazil also attended the meeting.

The caretaker minister directed the concerned authorities to take practical steps to focus on these sectors, besides the traditional attractive sectors of investment, and turn them into useful for earning maximum profit for economic uplift of the province.

During the meeting, the head of the Agriculture Business and Training Institute.



ISLAMABAD: People busy in selecting and purchasing old shoes from vendors along Islamabad Expressway.

CDNS surpasses annual target by end of first quarter of FY, 2023-24.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has achieved revenue exceeding its annual target by the end of the first quarter of the current year, 2023-24.

The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has accomplished a target of Rs 430 billion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, from July 1st to October 15th, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Wednesday.

He said the CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, He said this was Rs

200 billion additional annual target than the target of Rs 1300 billion for the previous financial year 2021-22.

"The CDNS has set a reviewed saving target of Rs 1.4 trillion for the current financial year (2021-22) which will promote savings culture in the country," he said.

In view of the current market trend in the country, the ambitious target had been set to further improve the savings culture, he said.

He said that work was being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations were being introduced.



KARACHI: Governor of Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori along with others gives awards to Zafar Abbas General Secretary of JDC Welfare organization during 17th Consumers Awards 2023 at Governor House.

UN Security Council rejects Russian resolution on Middle East

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The UN Security Council on Monday rejected a Russian resolution condemning spiraling violence in the Middle East, with delegates refusing to back a motion that did not single out Hamas for its surprise raid on Israel.

Just four countries voted with Russia on its proposed text. Four others — including the US — voted against, while six abstained.

A second text proposed by Brazil with unequivocal language condemning the group appeared to have broader support, and was expected to come to the vote on Tuesday evening, diplomats said.

Russia's UN ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia, said despite the failure, the resolution had spurred the council to action.

"It has contributed to launching a substantive discussion in the Security Council on this topic. Without our encouragement, everything would probably have been limited to empty discussions," he said.

The United Kingdom, which joined the US in voting down the Russian proposal, criticised Moscow's lack of consultation, and accused Russia of not making a serious attempt to find consensus.

Israel's Gilad Erdan said the Security Council, which has not adopted a resolution on the situation in Israel and the Palestinian

territories since 2016, stood at "one of its most pivotal crossroads" since its founding in the aftermath of World War II.

Palestinian ambassador Riyad Mansour said the council had a moral duty to act in a bid to restrain an Israeli assault on the Gaza Strip he said was claiming 12 lives every hour. "Don't send the signal that the Palestinian lives don't matter," he said.

"Don't dare say Israel is not responsible for the bombs it is dropping over their heads."

"What is happening in Gaza is not a military operation. It is a full scale assault against our people. It is massacres against innocent civilians."



British Ambassador to the United Nations Barbara Woodward and US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield vote against the resolution.

Lebanon-Israel border clashes escalate, five Hezbollah fighters killed

Monitoring Desk
KIRYAT SHMONA: Israeli troops killed at least four fighters attempting to breach the border from Lebanon on Tuesday, the army said, as tensions run high on the border between the two countries.

Since Oct 8, Israel has traded fire on a near-daily basis with Hezbollah and Palestinian fighters in Lebanon. The Israeli army said its forces opened fire on fighters when they attempted to cross the northern border with Lebanon on Tuesday morning.

Hezbollah said five of its fighters had been killed "performing jihad". It was not clear if these were the same ones who Israel had accused of trying to infiltrate the border.

Later, the army said anti-tank missiles targeted Israeli forces in two locations, with Israeli tanks and artillery retaliating against

the "origins of the fire" and Hezbollah military posts.

Shots "fired from a light weapon" at several Israeli military positions near Lebanon wounded two Israeli military reservists and a civilian, it added.

Later in the day, air raid sirens sounded in the border town of Kiryat Shmona, which is nearly empty as many of the residents have fled to seek safer accommodation.

The army said "two rockets were launched from Lebanon toward Israeli territory", with one "successfully intercepted" and the other hitting an open area.

Hezbollah said it had struck several Israeli military points, some with guided missiles, and targeted an Israeli army vehicle and a tank.

The military said it had targeted Hezbollah with overnight air strikes on southern Lebanon.

UK university suspends students over Gaza rally

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Students from the Palestine Society at SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies) on Tuesday said the university had "suspended students following a rally in solidarity with Gaza".

