

# Independent

Member APNS &amp; CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vd XXV No. 59, Rabi-us-Sani 04, 1445 AH Friday October 20, 2023 Pages 12, Price Rs.15

Invites President Xi to visit Pakistan

## Pakistan blindly trusts China; nothing to be allowed to undermine our partnership: PM

President Xi underlines Pakistan an iron-brother; partner in peace and development; Pakistan, China emphasize steady pace of CPEC, vow to make it corridor of sustainable growth

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday, calling the bilateral partnership made in "heaven", said that Pakistan blindly trusted China and that the country would not allow anything to undermine the bilateral strategic partnership.

The prime minister, in his opening remarks while meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, said Pakistan firmly supported One China policy and would show it through its actions,

not mere words.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the Third Belt and Road Forum, attended by leadership and representatives of around 140 nations.

"Pakistan will not take an inch back when it comes to our relations with China," he remarked as the two leaders met to discuss the bilateral and regional matters.

President Xi warmly received the prime minister as he arrived to hold the meeting accompanied by

his delegation members, including Shamsah Akhtar, Sarfaraz Bugti, Gohar Ejaz and others.

The prime minister thanked the Chinese leader for inviting him to attend the "historic" Belt and Road Forum and also congratulated him for the "resounding" success of the event.

He said President Xi's address at the Forum was "profound, deep and visionary", which offered a lot of opportunities for the countries like Pakistan.

"I used to hear the phrases of (Pak-China friendship) 'sweeter than honey' and 'iron clad brotherhood', but I realise that this moment is for Pakistan when you say 'when China does well, the rest of the world does well.'

"This is the moment for Pakistan to come and seize the opportunity," he remarked.

He said eight proposals President Xi had put forth at the Forum were actually a roadmap for not just physical connectivity

but also an important stabilising factor in international order.

Prime Minister Kakar said the Belt and Road Initiative was a "pragmatic" and "practical" answer to the global political, economic and civilisational challenges faced by many nations.

He said China's unprecedented progress was a role model which transformed the lives of the millions of its people, also hav-

Continued on page 2



BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a meeting with the Ambassador of the State of Palestine in Pakistan, Mr Ahmed Jawad Rabei, and expressing solidarity with the people of Palestine.

## CPEC to bring about Pakistan's economic prosperity, regional connectivity: PM

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday, terming CPEC a landmark project in the history of Pakistan-China relations, said it would bring about economic progress and prosperity in Pakistan and contribute to regional connectivity and development.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Chairman of China International Development Cooperation Agency Luo Zhaohui, lauded the vision of connectivity and partnership under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and its fruits over the last ten years in terms of economic milestones for Pakistan.

Prime Minister Kakar and CIDCA Chairman Luo discussed the collaboration in socioeconomic development projects under the CPEC framework in agriculture, health, education, vocational education, water supply and poverty alleviation.

The chairman welcomed the prime minister's proposal for the swift implementation of CIDCA's GDI projects in Pakistan.

Prime Minister Kakar lauded the dynamic partnership between Pakistan and CIDCA and especially commended CIDCA's strong commitment to development projects in Pakistan.

## Governor Kakar meets Balighur Rehman



LAHORE (APP): Governor Balochistan Abdul Wali Kakar met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman and discussed matters of mutual interest besides promoting inter-provincial relations during a meeting at the Governor's House here on Thursday.

Welcoming his counterpart to Lahore, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Balochistan is the largest province of the country in terms of area, adding that development and prosperity of Balochistan is essential for the development of the country. He said a sizeable number of scholarships and seats have been reserved for the students of Balochistan in the universities and medical colleges in Punjab.

The Governor Punjab also apprised Governor Balochistan about the steps taken as chancellor in universities. He said that consortiums have been formed in seven important areas in the universities, adding, the aim is to strengthen linkages between academia and industry and to suggest recommendations for improvement in these key areas.

## Six terrorists killed, four soldiers martyred in Waziristan gun fight

RAWALPINDI (INP): Six terrorists including a high-value target named Hazrat Zaman alias Khawarey Mullah have been killed by security forces in an operation at general area of Gharyoum in North Waziristan district.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations, the ringleader was actively involved in multiple terrorist activities in the area and was highly wanted by the law enforcement agencies.

However, three military personnel including Lance Naik Tabbasum UI Haq, Sepoy Naem Akhtar and Sepoy Abdul Hameed also embraced shahadat while fighting gallantly against terrorists in another operation at general area of Asman Manza in South Waziristan District, Sepoy Farman Ali also embraced shahadat in the line of duty. Sanitization is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area.

## CM says GoB not reduces age limit for government jobs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that final decisions has not been made yet on the matter of reduction of upper age limit for obtaining the government jobs in the province.

Rather, the matter has been kept for further consideration in the next meeting of provincial cabinet.

In a tweet on his social media account (X) issued here on Thursday, the caretaker Chief Minister said that the agenda point of the upper age limit for the government jobs was presented by the Services and General Administration Department in the cabinet's last meeting.

The interim cabinet had reviewed the matter from all aspects and the concerned department (S&GAD) presented its view on it.

However, no final decision was made on the matter, the Chief Minister made it clear.

However, the important nature public matter would be considered in the next meeting of interim cabinet, he maintained.

## Pakistan sends 100 tons humanitarian aid for Palestinians

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Thursday sent humanitarian assistance for the people of Palestine including medicine, tents and blankets.

A chartered aircraft carrying 100 tons of essential medical supplies, tents and blankets departed from Islamabad for Egypt this afternoon, the Foreign Office said. From Egypt, the supplies will be transferred to the people of Gaza.

At least 3,785 Palestinians were killed in Gaza in Israeli strikes since Oct 7, the health ministry in Gaza said Thursday.

It comes as four more residential buildings were struck by Israeli air raids, the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a post on X.

## Schedule announced for LB elections in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Provincial Election Commissioner Balochistan Sharifullah on Thursday said that the Election Commission of Pakistan has announced the schedule for the local government elections to be held on November 30 in Quetta.

As per the schedule, the returning officers will issue the public notice on 30 October 2023. While the nomination papers will be received from the candidates from November 2 to 4. After which the list of names of nominated candidates can be released on November 6, he said. He said that similarly, from November 7 to 9, the returning officers would scrutinize the nomination papers of the candidates, while the last date for filing appeals against the acceptance or rejection of nomination papers by the Returning Officers is November 11.

## President visits Palestine Embassy; calls for ceasefire, humanitarian corridor

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday visited the Embassy of Palestine and expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people who are being subjected to indiscriminate killings by Israel.

He urged the international community to condemn Israel's brutalities and its disproportionate reaction which killed thousands of innocent people.

He called for an immediate ceasefire and the opening up of a humanitarian corridor to send aid to the people lacking food, electricity and water.

The president also met Ambassador of the State of Palestine Ahmed Jawad Rabei, and expressed soli-

arity with the Palestinian people on behalf of the Government and the people of Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan would always stand by Palestine and only accept a solution that was acceptable to the Palestinians.

President Alvi said that the United Nations should debate the atrocities that happened in Palestine, and the UN Security Council should pass a resolution to stop Israeli atrocities.

He said that such brutal actions created more possibilities of hatred leading to more wars, adding that the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) should raise a strong voice in support of Palestine.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Sahir Shamsah Mirza addressing the participants of ongoing aerial exercise Indus Shield-2023

## CJCS witnesses PAF's 14-Nation Air Exercise Indus Shield-2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Sahir Shamsah Mirza, visited an operational air base of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) to witness the ongoing aerial exercise Indus Shield-2023 on Thursday.

On his arrival at the base, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee was received by Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, a PAF news release said.

The Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee was briefed on the Air Power Center of Excellence training facility as well as the scope of the exercise

which aims to project cooperation between the participating air forces and consolidate upon modern concepts of aerial warfare.

The Air Chief appreciated the utmost support extended by General Sahir Shamsah Mirza and lauded his efforts in the promotion of tri-services synergy.

He highlighted the significance of the 14 nation Exercise Indus Shield which in addition to boosting the operational readiness of PAF, would also prepare the participants for contemporary warfare challenges.

He further reiterated that the exercise employing

Continued on page 2

## Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan says: Modern technical educational institutions to be made effective with support of federal Govt.

Caretaker Federal Minister Education assures representation of all provinces to be ensured in administrative affairs of federal institutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the modern technical educational institutions operating in the province would be made more effective with cooperation of federal government.

He said that the measures are being taken to produce skilled human force according to the demand of market.

This was shared by the Chief Minister while speaking to the caretaker

Federal Minister for Education, Madad Ali Sindhvi who called on him here at the CM's secretariat on Thursday.

During the course of meeting, the matters pertaining to promotion of education, technical and vocational training, opportunities available for the same, besides the financial issues facing the public sector universities of the province were discussed.

The Federal Minister Education informed the Chief Minister about the ongoing programmes of in-

stitutions established for technical education with cooperation of federal government.

Also present on the occasion were Minister Finance and Revenue, Amjad Rsaheed, and other concerned high ups of federal and provincial governments.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the provincial government would take special measures for resolving the issues being faced by the

Continued on page 2

## Israel-Hamas war: Pakistan has no intention to send Army to Gaza: FO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Thursday expressed its disappointment over the results of the emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) held on Wednesday and called for an immediate end to the bombardment and inhumane blockade of Gaza.

"We are nationally disappointed by the results of the UNSC debate. The Security Council should play its designated role to bring an immediate end to the bombardment and blockade leading to a humanitarian catastrophe," the Foreign Of-

fice spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in her weekly press briefing.

The spokesperson was referring to the use of veto power by the United States at the UN Security Council to block a resolution calling for Israel to allow humanitarian corridors into the Gaza Strip, a pause in the fighting and the lifting of an order for civilians to leave the north of the besieged territory.

China, Russia and the UAE had convened the meeting to discuss the worsening situation in Gaza. The

Continued on page 2

## Jamali praises performance of Home Dept

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has appreciated performance of the Home department with regard to repatriation of the illegal immigrants in the province.

The caretaker Minister Home was speaking to the newly appointed Secretary Home, Zahid Saleem who called on him here on Thursday.

During the meeting, matters pertaining to security and law and order were discussed between the Minister and Secretary Home.

They also reviewed the ways and means to enhance mutual relations between the security institutions.



QUETTA: Caretaker Federal Education Minister Madad Ali Sindhvi meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

## IHC grants protective bail to Nawaz Sharif till Oct 24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday granted protective bail to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif till October 24, and stopped the authorities from arresting him on his arrival in Pakistan from abroad.

The IHC bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb announced the verdict on the petitions seeking protective bail for the former prime minister in Al-Azizia Steel Mills and Avenfield property references.

At the outset of hearing, NAB Prosecutor Rafay Maqsood said that the IHC had stated in its judgment that the former prime minister could request the court to open his appeal again at any time after his return.

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had no objection if Nawaz Sharif wanted to surrender,

he said, adding he had adopted the stance after taking instructions from the NAB Prosecutor General.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb said that the bench was granting protective bail to Nawaz Sharif on the statement of NAB prosecutor, otherwise, it would have decided the matter as per case merit. The court subsequently granted protective bail to the former prime minister stating that NAB had not raised any objection on it. It also stopped the Bureau from arresting Nawaz Sharif on his arrival in Pakistan till October 24, so that he could surrender before the court.

Later, the court, in its written order, also observed that NAB Deputy Prosecutor General Naem Tariq Sakhera presented the stance of Bureau after taking instructions from the prosecutor general that it had no objection on the protective bail of ex-prime minister.

## Electricity supply to agriculture consumers: Jan Achakzai accuses QESCO of betraying agreement with zamindars

Jan Achakzai says funds approved by provincial government for payment to be released to QESCO after restoration of power supply to agriculture consumers; leader of BZAC announces to adopt strong course of action if power not restored within 48 hours

ISLAMABAD (APP): The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has accused the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) of betraying the agreement reached with the zamindars of province in presence of the provincial government regarding restoration of electricity supply to them (zamindars).

While addressing a hurriedly called press conference along with the leaders of Balochistan Zamindar



Thursday, Jan Achakzai regretfully pointed out that an agreement was reached

Thursday, Jan Achakzai regretfully pointed out that an agreement was reached

Continued on page 2



PM Kakar's visit gets extensive coverage in Chinese media

BEIJING (APP): The visit of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar to China to attend the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing and his meetings with the top Chinese leadership have received extensive coverage in electronic and print media.

The Global Times published an article written by the prime minister while the China Daily published his interview on its front page. The prime minister's attendance in the opening ceremony of the Belt and Road Forum and his address to the High-Level Forum were telecast live.

The prime minister's meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping at People's Great Hall, Premier Li Qiang at Diaoyutai State Guest House and other top leadership as well as signing of several memorandums of understanding were widely covered by the local media.

During his visit, the prime minister also held a meeting with Member of the Standing Committee of Politburo of Communist Party of China, Li Xi. He also held a series of meetings with the chairpersons and chief executive officers of top-ranking Chinese companies and addressed an interactive roundtable attended by a number of academics, scholars and researchers from notable Chinese think tanks, in Beijing.



BEIJING: Luo Zhaohui, Chairman China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.



QUETTA: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi awarding Cheque to students under National Endowment Scholarships for Talent at BUITEMS Quetta.

Pakistan blindly trusts China...

Continued from page 1 ing no parallel in the world history. He told the Chinese president that across the whole political structures in Pakistan, there was no dissenting view about China.

at the iconic Great Hall of People in Beijing and extended him to visit Pakistan which he graciously accepted. "We discussed various dimensions of the multi-faceted Pakistan-China relationship, and reaffirmed our longstanding and steadfast friendship, all-weather strategic cooperation, economic and trade ties, and CPEC. I congratulated him on the success of the 3rd Belt and Road Forum and the 10th anniversary of BRI," he wrote on the social media platform 'X'.

