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Dream to polio-free Pakistan to be fulfilled at every cost: PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday, vowing to resist the individuals propagating against the polio vaccination, resolved to achieve the dream of a polio-free Pakistan by carrying forward the journey with unshakable commitment.

"I can assure that we gonna have it. We will realise this dream. We will never step back, may be an inch, may be a foot or may be a mile. This will always be a forth-going journey," the prime minister said addressing a ceremony to mark the World Polio Day.

The event was organized by the Pakistan Polio Programme to pay homage to the resilience and dedication of frontline workers on the World Polio Day, which is commemorated on October 24 every year.

Federal Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan, Federal Health Secretary Ifkhar Ali Shallwani, representatives of polio partners Rotary, World Health Organisation and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and frontline workers and their families were in attendance.

The prime minister said by opposing the polio vaccine, the anti-vaxxers, intentionally or unintentionally, were partnering with the forces of darkness. He emphasised the role of faith leaders and the society to make such people realise that they were actually partnering with the destroyer of the humans.

"This is unacceptable. We will resist this," he resolved.

He expressed his gratitude to the global partners

who continued to supporting Pakistan in its endeavour of polio eradication.

Recognising the sacrifices of the polio workers and the security personnel guarding them, the prime minister said they had paid the highest price for the cause.

He said the frontline health workers were the heroes of Pakistan, who were working in challenging environments, facing social barriers and even threats to their safety without ever losing their dedication.

The prime minister recognised the services of three police constables who were martyred while on polio duty and to two vaccinators who were injured.

He also presented appreciation shields to the former coordinator of the Sindh Emergency Operation Cell (EOC) Fayyaz Abbasi and the family of Huma Ashraf, who was severely injured in a train accident while on polio duty in September.

The prime minister also announced to personally visit Huma as a gesture to recognise her services in the mission of a polio-free Pakistan.

"Today is the day to remember how far we have come and how crucial polio eradication efforts remain. Pakistan cannot be the reason to hold the world back. We must move forward to 2024 with the realisation that the weight of global eradication lies on our shoulders. We must leave no room for the virus to spread and reach every child with the vaccine before the virus has a chance to permanently change their lives," he remarked.

Effective border management in interest of both Pak, Afghanistan, says Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said peace was linked with Pakistan and Afghanistan and effective border management and security was in the interest of the peoples of both countries.

In a meeting with Afghan media delegation, problems of Afghan journalists, visa issues and other important issues were discussed. He said it was the responsibility of the media to identify the enemies of peace so that the state could defeat them.

Murtaza Solangi held out the assurance that the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would be contacted on the visa issues of Afghan journalists.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar distributes cheques among the families of martyred polio workers and polio workers who got injured in the line of duty.

Armed Forces of Pakistan adhere to the principles of the United Nations charter: Army Chief

RAWALPINDI (Online): Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir has reminded the United Nations of its pledge on Kashmir as he expressed his best wishes for the world body on its 78th foundation day on Tuesday.

Pakistan's Armed Forces have a distinguished and long history of peace-keeping service with the United Nations. Pakistan joined the United Nations peacekeeping mission on 30 September 1947. In 1969, Pakistan deployed its first contingent to United Nations operations in the Congo.

Pakistan participated in 48 joint missions with more than 230,000 troops in 29 countries around the world. As many as 170 soldiers including 24 officers sacri-

ficed their lives in UN peacekeeping missions. In his message on this occasion, General Asim Munir expressed his best wishes on the occasion of the 78th foundation day of the United Nations.

The Army Chief said

the Armed Forces of Pakistan adhere to the principles of the United Nations charter. The Army Chief further said "We are striving to make the world a better place for future generations as per the vision of our elders no matter what the cost."



the United Nations, saying Pakistan has a unique history of serving under the UN flag for a more peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. The Army Chief said on this day the international community must not forget the shared responsibility of the United Nations.

Achakzai asks anti-state elements not to make non-issue of repatriation of illegal immigrants an issue

Jan Achakzai warns anyone made attempt to create hurdle in government's plan to be dealt with strictly; asserts those politicising decision of national interest can't be loyal to State

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Minister for Information, Jan Muhammad Achakzai has asked the anti-state elements to avoid making non-issue of the repatriation of illegal immigrants an issue.

In an official statement issued here on Tuesday, the Minister Information said that the anti-state elements has always made attempts to harm the state.

The state knows how to handle such elements, and if anyone attempted to create hurdles in the government's plan would be dealt with strictly, adding he asserted.

He said that the decision of repatriation of illegal immigrants has been made in the larger national interest.

He said that protection of the national interests is the topmost priority. But, adding he regretfully pointed out that some political parties have been using the initiative of national interest for their vested political interests.

He said that the political parties have many other issues to make their narrative for the political gains in Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He also said that the il-

Pakistan successfully conducts training launch of Ghauri Weapon System

RAWALPINDI (APP): Pakistan on Tuesday successfully conducted Training Launch of Ghauri Weapon System aimed at testing the operational and technical readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command.

The launch was witnessed by Commander Army Strategic Force Command (ASFC), senior officers from the strategic forces, scientists and engineers of strategic organization, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The Commander ASFC appreciated the standard of training and operational preparedness of Army Strategic Forces, which was reflected by proficient handling of Weapon System in the field and achievement of operational and technical objectives.

He also appreciated the scientists and engineers for their contributions towards enhancement of Pakistan's strategic capability.

The President, Prime Minister of Pakistan, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCJSC) and Services Chiefs congratulated the participating troops, scientists and engineers on successful conduct of training launch.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar presiding over a meeting to review performance of federal departments working in the province

To ensure good governance Governor calls for promoting pleasant & useful relations among all institutions

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stressed that it is necessary for good governance to promote pleasant and useful relations among all the institutions, based on the mutual respect.

The Governor was presiding over the review meeting of representatives of the federal government departments operating in the province about Pakistan Citizen Portal, here on Tuesday.

The heads of federal government departments and vice chancellors of the public sector universities were also present on the occasion.

The meeting reviewed public complaints regarding performance of federal departments and steps taken for resolving them.

Addressing the heads of federal departments, the Governor said that it is an

honour for them to head the institutions but at the same time, heavy responsibility rests on them to perform in befitting manner keeping in view the state of people of the province.

This is necessary to benefit the people from development projects, he added.

The Governor said that it is responsibility of the federal departments to resolve the public complaints and improve their performance.

He also asked them to present suggestions for new reforms according to the changing circumstances and human needs.

Certain important decisions were also made following the suggestions and recommendations of the participants.

The Governor also questioned about performance of their respective departments.



ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif leaving after his hearing at Islamabad High Court in Federal Capital.

Flagship meeting held between Pak border management & Afghan border officials

Independent Report

QUETTA: The flagship meeting was held between the high ups of Pakistan border management and Taliban Islamic Emirates Afghanistan on Tuesday.

According to the caretaker Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai, the matters of border management were discussed during the course of meeting.

While Deputy Commissioner Chaman, Raja Athar Abbas represented the country in the meeting along with the Commander Frontier Corps, Chaman, Umar Jabbar.

There was also discussion on the provision of fa-

cilities regarding repatriation of illegal Afghan refugees in the meeting.

Jan Achakzai said that the participants also talked about the hardships being faced by the immigrants especially the patients while moving on the border.

They were agreed on continuing consultation on effectively resolving the issues faced by the local communities besides one document regime, in a good environment between both the countries.

The Deputy Commissioner Chaman assured of his wholehearted cooperation to resolve the issues being faced by the local communities.

If security can't be provided to a person, how can elections be held: ECP

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has summoned the interior secretary for being unable to produce PTI Chairman Imran Khan in the case of defamation of the ECP.

The commission was hearing a defamation case against the PTI chief, Asad Umar and Fawad Chaudhry. A four-member commission headed by Nisar Durrani adjourned the hearing till November 13.

Fawad Chaudhry and Asad Umar appeared before the commission, while Imran Khan was not brought to the election commission from Adiala Jail. PTI lawyer Shoab Shaheen said the real issue to the election commission has taken place.

The operations assistant inspector general of police (AIG) submitted a report regarding the appearance of Imran Khan. It said Rawalpindi was a densely populated area, which is not without dangers. PTI Chairman Imran Khan has himself said there are threats to his life, the report stated.

IHC rejects PTI chairman's plea against jail trial

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday rejected the plea of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman to stop his jail trial in the cipher case.

The IHC bench comprising Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Raffat Imitiaz, which heard the intra-court appeal along with the objections of Registrar Office, observed that it could not grant interim relief to the petitioner as the admissibility of the appeal was yet to be decided.

Justice Miangul Hasan Aurangzeb remarked that they could give interim relief as after the removal of objections a new bench might be formed for further proceedings.

He said they were removing the objections on the petition.

The PTI chairman's lawyer Salman Akram Raja said that his client had challenged the notification of September 29 for his jail trial. It was issued by the Federal Government instead of the Commissioner's Office, he added.

Electricity of approved agri. sector tube wells be restored by Friday, Domki directs to QESCO

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QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has directed to the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) to restore electricity of the approved and legal tube wells of agriculture sector by Friday so that the zamindars may not face any agricultural loss due to power suspension right in season.

While constituting a sub-committee headed by secretary Energy department and Commissioner Quetta Division, the Chief Minister also directed to prepare viable proposals for action against the illegal tube wells as well as settlement of payment of arrears and installation of meters between QESCO and zamindars.

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Afghan media meeting with Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi

Punjab govt suspends sentence of Nawaz Sharif in Al-Azizia reference

LAHORE (Online): Caretaker Punjab government has suspended sentence of former Prime Minister (PM) Nawaz Sharif in Al-Azizia reference.

Nawaz Sharif had requested Punjab government for suspending sentence in the light of Islamabad High Court (IHC) decision.

Upon it Punjab care taker cabinet suspended the sentence in Al-Azizia reference.

Government sources said Punjab care taker cabinet has accorded approval to suspend the sentence under section 401 of criminal

procedural code. The care taker cabinet is authorized to suspend the sentence under section 401 of Criminal Procedural Code (CPC).

In 2019 the sentence of Nawaz Sharif was suspended under section 401 before his departure to London.

Reacting to suspension of sentence of Nawaz Sharif in Al-Azizia reference former Attorney General (AG) Ashtar Ahsan said IHC was resorted to in connection with suspension of sentence of former PM Nawaz Sharif. Former

Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Athar Minalah had offered this judgment. Cabinet has taken this decision under legal advice. How can any one object over this decision.

He said cases against Nawaz Sharif were registered in haste. Legal complications are not in law. They were in procedure. Legal complications don't exist but they are made. There is long list of cases pertaining to previous period. There were matters of Shehbaz Sharif, Hamza Shabbaz and Saad Rafiq during previous period.

World Polio Day observed:

Polio workers & police jawans embraced martyrdom in line of polio duty paid homage

Independent Report QUETTA: The polio workers and police personnel embraced martyrdom in line of polio duty were honoured and paid homage at a special ceremony organised at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIEMS) here on Tuesday.

The Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan was

chief guest at the ceremony organized to mark the World Polio Day observed on Tuesday, 24th October every year.

The theme of the ceremony was: make polio history.

In all 10 polio workers and police personnel who were martyred during duty.

The bereaved families of the martyrs were also awarded cheques.

The polio workers and

health workers were especially invited to participate in the event.