The SOAS Palestine Society posted to X saying, "URGENT: @SOAS University of London, renowned for its so called progressive politics, has officially begun taking steps suspending its own students following a rally in solidarity with Gaza. This is a clear act of political repression. Please read on and share widely."

The tweet said that on Oct 9, the Palestine Society and its student community held a rally in solidarity with the people of Gaza and that hundreds of students joined the demonstration. On October 13 and 14, the statement said "students were suspended and given warnings through disciplinary actions by the university" and said the action by the university demonstrated "a targeted act of political repression."

EU tries to unblock France, Germany spat over industrial competition

Monitoring Desk
LUXEMBOURG: A stand-off between France and Germany over the future competitiveness of their industries will be the central point of discussion when EU energy ministers meet in Luxembourg on Tuesday, EU diplomats said.

The European Commission proposed an overhaul of rules governing the bloc's electricity markets in March this year after Europe experienced very high energy prices in 2021 and 2022. The new rules seek to protect consumers from volatile fossil fuel markets with a shift to more long-term, fixed-price contracts.

However, its progress toward law is being held up by a disagreement centred on the contents of just one article - 19b.

The article spells out how state aid can be used

to fund power projects. Berlin fears that France, with its vast nuclear fleet, will be able to offer such contracts to its existing nuclear energy fleet - then use excess revenues generated by these contracts on subsidising industries.

Germany, the economic engine of Europe, is on the edge of a recession after losing access to the ample supply of cheap Russian gas it enjoyed for years. Berlin expects the economy to shrink by 0.4% this year as its industrial output continues to contract.

The remaining member states are divided. Central and Eastern European countries that have nuclear expansion ambitions of their own are backing France. Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, Austria and others are behind Germany.

Fire reported at cafe in India's Bengaluru, 1 injured

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: A fire broke out at a cafe in India's Bengaluru on Wednesday, causing an injury to a person who jumped from the building after the blaze erupted, according to the Times of India.

The incident unfolded in the city where Pakistan is slated to play its upcoming World Cup match against Australia. According to Google Maps, Chinnaswamy Stadium, the designated venue for the match, is approximately an hour's drive from the cafe where the fire incident was reported.

The TOI reported that the blaze was "massive" and erupted in the cafe located on Bengaluru's Hosur Road.



Ukrainian students, who lost relatives due to the Russia-Ukrainian war set flags in their memory on the memorial of fallen Ukrainian soldiers, while attending the reconstruction of a student-led protest campaign "Revolution on Granite" on Independence square in Kyiv, Ukraine.



People inspect the area of Al-Ahli hospital, where hundreds of Palestinians were killed in a blast that Israeli and Palestinian officials blamed on each other, in Gaza City.

Russian Duma passes law to revoke ratification of nuclear test ban treaty

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia's parliament moved swiftly to fulfil the wish of President Vladimir Putin by completing the passage of a bill that shifts Moscow's legal stance on nuclear testing at a time of acute tension with the West. The lower house, the State Duma, on Wednesday passed the second and third readings of a bill that revokes Russia's ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Both were passed unanimously by 415 votes to zero.

Putin urged the Duma on Oct. 5 to make the change in order to "mirror" the position of the United States, which has signed but never

ratified the 1996 treaty. "We understand our responsibility to our citizens, we are protecting our country. What is happening in the world today is the exclusive fault of the United States," parliament speaker Vyacheslav Volodin said. Russia says it will not resume testing unless Washington does, but arms control experts are concerned it may be inching toward a test that the West would perceive as a Russian nuclear escalation amid the Ukraine war.

They say a test by either Russia or the United States could prompt the other to do the same, and China, India and Pakistan might then follow, trigger-

ing a new global arms race. All are currently observing test moratoriums, and only North Korea has conducted a test involving a nuclear explosion this century.

Russia originally ratified the CTBT in 2000. While it is revoking that step, it has so far said it will remain a signatory to the treaty and continue to supply data to the global monitoring system which alerts the world to any nuclear test.

But when he introduced the bill on Tuesday, parliament speaker Volodin raised the possibility Moscow might withdraw altogether, and said it would keep Washington guessing about its intentions.

Saudi Arabia, Japan agree to cooperate to ease Middle East tensions

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida agreed in a call with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Wednesday to work together to improve humanitarian conditions in Gaza and help ease tensions in the Israel-Hamas conflict, the Japanese government said.