Modi regime peddling lies of normalcy in IIOJK to mislead world

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference has said that the Narendra Modi-led Indian government is peddling blatant lies of peace and normalcy to mislead the world about the ground situation in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Pledge to mobilise \$100bn for climate action in developing nations still unfulfilled: SDPI

LAHORE (APP): Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) Deputy Executive Director Dr Shafiq Munir said on Thursday that the Global North had pledged to mobilise US\$100 billion for climate action for the developing countries by 2020, but the pledge remains unfulfilled yet.

CJCSC witnesses PAF's...

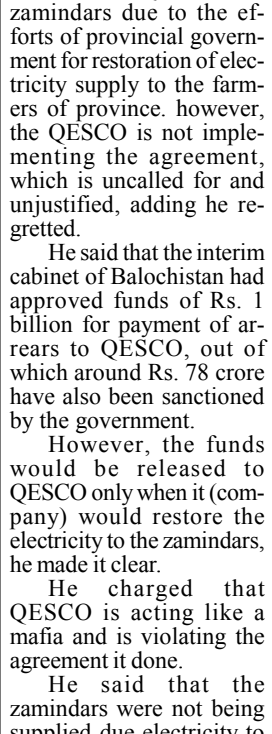
Continued from page 1 cutting-edge niche technologies and high-tech fighters not only offers a unique opportunity for participating air forces to bring their unparalleled skills and operational capabilities to the spotlight but will also deepen mutual understanding between the participating contingents to foster connectivity and cooperation.

the pursuit of common objectives amidst the ever-evolving dynamics of air warfare. He lauded the professionalism of the participants of the exercise and appreciated the efforts of the Air Power Center of Excellence in orchestrating this monumental exercise, which would not only fortify the existing partnerships among key allies but would also enhance interoperability among the participating Air Forces.

Jan Achakzai accuses QESCO...

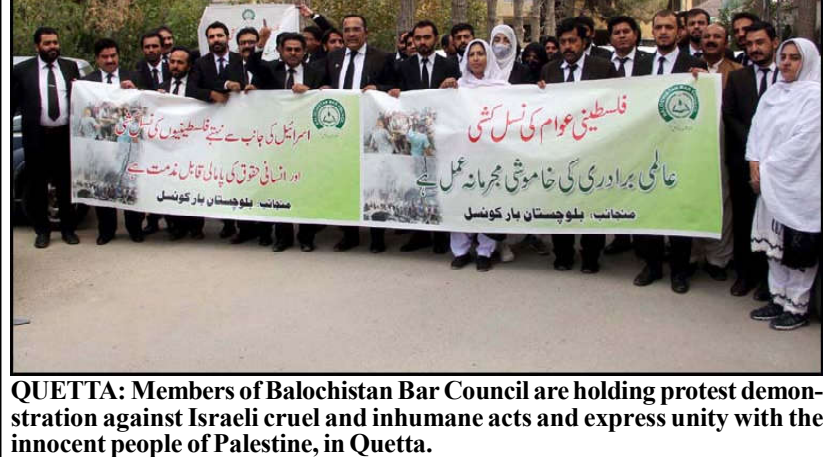
Continued from page 1 between the QESCO and zamindars due to the efforts of provincial government for restoration of electricity supply to the farmers of province. However, the QESCO is not implementing the agreement, which is uncalled for and unjustified, adding he regretted.

HUB: View of site after traffic accident due to over speeding and break failed, at National Highway in Hub.



HUB: View of site after traffic accident due to over speeding and break failed, at National Highway in Hub.

Advertisement for a recruitment exam for the National Endowment Scholarships for Talent. It includes details about the exam, dates, and contact information.



QUETTA: Members of Balochistan Bar Council are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, in Quetta.

Palestine under siege Business community shell-shocked at attack on hospital, says Irfan

KARACHI (PR): Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has expressed the collective concerns of the entire business, industry and trade community of Pakistan on the continuing inhumane siege of Palestine and barbaric attack on a hospital resulting in the martyrdom of upwards of 500 innocent lives and many more are struggling to survive.

so far and hundreds more lives are being taken every day. Whereas, tens of thousands are seriously injured and more than a million Palestinians have been internally displaced and made homeless. It is prohibited under the Geneva Convention and international law to attack a hospital or a medical facility in any conflict or war under any circumstances - and, if committed, is considered a war crime.

ceasefire to enable provision of aid to reach the victims (ii) United Nations should intervene and lead the international efforts to save and rescue the war affected population of Gaza (iii) OIC should pool their resources to rehabilitate the people and reconstruct the city (iv) international community should prosecute the war crimes to the fullest extent of law.



KARACHI: Convener MQM Khalid Maqbool Saddique addressing press conference along with others in Provincial Capital.

Govt prays SC to dismiss verdict in NAB amendment case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The federal government Thursday submitted detailed arguments to the Supreme Court in the appeal against the decision about NAB amendments. The Ministry of Law and Justice through Makhdoom Ali Khan Advocate requested the top court to declare the decision void, adding that the verdict pertaining to the NAB amendments was against the constitution and the law.

Pakistan has no intention...

Continued from page 1 resolution, sponsored by Brazil, had wide support and would have also condemned all violence against civilians. The vote in the 15-member Council was 12 votes in favour to one (United States) against, with Russia and China abstaining.

transportation to Gaza for the suffering Palestinian population. She told the media that a briefing session was held for the diplomatic corps on the subject of the repatriation of illegal foreign nationals from Pakistan. She said an institutional mechanism has been developed to prevent the incidents of harassment and a helpline has also been established to address the complaints.

Advertisement for Pakistan Railways Police Quetta Division. It includes a 'RE-TENDER NOTICE' for bullet cameras and PTZ speed dome cameras. It also contains a table with station names and quantities.



## Early diagnosis crucial to save 35,000 breast cancer deaths in Pakistan every year: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday said more than 100,000 women in Pakistan were diagnosed with breast cancer every year, of which 35,000 could not survive due to detection of the disease at late stages.

He said the diagnosis of breast cancer at stage 1 had higher survival rates compared to stages 3 and 4 of the disease.

In an interactive session with journalists of print and electronic media here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr,

the president along with his wife Samina Alvi stressed breaking social taboos about breast cancer and importance of the media's role in sensitizing the general public.

President Alvi emphasized a preventive rather than curative approach as the government lacked ample resources to bear the unaffordable costs of medical treatment including the scanning and oncology procedures of breast cancer.

He called for educating women on how to con-

duct monthly self-examinations to locate an abnormal nodule and not to hesitate to seek urgent medical help.

President Alvi recalled that last year, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority on his suggestion relayed 120 million call-waiting messages about breast cancer.

He urged the journalists to join the cause of fighting breast cancer by highlighting the topic in their write-ups and television programmes.

The president men-

tioned that he and Samina Alvi for the last five years had been raising consistent awareness campaigns on breast cancer from the platform of the Presidency.

He stressed continuity in policies on health and education despite changes in governments to ensure a healthy and balanced society.

He also emphasized focusing on health courses of short duration to produce a larger number of healthcare workers to cater to needs of the population.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi speaking to journalists during an interactive session on Breast Cancer, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary Ministry of Housing and Works, Dr. Shahzad Khan Bangash during his visit to Shaheed-e-Millat Secretariat Islamabad. Other senior officers of the Housing Ministry are also present.

## Jawad web-based application for recovery of dues of Overseas Pakistani workers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) for overseas Pakistanis Jawad Sohrab launched the OPF web portal for the recovery of dues of overseas Pakistani workers to facilitate the Pakistani diaspora.

This service expedites the disbursement of dues such as salary, death & disability compensation and other allowances of the workers, according to a press release here on Thursday. Addressing the formal launch of the web-based application for Outstanding Dues Management of overseas Pakistanis

workers at Overseas Pakistan Foundation (OPF) which was completely developed in-house, the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Overseas Pakistanis, Jawad Sohrab Malik emphasized upon maximum utilization of technology to improve service delivery to Overseas Pakistanis.

He said the Internet has revolutionized the service

delivery paradigm as it has transformed the way businesses operate worldwide. Moreover, it has also led to the development of new technologies, thus, providing an opportunity to better manage business processes using state-of-the-art technology. The implementation of a web-based system has significantly enhanced the efficiency of OPF officials in processing outstanding dues cases of overseas Pakistanis.

Now, all applications are directly entered into the system at their point of origin, which are the offices of the CWAs in Pakistan missions abroad. This eliminates the previous need to send hard-copy applications to OPF for manual data entry, a process that used to take approximately 30 days. With the new system in place, this cumbersome transfer of applications in physical form has been reduced to a few minutes only.

Furthermore, the entire application workflow

has been streamlined through automation. The new system provides real-time access to applications, allowing for seamless movement within different departments.

The web-based online system also allows all stakeholders to access up-to-date information on pending dues cases, worker details, payment disbursement status, document verification, etc. Additionally, it empowers senior management to track applications online and monitor the progress of incoming applications.

The SAPM stated that in line with the vision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development is striving hard to extend maximum facilities and assistance to overseas Pakistanis who have a strong bond with their homeland and the present government is on its threshold to explore all avenues to facilitate them.

## Dr. Nadeem directs to improve PNC performance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan has issued instructions to improve the performance of the Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC) through innovative steps.

Chairing a meeting here Thursday, the minister directed to establish a one-window cell for the registration of paramedics on urgent basis. He said that immediate steps should be taken for digitization of Nursing Council. He said that Lady Health Workers should be brought under Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council. There should be a focal person for HEC in Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council to ensure communication and

consultation with HEC in matters related to the curriculum, the minister said. He assured that Ministry of Health will provide assistance in preparation of regulations under PNMC Act 2023. The international organizations should be contacted for technical support to PNMC, said the Minister.

Dr. Nadeem Jan said effective steps should be taken to increase the number of nurses in hospitals according to international standards. A comprehensive strategy is being devised to enhance the efficiency of nurses, he said and directed that special steps should be taken regarding the education and career planning of nurses.

## Aneeq emphasizes modern challenges, Islamic principles at 'World Fatwa Conference'

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

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 on Thursday. 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. "Fatwa, a guidance tool for Muslims on various matters, including matters of

faith, practice, and daily life, was a central topic of discussion as it provides clarity and guidance to Muslims in navigating the complexities of life while upholding their religious principles," he added.

Quoting from the Holy Quran, Minister Aneeq referenced Surah An-Nahl, 16:43: "So ask the people of the knowledge if you do not know," highlighting the importance of seeking knowledge and guidance. He stressed the paramount importance of the fundamentals of Islam in the methodology of issuing Fatwas.

## Govt. zero-tolerance policy against culprits involved in power theft: Secretary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Secretary for Power Division, Rashid Mahmood Langrial Thursday warned that the ministry was adhering to a zero-tolerance policy against electricity theft, and defaulters, and no pressure from the elite class will be accepted during the crackdown against culprits involved. Talking to a private news channel, he said that the crackdown will con-

tinue against the elements involved in electricity theft with the cooperation of the relevant federal and provincial departments. Electricity prices will not reduce unless theft comes to an end and bills are fully paid," he added. He further mentioned that reshuffling of staff was undertaken to break the collusion networks, adding, we are readjusting the strategies of crackdowns.

## PM condoles death of renowned lawyer S.M. Zafar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday expressed grief over the death of renowned lawyer and former Senator Syed Muhammad Zafar.

The prime minister prayed for the departed soul to rest in peace and for the grant of patience to the bereaved family.

S.M. Zafar passed away in Lahore on Thursday after a prolonged illness. He was 93.

## Wasi expresses displeasure for malfunctioning screen at TIC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister of State for Tourism Syed Wasi Shah here on Thursday expressed strong displeasure with the current arrangements at New Islamabad International Airport for tourists and took notice of a malfunctioning screen at the Tourist Information Center (TIC) at the airport.

In a surprise visit to the New Islamabad International Airport, the minister directed the authorities concerned to improve the arrangements and facilitate the foreign tourists in large interest.

He promptly issued directives to replace the malfunctioning screen within two days to ensure a seamless tourist information experience. The minister was also briefed on the performance and services being provided by the

Tourist Information Center (TIC) at the airport and apprised that the center was established to provide tourists with comprehensive and accurate information about their destination.

On the occasion, Wasi Shah highlighted the growing significance of Gwadar as a tourist destination that attracts visitors from across the country and the world.

He emphasized that a state-of-the-art and modern Tourist Information Center (TIC) will be established at New Gwadar International Airport and the center would play a pivotal role in promoting tourism globally.

He made it clear that he will not tolerate any incompetence within his ministry by underscoring the commitment to improving the tourism experience for all.

## Saudi Arabia donates dates to PBM for distribution among needy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) Relief has donated five tons of dates to Pakistan Baitul Mal (PBM) for distribution among the needy in a ceremony at Pakistan Baitul Mal's Women Empowerment Display Center in F-9 Park, Islamabad.

At this event, notable figures in attendance were Managing Director Pakistan Baitul Mal, Amir Fida Paracha, Official Engineer Tarad Al Mehjal from KSA Relief and Abdullah, Head of Distribution at KSA Relief.

Amir Fida Paracha, MD Pakistan Baitul-Mal, during his speech at the ceremony emphasized that their organization consistently placed a high priority on collaborating with international and regional

entities to advance humanitarian efforts across a wide spectrum of social security areas.

He mentioned that Saudi Arabia has consistently supported Pakistan during challenging times, extending cooperation to the country across various domains, including investments, trade, and humanitarian initiatives. This steadfast partnership holds immense value for the people of Pakistan.

As is the tradition every year, the generous gift of five tons of dates from KSA Relief to the people of Pakistan serves as a testament to the enduring friendship between the two countries. Pakistan Baitul Mal takes immense pride in the trust bestowed by KSA Relief.

## Call to promote skill education to empower rural women

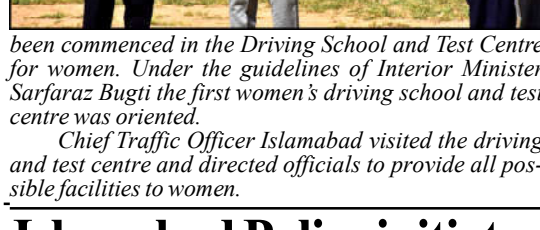
ISLAMABAD (APP): Sadaf Ali, a woman entrepreneur, on Thursday, called for focusing special attention on rural women's education through skill development and training to ensure their well-being. A variety of approaches, including technical and vocational training, literacy, and numeracy training, are needed to address the various challenges rural women face, said Sadaf while talking to PTV News.