The secretary Health, Asfandiyar Kakar, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shaqqaat, Coordinator Emergency Operation Center, Syed Zahid Shah besides others also participated in the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan addressing a ceremony on eve of International Polio Day

Kashmiris to celebrate real freedom on day of freedom from India's illegal occupation soon: AJK PM

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP) Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that we will celebrate real freedom on the day when the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) will be free from India's forcible and illegal occupation.

account of ourselves and see whether we fulfil our responsibilities to achieve this great goal, which was envisioned by our forefathers in 1947", he said.

self-determination. Lauding the Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders for their unwavering commitment in the freedom struggle, he said, "I salute the determination and courage of all Hurriyat leaders including Yasir Malik, Shabir Shah, Musrat Alam Butt, Asia Andarabi, Nahida Nasreen, Fahmida Sufi and other leaders who devoted their lives to the noble cause."

army was given a free hand to establish cantonments and declare any piece of land at any place in Kashmir as strategic. The prime minister said that colonies were being built for ex-Indian soldiers on the Israeli pattern.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Haji Maqbool meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar



NASEERABAD: Commissioner Naserabad Division Tariq Qamar Baloch residing over a meeting about law and order

SC seeks bar councils' comments about drafting of petition

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought comments from Pakistan and Punjab bar councils regarding teaching of petitions' drafting in law colleges.

lawyers of Punjab would learn to write a writ petition. Should all the law colleges of Punjab be closed, he asked.

Achazkai asks...

Continued from page 1 legal immigrants are being sent to their countries in view of all national and international laws.

APHC urges Kashmiris to observe Black Day on October 27

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has urged the people in Indian who illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and around the world to observe Black Day on October 27 to convey to the world the urgency to resolve the Kashmir dispute to avert a global catastrophe, for Jammu and Kashmir is surrounded by three nuclear powers.

rightful means but India is suppressing the innocent Kashmiris with iron hand. Kashmir has been turned into a military garrison and disappearance, custodial killings, harassment and torture are the daily routine, it added.

Polio workers...

Continued from page 1 sion, Chief Secretary and other speakers paid tributes to the polio workers who are fighting on frontline for eradication of polio.

PM directs facilities to prepare hockey players for Int'l matches

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to provide hockey players with all kinds of facilities to prepare them for international competitions.

out that the current situation of the national sport of hockey in Pakistan demanded focus and attention.

Pak-China film award ceremony held to promote cultural exchanges

BEIJING (INP): Pak-China film award ceremony held here to promote cultural exchanges.

documented to reflect upon the land, life, and the people along China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Silk Route covering Central Asian countries during December this year," he added.

Speakers for Pakistan's active participation in multilateral forums, promoting diplomatic initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): The speakers at a seminar on India's emerging global significance Tuesday occurred on the significance of Pakistan's active participation in multilateral forums, strengthening global partnerships, and promoting diplomatic initiatives to highlight consequences of India's aggressive stance.

standing and strategic adaptability at both the global and regional levels.

Electricity of approved...

Continued from page 1 The Chief Minister was chairing an emergent meeting of the officials of QESCO, Finance department and administrative officers here on Tuesday.

BRI facilitates fruitful medical cooperation between China, Pakistan

BEIJING (APP): Anzal Mahnoor enjoys her time as an MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) student at Hainan Medical University, located in Haikou, the capital of south China's Hainan Province.

China has seen increasing medical cooperation with countries and regions jointly building the Belt and Road, including Pakistan.

Table with 3 columns: Date, Amount, and Description. Includes financial data for various departments.

Briefing the meeting, the CEO QESCO informed that a total of Rs. 437 billion are outstanding against agricultural consumers while Rs. 32 billion are payable against private consumers in the province.



RAWALPINDI: Activists of Railway Carriage and Wagon Staff Association stop the train during protest in the favor of their demands in City.

BRI facilitates fruitful medical cooperation between China, Pakistan

BEIJING (APP): Anzal Mahnoor enjoys her time as an MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) student at Hainan Medical University, located in Haikou, the capital of south China's Hainan Province.

China has seen increasing medical cooperation with countries and regions jointly building the Belt and Road, including Pakistan.

Hainan Medical University used what they learned in class to assist the professional medical experts. They took the patients' blood pressure and registered their information, and experienced other things done by grassroots doctors.

PM, Planning Minister discuss follow-up on Pak-China joint projects

From Khunjerab to Swat, huge tourism potential awaits tapping by Chinese, local companies: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Planning Minister Sami Saeed met here Tuesday and discussed the implementation of the projects concluded during the prime minister's recent visit to China.

During PM Kakar's visit to China from October 16 to 20, the two sides signed 20 agreements and Memoranda of Understanding, covering cooperation on the Belt and Road Initiative, infrastructure, mining, industry, green and low-carbon development, health, space cooperation, digital economy, development cooperation and export of agricultural prod-

ucts to China.

The meeting also discussed matters relating to the Ministry of Planning.

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said the areas ranging from Khunjerab Pass to Swat in the country offered the huge potential of tourism which could lead to revenue generation after improvement in necessary infrastructure and facilities.

In this regard, he said, cooperation from the Chinese companies and the Pakistani business community could prove helpful in the promotion of the tourism sector. The prime minister expressed these views as Murtaza Hashwani, re-

nown businessman and Chief Executive Officer of Pakistan Services Limited called on him here at the PM House.

Hashwani proposed to the prime minister for collaboration between the government and the country's business community at the platform of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

The meeting discussed the utilization of the government buildings situated at prominent places through public-private partnerships for the purpose of business activities.

Hashwani lauded the efforts of PM Kakar in bringing economic stability to the country.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary Kashmir Affairs & GB Jawad Rafique Malik calls on Chief Minister GB Haji Gulbar Khan.

Experts see new momentum in CPEC after PM's China visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): International relations experts have opined that the Prime Minister's successful visit to China would give new momentum to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Talking in Radio Pakistan's current affairs programme Dr. Fazal ur Rehman, expert on CPEC said that during his visit to China, the Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to its friendship with China and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He said that the present government had charted a new course for CPEC and various sectors. Despite some challenges along the way, Dr. Fazal said the Chinese side remained resolute in their dedication to completing CPEC projects.

Significantly, he added,

infrastructure and energy-related projects had reached advanced stages of completion. In the upcoming phase of CPEC, Chinese companies were actively exploring opportunities to establish industrial zones within Pakistan, with the aim of generating employment for the Pakistani populace and enhancing their quality of life, he added.

The expert opined that improved connectivity would not only benefit Pakistan but also foster increased trade, commerce, and people-to-people interactions between Pakistan and other nations.

Another CPEC expert, Dr. Talat Shabbir said that PM's visit to China held significant importance in light of Pakistan's ongoing economic challenges. China, he added, had a deep understanding of Pakistan's current economic situation.

IHRA continues surprise visits to HCEs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA) on Tuesday continued its surprise visits to various Healthcare Establishments (HCEs) in different areas of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

According to IHRA, the inspection teams carried out inspections of 88 Healthcare Establishments in different areas of ICT during the past four weeks.

Mustehsan Medical Center, City Medical Center, Ahmed Labs and Blood Bank, Habib Medical Center, Dua Rehabilitation Center, Axis Dental clinic and dental lab were sealed due to malpractices like not getting registration with IHRA, unhygienic conditions and absence of proper waste management system, keeping expired kits and

reagents and unqualified staff rendering medical services.

The IHRA suspended the services of six Healthcare Establishments (HCEs) over different medical non-compliances. Hello Esthetics Hair and Skin Studio, Iqbal Pathology Lab (Inside Mishal Clinic), Dr. Neelam Ayub-Skin Aesthetics and Laser Clinic, Ayaz Hope Clinic, Tooth Care Dental Clinic, Civic Care Hospital were suspended.

Similarly, 54 Healthcare Establishments were served notices for minor non-compliances and instructed to comply with the directions given by inspection teams.

As many as 17 HCEs were found closed upon arrival by inspection teams.

Five Healthcare Establishments were recommended for registration and revocation of suspension.

42nd meeting of HEC held

ISLAMABAD (APP): The governing body of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) here on Tuesday held its 42nd meeting to discuss the commission's policies and operations for betterment of the higher education sector. Presiding the meeting, Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed welcomed the newly appointed members of the commission and briefed them about HEC's objectives, functions, achievements, and the challenges. The meeting emphasized upon prioritizing and realigning strategic direction of the higher education sector to the national needs and impact for the socio-economic development of the country.

The commission also deliberated upon the provision of Recurring Grant to new universities/HEIs and approved the HEC Recurring & Development Allocations for the current financial year 2023-24 and revised estimates for 2022-23.

It revived its Standing Committees constituted under different thematic areas related to Quality Assurance & Programme Accreditation, Academics, Human Resource.

IUI holds football & cricket finals amid sports gala

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Sports Gala 2023 cricket tournament at the International Islamic University (IUI) concluded here yesterday with an enthralled final.

The title of the cricket tournament was clinched by the Faculty of Languages and Literature (FLL) as it defeated the Faculty of Management Science. In addition, the Faculty of Engineering & Technology won the football tournament, with the Faculty of Arabic finishing as runner-up. The cricket match was graced by senior sports journalists Zahid Farooq Malik and Syed Mujtaba Rizwan, as well as Siddique Anzar, President of the All Pakistan Newspapers and Electronic Media Employees Confederation (APNEC).



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Federal Minister for Planning Sami Saeed calls on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Health minister pays tribute to polio workers, reaffirms commitment to end polio

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan Tuesday paid tribute to all the polio workers for performing their duties with honesty during the anti-polio drives and reaffirmed his government's commitment to end all forms of polio in Pakistan.

Talking to the PTV news channel, on the eve of World Polio Day, he appreciated the polio workers and law enforcement agencies for carrying out their responsibilities with full dedication during polio campaigns.

He urged parents living in far-flung areas of the country to cooperate with the polio teams, and "save your children from this fatal disease."

Minister for health praised Pakistan for making great strides in the fight against poliovirus, adding that the efforts and sacrifices of the field vaccination teams, who face difficult field conditions and dangerous challenges, greatly contribute to the success of the

campaigns and reducing the spread of polio-virus.

He also thanked the international community, donors, and global polio eradication partners for their support in the fight against polio as well as parents and caregivers for recognizing the importance of protecting their children from the virus.

Replying to a question, he said behind the administration of every polio drop there is a lot of effort at a national and international level.

AIOU bags 2nd position in Plastic Waste Management competition

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has secured the second position in "Plastic Waste Management" competition, organized by Unilever Pakistan and SEED under the 'Pakistan Research Program'.

Mahnoor Shirin and Fatiya Tariq, both students of BS Chemistry at AIOU, were awarded second position among 26 teams representing 11 universities from across the country.

A function was organized by the Department of Chemistry at AIOU to appreciate the talented stu-

dents. Dean, Faculty of Sciences, Prof. Dr. Irshad Ahmed Arshad presided over the event while Chairperson, Chemistry Department, Dr. Uzma Younis hosted the event. Chairperson, Biology Department, Dr. Hina Fatima, Chairperson, Department of Nutritional Sciences and Environmental Design, Dr. Hajra Ahmed, Kamal Nasir, and other faculty members also attended the event. Dr. Irshad Ahmed Arshad emphasized that Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) placed a great emphasis on research and innovation.

Metro-bus goes out of control, several suffer minor injuries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Several passengers received minor injuries as the driver of Metro-bus had lost control and drove the bus over the boundary wall near Faiz Ahmed Faiz metro bus station here on Tuesday. According to details, eye-witnesses said that the metro bus moving towards Rawalpindi to Islamabad when accident occurred, in result several persons being injured, a private news channel reported. Sources said that the authorities have decided to register a case and initiate legal proceedings against the driver for what is being considered 'criminal negligence of driver'.



ISLAMABAD: Police Personnel take charge of the surroundings of Accountant General's Office, during the Former Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif hearing in Federal Capital.