U.S. President Joe Biden arrived in Israel on Wednesday pledging solidarity in its war against Hamas and saying that a blast that killed huge numbers of Palestinians at a Gaza hospital.

calming down the situation," a Japanese government statement said on their phone call. Japan, this year's chair of the Group of Seven (G7) advanced economies, on Tuesday announced its plan to extend \$10 million in emergency humanitarian aid to Gaza residents.

U.S. President Joe Biden arrived in Israel on Wednesday pledging solidarity in its war against Hamas and saying that a blast that killed huge numbers of Palestinians at a Gaza hospital.

Hamas says top commander killed in Israeli strike

Monitoring Desk
GAZA CITY: Hamas said on Tuesday one of its top leaders was killed during an Israeli strike in the Gaza Strip.

"Ayman Nofal, 'Abu Ahmad', a member of the general military council and commander of the central command in Al-Qassam Brigades, was killed" in an Israeli strike on the central Gaza Strip, Hamas said in a statement. Confirming his killing, the Israeli military described Nofal as "one of the most dominant figures" in Hamas.



People hold signs during a rally in support of Palestinians in Boston, Massachusetts.

Armenia ready to sign peace deal with Azerbaijan by year-end - TASS cites PM

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on Tuesday said Armenia was ready to sign a peace deal with Azerbaijan by the end of the year, and would guarantee the safety of all Azerbaijani citizens on its territory, Russia's TASS news agency reported.

Russian President Vladimir Putin last week said he believed a peace deal between Armenia and Azerbaijan was achievable

if both sides showed goodwill, playing down the difficulty of reaching an agreement on their shared border.

Azerbaijan last month mounted a lightning offensive to seize control of the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh, which had been governed by ethnic Armenians with Armenia's support for three decades.

Most of Karabakh's 120,000 or so ethnic Armenians fled to Armenia.

Canadian prime minister says blast at Gaza hospital is unacceptable

Monitoring Desk
OTTAWA: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Tuesday said the news of a blast at a hospital in Gaza was "horrific and absolutely unacceptable."

Trudeau told reporters that "it's not acceptable to hit a hospital". Health authorities in the Hamas-run enclave said hundreds of people died in the explosion, which they blamed on Israel.

OPEC plans no immediate action after Iran urges Israel oil embargo, sources say

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: OPEC is not planning to hold an extraordinary meeting or take any immediate action after Iran's foreign minister called on members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to impose an oil embargo and other sanctions on Israel, four sources from the producer group told Reuters.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on Wednesday called on OIC members to impose an oil embargo and other sanctions on Israel and expel all Israeli ambassadors. Four sources from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which produces a third of the world's oil and includes several Mus-

lim countries including Iran, said that no immediate action or emergency meetings were planned by the group in light of Iran's comments.

"We are not a political organisation," one of the sources said. On Tuesday, the Gulf Cooperation Council secretary-general when asked whether Arab countries should reduce oil production in retaliation for Israel's actions in Gaza, said that the GCC was committed to energy security and shouldn't use oil as a weapon. "The GCC works as a clear and honest partner as an oil exporter with the international community and we can't use that as a weapon in any way possible."

France's Palace of Versailles reopens after earlier security alert

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: France's Palace of Versailles re-opened to visitors on Tuesday afternoon after closing for a few hours for security reasons, the Chateau de Versailles said on social media network X. BFM TV, citing police sources, had said earlier that a bomb squad had been dispatched to the site. The local police body for Versailles said later that the police operation had finished and an earlier security cordon that had been put in place had now been lifted. On Oct. 14, one day after a teacher in France was killed in an Islamist attack, bomb alerts - which proved to be false - forced the evacuation of the Louvre museum, the Palace of Versailles and Paris' Gare de Lyon train station.

EU leaders vow tighter borders, more repatriations after Brussels attack

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: The leaders of Belgium and Sweden and the European Union's chief executive promised on Wednesday to tighten border security and step up repatriations after a failed asylum seeker from Tunisia shot dead two Swedish football fans in Brussels.

They spoke after paying tribute to the victims of Monday's attack in the Belgian capital, home to the EU institutions, and condemning what they branded a brutal terrorist attack.