She went on to say that rural women play a crucial role in shaping our societies and economies. It is imperative that we not only recognize their pivotal contributions but also take concrete steps to secure their future. Sadaf emphasized providing rural women with access to essential facilities, such as healthcare, which are vital for their empowerment and the progress of rural communities.

## Driving test started at women driving school and test center at H-11

ISLAMABAD (APP): In compliance with the instructions of ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, driving tests have now commenced in the Driving School and Test Centre for women. Under the guidelines of Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti the first women's driving school and test centre was oriented.

Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad visited the driving and test centre and directed officials to provide all possible facilities to women.



## Islamabad Police initiates stringent measures against motorcyclists

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police initiated rigorous measures against motorcyclists exceeding the speed limit and generating excessive noise within the federal capital. According to a spokesman, he said that the initiative was aimed at reducing traffic accidents and minimizing noise pollution in the city which was created by the motorcyclists.

In this regard, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified their efforts to curb the dangerous practices of over speeding and

reckless motorcycle riding and legal actions are being taken to mitigate the noise pollution caused by motorcycle riders. ICCPO DR Akbar Nasir Khan said that riding motorcycles at high speeds and in a dangerous manner in residential areas and thoroughfares is a leading cause of accidents. Motorcycles generating excessive noise are a source of discomfort and noise pollution for the residents, especially for the local community, elderly citizens, and patients, which is legally considered a crime.

## Universities urged to advance research on dream analysis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Clinical psychologist Professor Dr. Asghar Ali Shah has urged the universities to advance research on dream analysis as it would be significant progress in psychology and mental health treatment.

Talking to APP here on Thursday, Dr. Asghar explained that dreams can provide valuable insights for addressing psychological issues.

He noted that patients often find it easier to share dreams with therapists rather than actual events.

He said that therapists can then more easily identify issues based on dream symbols and meanings. "Dream analysis allows patients to open up about inner thoughts freely, without guilt," he added.

He highlighted the long history of studying dreams, noting Muslim scholar Ibn Sirin's work on dream interpretation in the 7<sup>th</sup> century and later Sigmund Freud's identification of dreams as representing the fulfillment of repressed wishes.

Dr. Asghar stressed the need for clinical psychologists to develop advanced skills in interpreting dreams and their symbols. He stated this expertise could greatly assist psychological therapy.

Universities have a key role to play in advancing research methodologies for analyzing dream content, Dr. Asghar said adding that multidisciplinary research engaging scholars of psychology.

## Khalil George commends Child Protection Initiatives during Punjab Bureau visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George Thursday visited the Punjab Child Protection and Welfare Bureau and commended their efforts to support children's welfare.

Chairperson Child Protection Bureau Dr Sara Ahmed briefed the minister about the measures taken for children's welfare.

She mentioned that the Child Protection and Welfare Bureau provides shelter and care to children who are orphaned, abandoned, or neglected within the province.

Sarah Ahmed mentioned that the bureau places special emphasis on their education and training, with the children receiving instruction in various skills during their stay.

She stated that the bureau ensures that even beggar children living there receive attention to their education, health, and other essential requirements, with the goal of fostering their skills and preparing them to become productive citizens.

Caretaker Minister Khalil George commended the Punjab Government's efforts in child welfare. He emphasized the importance of raising public awareness about such welfare organizations and pledged full federal-level support.

## Senior artist Masood A Khan cuts the ribbon along with other artists to inaugurate painting exhibition

ISLAMABAD: Senior artist Masood A Khan cuts the ribbon along with other artists to inaugurate painting exhibition entitled "Safer - Journey of the Mavericks" Organized by Nomad Art Gallery at Pakistan National Council of Arts in Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Girls Activists of Muslim Tulba Mahaz holds placards and Palestinian flags during protest rally from Aabpara Chowk to United Nations Office for showing solidarity with the oppressed Muslims of the Palestine and to shake the dead consciousness of Muslims Ummah.



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

Friday October 20, 2023

**Israeli barbarism**

It is difficult to put into words the outrage one feels when looking at the broken, lifeless bodies of Palestinian men, women, and especially children — all victims of Israel's latest murderous assault on Gaza.

If any other country had been guilty of committing these atrocities, the international community, particularly the self-professed guardians of the rules-based Western order, would have been calling for harsh accountability. But not so for Israel, for whom the rules are always put aside by its benefactors.

While the people of Gaza have been enduring hell on earth ever since the events of Oct 7, Tuesday's air strike targeting the Al Ahli Hospital marks a new low in this uneven, brutal conflict. This monstrous crime, in which at least 500 people were reportedly killed, has Israel's footprints all over it, even though Tel Aviv has denied responsibility.

Instead, Israel blames the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, saying the armed group misfired a missile that hit the health facility. The outfit says the accusations are "baseless".

While facts are often obscured in the fog of war, it should be remembered that the Israeli military is well-versed in the art of obfuscation, and that Tel Aviv has a rich history of carrying out massacres of Palestinian civilians, from 1948 onwards.

No one, except for its ardent supporters, is likely to believe Israel's denial of responsibility, since its hands have been covered in the blood of Palestinian non-combatants for decades now. In the most recent hostilities, over 3,300 have been murdered by Israel, including 1,000 children. Were these 1,000 minors all Hamas operatives?

What is just as reprehensible as Israel's unrestrained barbarity is the Western hypocrisy in this conflict. Many Western leaders have made a beeline for Tel Aviv in solidarity with the murderous regime, the latest amongst them Joe Biden.

While offering lukewarm condolences over the hospital outrage, Mr Biden warmly embraced the Israeli prime minister while observing that the "other team" was likely responsible for this odious crime. Gloating over his high-profile visitor's presence, Benjamin Netanyahu termed the conflict a struggle "between the forces of civilisation ... and barbarism". Certainly, Tel Aviv's brutal behaviour over the decades, and today, qualifies as barbaric.

It is highly unlikely the West will muzzle Israel. And the Muslim world must take a stand that goes beyond rhetoric, and stops the slaughter in Palestine.

During an OIC meeting in Jeddah on Wednesday, the Iranian foreign minister proposed an oil embargo and sanctions on Israel, as well as called on Muslim states with relations with Tel Aviv to break these off.

There are echoes here of the 'oil weapon' deployed by Arab states during the 1973 Middle East conflict. Certainly, these measures should be considered in solidarity with Palestine's battered population.

**Ali Tauqeer Sheikh**

The global landscape for international climate finance has in recent years undergone a transformational change. Fundamentally, it has moved away from grants to lending and investments. It has become overly complex, complicated, and competitive for Pakistan's lethargic policymaking processes.

The present government machinery is constrained when it comes to optimally accessing and exploiting opportunities without first clearly understanding the nature of available finances, their intended purpose, and the distinct roles and responsibilities of national and provincial institutions. To do this, Pakistan will need to adopt a reform agenda that is driven by the need for climate-smart development.

It will, however, require burying some old thinking habits and shedding some myths. As Pakistan has extremely narrow fiscal space, it is imperative to diversify the sources of financial inflows. Forging partnerships with private-sector enterprises to access domestic and international climate finance has become essential, particularly since climate risks to the economy add to macroeconomic volatility.

Let's identify four myths that have restrained Pakistan's access to climate finance:

**Myth 1:** Pakistan's climate vulnerability is so high that the world community is obligated to extend a helping hand.

In reality, there is no international mechanism to support countries facing climate disasters. The 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness that had committed 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) as official development assistance has no comparable instrument in the realm of climate disasters.

Developed countries do not accept any historical responsibility to support victims of climate-in-

duced disasters and they have gradually reduced their humanitarian assistance budgets. So, portraying Pakistan as one of the most vulnerable countries will not always attract international finances. In fact, the opposite may be true: showing half the country under floodwaters can scare away potential investors.

**Myth 2:** Pakistan can invoke the 'polluter pays' principle that was adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 for accessing international finance when the Loss and Damage finance facility is operationalised.

The principle has indeed found place in several multilateral environmental agreements and has evolved as an important legal doctrine in several domestic jurisdictions. But presently, it has little to no utility in multilateral contexts.

The Paris Agreement has not accepted the principle of historical responsibility nor have Western countries agreed upon the notion of compensation under any arrangement. In any case, the size, governance structure, and eligibility criteria for accessing the proposed Loss and Damage fund are still up in

the air.

**Myth 3:** Developed countries are duty-bound to support Pakistan under the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities, also adopted at the Earth Summit.

The assumption that Pakistani policymakers brought home then was that international support would be in the form of grants. The subsequent evolution of the global climate finance architecture has all but buried the CDR principle. The DNA of climate finance has undergone profound changes. It now emphasises blending and leveraging private-sector finances.

We in Pakistan did not recognise it, but the world system began to move away from CDR even before the Kyoto Protocol came into force in 2005. The most significant step was taken by president George W. Bush in 2002 when he committed \$10 million to the World Bank for multilateral development banks to proactively develop responses to the financing needed for climate costs. This paved the way for all MDBs to jointly set up four specialised funds on

clean energy, renewable energy, forestry, and climate resilience, under the umbrella of Climate Investment Funds (CIFs).

Managed by all six MDBs, the CIFs have emerged as important instruments to test and mobilise non-grant climate finances. Collectively, the CIFs have supported investments in 72 countries, mobilising over \$12 billion by using a combination of grants, concessional finance, co-financing, and private-sector leveraging to finance their projects.

Having served as a civil society representative from Asia on its board and on its advisory group on learning and evaluation, this writer has observed firsthand how CIF projects have included co-financing from an array of public and private sources including MDBs, bilateral official agencies, international and national development banks, recipient government national and municipal budgets, and commercial and investment banks.

The CIF funds offered important learning for the MDBs' climate portfolio. In fact, the World Bank, ADB and other MDBs

now record the climate-related co-benefits of their lending. Building on the CIFs' experience, the Green Climate Fund has also used a combination of grants, concessional finance, co-financing, and private-sector leveraging to finance their projects.

**Myth 4:** A well-written grant proposal by consultants can help create perennial streams for financial flows.

About a dozen government institutions at the federal and provincial levels are vying for donor support to set up climate centres, but in an uncoordinated fashion. Working in silos will not help them create a coherent financing framework or a national climate finance strategy, complete with sectoral investment plans and specifying national/provincial roles and responsibilities.

In the present situation, the country cannot afford desperate measures. Instead, what Pakistan needs is a set of deliberated, measured steps enabling it to develop its own capacity rather than outsourcing its thinking on climate finance. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Can you build your own major?****Dr Ayesha Razzaque**

When you become aware of a problem, you can take one of two approaches: you can either take on the problem head-on or you can paper over it. In Pakistan, we tend to go with the latter.

When a government agency is not doing its job, set up another one. That is how we have ended up with the byzantine nightmare of a bureaucratic maze comprising ministries, departments, institutes, and agencies from the center to the provinces with overlapping mandates. The higher education sector is no exception to this.

Last week, the sitting caretaker federal minister of IT & Telecom, and Science & Technology tweeted that Pakistani institutions produce close to 75,000 IT graduates every year (the Pakistan IT Industry Association - P@SHA - puts the number of IT graduates at only 25,000) but less than 10 per cent are (immediately) employable. Whether this 10 per cent figure is backed by any data or is anecdotal, I do not know but it does ring true and is roughly in line with experiences one hears from employers. The purpose of education is more than getting hired for a job, but since that is all successive governments always talk about and the conversation rarely ever moves beyond that, let us stick with that for the moment.

Ten per cent employability is how the job market rates technology graduates. If the ability to find a job is the goal, then employability or the graduate employment rate after six months and associated statistics (average starting salary, etc) are what we ought to track, are the only metrics that matters and (like I have asserted on numerous occasions) that universities ought to report to convince prospective students of their programmes' quality.

Taking on this problem head-on would entail addressing the quality of undergraduate education programmes offered by universities to achieve greater success for graduates in the job market. Papering over it would entail doing anything but that, which is what has been announced. Instead, what is being planned is yet another standardized quality test that will supposedly assess graduates' employability.

I find it notable that at a time when there is increasing realization that one's fitness for work is about so much more than academic achievement and subject matter knowledge but professionalism, communication, teamwork and work ethics. That is why many employers hire for the right attitude rather than technical ability. Employability is determined by the job market and I will go so far as to say that no government bureaucracy or procedure it comes up with, least of all ours, can assess employability even remotely.

Paradoxically, the prize for those who pass, those deemed good enough to find a job on their own strength, will be placement in industry. Instead of fixing the root cause of weak four-year undergraduate programs, the government

will fund further training courses. This sounds little different from the vocational training programs National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) was conducting and subsidizing under the 'Kamyab Jawan' programme that found many takers among university graduates.

What prevents universities from delivering educational programmes leading to graduate career success? It certainly is not a lack of regulatory oversight. The Higher Education Commission (HEC) recently published version 1.1 of its policy governing undergraduate programmes. Its most important aspect is that reaffirms the end of legacy two-year BA/BSc degrees, reclassifies them as Associate bachelor's degrees, and establishes four and five-year degrees as the new standard for bachelor's degrees. This is a welcome development.

The Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) and the more recently established National Computing Education Accreditation Council (NCEAC) are together responsible for standard setting and accreditation of most technology

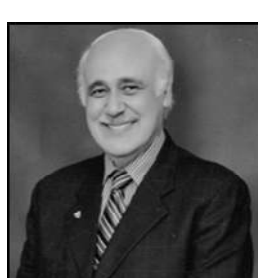
programs - the former for all manner of engineering and the latter for computer science (and allied) programmes. In an effort to earn more accreditation badges (eg, the Washington Accord, ACM) over the last few years, there has been significant growth in the number of constraints on these programmes. The effect this has had is to reduce the degrees of freedom universities have in designing their programmes. This is quite obvious in the NCEAC's 2023 curriculum requirements document, which goes on to list quite detailed structures of no less than 10 different programmes.