US Water Resources Expert calls on Chairman WAPDA

ISLAMABAD (APP): US Water Resources expert Ms. Alexandra Campbell Ferrari Tuesday called on Chairman Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) Engr Lt Gen (Retd) Sajjad Ghani.

The matters relating to overall water scenario, change in climatic pattern and its impacts on water resources of Pakistan were discussed at length during the meeting, said a press release. Speaking on the occasion, the chairman said that concerted efforts were needed globally to tackle the adverse impact of climatic change on water resources.

He said WAPDA was pursuing green strategies in

view of climatic change by developing water and hydropower projects for sustained economic growth in Pakistan.

Acknowledging the US support for WAPDA in harnessing water and hydropower resources, the chairman expressed the hope that the visit of the US water resources expert would help explore opportunities for strengthening bilateral partnership on water management, environment and climate action.

Later, Ms. Alexandra Campbell Ferrari attended a briefing about water and hydropower resources of Pakistan and the challenges and prospects in the wake of climate change.

Winter heats up demand for traditional cuisines, attract citizens in large

ISLAMABAD (APP): With the days getting colder, the demand for winter traditional cuisines such as chicken soup, gajar ka halwa, Kashmiri chai, sarson ka saag, fried fish, nuts and dry fruit has increased by leaps and bounds all around the country including a capital city where customers in large were seen outside shops.

Despite the new trends of many Western foods and snack varieties among youngsters, the popularity of traditional delights has not decreased in the country where its demand was increasing with each passing day, especially during the start of the winter season, according to a report aired by a private news channel. Several markets, roads and other restaurants having stalls of winter delights are doing brisk business, due to high demand for winter foods, said a citizen. A vendor selling fish commented that said that fish consumption multiplied in winter, which was evident from a dramatic surge in their sale with the beginning of cold weather. Kashmiri tea and coffee are another favourite winter hot drinks and they look more delicious, said a youngster.

With the onset of the winter season, citizens especially Punjabi families still love to eat the traditional dish 'Sarson-Ka-Saag' during the season with its mouth-watering taste.

Senate body discusses nursing institutions' fake degrees issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): The meeting of the Senate sub-standing committee on National Health Services Regulations and Coordination was held

on Tuesday to investigate the matter of fake degrees issued to nurses by institutions affiliated with the Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC).

Senator Rubina Khalid, who convened the meeting highlighted the conditions prevailing in these institutes.

Senator Jam Mehtab Hussain Dahar expressed dismay over the reports from the Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery council visiting team.

He criticized the inadequate infrastructure, sub-standard science and com-

puter labs, and discrepancies in marking and reporting, indicating a lack of supervisory competence.

He called for reporting institutions engaged in dishonest practices to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

The sub-committee collectively voiced their disappointment, stating that despite the passage of years, the conditions of these institutes have not improved.

Senator Jam Mehtab Hussain Dahar emphasized that the report highlights individuals running nursing institutions in two-room houses for the past 20 years and the irony is, that no action has been taken against these institutions during these years.

PRCS Chairman meets with Palestinian Ambassador

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, visited the

Palestinian Embassy in Gaza and pledged support.

Chairman Laghari announced that the Pakistan Red Crescent through the



Palestinian Embassy and met with Palestinian Ambassador Ahmed Jawad Rabei. Discussions centered on the current situation in Gaza, expressing sorrow over losses in lives and property.

During the meeting, Ambassador Ahmed Jawad Rabei highlighted the severe humanitarian crisis in Gaza, emphasizing the urgent need for water, food, and medical assistance. Chairman Shahid Ahmed Laghari assured that the Pakistan Red Crescent Society is fully aware of the situation

National Disaster Management Authority, will dispatch 4,500 first aid kits, 3,500 hygiene kits, and 3,500 dignity kits. Additionally, a shipment of medicines will be sent through the NDMA.

He urged individuals willing to contribute cash donations PRCS to directly send them to Askari Bank G-8 Markaz Islamabad, account number 01771650501737, or to the Palestine Embassy's bank, Alfalah Bank, account number 0494-1003784913.

Commissioner directs to launch crack down against overcharging in public transport

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Chief Commissioner Capt @ Anwar-ul-Haq on Tuesday directed to take stern action against price gougers and overcharging in public transport.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from the district administration, including Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon, Addl. Commissioner, Director (Law), Addl. Deputy Commissioners, Director (Agriculture Extension Services Cell), Deputy Director (Food), Secretary (Islamabad Transport Authority) and Assistant Commissioners.

The deputy commissioner briefed the participants of the meeting about the steps taken to monitor transport fares.

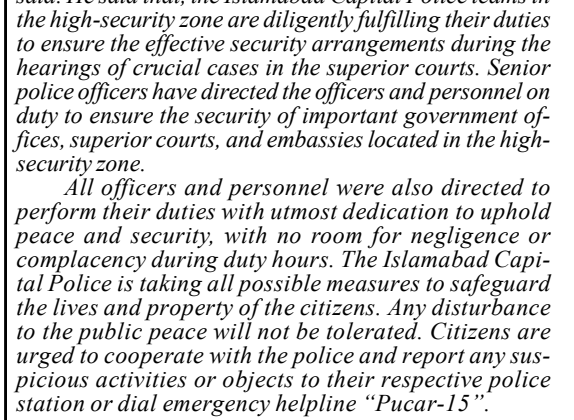
He said the district administration revised the transport fares and also mobilised field teams to check overcharging in public transport.

The chief commissioner directed to increase the number of field staff to check transport fares.

On the issue of price control, he directed all assistant commissioners to take immediate steps to provide maximum relief to the people. He underscored the need for prompt initiatives and directed all officers to swiftly implement measures aimed at providing maximum support and relief to the people.

Islamabad Capital Police ensuring foolproof security measures in High Security Zone

ISLAMABAD (APP): Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police is actively en-



gaged in ensuring effective security arrangements during the hearings of significant cases in the superior courts situated in high-security zone, a public relations officer said. He said that, the Islamabad Capital Police teams in the high-security zone are diligently fulfilling their duties to ensure the effective security arrangements during the hearings of crucial cases in the superior courts. Senior police officers have directed the officers and personnel on duty to ensure the security of important government offices, superior courts, and embassies located in the high-security zone.

All officers and personnel were also directed to perform their duties with utmost dedication to uphold peace and security, with no room for negligence or complacency during duty hours. The Islamabad Capital Police is taking all possible measures to safeguard the lives and property of the citizens. Any disturbance to the public peace will not be tolerated. Citizens are urged to cooperate with the police and report any suspicious activities or objects to their respective police station or dial emergency helpline "Pucar-15".



ISLAMABAD: A view of the diversion on Park road during for recarpeting of road in Federal Capital.

Pakistan continues efforts to defeat polio virus: Shahzad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre for Polio Eradication Dr Shahzad Asif Baig on Tuesday said that Pakistan will continue its efforts to defeat the polio virus.

He urged all political leaders, religious leaders, doctors, teachers, and artists to play an important role in strengthening the national polio campaign.

Talking to the PTV news channel on 'World Polio Day' he called upon

the international community to look towards Pakistan and provide all possible cooperation in this regard so that the country works to eradicate polio.

He also acknowledged Pakistan's efforts to eradicate polio and reiterated his foundation's continued support to Pakistan for ensuring that no child was at risk of paralysis due to the polio virus. "People are still sceptical about the polio-virus vaccine and continuous migration.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
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'Null and void'

It is a seminal judgement. On Monday, while hearing a set of petitions against the trial of civilians in military courts, a Supreme Court bench ruled that in the aftermath of the May 9 events, civilian trials in such courts were null and void.

Their lordships observed that two sections of the Army Act apparently justifying civilian trials in military courts were unconstitutional, and called for cases of civilians to be conducted in regular criminal courts.

The judgement clearly upholds civilian supremacy and should be seen as permanent endorsement of the constitutional order over non-democratic shortcuts.

In ignoring the recent pleas of some of the accused to speed up their military trials, it becomes apparent that their lordships were looking at the long-term consequences of allowing civilians to be tried by military courts.

The petitions against military trials were taken up by former CJP Umar Ata Bandial, but the case was put off 'indefinitely' before resuming Monday. There were also reports that the military trials of some among the 102 people taken into custody after the May 9 developments had begun, even though the apex court had said the cases could only be heard after it granted permission.

The last National Assembly, for all its talk of democracy, had endorsed military trials through a controversial resolution, that has, in effect, been rejected by the court in its decision to restore the civilian order.

The state can appeal the decision before the full court. Yet at the heart of the matter is not just the trials of 102 individuals by the military, but also the debate about what sort of governance structure should dominate Pakistan.

Should it be the constitutional order envisioned by the founders of the country, where every citizen is equal under the law, where due process is respected, and where all institutions act within their legal bounds? Or should Pakistan's vision be one of an eternal security state, where justice, lawmaking, foreign policy, the economy, etc, are all militarised?

Thankfully, in the latest judgement, the apex court has demonstrated the vision of the founding fathers.

As a start, the custody of the May 9 accused should be handed over to civilian authorities.

To demand the civilian trial of those involved in the May 9 events is not to condone their acts; it is to say that when civilians are accused of committing crimes, there exists a civilian justice system that should be well-equipped to decide on their guilt and punishment.

And if there are lacunae in the civilian justice system, these need to be addressed, not replaced with militarised justice. It is hoped that Monday's judgement is applied for all times to come, and not just to the May 9 cases.



Arifa Noor

Do stories of martyrdom and suffering still resonate? The question came to mind as the daylong transmission of the Lahore jalsa proceeded; especially as the state was seen to be playing a supporting role in ensuring a grand welcome for PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif, who returned to Pakistan after four years. And grand and impressive it was, after weeks of preparation by the party.

After all, this is a party not known for street spectacles; the last time Nawaz Sharif returned to the country from Saudi Arabia, his party could not even manage a half-decent show, even though it came shortly after the spectacular show organised by the PPP for Benazir Bhutto's arrival in Karachi in October 2007.

And while compari-

sions were made back then, they didn't faze the party; neither did they stop it from winning back central Punjab from its evil twin, the PML-Q, which had ruled the province during the prosperous Musharraf years.

But the nothings were different, so was Pakistan including Punjab.

The PML-N knows this; which is why unlike the past it now tries to match its competitor's street shows, song for song and flag for flag. It is noteworthy that in its heyday, the PML-N didn't bother with jalsas at Minar-i-Pakistan.

Other than the PDM gathering here one cold December evening, this is perhaps the only other occasion where the party put together a show of this size in this park. The party's nervousness was evident from its bizarre statements during the preparations; offers of motorbikes and warnings to keep track of people through their phones. Smaller gatherings were planned and then cancelled. But grand it was and successful.

Yet, one is forced to ask if the leader's personal suffering still resonates in a land where inflation has ravaged

every home and state excesses have touched many.

How would these people view a return of a former symbol of defiance, whose return was marked at every moment by signs of the support he now enjoys? So much so, it was as if his return was deliberately tarnished in the eyes of a disgruntled populace which has spent the past five years choosing the victim over the partner.

Consider that while the PML-N was able to hold a jalsa on Saturday, with non-stop coverage on all television channels, PTI workers were not able to hold a gathering on Sunday. The victim card is now firmly held by Imran Khan's party, and mere memories of the distant and recent past won't change that.

And in the joy of return, even parts of Nawaz Sharif's speech sounded like a victory speech rather than one which is given at the launch of an election campaign; it was more about what he has planned to do rather than what he would do in case he was voted in. However, it is worth mentioning that the economic roadmap was not too detailed and simply listed much

of what the caretaker government is already busy with.