The shooting has highlighted the EU's persistent difficulties in managing asylum and migration, including security gaps and failures to return people

deemed not to have the right to stay in the 27-nation bloc.

Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said Europe's open-border Schengen zone would not survive unless the EU's external frontiers were better protected from unwanted immigration.

"If we are not able to protect our common borders, we will not be able to uphold free movement within Europe," he said.

Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said the EU also needed a more effective system of returning unauthorised immigrants. "This is something we need to tackle and can only do that in a coordinated way," he said.

Russia's Lavrov arrives in North Korea as cooperation deepens

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov arrived in Pyongyang on Wednesday for meetings seen as setting the stage for a visit by President Vladimir Putin, who has stepped up cooperation with politically isolated North Korea.

Lavrov's two-day visit comes as a month after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un made a rare trip to Russia, during which he invited Putin to Pyongyang and discussed military cooperation, including over North Korea's satellite program and the war in Ukraine.

Putin's foreign minister, who last visited North Korea in 2018, will hold talks with his North Korean counterpart, according to the Interfax news agency.

Russia's TASS news agency reported that Lavrov may brief the North Koreans on the results of Putin's visit to China, as well as discussing Putin's potential visit.

Calling each other "comrade", Putin and Kim toasted their friendship last month with Russian wine.

Courting Kim allows Putin, who says Moscow is locked in an existential battle with the West over Ukraine, to needle Washington and its Asian allies while potentially securing a deep supply of artillery for the Ukraine war. U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Sung Kim on Tuesday called relations between North Korea and Russia "worrying," after the White House said last week Pyongyang had recently supplied weapons to Russia.

Israeli anger at Netanyahu erupts at hospital bedsides

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: One Israeli cabinet minister was barred from a hospital visitors' entrance. Another's bodyguards were drenched with coffee thrown by a bereaved man. A third had "traitor" and "imbecile" shouted at her as she came to comfort families evacuated during the horror.

The shock Oct. 7 massacre by Hamas gunmen has rallied Israelis to one another. But there is little love shown for a government being widely accused of dropping the country's guard and engulfing it in a Gaza war that is rattling the region.

Whatever ensues, a day of judgment looms for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, after a record-long career of political comebacks.

Public fury over some 1,300 Israeli fatalities has been further fuelled by Netanyahu's signature self-styling as a Churchillian strategist who foresaw national-security threats.

Another backdrop is social polarisation this year over his religious-national-

ist coalition's judicial overhaul drive, which triggered walkouts by some military reservists and raised doubts - now borne out in blood, some argue - about combat-readiness.

"October 2023 De-bacle" read a headline in top-selling daily Yedioth Ahronoth, language meant to recall Israel's failure to anticipate a twin Egyptian and Syrian offensive in October 1973, which eventually led then-Prime Minister Golda Meir to resign.

That ouster put paid to the hegemony of Meir's centre-left Labour party. Amotz Asa-El, research fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, predicted a similar fate for Netanyahu and his long-dominant, conservative Likud party.

"It doesn't matter if there's a commission of inquiry or not, or whether or not he admits fault. All that matters is what 'middle Israelis' think - which is that this is a fiasco and that the prime minister is responsible," Asa-El told Reuters.

US says it thwarted drone attacks on troops in Iraq

Monitoring Desk
TELAVIV: The US military thwarted an attack targeting its forces in Iraq early on Wednesday, intercepting two drones before they could strike, two US officials said after the first such attack on US forces in Iraq in more than a year. The officials, who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity, declined to say who was suspected of the attack on the al-Asad air base. But Washington is on heightened alert for activity by Iran-backed groups amid soaring tension in the region over the Israel-Hamas war.

Later on Wednesday another drone attack targeting the al-Harir air base, which houses US forces in the northern Iraqi city of Erbil, was also foiled, an Iraqi security official and a Western diplomat said.

A little known group called Tashkil al-Wartheen, or the Inheritor, claimed responsibility for the attack on al-Harir.

Last week, Iraqi armed groups aligned with Iran threatened to target US interests with missiles and drones if Washington intervened to support Israel's war with Hamas in Gaza.

The Pentagon has

rushed air defenses and munitions to Israel, America's closest ally in the Middle East, but US forces have not joined the fighting. The one-way attack drones were intercepted as they attempted to strike Iraq's al Asad air base, which also hosts American troops, the US officials said. The attack came hours after an explosion at a Gaza hospital killed hundreds of Palestinians, raising the stakes for U.S. President Joe Biden as he arrived in Israel on Wednesday to signal support for its war against Hamas.