Clearly, our direction of travel has been towards greater involvement of regulators and lesser freedom for universities to decide what they want to teach. This is how even the most well-meaning attempts at innovation are arrested. One might argue that the regulator providing some "model program structures" could be useful for universities that lack the ability to create their own. To that I ask, is a university that is unable to develop its own curriculum worthy of its title?

Many universities have added schools of Individual Studies or similarly named schools or colleges that offer build-your-own-majors. Ng reports that between 2019 and 2021, individualized majors in the US grew by 3.0 per cent nationwide. The University of Texas at Austin saw a 41 per cent increase year-over-year in individualized majors in 2020-21.

The build-your-own-major movement hands the reins of power and responsibility of which courses to study from the university/regulator to the student. Building one's own major will not be the right choice for every student.

A carelessly or hastily designed major can handicap a student's prospects in the job market. That is why this path is only recommended for students whose interests are interdisciplinary, have a sense of what they want to do and are confident in their understanding of future trends. However, our regulations are not only decades away from allowing students such a degree of freedom but are, in fact, moving further away from it. -- Courtesy TheNews

**Abraham's seed****F.S. Aijazuddin**

Sabbath caught Israel again off guard.

It should not have. Over the past five years alone, Israel has invested over \$80bn on its military defence. It must be galling, therefore, for the Israeli defence ministry to discover that 5,000 Hamas rockets could penetrate its expensive security shield with such precision.

In May 1987, an audacious German teenager, Matthias Rust, flew his Cessna aircraft from Helsinki and landed in Moscow's Red Square. The Soviet defence minister Sokolov and other top officials were forced to resign. The Israeli defence minister Yoav Gallant has no intention of going anywhere, except into the Gaza Strip, with a vengeance.

Netanyahu has told the residents of the Gaza Strip to leave before they are bombed into non-existence. It is a cruel warning, as callous as if the Nazis had called on the Jews living in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1940 to find alternative accommodation. The final death toll in that ghetto was estimated to be "300,000 killed by bullet or gas, combined with 92,000 victims of starvation and related diseases".

The two million trapped in the Gaza Strip have nowhere to go. Their exodus is not through a Red Sea parted by Moses. It has to be through once Pharaonic Egypt, or the Mediterranean patrolled by two US aircraft carriers, or into oblivion. The US, the UK and some European countries have learnt to Israel's defence. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken went overboard in Tel Aviv by declaring in Netanyahu's presence "I am a Jew". It was more than J.F. Kennedy's symbolic assertion: "Ich bin ein Berliner", and far beyond what Henry Kissinger would have admitted. Kissinger sublimated his Jewishness throughout his tightrope negotiations between the Arabs and Israel.

Russia has grown from its lair, warning the West that it too has interests in the area. The Iranian foreign minister has cautioned Israel that "violence could spread to other parts of the Middle East". The Iranians and the Saudis are holding talks "to prevent a broader surge in violence across the region". Interestingly, China has remained relatively silent. Is it waiting for the situation to deteriorate until its intervention as a peacemaker becomes inevitable? For once, public demonstrations in world capitals have supported the Palestinians that go beyond the token keffiyeh. The slogan 'Jesus Charlie' chanted in Paris has been replaced by 'Je suis Palestinien[ne]'.

Meanwhile, an Armageddon waits in the wings.

Some who spot a comedy in every tragedy will have a field day on the predicament of Scotland's First Minister Humza Yousaf. His mother-in-law is trapped in Gaza, unable to escape. Forty years ago, the British cricketer Ian Botham remarked caustically that Pakistan was "the kind of place to send your mother-in-law for a month, all expenses paid". Humza Yousaf must wish his mother-in-law had chosen anywhere — even Pakistan — for her foreign trip.

Those who have a reverence for God in whichever form will recall the Bhagavad Gita's opening verses. In them, Arjuna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra expresses despair at seeing his kinsmen mixed with friends and honoured elders: "Some this side, some that side ranged; and, seeing those opposed, such kith grown enemies [...] If we slay kinsfolk and friends for love of earthly power, Ahovai! What an evil fault it were!" Is the Gaza Strip to become a Semitic Kurukshetra, a battleground-turned-graveyard for the warring seed of Abraham? -- Courtesy Dawn

**Illegal Israeli attack on hospital in Gaza: a violation of human rights**

By Samiullah

In recent years, the Israel-Palestine conflict has seen numerous escalations, resulting in the loss of countless lives and extensive damage to infrastructure. One of the most disturbing incidents in this ongoing conflict was the illegal Israeli attack on a hospital in Gaza, highlighting the urgent need for international intervention to protect the most vulnerable in this conflict. This article delves into the importance of upholding the rules of war and peace, emphasizing the responsibility of powerful nations and international organizations like the United Nations to ensure justice and peace in the region.

The Inhuman Act: Targeting Hospitals:

War, even when waged between states with longstanding conflicts, is subject to rules and conventions. The fundamental principle of international humanitarian law is to protect civilians, including the wounded, children, and the elderly. Hospitals are meant to be safe havens in times of conflict, places where the injured can receive medical care without fear of attack. Yet, the attack on a hospital in Gaza violated these principles and shocked the international community.

The Impact of the Attack:

The attack on a hospital in Gaza resulted in devastating consequences. Innocent civilians, including children, the wounded, and the elderly, were directly affected by this violation of international law. Lives were lost, and the wounded faced dire circumstances with limited access to medical care. Moreover, such actions further perpetuate the cycle of violence in the region, making it even more challenging to reach a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

International Responsibility:

The United Nations and powerful nations have a critical role to play in addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict. The concept of "the enemy of my enemy is my friend" has been a notion in international relations for centuries. In this context, it should translate into a commitment to safeguard the rights and safety of the most vulnerable. Powerful nations should exert diplomatic pressure on the conflicting parties to respect the rules of war and peace.

Thucydides' Insights: Rules of War and Peace

The ancient Greek historian Thucydides, in his masterpiece "History of the Peloponnesian War,"

emphasized the importance of rules in war and peace. He argued that upholding these rules is not a sign of weakness but an essential aspect of the international order. The attack on a hospital in Gaza stands as a stark violation of these principles and underscores the necessity of enforcing them.

To sum up: The illegal Israeli attack on a hospital in Gaza is a grim reminder of the tragic consequences that the Israel-Palestine conflict continues to inflict on innocent lives. It is imperative for the international community to unite in its efforts to promote peace, protect the most vulnerable, and ensure that the rules of war and peace are upheld. As Thucydides noted, these principles are not a sign of weakness but a cornerstone of a just and humane world order. It is high time for the United Nations and powerful nations to take proactive measures to end the suffering and work towards a lasting solution in the region.

The author, Mr. Samiullah has done M.Sc International Relations from Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad and is a Law graduate, he is currently serving as Public Relations Officer to Minister Information and Public Relations Balochistan.



## CJ PHC issues warning against corruption, vows strict action

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court, Justice Mohammad Ibrahim Khan Tuesday administered the oath to the newly elected cabinet of the High Court Bar Association Bannu.

The newly elected cabinet of the High Court Bar included President Muhammad Naem Khan Sadozai, General Secretary Peer Inamullah Shah, and cabinet members who participated in the swearing-in ceremony.

The swearing-in ceremony witnessed the presence of distinguished

judges like Justice Fazal Subhan and Justice Khurshid Iqbal, along with prominent officials like Commissioner Bannu Division Parvez Sabot Khel, Regional Police Officer Qasim Ali Khan, Deputy Commissioner Bannu Muhammad Nawaz, and District Police Officer Iftikhar Shah.

Justice Ibrahim Khan, while addressing the gathering, emphasized the need for the courts to proactively combat corruption within their ranks.

He issued a stern warning that if the courts

do not take necessary measures against corruption, they might face dismissal notices.

The chief justice stressed that judges should demonstrate their commitment to delivering justice through their actions and highlighted the importance of treating government officials and officers with respect and humility.

Peshawar High Court is set to modernize its facilities with the introduction of digital libraries and IT infrastructure, following the example of the

Mangora District Judiciary.

He announced the establishment of a Camp Court for the Service Tribunal in Bannu, aiming to improve access to justice in the region.

He said that the judicial complex in Bannu would undergo maintenance and restoration work to enhance its functionality.

In his closing remarks during the swearing-in ceremony, Ibrahim Khan made it clear that any form of misbehavior would not be tolerated in the district courts.



**PESHAWAR:** Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali presiding over a meeting with officials of Sui Gas regarding provision of gas to district Peshawar. Mayor Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali is also present.



**GUJAR KHAN:** Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaz Ashraf addressing the Public Gathering after Inaugurating Solar Energy System at Gujran Khan Bar Association.

## Feroze Jamal reviews reduction in transport fares in Peshawar

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: In an effort to assess the effective implementation of reduced transport fares in light of declining oil prices across the country, Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa's Caretaker Minister for Information and Public Relations, Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel visited two transportation hubs: Peshawar Bus Terminal and Haji Camp Bus Stand.

During this visit, Minister Kakakhel engaged with passengers, preparing for their journeys to different districts and cities at various terminals, keenly inquiring about the realized reductions in transport fares.

Furthermore, he inquired from drivers and conductors regarding government-regulated fares.

The Commissioner of Peshawar Division, Muhammad Zubair, and Deputy Commissioner of Peshawar, Afaq Wazir joined the minister along with officials from the Regional Transport

Authority during the visit. Minister Kakakhel expressed his gratification upon receiving general positive feedback from the public concerning the fare reductions. He was made aware of this by some passengers that the fare reductions were enforced at terminal points, but similar reductions were not yet reflected at other stops. In response, the caretaker minister issued directives to transport authorities to rigorously monitor fare compliance across all locations.

Addressing the media during this occasion, Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel, the Caretaker Minister of Information and Public Relations emphasized the ongoing monitoring of the situation following the drop in oil prices. He stressed that his visit is part of a continuous effort to ensure that the benefits of this price reductions are extended to the people. In addition to this, the prices of essential commodities are under strict observation, he said.

## Man dies, 16 students injured in road mishap

**SWAT (APP):** A man was killed and sixteen school children injured when a school van collided with a car on Matta Bypass Road here on Thursday.

According to officials of Rescue 1122, the incident took place when a private school van, carrying children back to homes, collided head-on with a car. As a result, a man sitting in the car was badly injured and taken to Matta Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

Sixteen children who sustained injuries in the mishap were provided treatment at the hospital.

## District admin takes action on price control

**ABBOTTABAD (APP):** The Additional Assistant Commissioner Abbottabad Ali Sher Khan Khalil Thursday has initiated a series of actions aimed at ensuring price control and consumer protection in the region. This move is part of the ongoing efforts to regulate prices and maintain fairness in the local market.

The inspection focused on fruit and vegetable shops in the Fawarah Chowk area, where Ali Sher Khan Khalil interacted with shopkeepers and provided them with directives regarding adherence to the approved price list. He also engaged with the public during these interactions.

## Role of Rescue 1122 appreciated in tackling emergencies

**DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP):** District Emergency Officer of Rescue Service 1122 Awais Babar on Thursday said that the emergency Rescue Service 1122 was fully equipped with all equipment and was playing an effective role in saving human lives by responding promptly during emergency situations.

He expressed these views during a visit to Rescue Station 11 and 33 city and inspected arrangements for tackling emergencies. During the visit, he was briefed about matters pertaining to ongoing rescue activities and checked the attendance of staff.

## Governor Sindh launches public welfare initiative

**KARACHI (APP):** Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori on Thursday launched WhatsApp based application for redressal of grievances relating to electricity, water, drainage, police and other departments. The general public can scan QR Code while sitting at their home and, enter their CNIC and lodge complaints.

The Governor Sindh inaugurated this

application which would initially address complaints against 9 government entities. He said that this QR Code would be displayed at major shopping centres, Airport, Railway Stations, main roads and other prominent places. The Governor Sindh further said that he would continue to endeavor for mitigating the sufferings of common man.



**PESHAWAR:** Muslim League (PML-N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa President, Engineer Amir Maqam addresses to media persons during press conference held at Peshawar press club.

## Delegation of Sikh pilgrims calls on CM Naqvi

**LAHORE:** A delegation of Sikh pilgrims coming from America and other countries met with Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at CM office here on Thursday.

The Sikh pilgrims thanked CM Mohsin Naqvi on looking after religious places of the Sikh community at Lahore, Nankana Sahib, Hassan Abdal and Kartarpur.

The CM while taking to the delegation of Sikh pilgrims said, "We are trying to provide visa on arrival to the Sikh pilgrims on arriving to Pakistan. I have talked with the federal government in this regard and will give you good news soon." A community centre will be established for the Sikh community at Nankana Sahib, he added.

He said, "We are introducing a special tours package in Punjab for the Sikh pilgrims," adding that Tourism department is giving a final shape to this package in this regard. He

said that the Sikh pilgrims can avail online booking of this package. "I am pleased that youths are also part of the delegation of Sikh pilgrims, he said and added that Sikh pilgrims will be fully taken care and will be provided great hospitality.

The CM said that Sikh pilgrims can come to Pakistan whenever they feel like and will not face any sort of difficulty or problem. The water of the Janam Asthan of Baba Guru Nanak at Nankana Sahib will be given to the Sikh pilgrims after packing, he said and added that the number of days which the Sikh pilgrims stay, "we will provide them love and care".

Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman welcomed the delegation of Sikh pilgrims with the slogan "Gee Ayan Nou". He stated that executive tours are being arranged for the Sikh pilgrims in Punjab.

The Sikh pilgrims presented a traditional chadar to CM Mohsin Naqvi.



**HYDERABAD:** A view of dry beds of Indus River at Husenabad.

## USAID organizes one-day workshop on game developer youth of Malakand region

**Independent Report**  
**SWAT:** USAID's Economic Development and Rehabilitation Program organized a one-day workshop for youth from the Malakand region in Swat. The workshop was attended by more than a hundred game developer, teachers, game development and animation trainers. The objective of the workshop was to promote and encourage information technology, games development, and animation among the youth of the Malakand region and to encourage them to take up information technology, games development, and animation as a business,

said a press release here on Thursday. An awareness and networking session was organized for the students on this occasion to link the students and game developers with the large market of Pakistan.