But more importantly, from the family's suffering to previous achievements, the bulk of the speech was enunciated firmly in the past, even though Pakistan is now grappling with 2023. The family suffering, the exiles, missed opportunities of the past, and the legacy; and then the touching scenes of the two siblings with their children locked in a close huddle.

Though the last was perhaps instinctive, it once again highlighted the family dominance of a mainstream party, a factor which now ripples not just part of the electorate but also the party rank and file, though the leadership has firmly pushed the issue to a point where it is barely mentioned.

His focus on inflation was less convincing especially where he tried to brush away the 16 months under Shehbaz Sharif as simply a result of the PTI government, which preceded it. If this was as simple as he made it sound, Maryam Nawaz's campaign in July 2022 would have worked. But it didn't. And yet, he focused on the prices dur-

ing his prime ministership. Either he felt he had no choice or doesn't realise how aware the ordinary people have become of the economic crisis and the structural problems that cause it.

And this is the dilemma of the party and Nawaz Sharif.

While they do want to assert their primacy in Punjab, they also keep conceding that times are changing. Consider the party's ad campaigns where a number of mostly young and educated people are indirectly addressing or discussing PTI's criticism of the PML-N.

Nawaz Sharif also hinted at the same threat from the PTI by referring to his own party's 'well-behaved' women; opprobrium for abusive young people and derision for unnamed people who carry a tasbeeh publicly.

However, this latent acknowledgement of the challenge the PTI poses with its populism and support from the youth, comes without a path on how to win them over. The party is still only equipped to win in purana Punjab; which is why the speech continued

to harp on past achievements such as low prices and development projects. But that very night it was obvious that purana Punjab no longer includes Lahore, which was missing from the Saturday show. The crowds did not really include the residents of the city, which was once known as the Larkana of PML-N.

Last but not least, his passionate speech hinted at past fires, even though he didn't speak of defiance or 'vote ko izzat do'. He hinted at his dismissals and what these interruptions meant for his family and Pakistan. His references to restraint and reconciliation (which for the moment seems to imply the establishment), made it obvious the choices were forced upon him.

But in those moments, he also revealed the essential contradiction within himself and his party, for at times, Nawaz Sharif comes across as a leader who aspires to the populism of Bhutto and Imran Khan but is held back by his party and family to settle for power in Punjab. Even on Saturday evening, it seemed, he was celebrating a victory while having lost a battle, personally. -- Courtesy Dawn

A valley without rights

Amanat Ali Chaudhry

Kashmiris living across the Line of Control as well as abroad observe October 27 as Black Day every year. People in Pakistan including all those who prize freedom use the day as an opportunity to express their solidarity and support to Kashmiris in their struggle for their right to self-determination.

This year the world is commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the 30th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (VDPA). The people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir are still deprived of their fundamental human rights and the essential right to self-determination. The UDHR provides bedrock on which the entire superstructure of the global human rights movement and the obligations of the states stands.

Since that unfortunate

day in 1947, the inhabitants of Kashmir have been unjustly denied the complete spectrum of human rights and fundamental freedoms that are clearly articulated in both the UDHR and the VDPA. The Vienna Declaration explicitly underlines the principle that "All peoples have the right of self-determination, enabling them to freely determine their political status and to pursue their economic, social, and cultural development." It affirms the "right of peoples to take any lawful actions, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, to achieve their inherent right to self-determination." Additionally, it also underscores the necessity for "effective international measures to ensure and oversee the implementation of human rights standards for people living under foreign occupation."

In the last 76 years, India has employed different strategies against the Kashmiri struggle — from promising to hold the UN-supervised plebiscite to resolving the dispute bilaterally with Pakistan to using brute force to suppress the indigenous freedom struggle. While the tactics and strategies by the successive Indian

governments have varied, the only constant factor has been Kashmiris' undying commitment to their just cause as well as their willingness to render any sacrifice in the struggle for right to self-determination.

Meanwhile being in a quandary in the face of legendary Kashmiri resistance and defiance, the Indian government under PM Modi 'settled' on the illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019 with a view to changing the internationally recognized disputed status of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and altering the demographic structure of the occupied territory. This was the BJP leaders' idea of imposing a 'final solution' on Kashmir — except that it is not. The cruel siege and curfew enforced on August 5, 2019 was established through a substantial escalation in military presence by India. This resulted in a staggering deployment of 900,000 troops, making it one of the most densely militarized regions in recent history, equating to approximately one soldier for every eight Kashmiri individuals, including men, women and children.

The extensive Indian

occupying force has subsequently executed a methodical campaign of repressive measures, which include extrajudicial killings of innocent Kashmiris in staged confrontations; deaths while in custody and 'cordon-and-search' operations; the use of pellet guns leading to fatalities, injuries, and blindness among peaceful protesters, particularly young individuals; the kidnapping and forced disappearances of people; the imprisonment of nearly the entire Kashmiri leadership; and 'collective punishments' involving the destruction and burning of complete villages and urban neighborhoods. It is evident that India's actions in Kashmir represent an extreme form of persecution and a clear warning sign of an impending 'genocide'.

Furthermore, a series of arbitrary legal and administrative measures have been implemented to promote land confiscation, an influx of non-Kashmiri residents, and the establishment of foreign settlements in Occupied Kashmir. Millions of domicile certificates have been distributed, and it is evident that the primary goal is to transform the Kashmiri Muslim ma-

ajority into a minority in their own territory. This deliberate manipulation of demographics constitutes a grave violation of international law, including a blatant breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The most distressing aspect of this situation is the ruthless application of unrestrained force, accompanied by utter impunity. Over generations, courageous Kashmiris have endured fear, intimidation, torture, and severe human rights violations. However, the depth of Indian oppression in Kashmir goes beyond this. Not only have Indian authorities consistently expanded their methods for committing further atrocities in the occupied region, but they have also imposed an impenetrable veil of silence over Occupied Kashmir through a paralyzing physical lockdown and a complete blackout of information.

The UN secretary-general displayed both moral and legal clarity when he articulated the UN's stance following India's actions on August 5, 2019. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) convened several times to engage in discussions, deci-

sively rejecting India's erroneous claims that Kashmir was solely an 'internal' matter. Equally commendable was the contribution of EU DisinfoLab, which unveiled the emptiness of India's efforts to present a misleading image of 'normalcy' in Occupied Kashmir. However, it is evident that more action is required. While the world grapples with the question of persistent instability in different regions, the fact remains that durable peace and stability in South Asia is hard to imagine until a just solution to the Kashmir dispute is achieved. The issue of human rights abuses can't be pushed under the carpet for long, simply because India is the preferred choice of the West in their effort to contain China and has a huge global market.

To address and potentially rectify the deteriorating Pakistan-India relations that began on August 5, 2019, the feasible course for the international community is to exert pressure on India to undo its unlawful and independent actions on that day and all subsequent measures designed to change the demographic structure of Occupied Kashmir. -- Courtesy TheNews

Conflict and women

Mohammad Ali Babakhel

While conflicts and violence directly and indirectly impact everyone, girls and women are invariably the most vulnerable and worst affected. According to a study, nearly 90 million girls live in conflict zones worldwide, with negative consequences for their education, health, and well-being. From experiencing forced displacement to being denied appropriate healthcare to facing gender-based violence and child marriages, women pay disproportionately for wars started and waged by men.

Traditionally, men are expected to fight in conflicts while women are forced to flee and are usually left with no option but to leave for their native towns. According to UNHCR, out of the 80m people displaced worldwide, half are women and children. Conflicts also destroy a country's health infrastructure; hospitals are bombed, and health workers are overburdened and understaffed. Since women have specific health needs, it is challenging to meet them when they are displaced. This results from limited availability of services and facilities, the stigma attached to sexual and reproductive health, etc. Studies show that displaced pregnant women receive less antenatal care and are "more exposed to violence, malnutrition, poor hygiene conditions" than those who are not.

Many may die from pregnancy and childbirth complications. According to UN Women, 60 per cent of

preventable maternal deaths occur globally in "fragile settings where political conflict, displacement, and natural disasters prevail". According to a UNFPA report for 2021, in Yemen, a woman dies in childbirth every two hours, on average, due to poor health facilities. Over 1m pregnant and breastfeeding women there are said to be malnourished.

Sexual violence has long been a war tactic. In 2020, the UN confirmed 2,500 cases of sexual violence in 18 countries, mostly against women. In such situations, women may experience "all three forms of gender-based violence... psychological, physical, and sexual abuse". Due to growing instability and poverty, and the weakening of the rule of law, conflict situations turn conducive to domestic violence and human trafficking. Displacement increases the risk of women facing GBV, as it separates them from their communities that might otherwise protect them. Displaced girls in camps may also attract the attention of traffickers.

Conflicts disrupt economic progress and often create more poverty and hunger. Such situations encourage child marriages, as families are either desperately looking for additional income or to have one less mouth to feed. According to Save the Children, girls affected by conflicts are 20pc more likely to be married than those living in peaceful areas. Its report says that girls in "East Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and South Asia face the highest risk of child marriage linked to conflict". West and Central Africa, a region wracked by conflict and poverty, has the highest rates of child marriage globally. In a few conflict-affected countries, like Chad or the Central African Republic, child marriage was

shown to be three times higher than the world average.

Women are often left out in peace negotiations; hence, conflict prevention remains male-dominated. Conflict, therefore, not only affects women but denies them opportunities to have a say in matters that directly affect them. After the adoption of Resolution 1325 by the UN Security Council, globally, there has been a growing interest in including women in conflict resolution and peace talks, with representation increasing from 1pc in 1999 to 9pc in 2011. According to UN Women, between 1992 and 2019, women represented, on average, 13pc of all negotiators, 6pc of mediators, and 6pc of signatories in significant peace processes worldwide. However, seven of every 10 peace processes did not include women mediators or signatories. According to UN Women, in 2020, women were represented in only 23pc of the delegations in UN-supported peace processes. "In countries affected by or rebuilding from conflict, women's representation in elected office stood at just 19pc in 2020".

With funds' availability, the issues women face in conflicts can be tackled. Since 2016, the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund has mobilised over \$100m and financed more than 600 women's CSO's in conflict-affected areas. Safeguarding the interests of women during conflicts requires "breaking silos between humanitarian, peace, security, and development finance by investing in enhancing women's engagement, leadership, and empowerment across all phases of the crisis". However, such ideals cannot be converted into reality without the international community's collective efforts in this direction. -- Courtesy Dawn

Course correction

Jamil Ahmad

All is set for the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) next month in Dubai. The annual conclave comes in the wake of this year's record-breaking high temperatures, a worsening water crisis, wildfires, and floods in many parts of the world. World leaders, representatives of the financial sector, industry, CSOs, and climate activists are expected to congregate for crucial policy decisions on climate change.

COP28 takes the baton from COP27, aiming to refine policies and augment action in mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation including finance, technology, and capacity building.

An important addition to the agenda is the operationalisation of the Loss and Damages Fund established at last year's COP. A 24-member transitional committee, entrusted with defining the structure and modalities of the Fund, is expected to finalise its proposals.

The first Global Stocktake to assess quantitative progress on achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement has been completed after a consultative process spread over 18 months.

COP28 will consider the Global Stocktake, which offers countries a deep insight into the impact of their individual and collective effort to address climate change, and discuss challenges as well as take fresh measures for course correction and strengthening international cooperation on all the pillars of the

Paris Agreement.