Palestinian officials said the hospital was hit by an Israeli air strike. Israel denied this, blaming the blast at Al-Ahli al-Arabi hospital on a failed rocket launch by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group, which denied responsibility. The Palestinian Authority's health minister accused Israel of causing a "massacre". In Iraq, tension over the war in Gaza had already been high. Its top Shi'ite Muslim cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, last week condemned Israel and called on the world to stand up to the "terrible brutality" in besieged Gaza.

Pakistan calls for setting up humanitarian corridors for Gaza

ISLAMABAD (INP): At urgent meeting of Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC), Pakistan on Wednesday asserted that Israel must bring an immediate end to its campaign of terror with an immediate ceasefire, calling for establishing humanitarian corridors for relief supplies to Gaza.

Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilani made these remarks, who is leading the Pakistan delegation to the urgent open-ended Ministerial Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) being held in Jeddah.

The meeting was co-convened by Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to discuss the crisis in Gaza and the humanitarian situation of the besieged civilians there.

Speaking on the occasion, Jilani Abbas Jilani denounced the Israeli aggression and inhumane block-

ade of Gaza that resulted in death, destruction and displacement. He also condemned Tuesday's massacre of innocent civilians in the vicious Israeli attack on a hospital in Gaza.

He underscored that the Israeli occupation forces were in clear violation of international humanitarian and human rights law. Their indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force amounted to war crimes and crimes against humanity, he added.

The foreign minister called on the international community to hold Israel accountable for its crimes. Jilani emphasised that Israel must bring an immediate end to its campaign of terror with an immediate ceasefire, and resuming forced evacuation of Palestinians from their homes.

He also underlined the urgency of humanitarian corridors for rapid, secure and unrestricted humani-

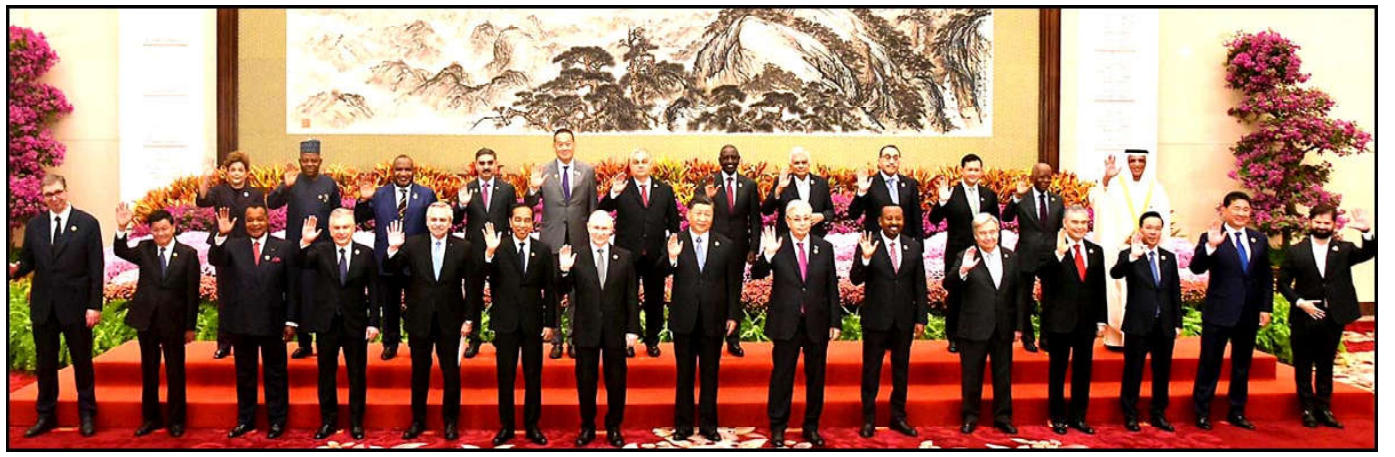
tarian and relief supplies to Gaza. He underlined that the root cause of the recent conflagration lay in the non-implementation of the two-state solution.

The minister reaffirmed Pakistan's solidarity and support for the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination.