Students from Malakand University and Swat University appreciated the efforts of USAID in organizing the program. On this occasion, USAID Program for Economic Development and Rehabilitation Chief of Party Shahid Muhammad Khan assured the academy, experts and students that we will continue to support them in small businesses, IT sector, gaming and animation so that the country,

## Naqvi for timely completion of 34 priority projects

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has directed the timely completion of 34 priority projects of public importance, emphasizing round-the-clock dedication to meet project deadlines.

He was chairing a meeting at the P&D Board on Thursday which was also attended by Provincial Minister for P&D Bilal Afzal, chief secretary, SMBR, secretaries of finance, health, P&D, housing & urban development, local government, higher education, school education, forests, fisheries & wildlife and aquaf departments, DG LDA, chairman PITB and others.

There should be no delays and all allied matters should be promptly addressed; the CM stressed and vowed to regularly visit the P&D to review progress on development projects.

A detailed review of progress on priority development projects was presented by the chairman P&D and concerned secretaries. The CM reviewed construction activities through drone footage and commended the performance of the P&D Board on the efficient monitoring system.

The CM also inspected various sections of the P&D Board, including its daycare.

Meanwhile Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid a surprise visit to Nawaz Sharif Interchange Bedian Road Underpass late-night and Akbar Chowk Flyovers projects early morning.

Provincial Minister for Information Amir Mir, IG Police and CCPO Lahore also accompanied him. CM Mohsin Naqvi reviewed progress being made about digging work of Bedian Road Underpass project and inspected ongoing development activities. Mohsin Naqvi directed that delay occurring due to rains should be overcome by deploying additional machinery and workers.

## Dera police arrested 4 drug peddlers

**DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP):** Dera police during a successful operation against criminal elements arrested four drug peddlers and recovered heroin and hashish from their possession in the limits of Paharpur and Cantt police stations here on Thursday.

According to the police spokesman, Police Station Cantt under the leadership of SDPO City Circle Muhammad Adnan along with SHO Gul Sher Khan, while taking action against drug dealers arrested Muhammad Arif son of Muhammad Rafiq resident of Bannu Adda and recovered 220 grams.

## Minister lauds launch of MCMIS

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Agriculture Minister S.M Tanvir has said that launch of Market Committees Management Information System (MCMIS) is a revolutionary step for bringing innovation in agricultural marketing system. He said this while inaugurating the MCMIS here on Thursday. The system prepared for digitalization of agricultural markets with the cooperation of the Agriculture Department and Punjab Information Technology Board.

SM Tanvir said the

annual income of Rs 2.9 billion was generated through agricultural markets in Punjab. He said that this new system would bring transparency in tax collection and end black marketing. Punjab Agriculture Secretary Nadir Chattha said, "We have to work with dedication to make this new system effective and successful." He further said that in the pilot phase of digitalization of agricultural markets, this system had been implemented in five agricultural markets and it would be gradually implemented in the markets across Punjab.



**LAHORE:** Police officials restore baton charge and arrest protesters during protest demonstration of Punjab Teachers Union against the ongoing privatization of government schools, amendments to pension regulations and the issue of leave encashment, at Lower Mall road in Lahore.

## ANF seizes 226 kg drugs in seven operations

**RAWALPINDI (APP):** Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations managed to recover 226 kg drugs and arrested five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

He informed that over 2.8 kg Ice drug concealed in a passenger's bag was recovered at Islamabad Airport. The accused, resident of Lahore, was leaving for Bahrain by flight number EK-613.

In another operation conducted in Faizabad, Rawalpindi, 135 narcotic (ecstasy) tablets were recovered from the possession of a passenger, resident of Khyber.

In third operation, 96 kg opium and over 26.4 kg hashish concealed in secret cavities of a vehicle were recovered at Motorway Toll Plaza Khanewal.

Eight ecstasy tablets were recovered from a passenger, resident of Buner, arrested at Jinnah International Airport. The accused was leaving for Sharjah by flight number GP-543. In fifth operation, 10.4 kg Ice drug was recovered from a parcel being sent to Australia.

## People caravan to start from KP on Oct 20 to welcome Nawaz Sharif

**PESHAWAR (APP):** 12,000MW electricity to the national grid and completed the IMF program in 2016 successfully, he said.

Engr Amir Muqam claimed the country was plunged in to different crisis after the disqualification of Nawaz Sharif on the charges of not taking salary from his son, adding his leader had faced all challenges with steadfastness and appeared in courts.

He said there was no obstacle in return of Nawaz Sharif after Islamabad High Court granted him a protective bill till October 24.

To a question, he said the PTI Chairman's real face had been seen by the masses after May 9 vandalism and expressed the hope that he would face court cases with steadfastness like that of Nawaz Sharif.

He claimed that not a single megawatt of electricity was added during the tenure of PTI government.

He said veteran politicians Shahgee Gul Afridi of Khyber,

governments have added

## Govt taking steps for promotion of education in tribal districts: Dr Qasim

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Caretaker Minister for Elementary, Secondary and Higher Education Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Professor Dr Mohammad Qasim Jan has said that the provincial government was taking special steps for promotion of education in the newly merged districts of the erstwhile Federal Administered Tribal Area (FATA).

He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting of the Merged Areas Education Foundation here on Thursday. Besides, Secretary, Elementary and Secondary Education, Muatasim Billah Shah, Managing Director (MD) Merged Areas Education Foundation, Abdul Karam and Deputy Managing Director (DMD), Dr Shaukat Hayat, other higher authorities of the department also attended the meeting.

The caretaker minister said that the

provincial government has allocated hefty share from its budget to increase literacy rate in the tribal districts and pass on the benefits of merger to them and redress the deprivation of their residents.

In this connection, he appreciated the role of the Foundation, which is equipping the boys and girls of these districts within its limited resources. The provincial minister directed the authorities of the Elementary and Secondary Education Department to prepare new proposals for imparting education to the girls of the merged districts along focusing on the ongoing projects of the foundation.

Professor Dr Mohammad Qasim Jan stressed the need for paying special focus on girls education in tribal districts, saying beside the resources of the provincial government, he will also approach federal government in this regard.



**HYDERABAD:** Mayor Hyderabad, Kashif Ali Shoro addresses after inaugurating the construction works of road, at Al-Fateh Town located on Qasimbabad in Hyderabad.



## PM encourages Chinese firms to explore Pakistan's vast potential

Says govt taking steps to uplift agri sector; enhance processing, exports

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday encouraged China's corporate executives to explore the vast investment potential of Pakistan.

The prime minister said this in a meeting with a number of Chinese corporate executives on the sidelines of the Third Belt and Road Forum here.

The CEOs and executives of Chinese enterprises who called on the prime minister included Minmetals,

MCC, China Communications Construction Company (CCCC), China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), COFCO, Amer International Group, China Energy, Power China and China Gezhouba Group.

The prime minister apprised the Chinese businessmen of Pakistan's initiatives for economic and financial stability.

Sharing Pakistan's vision for sustainable and inclusive development, he outlined Pakistan's investor-friendly policies;

including the establishment of Special Investment Facilitation Council, which will act as a one-window platform to facilitate foreign investment.

He encouraged the Chinese corporate executives to explore the vast investment potential of Pakistan, especially in ICT, agriculture, renewable energy, textile, digital economy and, mining and minerals sectors. Appreciating the measures taken by Pakistan to attract foreign investment, the entrepreneurs briefed the

prime minister on their business portfolios in Pakistan. They also expressed their keen interest in working with Pakistani partners to expand their business footprint in Pakistan.

Prime Minister Kakar also invited the executives of Chinese companies to Pakistan to discuss their business interests with relevant ministers. Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday said that the government was taking measures.



BEIJING: CEO China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) Wang Haihui and Chairman China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) Du Fei called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.



ISLAMABAD: SAPM/MOS on Investment, Tahir Javed meeting with Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador of Republic of Turkey in Pakistan at his office.

### Dr Mehmood says: CPEC helps to build an enabling economic environment in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Executive Director, Center for South Asia and International Studies (CSAIS) Islamabad, Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan on Thursday said the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had helped build an enabling economic environment in Pakistan as energy, education and the economy being among its key pillars.

China had invested US\$25.4 billion in direct projects in Pakistan, creating 236,000 jobs, generating 8,000 megawatts of electricity, and building 510 kilometers of highways and 886 km of the national electricity grid, said a press release issued here.

Also, about 28,000 Pakistani students were studying in China and more than 20,000 Pakistanis were learning Chinese, he said.

Dr Mehmood said that all prominent national experts were of the view

that CPEC was a blessing and guarantor of our future socio-economic prosperity and eradication of poverty. Meanwhile, talking on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Forum, he said that during his keynote speech, the Chinese president Xi covered all aspects of BRI's past achievements, present status and future priorities.

It was constructive, positive, and productive, giving the message of hope of a brighter future through international cooperation, economic globalization, openness, inclusiveness, modernization and qualitative industrialization in all the member countries and rest of the world, he said. It clearly explained the important experience in achieving the success of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and proposes China's support. It was a clear demonstration of the Chinese Geo-Economics, he said.

### Pak earns \$448 million from IT services' export during July-August 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan earned US \$448.971 million by providing different Information Technology (IT) services in various countries during the first two months of the current fiscal year 2023-24.

This shows a growth of 5.15 per cent as compared with the US \$427.000 million earned through the provision of services during the corresponding months of the last fiscal year 2022-23, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

During the months under review, the export of computer services grew by 4.65 per cent as it surged from US \$345.470 million last year to US \$361.518 million during July-August 2023.

Among the computer services, the exports of software consultancy services witnessed an

increase of 196.04 per cent, from US \$0.328 million to US \$0.971 million this year while the export of hardware consultancy services also increased by 4.60 per cent, from US \$121.733 million to US \$127.329 million.

The export of repair and maintenance services decreased by 3.74 per cent from US \$0.187 million to US \$0.180 million whereas the export and imports of computer software services witnessed an increase of 10.17 per cent, from \$96.529 million to \$106.350 million.

Meanwhile, the export of information services during the months under review dipped by 27.94 per cent from US \$0.680 million to US \$0.490 million.

Among the information services, the exports of information-related services decreased

### Shipping Activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Two ships namely, Maersk Jabal and Cap Andreas, carrying Containers, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal on Wednesday.

Meanwhile six more ships, MSC Jemima, Ardmore Chippewa, Asia Inspire, Nord Adriatic, Abram Schulte and Kanha carrying Containers, Palm oil, Coal and LPG also arrived at outer anchorage of the port on same day.

Nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them five ships, Maersk Sentosa, Cap Andreas, Al-Deebal, Gambella and African Parrotlet the port on during the report period, while four more ships, Sea Treasure, Xin An Ping, Chem Harvest and Maersk Jabal are expected to sail on Thursday.

A cargo volume of 110,622 tonnes, comprising 52,187 tonnes imports cargo and 58,435 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 1,492 Containers (327 TEUs Imports and 1,165 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

### Telenor solidifies resolve towards customers with Customer Day 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): Telenor Pakistan has successfully completed its annual Customer Day through extensive on-ground outreach into local communities and neighbourhoods across the country.

Valuable feedback from customers was gathered through market visits and surveys, and will be used for continuous improvement and innovation initiatives, said a news release issued here on Thursday.

Chief Executive Officer, Telenor Pakistan, Khurram Ashfaq, highlighting the essence of this day, said, "At Telenor Pakistan, our mission is to enrich the lives of our customers through the nationwide 4G network, and innovative approach to technology.

### Dr. Saif lauds Huawei's presence at GITEX 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Dr. Umar Saif along with delegation had visited the Huawei pavilion at GITEX 2023.

The delegation included the Federal Secretary for IT & Telecom, Hassan Nasir Jamy, Ambassador of Pakistan to the UAE, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, and Member IT, Junaid Imam, said a news release issued here on Thursday.

Dr. Saif was shown the latest technology and cutting-edge trends in innovative ICT infrastructure, cybersecurity and privacy protection and the Huawei Cloud which is leading the

creation of infrastructure as a service for global accessibility.

The minister was keen on the latest CERT product and OIC CERT operations globally as well as Pakistan.

Dr. Saif dove swiftly into a discussion on digitization with members of the Huawei team, David Shi, President EBG Middle East, Frank Dai, President of Huawei Cloud Middle East, Ethan Sun, CEO Huawei Pakistan and Ahmed Bilal Masood, Deputy CEO, Huawei Pakistan.

Huawei Pakistan has participated in numerous initiatives over the past quarter century.



BEIJING: A delegation of China Oil and Foodstuffs Corporation (COFCO) led by President Luan Riheng called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq.

### PM Kakar says Tourism, infrastructural development vital to make Pak transitional economy

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday said that the promotion of tourism and the development of road and rail infrastructure were inevitable to make Pakistan a transitional economy.

The prime minister said this in a meeting with CEO of China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) Wang Haihui and Chairman of China Road and Bridge Corporation

(CRBC). The heads of the Chinese firms apprised the prime minister of the ongoing projects of CCCC and CRBC under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor. They expressed their keen interest to enhance their investment in the development of infrastructure, renewable energy, and other sectors.

The prime minister appreciated the Chinese companies' projects as well as their interest to enhance their investment.



President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce Fawad Ishaq presenting award to Senior Vice President Pakistan Business Forum on best performance.

### Need urged for implementing fiscal, structural reforms to achieve sustainable growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Hitech Hybrid Rice Association (PHRSA) Shahzad Ali Malik Thursday urged the need for implementing sustained macro-fiscal and structural reforms, improving competitiveness, productivity and diversifying its agricultural exports to achieve sustainable economic growth and development.

Talking to a delegation of progressive farmers, he said Pakistan had huge potential to increase its exports of rice, sugarcane, and cotton products by diversifying its markets, enhancing its quality standards, branding its products, and complying with international trade

regulations and requirements. For example, Pakistan can tap into the lucrative markets of China, Turkey, Qatar, Kenya, Afghanistan, UAE, and Saudi Arabia for its rice exports by offering different varieties meeting their quality specifications and ensuring timely delivery, said a press release issued here.