A synthesis report released last month notes the progress made towards the Paris goals, but also indicates the need to do much more. In its 17 findings, the report points out "well-known gaps", such as the insufficiency of mitigation ambition to collectively achieve the Paris Agreement, fragmentation, incrementality and the unequal regional distribution of adaptation efforts, and lack of rigorous accountability of actions by non-party stakeholders. To bridge these gaps, the report calls for a whole-of-society approach, integrated and inclusive policymaking for long-term strategies for carbon-resilient and low-emission development, scaling-up renewable energy, and the unabated phasing out of fossil fuels.

The Global Stocktake report also identifies the need for "increased adaptation action and enhanced efforts to avert, minimise and address loss and damage", for those who are least prepared for change and least able to recover from disasters. On climate finance, the report emphasises the scaled-up mobilisation of support for developing countries, while aligning the current financial flows with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions.

Means of implementation, particularly finance, have now become the central plank of the narrative for securing the Paris Agreement, and the SDGs deliberations on this subject at Dubai will get a boost from the SDG Summit and the Climate Ambition Summit held last month during the UN General Assembly, which urged concrete steps at COP28 for operationalising the Loss and Damage Fund. Another meeting convened in New York by Egypt, the current COP presidency, and the UAE — the incoming COP presidency — added its

voice to calls in favour of early action on the fund. However, there are still differences among governments on the modalities for the new financing mechanism, the criteria for securing and disbursing funds and the qualification of countries to benefit from the facility. After two rounds of talks, the Loss and Damage transitional committee entrusted with providing answers to these questions has a challenging task ahead as it shapes its final recommendations.

Leading the developing countries, Pakistan played a key role at COP27 in forging consensus on the Loss and Damage Fund. At Dubai, developing countries, under Cuba's presidency of the G77, will argue for additional, sufficient, and accessible climate finance and technology transfer.

The EU has signalled a three-pronged strategy, urging governments to triple renewable energy rollout by 2030, improve energy efficiency, and accelerate the phasing out of fossil fuels, with a "residual" role for carbon-abating technologies. UNEP, the UNDP and other UN agencies working with governments on climate policy will also attend the meeting. Ahead of COP28, UNEP will release reports on adaptation gaps and emissions gaps. Against the backdrop of the IPCC's warning that the Paris targets are off-track, including the major goal of limiting the global temperature rise — preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, a major climate course correction is needed now. Countries will have to set more ambitious targets in their upcoming Nationally Determined Contributions to reduce global GHG emissions by 43 per cent by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050. COP28 will be expected to chalk out a credible pathway for meeting this challenge. Failure is not an option. -- Courtesy Dawn

Governor KP highlights role of women staff in polio eradication

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali on Tuesday highlighted the role of women workers in polio eradication and said that we should liaise to fight polio with the same commitment that helped us to defeat corona.

He was the Chief Guest in a ceremony held in Nishtar Hall to mark World Polio Day. The ceremony was organized by UNICEF, WHO, Rotary International and KP Elimination Program and attended by Director General Health, Dr. Shoukat Ali, Commissioner Peshawar, Muhammad Zubair, Deputy Commissioner, Afaq Wazir, Director EPI Program, Dr. Arif and polio workers.

Addressing the ceremony, KP Governor underscored the services of media, medical professionals, ulema, teachers and civil society in polio eradication and said that Pakistan and Afghanistan are the focus of the world after the elimination of crippling disease from the rest of the countries situated on the globe. He said that the government is working on a war footing to wipe out polio and we desire that polio should be eliminated from all over the country. Highlighting the sacrifices of polio workers, he said that they should be respected for their efforts rather than targeted for a cause that would impact the future of the next generation.

He also distributed prizes and certificates among polio workers of D I Khan and other far-flung areas and cash prizes among heirs of polio workers who were killed in the line of duty.

The governor also met with a nine-member delegation of Islamia College senior alumni in the Governor House. The delegation was led by Engineer Muhammad Arif and included Abdullah Khan, Arbab Daud, Naem Afridi, Syed Bilal and Mateullah. The delegation informed the governor about the condition of Islamia College's historic masjid urging him to take steps for its revamping. Haji Ghulam assured cooperation to the delegation and offered to bear the revamping expense personally.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam addressing a ceremony on eve of International Polio Day at Nishtar Hall.

Pakistan values its relations with Korea: Governor Punjab

Independent Report
LAHORE: The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Park Kijun, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman here on Tuesday at the Governor House Lahore.

In the meeting, promotion of bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade and tourism was discussed. During the meeting, the overall situation of Palestine was also discussed.

Speaking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Israel's bombing of children, women and innocent civilians in Palestine Gaza is a crime against humanity. He said that the world should raise its voice against the ongoing atrocities on Palestinians and play its role in stopping it. He said that Pakistan values its relations with Korea. He

said that Pakistan's government and people are grateful to the Korean government and companies for extending help to the flood victims in Pakistan last year. Governor Punjab said that economic, technological, defense, cultural cooperation and people to people contact between Pakistan and Korea need to be further promoted. He said that economic relations between the two countries are of great importance, and bilateral trade should be boosted. He said that Pakistan welcomes all its friends and partners for business and investment. He added that Pakistan would welcome Korean investment in all sectors. Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Korean multinational companies should benefit from investment facilities under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

CM Mohsin Naqvi pushes for expedited completion of Lahore CBD Project

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid a visit to the Lahore Prime Central Business District (CBD) in the Quaid District Project. During his visit, the Chief Minister conducted an extensive inspection of the ongoing road construction from CBD Punjab Quaid District to Walton Road, closely assessing the project's progress.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi emphatically directed the commencement of construction on the overhead bridge project spanning the Walton railway track, urging swift execution. He keenly observed the ongoing construction activities

leading up to the bridge site and emphasized expediting the completion of the Walton Overhead Bridge project. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi remarked that this endeavor would chart a new trajectory for Lahore's development. Once completed, the linkage between Center Point and Walton Road will be traversable in a mere three minutes. He also anticipated an influx of substantial investments, totaling in the billions of rupees, upon the culmination of the entire CBD project.

CEO Imran Amin provided a comprehensive briefing on the progress of the Lahore Prime CBD Punjab Quaid District project. He assured that the

infrastructure work, encompassing road networks, sewerage systems, water supply, electricity grids, and communication networks, would be concluded soon. A dedicated area for green spaces has been incorporated into the Lahore Prime CBD Punjab Quaid District, ensuring a balanced urban environment. The CBD Punjab to Walton Road stretch, spanning 4.2 kilometers, is being constructed using cutting-edge Blue Road technology. Upon completion, CBD Punjab will facilitate uninterrupted travel from Quaid District to Walton Road with three lanes and a strategically positioned flyover.



LAHORE: Ambassador of Korea Park Kijun meeting with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman.

CM Sindh briefed on development projects in Sukkur division

Independent Report
SUKKUR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh, Justice Maqbool Baqer, presided over a meeting at the Divisional Commissioner's house in Sukkur on Tuesday, focusing on Sukkur's development portfolio and flood damages and rehabilitation.

In attendance were provincial ministers, Brigadier Haris Nawaz, Barrister Umar Soomro, Ashar Lal, Principal Secretary Hasan Naqvi, Secretary School Education Sheerin Narejo, Secretary Health Dr. Mansoor, Secretary Works and Services Muhammad Nawaz Sohu, and other relevant officers.

During the meeting, Chief Minister Sindh expressed the purpose of his visit to Sukkur, which was to assess the city's health, sanitation, flood damage, and other issues. He instructed the Secretary

of Works and Services to clear the roads of the city of soil, emphasizing the need for improved sanitation arrangements in Sukkur.

He gave a three-week deadline to the Sukkur district administration to remove garbage and floodwater from the roads, warning that he would not spare anyone if the city remained unclean.

The Chief Minister also pointed out the poor conditions of police stations and the district headquarters hospital in Sukkur, criticizing the lack of honesty in the performance of their duties. He emphasized the proper cleaning of broken roads, sewers, and streets.

The Divisional Commissioner Sukkur, Samiuddin Siddiqui, and his team briefed the caretaker Chief Minister on flood-related rehabilitation projects.

Two-day free medical camp held By Aijaz

Independent Report
UMER KOT: A two-day free medical camp was organized by the social organization. Doctors specializing in various diseases provided free medical examination and medicines to more than 2000 patients.

According to the details, a two-day free medical camp was organized by the social organization Share for Care Trust in collaboration with the Nizamuddin Foundation in Umerkot, Dhoronaro and Choor, in which more than forty doctors of various diseases from London-based Pakistan Najat Patriot, Specialist Dr. Muhammad Yunus Bagha, General Surgeon Dr. Syed Amar Hussain, while specialist doctors from Dubai including rheumatologist and general physician Dr. Syed Arshad Hussain, dermatologist Dr. Manzoor Memon and Gynecologist Dr. Nausheen Qadri from Karachi examined more than two thousand patients suffering from various diseases in the free medical camp.

CM stresses collective efforts to eradicate polio

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday said that every segment of society must play its role in dealing with the challenge of polio virus.

In a statement on International Polio Day, the CM said that the polio virus has been defeated globally, but it still exists in Pakistan and Afghanistan. It is a matter of concern. It is the primary duty of every

Pakistani to make the country free of poliovirus, he added and appealed to parents to get polio drops administered to their children to save them from the disease. The CM also saluted the polio workers and organizations working against the poliovirus and said that the virus could be controlled with joint efforts so that future generations could be saved from the disease. He pledged to eradicate this disease, he added.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister of Primary and Secondary Health Nasir Jamal viewing photo exhibition relating to polio campaign during World Polio day organize by photojournalist Aamir Khan at Al-Hamra.

Minister directs highlighting of KP indigenous products

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: KP Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce and Technical Education (IC&TE), Dr. Aamir Abdullah Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to highlight the indigenous products and locally famous edibles in the market. He issued these directives while presiding over a meeting regarding 'Business and Trade Strategy 2020' for the promotion of the local and indigenous products of the province here at Civil Secretariat. Besides, Secretary IC&TE, Syed Zulfikar Ali Shah, Director General (DG) Industries & Commerce and Manager,

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment & Trade (KP-BoIT) and other authorities concerned also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the provincial minister was given a detailed briefing regarding the industrial and commerce strategy and informed about its different aspects.

Various proposals for the development of special indigenous products and culturally important goods for export purposes also came under discussion during the meeting. The minister also directed the completion of the process of resource mapping of the products produced at the district level and furnishing a report to him regarding central.

Collective efforts stressed to eradicate polio from country

Independent Report
DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Commissioner of Dera Ismail Khan, Zafarul Islam Khattak, emphasized the need for collective efforts to eradicate polio from the country. He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony held on Tuesday at Gomal University in connection with World Polio Day.

He urged the youth, who are the architects of the country's future, to come forward and play a role in supporting the efforts to make the country polio-free. He also encouraged parents to administer polio drops.

World polio day awareness walk organized in Mohmand district

Independent Report
PESHAWAR (APP): An awareness walk was held in Ghalani, the headquarter of Mohmand district, on Thursday in connection with World Polio Day. The walk was organized by the Health Department and the District Administration, with active participation from Additional Deputy Commissioner Shaqel Ahmed, District Health Officer Dr. Rafiq Hayat, Rescue 1122, school teachers, and local leaders.

The walk commenced from Government Higher

Secondary School Ghalani and concluded at the Mohmand Press Club. Participants carried banners and placards inscribed with slogans to highlight the importance of polio vaccination and to urge parents to ensure that their children receive polio drops during the campaign.

Addressing the participants, Dr. Rafiq Hayat stressed the importance of parents in Mohmand ensuring that their children receive polio drops during the campaign.

1,511 smoky vehicles impounded in two months

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Minister for Transport Ibrahim Murad has said that more than 1,511 vehicles were impounded during the last two months for causing pollution.