He called for an early establishment of a viable, secure, contiguous and sovereign state of Palestine on the basis of the pre-June 1967 borders and with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Executive Committee adopted a Joint Communiqué outlining the collective stance of the Muslim Ummah on the situation in Gaza.

On the sidelines, the foreign minister also held meetings with the Foreign Ministers of Gambia, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye.



BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a group photo with President Xi Jinping and world leaders participating in the 3rd Belt and Road Forum, Beijing.

Nader Alturk says Double-standards of West, coupled with callous policy bleeding Palestinian nation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of Palestine, Nader Alturk Wednesday said that it is double-standards of the West, coupled with a callous policy that is bleeding a dispossessed nation in search of a homeland for the last many decades.

Addressing a Distinguished Lecture Series at Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) titled "Situation in Palestine amidst the recent upheavals in the Middle East", the Palestinian envoy thanked for the overwhelming support from Pakistan, and hoped that social media and countries across the world should rally for a nation at the verge of obliteration.

"We are looking for peace, justice and a solution to our territorial dispute with Israel which it has occupied forcefully," Alturk said and added that the apartheid at work is pushing Palestinians in a death trap.

He lamented the British colonial power for handing over 58 percent of the Palestinian lands to the Jews, and regretted that even the remaining 43 percent too has been encroached upon.

He displayed the map of Palestine that showed stages of occupation in four stages since 1948.

He criticised former US President Donald Trump for initiating a biased diplomacy wherein Israel is being given legitimacy by the Arab states under the Abraham Accord, and no solution is being found for the pestering dispute of Palestinian state.

Bilawal Bhutto says Elections in Pakistan halted for 'one person's return'

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday asserted that the general elections in Pakistan were halted for 'one person's return' - in an apparent reference to PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif.

"The delay in general elections is not vote ki izzat (respect of vote) but vote ki beizzati (disrespect of vote)," the PPP Chairman said while addressing a public gathering related to the 16th anniversary of Karsaz tragedy in Karachi.

Bilawal Bhutto noted that the 16-month tenure of coalition government taught that Pakistan cannot be run from London. "Today, the country's Constitution, election, and democracy were halted due to one person's return," he said.

Without naming anyone, the former foreign minister said: "We hope that his return to the country would be big, and also that ECP [Election Commission of Pakistan] would soon announce the election schedule."

He expressed the urgent need for all political parties to support the demand for the immediate announcement of election schedule by election commission, saying that Pakistan can be brought back on the path of progress only via elections.

Bilawal Bhutto also said that he wants to end the politics of divide and abuse, adding that if politicians keep fighting amongst themselves, the country will not progress.

"We have to leave politics of abuses and divide behind. We need new leadership, which is not stuck in the past but thinks about the future. We don't want 90s' Pakistan or 2017's Pakistan. We want today's Pakistan," he added.

The PPP chairman also announced that his party was kick-starting their mass contact campaign, which will demand the ECP issue election's date. "Let the people exercise their right to vote; they will have to accept the demand of the people," Bilawal added.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Morocco, Mr Muhammad Sami-ur-Rehman, calls on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr

President Alvi for enhancing trade, economic cooperation with Morocco

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday called for increasing cooperation with Morocco in the fields of trade, investment and economy.

The president, in a meeting with Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Morocco Muhammad Sami-ur-Rehman, who called on him, asked him to work for enhancing Pakistani exports to Morocco.

Talking to the ambassador, he said that relations between Pakistan and Mo-

rocco were marked by common history and shared interests.

He said the two sides needed to increase the exchange of high-level visits to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

President Alvi said that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) had been constituted to provide a single platform to facilitate and attract investment and Morocco could benefit of Pakistan's business friendly environment.

Nawaz Sharif files protective bail pleas in IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former Prime Minister (PM) Nawaz Sharif has filed protective bail pleas in Islamabad High Court (IHC) to avoid arrest on his return to Pakistan.

Stance has been taken in the petition Nawaz Sharif will reach Pakistan on October 21 by special flight.

Nawaz Sharif wants to surrender before court and face cases against him.

He prayed the court to accept his protective bail so that he could initiate legal process in his defence and get relief.

IHC Registrar office did not raise any objection on both of the petitions.

Registrar office has allotted number 2023/3333 and 2023/3334 to Nawaz Sharif petitions.