He said similarly, that Pakistan could increase its exports of sugar by improving its milling efficiency, reducing its cost of production, and exploring new markets in Africa and Asia.

Moreover, Pakistan can also boost its exports of cotton products by upgrading its textile industry.

### Exports increase by 25.54% to over Rs 2 trillion in Q1

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exports from the country in the rupee term witnessed an increase of 25.54 percent during the first quarter (Q1) of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

Exports during July-September (2023-24) were recorded at Rs.2,013,533 million as against Rs.1,603,869 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 25.54 percent, according to provisional data released by PBS.

On a year-on-year basis, the exports during

September 2023 increased by 31.27 percent and were recorded at Rs. 737,295 million compared to the exports of Rs.561,643 million in September 2022.

On a month-on-month basis, the exports increased by 6.06 percent when compared to the exports of Rs. 695,136 million in August 2023.

The main commodities of exports during August 2023 were commodities of exports during September, 2023 were knitwear (Rs. 103,029 million), readymade garments (Rs. 74,608 million), bed wear (Rs. 69,234 million), cotton cloth (Rs. 51,891 million), oil seeds, nuts and kernels (Rs.46,571 million), cotton

yarn (Rs.33,815 million), rice others (Rs.32,324 million), towels (Rs.25,116 million), rice basmati (Rs.19,008 million) and madeup articles excluding towels and bedwear (Rs.16,922 million).

On the other hand, imports during July-September (2023 FY2023-24) totaled Rs. 3,560,763 million as against Rs. 3,650,269 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing a decrease of 2.45%.

On a year-on-year basis, imports into Pakistan during September 2023 amounted to Rs.1,189,167 million as against Rs.1,219,956 million in September 2022.

### Gold rates dip by Rs.200 to Rs.206,300 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.200 and was sold at Rs. 206,300 on Thursday compared to its sale at Rs.206,500 the previous day of trading.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.171 to Rs.1,76,869 from Rs. 1,77,040 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.162,130 from Rs. 162,287, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.2,550 and Rs.2,186.21 respectively.

### Chairman FBR holds E-Kachehri

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana held an E-Kachehri at FBR (HQ) on Thursday as part of FBR's drive to facilitate taxpayers in tax compliance and to address their tax-related concerns.

During the occasion, Chairman FBR directly received telephone calls from taxpayers and listened to their issues. The Chairman issued on-spot directions to relevant offices to resolve the problems of the taxpayers at the earliest, said a news release here.

Amjed Zubair also encouraged the taxpayers to visit their nearest Regional

Tax Office and Collectorate of Customs for speedy resolution of their concerns pertaining to filing of tax returns.

He apprised that Field Formations have already been given instructions for maximum facilitation of taxpayers.

The Chairman FBR also appreciated the suggestions given by taxpayers and assured them that their valued input would be duly considered during the formulation of tax policies and initiatives for taxpayers' facilitation.

He reaffirmed that FBR was making all-out efforts to facilitate the taxpayers.



MADRID: A high level delegation of FPCCI led by Regional Chairman Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi in a group photo during visit of Spanish Chamber of Commerce.

### FF Steel granted status of Public Ltd. Company

PESHAWAR (APP): FF Steel (Frontier Foundry Steel (Pvt) Ltd), the largest unlisted steel manufacturing company in Pakistan has achieved a major corporate milestone of conversion into a Public Limited Company, said a press release here on Thursday.

FF Steel has consistently maintained its esteemed reputation within the steel industry, primarily recognized for its production of high-quality steel bars and ensuring the utmost customer satisfaction.

This strategic shift has been undertaken with the ultimate aim of securing a listing on the Pakistan Stock Exchange.

This milestone marks a pivotal moment in FF Steel's commitment to growth and is a reflection of the company's desire to expand its horizons, attract new investors, and contribute to the economic development of KPK and Pakistan as a whole.

This bold move comes at a time when listing at PSX has been hit by an impasse over the last few years owing to the macroeconomic woes of the country and is a testament to company's resilience and growth spanning over many decades. It is also interesting to note that this would be the first listing from a KPK.

### Bulls rule PSX as index crosses 50,000 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Thursday gained 933.67 points, a positive change of 1.89 per cent, closing at 50,365.15 points against 49,431.48 points the previous day.

A total of 427,476,593 shares valuing Rs14,593 billion were traded during the day as compared to 332,606,956 shares valuing Rs. 8,824 billion the previous day.

As many as 361 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 255 of them recorded gains and 94 sustained losses, whereas the share price of

12 companies remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Ltd with 83,163,817 shares at Rs 3.37 per share, Pak Refinery with 37,666,822 shares at Rs 17.67 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 25,884,545 shares at Rs 1.28 per share.

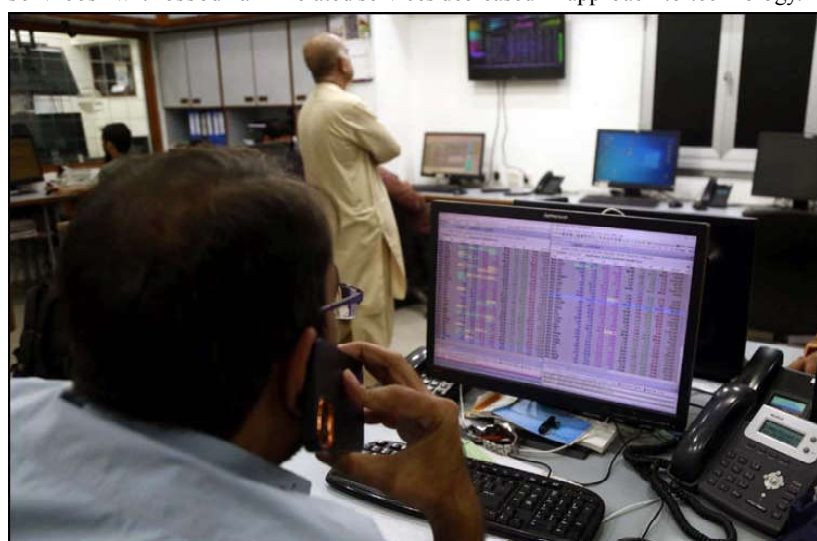
Unilever Foods witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 750.00 per share price, closing at Rs 22,000.00, whereas the runner-up was Nestle Pakistan with a Rs 90.00 rise in its per share price to Rs 7,390.00.

Rathan Maize witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 390.00 per share closing.

### PCGA demands govt to start purchase of cotton bales through TCP

MULTAN (APP): Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) has demanded the government to start procurement of one million cotton bales through the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) as soon as possible to avert farmers and ginners from economic loss. PCGA Chairman Chaudhary Waheed Arshad, Vice Chairman Rana Waseem Hanif, former Chairman Haji Muhammad Akram, Sohail Mehmood Haral and others

while addressing a press conference, said that the prices of cotton lint, seed cotton, cotton seed oil cake and cottonseed have reached the lowest level of the season. They said that the ginners have purchased the cotton affected from seasonal changes and rains at better rates and now the government should procure cotton lint by consulting with PCGA. They further said that the cotton growers had made the government's maximum cotton.



KARACHI: Brokers are busy in trading at Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi.



## No place is safe in Gaza after Israel targets areas where civilians seek refuge, Palestinians say

**Monitoring Desk**  
DEIR al-BALAH: Even the "safe zones" of Gaza aren't safe for Palestinians.

Intense Israeli strikes Tuesday destroyed homes, hit a U.N. school sheltering the displaced and killed dozens of people in south and central Gaza.

"The situation is very, very difficult with artillery shelling and aerial bombardment on homes and defenseless people," said Abu Hashem Abu al-Hussein, who initially welcomed displaced families into his home in Khan Younis, but then fled to a U.N. school, where he hoped to find safety himself.

Israel had told Palestinians over the weekend to evacuate northern Gaza and Gaza City in advance of an expected ground invasion of the territory following an

attack by Hamas militants last week that killed at least 1,400 Israelis.

An estimated 600,000 people complied, packing what belongings they could and rushing to the south, where they squeezed into overcrowded U.N. shelters, hospitals, and homes in the approximately 14-kilometer (8-mile) long area south of the evacuation zone.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Hamas on Tuesday of preventing people from "getting out of harm's way," and he again urged Palestinians to head "south to safe zones."

For some on Tuesday, there was no safety to be had there.

After midnight Tuesday morning, an explosion shattered Moataz al-Zre'e's windows. He

rushed outside to find his neighbor Ibrahim's entire home had been razed. The house next door was damaged also. At least 12 people from two families were killed, including three people from a family displaced from Gaza City.

"There was no (Israeli) warning," he said. Al-Zre'e's sister was gravely wounded and five of his paternal cousins were also injured following the attack. "Most of the killed were women and children."

Stunned residents took stock of the damage from another strike in Khan Younis. Samiha Zoarab looked around at the destruction in shock, as children rummaged through piles of rubble around the destroyed home, which lies amid a dense cluster of buildings.



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz shakes hands with Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi in Cairo.

## China is building up its nuclear weapons arsenal faster than previous projections, a US report says

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: A Pentagon report on China's military power says Beijing is exceeding previous projections of how quickly it is building up its nuclear weapons arsenal and is "almost certainly" learning lessons from Russia's war in Ukraine about what a conflict over Taiwan might look like.

The report released Thursday also warns that China may be pursuing a new intercontinental missile system using conventional arms that, if fielded, would allow Beijing "to threaten conventional strikes against targets in the continental United States, Hawaii and Alaska."

The China report comes a month before an expected meeting between Chinese leader Xi Jinping and President Joe Biden on the sidelines of next month's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco.

## Trinidad asks Canada to help stem worsening Caribbean violence

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Keith Rowley urged Canada on Thursday to help Caribbean countries reinforce their security by helping with coastal patrols as the region deals with worsening gun violence.

Rowley spoke at a summit in Ottawa where leaders from Canada and Caribbean bloc Caribbean nations are expected to discuss climate change, economic development, migration, security and the conflict in Haiti.

"We have a worsening violent crime situation," said Rowley. "We are regarding it as a public health issue. There are few diseases killing as many in Caribbean as arms and ammunition."

Rowley told a security session attended by his Canadian counterpart Justin Trudeau that more cooperation between Canada

and Caricom would be beneficial, and specified the need for better coastal patrols.

"It may very well be that in conversation with your people, we might be able to find some assistance in that," he said.

Rowley described an "explosion" in the use of illegal firearms, including assault rifles, contributing to the violent killings of around 50 people per day around the region.

Rowley said he had stressed the ease with which U.S.-made firearms are entering the Caribbean with U.S. representatives, and urged Canada to help by assisting with access to small coastal patrol crafts, cyber-security and police training. Trudeau pledged training for police in Haiti as they battle armed gangs estimated to control large parts of the country, as well as funding for equipment and vaccines.

## Egypt rejects any displacement of Palestinians into Sinai, says Sisi

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi said on Wednesday that Egyptians would reject the forced displacement of millions of Palestinians into Sinai, adding that any such move would turn the peninsula into a base for attacks against Israel.

The Gaza Strip is effectively under Israeli control and Palestinians could instead be moved to Israel's Negev desert "till the militants are dealt with," Sisi told a joint news conference in Cairo with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

The border between Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip is the site of the only land crossing from the Palestinian territory that is not controlled by Israel.

Israel's unprecedented bombardment and siege of Gaza has raised fears that its 2.3 million residents could be forced southwards into Sinai.

## WHO says medical aid 'loaded and ready to go' into Gaza

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: Five trucks of medical supplies are ready at the border between Gaza and Egypt, the World Health Organization said on Thursday, welcoming Israel's announcement that it will not block the entry of aid into the Palestinian territory.

"Our trucks are loaded and ready to go," WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a press conference. He said he hoped the supplies would be delivered as soon as the Rafah crossing opened, "hopefully tomorrow."

The delivery of aid is set to be the first after Israel said it would impose a "total blockade" on the narrow Gaza Strip that is home to 2.3 million people.



Protesters hold a demonstration in Quezon City, Philippines, condemning the blast at the Ahli Arabi hospital in Gaza; members of the US Jewish community protest in the US Capitol in Washington against Israeli attacks; and Lebanese security forces use water cannons as they clash with protesters outside the US Embassy in Awkar, east of Beirut, during a pro-Palestinian demonstration.

## Protests across Muslim world after hospital strike

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: Thousands rallied across the Arab and Muslim world on Wednesday to protest the deaths of hundreds of people by a Gaza Israeli attack on a Gaza hospital.

The strike provoked outrage and condemnation around the world, with protests on the streets of Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkiye, Yemen and the Occupied West Bank.

"Death to America, death to Israel," hundreds of Hezbollah supporters chanted at a rally in Beirut's southern suburbs. "The Israelis will try to target more hospitals, rescue workers, civil defence volunteers and Gaza's residents without flinching, in order to push Gaza's people out," senior Hezbollah official Hashem Safieddine told the demonstrators.

Protesters took to the streets of the West Bank city of Ramallah and Nablus, shouting "Free, free Palestine".

While in Tunisia, thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters rallied outside the French embassy, condemning Western support for Israel. Some waved Palestinian flags while others demanded the ambassador be expelled, accusing France of being among the Western "allies of the Zionists", AFP journalists reported.

Some 5,000 Jordanians gathered outside the Israeli embassy, demanding the expulsion of Israel's diplomatic mission. Security forces blocked off roads leading to the embassy but the size of the demonstration looked set to swell due to the anger in Jordan, which is home to many Palestinian refugees.

In the Syrian capital Damascus, hundreds of people with Palestinian flags gathered near parliament, many wearing T-shirts bearing the image of President Bashar al-Assad. "Martyrdom or victory," one banner read.

In Tehran in the early hours of Wednesday, protesters gathered outside the British and French embassies, an AFP correspondent said. "Death to France and England," protesters shouted, throwing eggs at the walls of the French embassy compound in the Iranian capital. The gatherings ended peacefully.