In a statement on Tuesday, he said that action was also taken against 4,682 vehicles without fitness certificates. He directed that no exception should be made for polluting transport and they should be seized immediately.

The minister said that he would go to any extent to eliminate smog. Heavy fines will also be imposed on transport causing pollution and smog, he added.

He directed the field staff to be proactive and take strict measures in this regard. "People have to understand their responsibility and fix their vehicle issues causing smog, otherwise the government has power to seized their vehicles and impose hefty fines. Citizens should refrain from violating smog laws and support the government in keeping the environment safe and clean."



PESHAWAR: Paramedical Low Paid Employees are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Peshawar press club.

Expansion required to solve Nowshera sub-jail overcapacity issue: Feroze

Independent Report
NOWSHERA: Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Information and Public Relations, Culture, and Tourism, undertook a comprehensive review of key facilities and services during his visit to Nowshera. The visit included an inspection of Sub Jail Nowshera, District Headquarters Hospital, and participation in a Khuli Kacheri organized by the Department of Public Health Engineering at Kakasahib.

During the visit of Sub Jail Nowshera,

Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel assessed the conditions of different sections within the jail, interacted with both prisoners and staff. The in-charge officer, Baitullah, briefed the Minister about sub jail. He highlighted the issue of overcapacity, with 527 inmates in a facility designed for 171. To address this critical concern, the Caretaker Minister revealed that a range of solutions, including jail expansion or construction of a new facility, will be considered. In response to immediate health needs, the Caretaker Minister instructed the District Health Officer Nowshera.



LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Prof. Dr. Javed Akram in a group photo with participants of Osteoporosis Awareness Seminar at Kind Edward Medical University.

SABS University signs MoU with PAC Karachi

Independent Report
HYDERABAD (APP): The management of Shaheed Allah Bukhsh Soomro (SABS) University of Art, Design and Heritages Jamshoro has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Pakistan Arts Council Karachi to coordinate collaborative studies and multi-institutional experimental research in arts, design and performing arts as well as humanities.

The university spokesman informed here on Tuesday that MoU was

signed by Vice Chancellor SABS University Prof. Dr. Arabella Bhattu and President of Pakistan Arts Council Karachi Muhammad Ahmed Shah.

The key objectives of the MoU are to coordinate collaborative studies and multi-institutional experimental research in the arts, design and performing arts and humanities, encourage interactive participation and reciprocity between departments to increase faculty-department.

PM directs to ensure timely, uninterrupted fertilizer supply for Rabi crop

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to ensure the timely and uninterrupted supply of fertilizer to the farmers for Rabi crop.

The prime minister, chairing a review meeting on the provision of Urea for Rabi crop, instructed for the timely arrangement of the fertilizer's buffer stock.

respective district administrations to keep strict vigilance on the fertilizer prices.

The meeting was also apprised of the current production of the fertilizer and the expected demand.

The participants were briefed about the decisions of the Economic Coordination Committee for the uninterrupted provision of fertilizer.

The prime minister instructed the relevant

ministries to formulate a comprehensive mechanism for the smooth supply of the fertilizer for Rabi crop.

The meeting was also briefed about the prices of the fertilizer and its raw material, and the demand and supply for the fertilizer factories.

Caretaker ministers Gohar Ejaz, Kausar Abdullah Malik and Muhammad Ali, Advisor to PM Ahmad Cheema and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways, Communication and Maritime Affairs, Shahid Ashraf Tarar is chairing a review meeting at Ministry of Railways.

SM Tanveer meets PFMA, Karyana Merchant Association's delegations

LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister of Industry and Commerce SM Tanveer held separate meetings with delegations of Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA) and Karyana Merchant Association (KMA) here at Civil Secretariat on Tuesday.

During the meeting with PFMA delegation led by its Chairman Asim Raza, the issue of wheat release policy and price to flour mills was discussed. Punjab Chief Secretary (CS) Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Secretary Food Dr Wasif Khurshid and Director Food were also present.

Provincial Minister SM Tanveer said that the association's proposals regarding wheat release policy and prices to flour mills would be placed before the cabinet. The caretaker government of Punjab is taking all necessary steps to provide relief to the people. Interests of the consumers

and farmers would be safeguarded at all costs, he added. He said that the fruits of significant reduction in the prices of petroleum products should reach to the common man.

On this occasion, the CS directed the Food Secretary to prepare wheat procurement policy for next year.

While in a meeting with Karyana Merchant Association Punjab (Central) delegation headed by its President Muhammad Arif Ali, the minister said that caretaker government wants to promote business activities therefore genuine problems of businessmen are being solved on priority.

While, the CS said that association should give its suggestions to eliminate the price difference of pulses and essential commodities in different cities and the price lists should be displayed prominently at sales/retail points.

FPCCI delegation visits Spain to explore trade opportunities

LAHORE: A high-profile business delegation of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) led by its Regional Chairman Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi visited Spain to explore opportunities for promoting bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Spain. Having representation of various sectors including agriculture, packaging, textile, construction, stainless steel, edible crude oil and auto parts, the delegation held meetings with Spanish counterparts and explored various areas that offered good potential for business collaboration between the private sectors of both the countries, according to the FPCCI spokesman here Tuesday. The delegation also visited the Pakistan Embassy in Madrid and met

with Aftab Ahmed Khokhar, Ambassador of Pakistan to Spain. The Commercial Section of the Pakistan Embassy in Spain extended facilitation services to the delegates. The ambassador of Pakistan to Spain briefed the delegates about the potential areas of bilateral trade and investment opportunities between Pakistan and Spain.

The delegates also added that the FPCCI would work closely with the Pakistan Embassy in Madrid to explore all untapped areas of bilateral collaboration between Pakistan and Spain to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes for both countries. Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi successfully delivered, at relevant forums, information about investment opportunities in Pakistan and invited potential investors to avail of them.

SCCI delegation meets SBP chief manager

SIALKOT (APP): Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Senior Vice President (SVP) Wahub Jahangir led a delegation of the chamber to a meeting with State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Chief Manager Ms. Fozia Aslam and her team.

The meeting was arranged by the SBP chief manager and a diverse spectrum of issues pertaining to the facilitation of export sectors were discussed.

Wahub Jahangir and Ms. Fozia Aslam resolved to work closely in the best interest of members of the Sialkot chamber. A joint effort for awareness of members in terms of various SME financing options was also agreed upon.

PSX loses 42 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) shed 42.89 points on Tuesday, a nominal negative change of 0.08 per cent, closing at 51,027.94 points against 51,070.83 points the previous day.

A total of 321,403,857 shares valuing Rs 11.091 billion were traded during the day as compared to 364,070,705 shares valuing Rs 15.930 billion the previous day.

As many as 342 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 143 of them recorded gains and 171 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 28 companies remained unchanged. The top three trading companies were Pak Refinery with 33,555,439 shares at Rs 18.64 per share, Fauji Foods Ltd with 29,104,963 shares at Rs 6.98 per share and Bankislami Pak with 15,533,332 shares at Rs 19.19 per share.

Sanofi-Aventis witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 56.44 per share, closing at Rs 808.94, whereas the runner-up was Pak Services with a Rs 47.83 rise in its per share price to Rs 749.83. Rafhan Maize witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 100.00 per share closing.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting regarding Urea availability for Rabi crop.

Mobilink Bank, BMA Capital Management enter into distribution agreement

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Bank has signed a strategic partnership with BMA Capital Management Limited, one of the oldest and top financial groups in Pakistan.

Mobilink Bank aims to enhance customer journeys through this partnership and help enable sustainable business growth said a news release.

Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and online services across seven countries.

As part of its digital operator strategy, VEON is transforming people's

lives by creating opportunities for increased digital inclusion and by driving economic growth across countries that are home to more than 8% of the world's population.

Mobilink Bank and BMA Capital signed the agreement in Karachi to formalize the mutually beneficial partnership.

Under this partnership, BMA Capital Management will securely deposit funds within Mobilink Bank, offering multiple incentives to enhance their financial health and service capacity.

For Mobilink Bank, this partnership embodies a commitment to fostering industry-wide synergies to

promote mutual growth and ensure the delivery of high-quality services to customers.

"This strategic alliance with BMA Capital marks a pivotal moment in our resolute commitment to forging transformative industry partnerships," said Ghazanfar Azzam, President and CEO Mobilink Bank.

"This collaboration is set to foster Mobilink Bank's financial robustness, equipping us to spearhead financial inclusion, bolster MSMEs, and champion the cause of digital and financial literacy, steering our nation towards sustainable economic prosperity," he added.



President and CEO Mobilink Bank Ghazanfar Azzam and Chairman BMA Capital Management Moazzam M. Malik signing a MoU.

Pakistan's geo-strategic location ideal for regional connectivity: Iftikhar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former President of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik on Tuesday said Pakistan's geo-strategic location was ideal in providing opportunity for connecting Central Asian countries via sea routes for better and effective regional economic integration besides boosting Multilateral trade.

Talking to a delegation of industrialists led by Muslim Khan Buner, he said the Central Asian states were landlocked and Pakistan was located at an ideal location that could provide hassle-free shorter sea access to these countries, a news release said.

He said Pakistan could also comfortably facilitate Shanghai Cooperation

Organisation (SCO) member countries in providing regional connectivity which would promote trade among member countries and beyond.

Iftikhar Malik said transport corridors and logistics infrastructure could benefit all member states leading to win-win cooperation. He said the SCO was a multi-dimensional organization in terms of its scope and functioning and Pakistan could reap fruits from it.

He said the SCO comprising 21 members with a mandate of enhancing economic cooperation, if fully engaged, could usher in an era of prosperity, progress and development in every sphere of life in the region.



ISLAMABAD: People purchasing clothes from a vendor at H9 Bazar in the Federal Capital.

Khokhar for ending monopoly of few people over LPG

LAHORE (APP): All Pakistan LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) Distributors Association's Chairman Irfan Khokhar Tuesday demanded of the government to help break the monopoly of few people over LPG and ensure its just and equitable distribution so that end consumers could be provided with the gas at low price.

He was talking to the office-bearers and members of Pakistan Economic Reporters Association (PERA) here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI). The PERA President Mazhar Iqbal and Secretary General Sheikh Rashid were prominent among

others. Irfan Khokhar disclosed to PERA that Pakistan produces 60,000 metric tons of LPG gas out of which only 10,000 metric tons is distributed and the remaining 50,000 metric tons of gas is owned by a few people. "Until this monopoly is ended and an equitable distribution formula is adopted, looting through the illusion of demand and supply will continue," he remarked.

He mentioned that currently 288 marketing companies, 46 importers and 10 distributors are working in Pakistan, adding that if the monopoly of nine people ends, LPG can become the cheapest fuel because natural gas.

Pakistan working towards balanced space policy: IT Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif on Tuesday said that Pakistan was working towards a balanced space policy.

"The policy will protect our national interests and enable us to benefit from rapid advances in private sector such as Starlink etc" he said while chairing a meeting on Pakistan's National Space Policy. According to a news

release, the meeting discussed in details regarding finalisation of Pakistan's National Space Policy.

Secretary IT Hassan Nasir Jamy was also present at the meeting.

Authorities from SUPARCO, PTA, SIFC and SPD attended the meeting.

Additional Secretary MoITT Ms. Aisha Humera Moriani and senior officers of the Ministry were also present.

PTCL Group partners with Evam for enhanced customer experiences

ISLAMABAD: PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G), Pakistan's leading telecommunications and ICT services provider has partnered with Evam, a leading Martech platform

business partners to leverage real-time data, along with profiles and AI models to deliver a superior experience.