Pakistan, US extend Science and Technology Cooperation agreement

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan and the United States Tuesday signed a five-year extension of the U.S.-Pakistan Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement to expand relations between the two countries' scientific and technological communities.

The accord is also designed to promote scientific and technological cooperation for peaceful purposes.

Pakistan's Ambassador to the US, Masood Khan, and Jason Donovan, Director Office of Science and Technology Cooperation in Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES/STC) at the US State Department of State, witnessed the signing ceremony.

Muhammad Saad Ahmed, on behalf of the Govern-



Local transporters assure to reduce transport fares for providing relief to public

Independent Report
QUETTA: The local transporters have assured to reduce fare of transport in order to provide relief needed relief to the people.

The assurance was made by the representatives of different transport unions including local bus federation, Sanab local bus association, Kuchlak local bus association, All Quetta Rickshaw Union, Mazda bus association, Pishin bus association and other concerned transport unions to the Secretary Regional Transport Authority (RTA

) Waheed Sharif Umrani during a meeting held here on Wednesday.

The Secretary RTA called the meeting of transporters in line with the orders of interim provincial government and directives of Commissioner Quetta for reduction in fare of public transport in Quetta and other parts.

The transporters on the occasion also apprised Secretary RTA about their issues and apprehensions.

The Secretary RTA assured to resolve the issues of transporters.



QUETTA: Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai and DGPR Muhammad Noor Khetran in a group photo with members of Balochistan Editors Council

Air Chief, Turkish Commander agree to explore bilateral cooperation avenues

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation led by Commander Turkish Air Force, General Ziya Cemal Kadioglu Wednesday called on Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu where both the commanders agreed to explore further avenues of bilateral cooperation including collaboration for joint production of military hardware with special focus on unmanned aerial platforms.

The meeting covered a wide array of matters related to the geostrategic situation, the progress of current joint ventures and the exploration of further

avenues of collaboration in the aviation industry. The discussion also involved an exchange of insight from both dignitaries on the operational training of their respective air forces in the backdrop of PAF's ongoing mega aerial exercise, Indus Shield 2023 which is being witnessed by dignitaries from around the globe, a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) news release said.

On his arrival, a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented guard of honour to General Ziya Cemal Kadioglu. Later, the visiting dignitary was introduced to the Principal Staff Officers.

Ambassador Anna expresses solidarity with Palestinians

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union Anna Baloch on Wednesday met Ambassador of Palestine to Belgium and EU Abdel Rahim Al-Farra to express solidarity and offer condolences on the loss of innocent lives in Gaza.

"She conveyed Pakistan's unwavering support for the people of Palestine," Pakistan Embassy in Belgium posted on X.

Attends 'World Fatwa Conference' in Egypt Aneeq Ahmed urges unity, adaptation in issuing Fatwas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Wednesday participated in 8th World Fatwa Conference being held at the Egyptian Fatwa House under the umbrella of General Secretariat of Fatwa Houses and Bodies in the world in Cairo, Egypt.

The conference, organized under the auspices of President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, brought together scholars, ministers and Muftis from 100 countries, said a statement issued here. During the conference, he extended his sincere gratitude to Dr. Shawki Ibrahim Allam, the Grand Mufti of Egypt, for his warm invitation and hospitality.

He emphasized the importance of discussing the topic of 'Fatwa and the Challenges of the Third Millennium' in recognizing the unique and multifaceted challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah in this era.

He said the third millennium had brought about unprecedented changes in the way people live, communicate, and navigate their faith.

Gwadar Off Road Rally in full swing

GWADAR (APP): The Gwadar Off-Road Rally organized by Gwadar Development Authority and Balochistan Motor Sports is in full swing, motorbike race was held in the first phase.

In the second phase, the Racer Car Show and Registration will be held tomorrow, followed by the Qualifying Round on the next day.

The Chairman Gwadar Port Authority Pasand Khan Buledi has inaugurated the race by raising the flag.

The bike track is 25 km long, a challenging track passing through sand dunes and uneven surfaces that provide an opportunity to exhibit their abilities.

The final motor car race will be held on October 22, which includes international and women racers.

District administration, Gwadar Port Authority, District Police, Security Forces, including all civil and military institutions of Gwadar are fully cooperat-

ing in organizing that wonderful event.