Several thousand people also gathered in Palestine Square in central Tehran to voice their anger, according to an AFP photographer.

Overnight Turks marched with Palestinian flags and chanted slogans denouncing Israel in at least a dozen Turkish cities, including outside the Israeli embassy in the capital Ankara.

Police used pepper spray and water cannon to disperse thousands of protesters who tried to enter the compound of Israel's consulate in Istanbul, Turkiye's largest city. Five people were detained, the Istanbul governor's office said.

Israel's National Security Council (NSC) issued a warning against travel to Turkiye, it also urged Israeli citizens in Turkiye to leave as soon as possible.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said he was "horrified by the killing of hundreds of Palestinian civilians in a strike on a hospital in Gaza".



BLAGNAC: Travellers wait outside the Toulouse-Blagnac Airport after the facility was evacuated.

## Japan invites Australia to join two military exercises for first time

**Monitoring Desk**  
TOKYO: Japan said on Thursday it had invited Australia to join two regular command post-military exercises conducted with the United States for the first time.

Japan's Minister of Defence Minoru Kihara said he discussed Australia's participation in the drills during talks in Tokyo with his counterpart from Canberra, Richard Marles.

"We are expanding defence cooperation with Australia in all areas. Our goal is that in times of emergency, we are able to work closely together," Kihara told reporters after the meeting.

The two countries also agreed to cooperate in defence equipment joint development.

Marles welcomed Australia's closer security ties with Japan, according to a transcript of his remarks released by the Canberra government.

## Russia's Lavrov meets North Korea's Kim, slams 'dangerous' US policy

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov met with North Korea's Kim Jong Un on Thursday, after slamming US policy towards the nuclear-armed state as "dangerous".

Lavrov hailed North Korea as a "close neighbour and long-time partner" in a meeting that lasted a little over an hour, Russia's foreign ministry said in a statement.

The veteran envoy's two-day visit is expected to lay the groundwork for a trip to the country by Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was invited by Kim last month at a high-profile summit in Russia's

far east.

Earlier in the day, Lavrov lashed out at what he termed a "dangerous" US policy towards North Korea while touting the "new, strategic level" of relations between Moscow and Pyongyang.

"Like our North Korean friends, we are seriously worried about the intensification of military activity of the United States, Japan and South Korea in the region and by Washington's policies," Lavrov told journalists, according to Russian news agencies.

"We oppose this unconstructive and dangerous line," he said.

## Lebanon's Hezbollah says it is stronger than before as border clashes rage

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: Lebanon's Hezbollah warned its adversaries on Wednesday it was "thousands of times stronger" than before, as its fighters exchanged fire at the border with Israeli forces in violence fuelled by the war between Hamas and Israel.

The United States has warned Iran, which backs Hezbollah and the Palestinian group Hamas, against getting involved in the crisis, and deployed two aircraft carriers which it says aim to deter any state or non-state actor seeking to escalate the war.

Hezbollah official Hashem Safieddine, in a speech to thousands of supporters, said US President Joe Biden, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and "malicious Europeans" should be careful.

"The response to the mistake you might make with our resistance will be resounding," he said.

"Because what we have is faith, and God is stronger than you, all your battleships, and all your weapons," he said, speaking at a rally called in response to a strike that killed hundreds of people at a Gaza hospital.

Hezbollah and Israel have been trading fire at the frontier on an almost daily basis since Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7 and Israel responded with fierce air strikes on Gaza.

Hezbollah said two of its fighters were killed in south Lebanon on Wednesday and a third was in a serious condition.

## Egypt repairing roads at Gaza crossing ahead of aid delivery

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: Machinery to repair roads has been sent through the Rafah border crossing from Egypt into the Gaza Strip in preparation for the delivery of some of the aid stockpiled in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, two security sources said on Thursday.

Rafah is the only crossing not controlled by Israel but has been out of operation since the first days of the conflict in Gaza following Israeli bombardments on the Palestinian side of the border.

The United States and Egypt have been pushing for a deal with Israel to get aid delivered to Gaza, and the White House said on Wednesday that it had been agreed for up to 20 trucks to pass through, with hopes for more trucks later.

Most of Gaza's 2.3 million residents depended on aid before the current conflict started on Oct. 7, about 100 trucks daily were providing humanitarian relief to the enclave, according to the United Nations. More than 100 trucks were waiting close to

the crossing on the Egyptian side on Thursday, though it was not expected that aid would enter before Friday, Egyptian security sources said. More aid is being held in the Egyptian city of Al Arish, about 45 km (28 miles) from Rafah.

Western governments have been negotiating for the evacuation of foreign passport holders from Gaza, something Egyptian officials have conditioned on aid getting in. Details of potential evacuations are unclear. On Wednesday, after talks with US President Joe Biden, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Israel would not block aid for civilians entering Gaza from Egypt, as long as those supplies do not reach Hamas. It said it would continue a blockade of humanitarian aid from Israel into Gaza until hostages held by Hamas were returned.

Israel's bombardment and siege of Gaza is in retaliation for a devastating Hamas incursion into Israel on Oct. 7 during which 1,400 people were killed and hostages were taken.

## Scientists surprised by source of largest quake detected on Mars

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: NASA's InSight lander detected the largest quake yet recorded on Mars, one with a 4.7 magnitude — fairly modest by Earth standards but strong for our planetary neighbour.

Given Mars lacks the geological process called plate tectonics that generates earthquakes on our planet, scientists suspected a meteorite impact had caused this marsquake. But a search for an impact crater came up empty, leading scientists to conclude that this quake was caused by tectonic activity — rumbling in the planet's interior — and giving them a deeper understanding about what makes Mars shake, rattle and roll.

"We concluded that the largest marsquake seen by InSight was tectonic, not an impact. This is important as it shows the faults on Mars can host hefty marsquakes," said planetary scientist Ben Fernando of the University of Oxford in England, lead author of the research published this week in the journal Geophysical Research Letters.

"We really thought that this event might be an impact." "This represents a significant step forward in our understanding of Martian seismic activity and takes us one step closer to better unraveling the planet's tectonic processes," added Imperial College London planetary scientist and study co-author Constantinos Charalambous, co-chair of InSight's Geology Working Group.

Nasa retired InSight in 2022 after four years of operations. In all, InSight's seismometer instrument detected 1,319 marsquakes. Earth's crust — its outermost layer — is divided into immense plates that continually shift, triggering quakes. The Martian crust is a single solid plate. But that does not mean all is quiet on the Martian front.

"There are still faults that are active on Mars. The planet is still slowly shrinking and cooling, and there is still motion within the crust even though there are no active plate tectonic processes going on anymore. These faults can trigger quakes," Fernando said.

## Hong Kong protester shot by police sentenced to nearly four years jail

**Monitoring Desk**  
HONG KONG: A man who was shot by Hong Kong police during mass pro-democracy protests in 2019 was sentenced to 47 months imprisonment by a district court on Wednesday on multiple charges, including rioting and perverting the course of justice.

Tsang Chi-kin was sentenced to 40 months for rioting, and 7 months for allegedly assaulting a policeman with a white stick on October 1, 2019, when hundreds of thousands took to the streets as part of protracted anti-China, pro-democracy protests, sparking a crisis for Beijing's Communist leaders.



People pay tributes to French teacher Dominique Bernard during his funeral, in Arras, northern France.



# Pakistan regrets US veto on UN Security Council action on Israeli-Palestinian conflict

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan Wednesday expressed regret over the United States veto on a U.N. Security Council resolution earlier in the day that would have called for "humanitarian pauses" to deliver life-saving aid to millions of traumatized people in embattled Gaza.

The resolution, sponsored by Brazil, had wide support and would have also condemned all violence against civilians. The vote in the 15-member Council was 12 votes in favour to one (United States) against, with Russia and China abstaining.

"Pakistan supports an immediate ceasefire," Ambassador Munir Akram, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told an emergency meeting of the Security Council, which followed the vote. China, Russia and the UAE convened the meeting to discuss the worsening situation in the Gaza. Referring to today's vote, Ambassador Akram said, "Although the Brazilian resolution needed considerable improvement in our view, we were surprised at the Council's inability to adopt it due to the veto cast by a permanent member."

He added, "A heavy responsibility rests on those who have contributed to the prolongation of consistent bombing of Gaza's citizens that is taking place."

The Pakistani envoy also regretted that the Security Council was unable to issue a call for a ceasefire, due to the opposition and insufficient support for the resolution proposed by the Russia a day before, and for the Russian amendments to the Brazilian resolution calling for a ceasefire this morning.

"Today is the eleventh day of relentless, catastrophic Israeli attacks on Gaza. All of Gaza is under military siege, and electricity, water, and all humanitarian aid channels have been cut off. The entire population of Gaza—women, children, and elderly—are being collectively punished by the indiscriminate Israeli attacks," Ambassador Akram said. He said, "Pakistan, he said, strongly condemns Israeli air strikes and military incursions into Gaza, the killing of civilians, and the large-scale displacement of an already occupied and battered people. 'The laws of war and the international humanitarian law, especially the Geneva Conventions must be strictly observed.'"

Ambassador Akram also "strongly and unequivocally" condemned Israel's cowardly and criminal attack on the Al-Ahly hospital in Gaza on Tuesday, killing hundreds, mostly sick and wounded Palestinian children, women and men. "This willful atrocity, an attack on a hospital, which enjoys explicit protection under international law, is clearly a war crime and a crime against humanity," he said, adding those responsible must be held accountable through an international inquiry and accountability process.

Despite the paralysis in the Security Council today, Ambassador Akram hoped that the General Assembly and the UN Secretary-General and the UN agencies will be able to halt the conflict, secure the opening of humanitarian corridors to ensure food, water and medicines, fuel and other essential supplies to the Palestinians in Gaza and prevent the displacement of the Palestinian population of Gaza.

He urged the UN to give urgent consideration to OIC's proposal for an international protection force to protect innocent lives from the ongoing attacks by the occupation forces and extremist colonialist settlers. The root cause of this latest violence is the prolonged and illegal occupation of Palestine and the usurpation of the lands and properties of Palestinians and the accompanying oppression and massive violations of human rights committed with impunity by Israel, he said, noting that illegality of Israel's occupation has been reaffirmed by the International Court of Justice.

ing for a ceasefire this morning. "Today is the eleventh day of relentless, catastrophic Israeli attacks on Gaza. All of Gaza is under military siege, and electricity, water, and all humanitarian aid channels have been cut off. The entire population of Gaza—women, children, and elderly—are being collectively punished by the indiscriminate Israeli attacks," Ambassador Akram said. He said, "Pakistan, he said, strongly condemns Israeli air strikes and military incursions into Gaza, the killing of civilians, and the large-scale displacement of an already occupied and battered people. 'The laws of war and the international humanitarian law, especially the Geneva Conventions must be strictly observed.'"

Ambassador Akram also "strongly and unequivocally" condemned Israel's cowardly and criminal attack on the Al-Ahly hospital in Gaza on Tuesday, killing hundreds, mostly sick and wounded Palestinian children, women and men. "This willful atrocity, an attack on a hospital, which enjoys explicit protection under international law, is clearly a war crime and a crime against humanity," he said, adding those responsible must be held accountable through an international inquiry and accountability process.

Despite the paralysis in the Security Council today, Ambassador Akram hoped that the General Assembly and the UN Secretary-General and the UN agencies will be able to halt the conflict, secure the opening of humanitarian corridors to ensure food, water and medicines, fuel and other essential supplies to the Palestinians in Gaza and prevent the displacement of the Palestinian population of Gaza.

He urged the UN to give urgent consideration to OIC's proposal for an international protection force to protect innocent lives from the ongoing attacks by the occupation forces and extremist colonialist settlers. The root cause of this latest violence is the prolonged and illegal occupation of Palestine and the usurpation of the lands and properties of Palestinians and the accompanying oppression and massive violations of human rights committed with impunity by Israel, he said, noting that illegality of Israel's occupation has been reaffirmed by the International Court of Justice.

ing for a ceasefire this morning. "Today is the eleventh day of relentless, catastrophic Israeli attacks on Gaza. All of Gaza is under military siege, and electricity, water, and all humanitarian aid channels have been cut off. The entire population of Gaza—women, children, and elderly—are being collectively punished by the indiscriminate Israeli attacks," Ambassador Akram said. He said, "Pakistan, he said, strongly condemns Israeli air strikes and military incursions into Gaza, the killing of civilians, and the large-scale displacement of an already occupied and battered people. 'The laws of war and the international humanitarian law, especially the Geneva Conventions must be strictly observed.'"

Ambassador Akram also "strongly and unequivocally" condemned Israel's cowardly and criminal attack on the Al-Ahly hospital in Gaza on Tuesday, killing hundreds, mostly sick and wounded Palestinian children, women and men. "This willful atrocity, an attack on a hospital, which enjoys explicit protection under international law, is clearly a war crime and a crime against humanity," he said, adding those responsible must be held accountable through an international inquiry and accountability process.

Despite the paralysis in the Security Council today, Ambassador Akram hoped that the General Assembly and the UN Secretary-General and the UN agencies will be able to halt the conflict, secure the opening of humanitarian corridors to ensure food, water and medicines, fuel and other essential supplies to the Palestinians in Gaza and prevent the displacement of the Palestinian population of Gaza.

He urged the UN to give urgent consideration to OIC's proposal for an international protection force to protect innocent lives from the ongoing attacks by the occupation forces and extremist colonialist settlers. The root cause of this latest violence is the prolonged and illegal occupation of Palestine and the usurpation of the lands and properties of Palestinians and the accompanying oppression and massive violations of human rights committed with impunity by Israel, he said, noting that illegality of Israel's occupation has been reaffirmed by the International Court of Justice.

ing for a ceasefire this morning. "Today is the eleventh day of relentless, catastrophic Israeli attacks on Gaza. All of Gaza is under military siege, and electricity, water, and all humanitarian aid channels have been cut off. The entire population of Gaza—women, children, and elderly—are being collectively punished by the indiscriminate Israeli attacks," Ambassador Akram said. He said, "Pakistan, he said, strongly condemns Israeli air strikes and military incursions into Gaza, the killing of civilians, and the large-scale displacement of an already occupied and battered people. 'The laws of war and the international humanitarian law, especially the Geneva Conventions must be strictly observed.'"