This will increase customer satisfaction in order to boost revenues



for creating real-time, cross-channel customer experience.

This collaboration underlines the Group's unwavering dedication to provide its customers with the best communication services and driving forward Pakistan's digital transformation said a news release.

PTCL Group will be introducing new customer experiences and products with support from Evam's next-gen real-time engine.

This cutting-edge technology will ensure seamless experiences across all digital and telco touchpoints. Evam will empower the Group's

and enhance customer loyalty.

The project will be delivered through a collaboration between Evam's professional services team and their exclusive partner for Pakistan, Techfinity.

Jafar Khalid, Group Chief Technology and Information Officer for PTCL & Ufone 4G, shared thoughts on the partnership, stating, "This alliance between PTCL Group and Evam enhances our customer engagement strategies, aiming to provide a tailored experience for every customer, thereby delivering outstanding value."

Gold rates dip by Rs.400 to Rs.209,200 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.400 and was sold at Rs.209,200 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs.209,600 the previous day of trading.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.343 to Rs.179,355 from Rs.179,698 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.164,409 from Rs.164,723, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.



LAHORE: A delegation of Flour Mills Association meeting with Provincial Minister for Trade and Industry S. M Tanveer.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): The movements of ships was reported at the port where fourships namely, Maersk Brooklyn, MSC Mumbai-VIII, Taydo Star and Alik Force, Scheduled to load/offload Containers, Rice and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Grain Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Monday.

A total of nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them an edible oil carrier 'Corona' left the port today morning, while three more ships, MSC Brooklyn, MSC Mumbai-VIII and Sea Power-I are expected to sail on today afternoon.

GCWUS, WCCI to compile skilled women statistics

SIALKOT (APP): The Government College Women University Sialkot (GCWUS) and the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sialkot (WCCIS) will compile Sialkot skilled women statistics which was held at the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI).

The GCWUS and WCCIS will compile data of skilled women associated with all types of business industry through mutual research collaboration. According to Deputy Director GCWUS Spokesperson Rizwan Hameed, a delegation of the GCWU met WCCIS President Dr Mariam Nouman, and discussed data collection project related to economic and social security of women.

Zong customers can now experience unmatched voice quality through VoLTE

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G Pakistan's leading telecommunications company, has officially launched its Voice over LTE (VoLTE) services.

The operator has started its VoLTE roll-out by launching its services in major cities, Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Peshawar, enhancing customers' experience through high-quality voice calls over its advanced 4G network said a news release.

VoLTE is a cutting-edge innovation that allows voice calls to be transmitted over the 4G LTE network, ensuring crystal-clear sound quality, faster call setup times, and the simultaneous use of

voice and data services, which means that customers can use data services while being on a call at the same time.

It also offers improved call stability, even in areas with weak or fluctuating 2G/3G signal strength. With this latest advancement, Zong 4G is taking a significant step toward revolutionizing the communication experience for its customers.

The official spokesperson for Zong 4G, expressed his enthusiasm for the VoLTE launch, stating, "At Zong 4G, we are dedicated to delivering the latest telecommunications innovations to our customers."

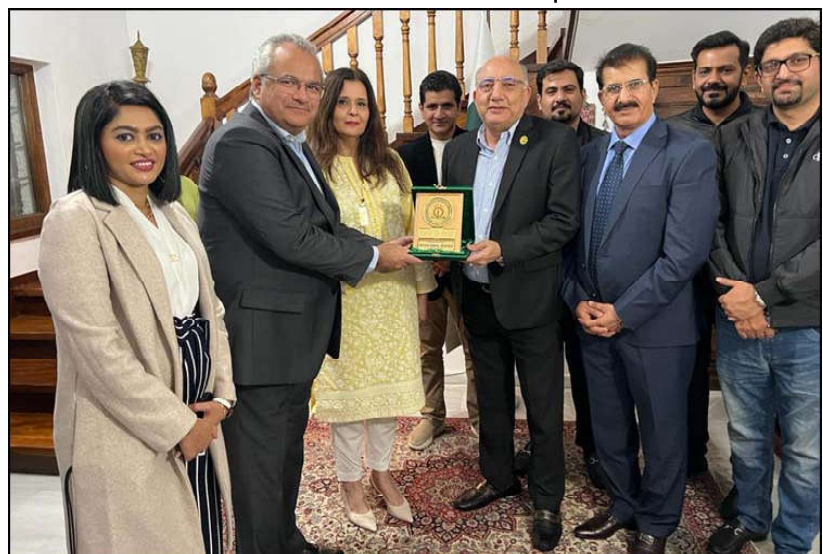
FPCCI welcomes extension of GSP Plus by 4 Years

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has welcomed the extension of Pakistan's GSP Plus status by EU for a period of 4 years as it will now be valid till 2027.

Nonetheless, the catch lies in fully capitalizing on its preferential treatment provisions to enhance exports to EU and creating jobs for the countrymen, he added. Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh apprised that the GSP Plus scheme has been passed by European Parliament and will apply to 16 countries; and, EU will continue to monitor the beneficiary countries on their performance during the scheme. We always has had issues with

our human rights record and we need to get our house in order, he added.

FPCCI Chief explained that GSP Plus is a special trade arrangement offered to developing economies by EU and, in return, monitors their compliance to enforce 27 international conventions on human rights; environment & global warming and governance issues. It is pertinent to note that the ongoing GSP Plus status for Pakistan was coming to an end in 2023. Therefore, we have got an extension of 4 years and it is no less than a blessing in these times of export contraction and economic volatility for Pakistan, he added.



Regional Chairman FPCCI Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi presenting FPCCI shield to Pakistan's Ambassador to Spain Aftab Ahmed Khokhar.

24 hours, 320 strikes, 436 dead bodies

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: On a day when Israel's army reported strikes on at least 320 targets within 24 hours, Gaza's health ministry said on Monday that at least 436 people had been killed in bombardments over the past 24 hours, while the overall death toll had climbed above 5,000.

In addition, about a dozen trucks carrying desperately needed aid — the third convoy in three days — arrived inside Gaza from Egypt on Monday through Rafah, even as PM Mohammed Shtayeh accused Western nations of giving Israel a "licence to kill".

"What we hear from the mouth of the occupation (Israeli) leaders on

preparations for a land invasion means more crimes, atrocities and forced displacement," Shtayeh told the start of a Palestinian Authority government meeting.

"We condemn the statements that constitute a licence to kill and give Israel political cover to commit massacres and spread destruction in Gaza," he added.

On Monday, Hamas also announced the release of two more elderly women prisoners in response to Egyptian-Qatari mediation efforts.

A spokesman for the group said in a statement: "We decided to release them for humanitarian and poor health grounds." An American mother and

daughter, Judith and Natalie Raanan, were earlier released on Friday.

"Hello from Gaza — I'm still alive", it's a message many Palestinians trapped in the besieged and bombarded territory send each morning to their loved ones outside the coastal enclave.

With utter destruction around them, solemnity and despair often fill the messages Gazans post on social media to friends, colleagues, and the outside world.

Israel cut the electricity supply to Gaza as part of the "total siege", it launched on October 9, seriously hindering communications between the Palestinian territory and the rest of the world.



Palestinians transport the body of a victim from the rubble after Israeli strikes in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

UN chief warns that the risk of the Gaza war spreading is growing as situation becomes more dire

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations chief warned at a high-level U.N. meeting Tuesday that the situation in the Middle East is growing more dire by the hour with the risk of the Gaza war spreading through the region increasing as societies splinter and tensions threaten to boil over.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for an immediate humanitarian cease-fire to deliver desperately needed food, water, medicine and fuel. He appealed "to all to pull back from the brink before the violence claims even more lives and spreads even farther."

Guterres told the U.N. Security Council's monthly

meeting on the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict—which has turned into a major event with ministers from the war's key parties and a dozen other countries flying to New York—that the rules of war must be obeyed.

The secretary-general said the grievances of the Palestinian people cannot justify "the horrifying and unprecedented Oct. 7 acts of terror" by Hamas in Israel and demanded the immediate release of all hostages. But Guterres also stressed that "those appalling attacks cannot justify the collective punishment of the Palestinian people."

He expressed deep concern at "the clear viola-

tions of international humanitarian law," calling Israel's constant bombardment of Gaza and the level of destruction and civilian casualties "alarming." Protecting civilians "is paramount in any armed conflict," he said. Without naming Hamas, the U.N. chief stressed that "protecting civilians can never mean using them as human shields." Guterres also criticized Israel without naming it, saying "protecting civilians does not mean ordering more than one million people to evacuate to the south, where there is no shelter, no food, no water, no medicine and no fuel, and then continuing to bomb the south itself."

'Enough is enough': Qatar emir takes aim at Israel's backers

Monitoring Desk
DOHA: The Qatari ruler hit out at Israel's backers Tuesday, charging they had given it "free licence to kill" in its war with Hamas and questioning what the conflict would achieve.

Major powers, including the United States, Britain and France, have rallied to support Israel and affirmed its right to defend itself after this month's deadly attack by the Palestinian Islamist group. Hamas fighters stormed into Israel from the Gaza Strip on October 7, killing at least 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and taking 222 hostages, according to Israeli officials. More than 5,000 Palestinians, mainly civilians, have been killed across the Gaza

Strip in relentless Israeli bombardments in retaliation for the attack, according to the territory's Hamas-run health ministry.

"We are saying enough is enough," Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani told a meeting of the Shura Council, Qatar's legislative body, according to a translation released by the royal court. "It is untenable for Israel to be given an unconditional green light and free licence to kill, nor is it tenable to continue ignoring the reality of occupation, siege and settlement." Qatar, a US ally which hosts a large US military base, also hosts an office of Hamas which doubles as the main residence of its self-exiled leader Ismail Haniyeh.



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, center, and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield, left, talk with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres before a Security Council meeting at United Nations headquarters.

At least 24 dead, including 12 police officers, in southwest Mexico

Monitoring Desk
ACAPULCO: Three separate armed attacks in Mexico on Monday left at least 24 people dead, including a dozen police officers, authorities said about the latest violence to hit regions plagued by drug trafficking.

In the deadliest incident, unidentified attackers targeted a security patrol in Guerrero state's municipality of Coyuca de Benitez, prosecutor Alejandro Hernandez said.

At least 13 people were killed and two others wounded in that attack, the

state prosecutor's office said in a statement, with Hernandez earlier having confirmed that at least 11 of those killed were members of the municipal police force.

A senior state security official was traveling in the convoy when it was attacked, authorities said, without confirming media reports that he was murdered along with police bodyguards.

Security forces were later seen patrolling the area — where several lifeless bodies lay on the ground — as a police helicopter flew overhead.

US forces targeted in Syria, no casualties

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: American and allied forces in Syria were targeted on Monday in an attack that did not cause casualties, a US official said, after a group claimed to have launched drones at Washington's troops.

"An attack against US and coalition forces occurred early this morning in Syria. There were no injuries or damage," a US defence official said.

The US official did not provide specifics on the attack, but a group calling itself the Islamic Resistance in Iraq said earlier in the day that it had launched drones against American forces at Al-Tanf and Al-Malikiyah in Syria.

The United States has some 900 troops in Syria and 2,500 in Iraq as part of efforts to combat IS, which once held significant territory in both countries but was pushed back by local forces supported by international air strikes. Meanwhile, Iraq on Monday condemned as "unacceptable" attacks against bases on its territory housing US.

France's Macron says 'fight must be without mercy, but not without rules'

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: French President Emmanuel Macron, speaking after meeting Israel's prime minister on Tuesday, proposed a coalition to fight terror groups in the region "that threaten all of us."