On the occasion of the inauguration of the race, Chairman GPA expressed his appreciation and said that Gwadar is not only economically and strategically important, but the region is also naturally and culturally beautiful.

Pasand Khan said the arrival of thousands of fans and tourists from different parts of the country to Gwadar will boost the economic and tourism activities here, which will also benefit the local people.

He said that healthy activities like Off Road rally in Gwadar are awaited throughout the year and such events need to be organized frequently. According to source, a total of 204 racers including 11 foreigners, 10 women and 80 locals will take part in the rally.

For the first time, two separate categories of motorbike races have been added along with the Jeep Rally.



Hanif Abbasi acquitted in ephedrine case

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has acquitted PML-N leader Hanif Abbasi in Ephedrine case.

Appeal against life imprisonment of Hanif Abbasi has been accepted.

LHC nullified trial court decision regarding conviction of Hanif Abbasi.

A two members bench presided over by Justice Alia Neelum had reserved judgment on appeal filed by Hanif Abbasi against his conviction in 500 kilogram ephedrine case.

The state counsel took the plea ephedrine was received in the company owned by Hanif Abbasi. Nothing could become known about use of 137 kilogram ephedrine and nor 137 kilogram ephedrine has

Jl Emir urges for an international fund to help people of Gaza

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Sirajul Haq has asserted that the Israeli government is engaged in war crimes, specifically targeting hospitals and schools in Gaza.

Speaking at a workers' convention on Wednesday, he emphasized that the visit of the US president to Israel, during a time when occupying forces were ruthlessly taking the lives of innocent civilians in Palestine, stood as a stark challenge to the civilized world, aiming at conveying to the Muslim nation that no one could hold Israeli accountable for her actions.

Highlighting the significance of unity within the Muslim Ummah, he emphasized its necessity in liberating the holy land from the unlawful Jewish state.

He stressed that it is very important to take necessary measures to adopt the digital era and use modern technology in the province.

The Minister Informa-

Caretaker Minister PHE directs to implement cabinet's decision

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE) Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Khan Jaffar has stated that the cabinet has already given decision to hand over 54 tube wells of PHE to WASA so it must be implemented immediately in letter and spirit.

He also directed to the concerned authorities to ensure that PHE may not install any tube well in Quetta in future.

In this regard, a comprehensive summary may be presented in the cabinet after it's preparation.

The Minister PHE was chairing a meeting of the department's officers here on Wednesday.

The Additional Secretary Development, Abdul

Qadeer Khan, Additional Secretary Admin, Nadeem Ahmed, Chief Engineer North, Malik Muhammad Azam and other officers were in attendance at the meeting. The meeting reviewed in detail the process on decisions made in previous meetings.

Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Jaffar said that if the officers perform their responsibilities well and honestly then there's no reason not to resolve the issues.

He also urged the officers to resolve the issues of drinking water being faced by people in Gwadar.

In this regard, a comprehensive strategy must also be adopted together with Gwadar Development Authority so as to resolve it in permanent basis.



KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Aseefa Bhutto Zardari wave to crowds at a rally organized on the occasion of anniversary of Karsaz tragedy.

Handing over of PHE's 54 tube wells to WASA: Caretaker Minister PHE directs to implement cabinet's decision



BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets Mr. Li Xi, member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of Communist Party of China (CPC) and Secretary of CPC's Central Commission of Discipline Inspection.

Caretaker Minister Info calls for digitalization of DGPR to meet emerging needs of digital era

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has underlined the need of digitalization of the Directorate General of Public Relations (DGPR) in order to meet the emerging requirements of the digital era.

Jan Achakzai said that the present era is the era of globalism and communication revolutions and as such we should keep abreast with the modern techniques and innovations for dissemination of the information in an effective manner.

He stressed that it is very important to take necessary measures to adopt the digital era and use modern technology in the province.

The Minister Informa-

tion was speaking on occasion of his visit to the DGPR office here on Wednesday.

The secretary Information Imran Khan and Director General Public Relations, Noor Khetran were also present.

The Minister and Secretary Information visited different sections of the DGPR and spoke to the high ups present there.

Jan Achakzai on the occasion stressed the need to impart training to the DGPR staff in different modern technologies and communications means.

He also highlighted the important role of DGPR in information dissemination and mass contact and mobilization. Jan Achakzai also said that his visit reflects resolve of the provincial government to accept the digital era.