Ambassador Akram also "strongly and unequivocally" condemned Israel's cowardly and criminal attack on the Al-Ahly hospital in Gaza on Tuesday, killing hundreds, mostly sick and wounded Palestinian children, women and men. "This willful atrocity, an attack on a hospital, which enjoys explicit protection under international law, is clearly a war crime and a crime against humanity," he said, adding those responsible must be held accountable through an international inquiry and accountability process.

Despite the paralysis in the Security Council today, Ambassador Akram hoped that the General Assembly and the UN Secretary-General and the UN agencies will be able to halt the conflict, secure the opening of humanitarian corridors to ensure food, water and medicines, fuel and other essential supplies to the Palestinians in Gaza and prevent the displacement of the Palestinian population of Gaza.

He urged the UN to give urgent consideration to OIC's proposal for an international protection force to protect innocent lives from the ongoing attacks by the occupation forces and extremist colonialist settlers. The root cause of this latest violence is the prolonged and illegal occupation of Palestine and the usurpation of the lands and properties of Palestinians and the accompanying oppression and massive violations of human rights committed with impunity by Israel, he said, noting that illegality of Israel's occupation has been reaffirmed by the International Court of Justice.

ing for a ceasefire this morning. "Today is the eleventh day of relentless, catastrophic Israeli attacks on Gaza. All of Gaza is under military siege, and electricity, water, and all humanitarian aid channels have been cut off. The entire population of Gaza—women, children, and elderly—are being collectively punished by the indiscriminate Israeli attacks," Ambassador Akram said. He said, "Pakistan, he said, strongly condemns Israeli air strikes and military incursions into Gaza, the killing of civilians, and the large-scale displacement of an already occupied and battered people. 'The laws of war and the international humanitarian law, especially the Geneva Conventions must be strictly observed.'"

Ambassador Akram also "strongly and unequivocally" condemned Israel's cowardly and criminal attack on the Al-Ahly hospital in Gaza on Tuesday, killing hundreds, mostly sick and wounded Palestinian children, women and men. "This willful atrocity, an attack on a hospital, which enjoys explicit protection under international law, is clearly a war crime and a crime against humanity," he said, adding those responsible must be held accountable through an international inquiry and accountability process.

Despite the paralysis in the Security Council today, Ambassador Akram hoped that the General Assembly and the UN Secretary-General and the UN agencies will be able to halt the conflict, secure the opening of humanitarian corridors to ensure food, water and medicines, fuel and other essential supplies to the Palestinians in Gaza and prevent the displacement of the Palestinian population of Gaza.

He urged the UN to give urgent consideration to OIC's proposal for an international protection force to protect innocent lives from the ongoing attacks by the occupation forces and extremist colonialist settlers. The root cause of this latest violence is the prolonged and illegal occupation of Palestine and the usurpation of the lands and properties of Palestinians and the accompanying oppression and massive violations of human rights committed with impunity by Israel, he said, noting that illegality of Israel's occupation has been reaffirmed by the International Court of Justice.



QUETTA: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madam Ali Sindhi poses for a group photo with students after awarding laptops at Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University Quetta.

## Ali Madad asks Balochistan govt to take measures to reduce huge number of out-of-school children

QUETTA (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madam Ali Sindhi on Thursday said that Balochistan has the highest number of out of school children and asked the provincial government to take measures for reducing the huge number of out-of-school children in the province. He asked the provincial government to take maximum efforts to promote quality education and increase the literacy rate in the province.

Addressing the ceremony of distributing laptops to students in Sardar Bahadur Khan (SBK) Women's University, he said that it was a great pleasure for him to visit the only women's university in Balochistan and realized the problems of the students of Balochistan.

Vice-Chancellor of Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University Professor Dr. Sajida Noreen, Director General NAVTTC Ali Baksh Magsi, Director General Higher Education Professor Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Bazai were also present on the occasion.

The minister said that the education was not a priority of the previous governments which was why it did not allocate sufficient funds for the purpose.

Madam Ali said that more efforts had been taken to resolve the problems of public sector universities in Balochistan.

The federal government will fulfill its responsibility to ensure the provision of quality education in Balochistan, he said and added that the federal government resolved to bring massive reforms in education sector in all provinces to educate maximum numbers of out-of-school children and ensure quality education for every child in the country.

He said that the problems of 50 years could not be resolved in a short period but it can be reduced.

Madam Ali said that fewer opportunities were provided to female students for quality education and it would be difficult for them to work in the practical field.

university in Balochistan and realized the problems of the students of Balochistan.

Vice-Chancellor of Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University Professor Dr. Sajida Noreen, Director General NAVTTC Ali Baksh Magsi, Director General Higher Education Professor Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Bazai were also present on the occasion.

The minister said that the education was not a priority of the previous governments which was why it did not allocate sufficient funds for the purpose.

Madam Ali said that more efforts had been taken to resolve the problems of public sector universities in Balochistan.

The federal government will fulfill its responsibility to ensure the provision of quality education in Balochistan, he said and added that the federal government resolved to bring massive reforms in education sector in all provinces to educate maximum numbers of out-of-school children and ensure quality education for every child in the country.

He said that the problems of 50 years could not be resolved in a short period but it can be reduced.

Madam Ali said that fewer opportunities were provided to female students for quality education and it would be difficult for them to work in the practical field.

university in Balochistan and realized the problems of the students of Balochistan.

Vice-Chancellor of Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University Professor Dr. Sajida Noreen, Director General NAVTTC Ali Baksh Magsi, Director General Higher Education Professor Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Bazai were also present on the occasion.

The minister said that the education was not a priority of the previous governments which was why it did not allocate sufficient funds for the purpose.

Madam Ali said that more efforts had been taken to resolve the problems of public sector universities in Balochistan.

The federal government will fulfill its responsibility to ensure the provision of quality education in Balochistan, he said and added that the federal government resolved to bring massive reforms in education sector in all provinces to educate maximum numbers of out-of-school children and ensure quality education for every child in the country.

He said that the problems of 50 years could not be resolved in a short period but it can be reduced.

Madam Ali said that fewer opportunities were provided to female students for quality education and it would be difficult for them to work in the practical field.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over a meeting regarding Balochistan Education Sector Plan and Health Screening

## Dream of bringing Balochistan at par other provinces in education sector can be materialized with support of federal Govt: Kakar

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that the dream of bringing Balochistan at par of other provinces in education sector can be materialized with wholehearted support of the federal government.

The Governor stated so while speaking to the caretaker Federal Minister for Education, Ali Madad Sindhi, who called on him here at the Governor House on Thursday.

Also present on the occasion were Principal Secretary to Governor, Hashim Khan Ghilzai and Director General Higher Education Commission, Dr Zahoor Ahmad.

The Governor regretfully pointed out that a large number of students especially women are deprived of the higher education due to lack of financial resources in the province.

In this regard, the federal government needs to pay immediate attention and provide special package, adding he stressed.

The Governor apprised Federal Minister about the educational situation of the province, hardships of the students, issues caused due to social backwardness besides the financial issues of public sector universities.

He expressed the hope that the federal minister would inform the federal government about the province's issues and play his role to resolve them.

He said the primary education has basic status for promotion of education, but unfortunately the province lacks the necessary facilities for primary education especially in its remote areas. Even majority of schools have no four walls, adding he mentioned.

The Governor also stressed the need to ensure implementation of the NEVTC programme all over the province.

## Govt determined to implement existing laws for protection of rights of all segments: Domki

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the government is determined to implement the existing laws for protection of rights of all segments of the society including women, children and labourers in the province.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the delegation of Balochistan Commission on Status of Women, who called on him here on Thursday.

Also present on the occasion was the Advisor to Chief Minister for Social Welfare and Women Development, Ms Shania Khan.

The chairperson of Commission on Status of Women, Ms Fauzia Shaheen briefed the Chief Minister about the working of the Commission.

The Chief Minister said that the women hold special status based on the respect and honour in the province.

He on the occasion assured that implementation would be ensured on the rules of business of the pending laws related to the human especially women rights.

He also welcomed the recommendations of Commission on the Status of Women and assured to dispose of the pending matters related to the Commission.



ISLAMABAD: His Excellency Ahmad Jawad Rabei, Ambassador, State of Palestine addressing during All Parties Conference to express solidarity with the people of Palestine at Embassy of the State of Palestine.

## Minister Information visits women directorate Women are more active in govt. departments than men counterparts: Jan

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has categorically stated that the women are more active in the government departments than their male counterparts.

The Minister Information was speaking on occasion of visit to the Women Development Directorate here on Thursday.

Also present on the occasion were the senior officials of the Women Development Directorate.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister Information appreciated the overall functioning of the women Directorate saying that it is taking steps for prevention of the harassment of women and violence against them.

In view of the performance of the women civil servants, Jan Achakzai remarked that the women are more active in the government departments than men.

## APC pleads for practical steps by Muslim Ummah to mitigate Gaza people's miseries

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Conference (APC) on Thursday called for practical steps and measures by the Muslim Ummah to ensure full support and assistance to the war-affected Palestinian people, who are undergoing unprecedented agony and turbulence in the wake of Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip.

The APC participants stressed upon the Government of Pakistan to play a proactive role in order to champion the Palestinian cause and clearly convey the anger and anguish of the entire Muslim Ummah over the injustice and Israeli brutalities with the Gaza people.

They called for a leading role of Pakistan at the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to bring the Israeli reign on terror on the Gaza area to an end. They also condemned the international human rights organizations for keeping silence instead of playing their due role to uphold the rights of Palestinian people. The All Parties Conference, hosted by Ms Uzma Gul at the Palestinian Embassy, was addressed, besides Palestinian Ambassador Ahmed Jawad Rabei, by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leaders Shahid Khashan Abbasi, Hafiz Masood Kamaluddin and Chaudhry Shafique-ur-Rehman Warraich, Head of Ansar Ummah Maulana Fazlur Rahman Khalil, MQM's Haider Abbas Rizvi and others.

## SAPM Mushaal Mullick urges global action to halt humanitarian crisis in Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick called upon international community, the UN bodies and OIC to adopt a proactive and unequivocal policy approach to prevent the looming humanitarian catastrophe, as the war frenzy Israel put the war-battered Gaza under total siege, halting food, water and fuel to 2.3m people.

Speaking at a Roundtable titled "Gaza Under Siege: Humanitarian Catastrophe of Israel Aggression" organized by Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Mushaal pointed out that the inhuman Israel was hell-bent on annihilating the entire Palestinian population after forcibly and unlawfully occupied their land.

The SAPM on Human Rights and Women Empowerment lamented that the Zionist regime had no respect for the international laws, as it was targeting hospitals, residential areas and shelter homes with complete impunity, as Gazans were being subjected to genocide.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki visiting BMC hospital

## Jan Achakzai condemns incident: Caretaker Minister Home takes notice of firing on women, orders probe

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has taken serious notice of the firing attack on the women in Hazar Ganji area on Thursday morning.

According to an official hand out issued here on Thursday, the Minister Home sought report of the incident from concerned high ups and ordered to constitute a special team for investigation into it.

He said that it is a sorrowful incident and is just contrary to our traditions.

He directed to arrest the culprits involved in the attack on women in Hazar Ganji.

He also directed to provide medical facilities to the injured women.

Meanwhile, the Minister Information Jan Achakzai condemned the incident of firing targeting women in Hazar Ganji area.

In a separate official statement issued here, Jan Achakzai said that the concerned high ups have sought report from the concerned authorities.

He also directed them to present the report at the earliest so as to take the culprits involved in it to task. Moreover, he also directed the law enforcement agencies to play effective role in prevention of such untoward incidents in future.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafiqat inspecting ongoing works of Sariab Road and other projects under Quetta Development Project

## Domki calls for implementing law of free compulsory education in Balochistan

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki has stressed the need to ensure implementation of the law of free compulsory education in the province.

The Chief Minister chaired a meeting of the Education Sector Plan and Health Development Partners here on Thursday.

He said that the 5-year education sector plan is very important for increasing the literacy rate in the province.

He also stressed that we have to bring out of school children in the educational institutions of the province.

The Chief Minister directed to all the district education officers to visit high and middle schools once in a week.

He also directed to form KPIs for review of performance of the DEOs.

Moreover, comprehensive plan should also be devised for professional training of the teachers.

## PM lauds CPC's role to cement Pak-China ties, fostering greater understanding

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday appreciated the role of the Communist Party of China in cementing the Pakistan-China relationship and fostering greater understanding between the two countries.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee Liu Jianchao here, also lauded CPC's contribution in the development of modern China.

The prime minister noted that the goodwill between the peoples of Pakistan and China was at the heart of the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

Both Prime Minister Kakar and Minister Liu discussed promotion of people-to-people contacts, including exchanges between parliaments, political parties, academia, media, youth, women and think tanks. These exchanges would help advance the exceptional friendship between Pakistan and China that endures from generation to generation, they viewed.

Liu stated that the prime minister's visit to China was in keeping with the time-honoured tradition of the special friendship between Pakistan and China.

He reiterated IDCPC's commitment to further strengthen Pakistan-China relations.



QUETTA: Former Provincial Minister Mir Umar Khan Jamali meeting with caretaker Home Minister Balochistan Captain (retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali

## Balochistan govt to ensure completion development projects in Quetta on deadline

QUETTA (APP): Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafiqat on Thursday said that the government is paying special attention and strict monitoring of development projects initiated under Quetta Development Program to ensure its completion on the final deadline.

He visited the ongoing road construction and expansion projects in the city under the Quetta Development Project.

On the occasion, he reviewed the progress of work on Sariab Road, Link Badini Road, Link Shahwani Road, Sabzal Road and Ansoomb Road.

He said that despite various challenges and problems, significant progress has been made in the construction of roads in the city. He said that the completion of roads and public facilities projects of Quetta city will improve the living standard of citizens and also get rid of traffic problems.