He compared the proposal to the international coalition fighting the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria. He was referring to the Iranian-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon, Iran itself and the Houthis in

Yemen, among others, saying they must not take the risk of opening a new front.

Macron, on a two-day visit to the region, met with families of hostages held captive in the Gaza Strip by Hamas, and said "we will neglect nothing" to obtain freedom for French citizens. Nine French citizens are being held or have disappeared. Macron said he would visit Ramallah later Tuesday and several regional leaders on Wednesday.

Kremlin rejects speculation that Putin is ill and uses body doubles

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: The Kremlin on Tuesday rejected speculation about President Vladimir Putin's health, saying he was fit and well.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, in a regular call with reporters, also denied suggestions that the president was using body doubles, calling that an "absurd hoax". Reporters asked Peskov about Putin's health following an unreported by a Russian.

China ousts defence minister, the second senior leader to leave in three months

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China removed its defence minister on Tuesday, the second ousting of a senior leader in three months, raising questions about the stability of the leadership team around Chinese President Xi Jinping. General Li Shangfu, who has been absent from public view for two months, was dismissed as defence minister and state councillor, according to state media.

China also announced that Qin Gang, who was removed as foreign minister in July, was stripped of his state councillor position. China's top legislators, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, approved the removal of both men, state broadcaster CCTV reported, without giving any explanation.

No replacement for Li was named, leaving the country without a defence minister as it prepares to host foreign defence officials at the Beijing Xiangshan Forum on Oct. 29-31. Li, 65, was last seen in public on Aug. 29. Reuters reported last month that he was under investigation for sus-

pected corruption related to equipment procurement and development.

He had only been in the job since March, when Xi started his precedent-breaking third term as head of state.

Li, who is under U.S. sanctions over Beijing's purchase of combat aircraft and equipment from Russia, is China's shortest-serving defence minister. Qin had also served less than a year before he disappeared from public view and was replaced by his predecessor, Wang Yi. No formal explanation has been given but the Wall Street Journal cited sources saying Qin had an extramarital affair while he was ambassador to the United States.

The disappearances of Li and Qin have raised questions about diplomats about the abrupt changes in China's leadership at a time when the country's economic growth is sluggish and its relations with the United States have soured over a range of issues.

Both Li and Qin were seen by observers of Chinese politics as handpicked by Xi, making their absence after less than a year on the job particularly notable.

Several missing after freighters collide in German North Sea

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: Several people are missing after two freighters collided near the German North Sea island of Heligoland, the central command for maritime emergencies said on Tuesday.

The Polesia and Verity vessels collided at around 0300 GMT about 12 nautical miles (22 kilometres) southwest of Heligoland, likely causing the Verity to sink, central command said in a statement.

One person was rescued from the water and is receiving medical treatment, while several others are still missing, it added.

The rescue operation includes a rescue cruiser, police boats, a sensor aircraft and a helicopter.

Ukraine's leader says Russian naval assets are no longer safe in the Black Sea near Crimea

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy claimed on Tuesday that recent Ukrainian attacks have denied the Russian fleet safe bases and secure maritime corridors in the western part of the Black Sea, as Kyiv's troops look to squeeze the Kremlin's occupying forces out of the Crimean Peninsula. Crimea provides rear support for Moscow's battlefield efforts further west and has been a frequent target for Ukrainian forces during the

war since Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"The Russian fleet is no longer capable of operating in the western part of the Black Sea and is gradually retreating from Crimea," Zelenskyy claimed, without providing evidence. "This is a historic achievement." Ukraine is keen to show that billions of dollars' worth of weapons supplied by its Western allies have allowed it to make progress in the fighting, as the conflict enters its 21st month amid a broad stalemate.

EU agrees on framework for Niger sanctions

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: European Union countries on Monday adopted a framework to impose sanctions on members of a junta that seized power in Niger in July.

The new framework will allow the EU to sanction individuals and entities responsible for actions that threaten the peace, stability and security of Niger, undermine the constitutional order, or constitute serious violations to human rights or international humanitarian law.

Panama police in standoff with protesters over Canadian-run mine

Monitoring Desk
PANAMA CITY: Police in Panama fired teargas Monday at protesters burning tires and blocking roads to protest a contract allowing a Canadian company to continue operating Central America's biggest copper mine. The protesters are concerned about potential environmental damage from operations at the mine owned by First Quantum, one of the biggest copper extractors in the world.

After protests erupted on Friday and continued over the weekend, demonstrators again took to the streets Monday in Panama City and in other provinces, waving placards reading: "Protect our natu-

ral resources," and "Stop destroying our lands."

The government canceled school for the day for fear of riots, as traffic in Panama City was disrupted and some metro stations had to close.

Police said 25 people were arrested. Opened in 2019, the open pit Cobre Panama mine, some 120 kilometers (75 miles) west of the capital and 20 km from the Caribbean coast, can produce 300,000 tons of copper per year. In 2021, Panama's Supreme Court ratified a lower court's ruling that the original concession of mining rights granted to subsidiary Minera Panama until 2037 was unconstitutional.

Bolivian officials seek 30-year prison sentence for former president Anez

Monitoring Desk
LA PAZ: Bolivia's attorney general's office is seeking a prison sentence of 30 years for former president Jeanine Anez, in a case which will try her for genocide over deaths during protests that followed the country's 2019 elections, officials told a press conference Monday.

Over 30 people, largely supporters of former president Evo Morales, were killed amid unrest in late 2019, following elections which saw Morales elected but later resign and leave the country amid accusations of election fraud.

Biden and Pope Francis discuss Gaza carnage by Israel in a call

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden spoke with Pope Francis and discussed the ongoing conflict in the Middle East between Israel and Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, the White House and the Vatican said in separate statements.

They discussed "the need to prevent escalation in the region and to work toward a durable peace in the Middle East," the White House said.

The Vatican earlier said the call, which lasted about 20 minutes, "focused on conflict situations in the world and the need to identify paths to peace."

Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, killing over 1,400 people. In retaliation, Israel has killed more than 5,000 Palestinians in Gaza Strip.

Israel has since retaliated with deadly air strikes on Gaza, a 45 km-long (25-mile) strip of land that is part of the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories and home to 2.3 million people.

Gaza has been ruled politically since 2007 by Hamas. Israel's air strikes have killed over 4,700 people, Palestinian officials say.

In his call with Pope Francis, Biden, who is a Catholic, condemned the attack by Hamas and affirmed the need to protect civilians in Gaza, the White House said.

They also discussed Biden's recent visit to Israel and efforts for delivery of food, medicine, and other humanitarian assistance in Gaza, according to the White House.

Erdogan sends Sweden's Nato bid to parliament for ratification

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday submitted a bill approving Sweden's Nato membership bid to parliament for ratification, the presidency said, in a move welcomed by Stockholm that clears the way for it to join the Western defence alliance.

Erdogan pleased his Nato allies at a summit in July by promising to send the legislation to parliament when it reopened on Oct 1, having previously raised objections over Sweden's alleged harbouring of terrorists. Since parliament reopened, however, Turkish officials have repeatedly said Stockholm needed to take more concrete steps to clamp down on the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militia before Ankara could ratify its membership bid. The PKK is deemed a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the European Union and the United States.

On Monday the bill on approving Sweden finally moved forward.

"The Protocol on

Sweden's Nato Accession was signed by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on October 23, 2023 and referred to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey," the presidency said on social media platform X without elaborating.

Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson welcomed the move and said Stockholm was looking forward to becoming a Nato member. "Now it remains for the parliament to deal with the question," Kristersson said on X.

There is no set timeframe for ratification, however, the bill will be put on the agenda of parliament's foreign affairs commission, which will have to pass it before it can be sent to the general assembly for ratification.

Nato chief Jens Stoltenberg on Monday urged a quick vote by Turkey's parliament to approve Sweden's membership in the alliance. "I welcome President Erdogan's signature of the accession protocol for Sweden and its referral to the Grand National Assembly."

Venezuela primary vote count delayed by server blockage-opposition

Monitoring Desk
CARACAS: Venezuelans voted on Sunday in a primary to choose a unity opposition candidate to face President Nicolas Maduro in his probable re-election bid next year, in what some state-level organizers said was a higher-than-expected turnout.

The vote comes amid pledges by the United States to roll back sanctions relief if the government fails to lift bans preventing some opposition figures from holding office.

The count would be delayed because of technical problems, head of the commission in charge of organizing the vote told journalists late on Sunday night.

"We have detected that our server, which serves as a transmission channel, was blocked," Jesus Maria Casal said.

"The commission has contingency measures and our technical staff have activated them in coordination with the parties and the candidates."

The commission will announce initial results when it has a representative portion of votes counted, he said.

Polling places - including in private homes and on street corners - were meant to close at 4 p.m. (2000 GMT), but many remained open hours later, so those waiting in long lines could vote or so additional ballots could be delivered.

Some of the estimated 3,000 polling locations nationwide had to be moved, according to human rights groups and voters, causing confusion.

Voters also faced transportation problems. Gasoline availability was limited in border states Tachira and Bolivar and public transport in the country's interior was working irregularly, according to Reuters witnesses.

"On Friday we waited in three lines to be able to get gasoline for today and we couldn't," said housewife Melissa Diaz, 39, who arrived at her polling place in eastern Guyana City with a nearly empty tank.

"We've lost a whole day, but even if we had to walk or cycle, we were coming to vote."

Maria Corina Machado, 56, an industrial engineer and former lawmaker, has led her rivals by some 40 points in polls.



Industrial engineer and former lawmaker Maria Corina Machado reacts to the vote count, after Venezuelans voted in a primary to choose a unity opposition candidate to face Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro in his probable re-election bid in 2024, in Caracas, Venezuela.

Balochistan polio free for last two years: Govt. fully determined to eradicate polio virus, vows caretaker CM

Mir Ali Mardan Domki pays homage to polio workers and security personnel on embracing martyrdom in line of duty; says polio workers are national heroes; routine immunization system being put on modern lines

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has reiterated the government's resolve to fully eradicate polio virus from the province.

In a special message on occasion of the World Polio Day observed on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said that the provincial government is mobilizing all available resources for ensuring complete eradication of polio from the province.

Mr. Domki said that

the government is fully determined to polio eradication.

He paid rich tributes to the services of all polio workers on occasion of the World Polio Day.

The Chief Minister also said that we pay homage to the polio workers and security jawans who embraced martyrdom while performing their national obligation.

He said that Balochistan is polio free province for last two years because of the sincere ef-

forts made by the polio workers. He said that the polio workers are real heroes of the nation who remain busy in performing the national obligation even despite of the tough weather conditions.

Mir Ali Mardan Domki said that public health is included in the priorities of the provincial government.

He said that routine immunization system is also being put on the modern lines to ensure complete immunization of the children.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Secretary General Balochistan National Party Jahanzeb Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Security Risk PTI chairman cannot be produced in ECP contempt case: Ministry

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Interior on Tuesday informed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) that producing PTI chairman Imran Khan in a contempt case is a "security risk", says in media reports.

Last year in August, the ECP had issued notices to Chaudhry, and others for allegedly using "intemperate" language against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja and the electoral body.

A four-member commission headed by Sindh Member Nisar Durrani heard the contempt case against former prime minister Imran Khan, Fawad Chaudhry and Asad Umar. The former federal ministers appeared before the court, while the PTI chairman, who is in Adiala Jail was not presented.

The ministry and

Islamabad police have informed the ECP in this regard citing that the production of the former premier would be a security risk. The ministry issued an apology to the ECP. AIG operations said the PTI chairman had been expressing concerns about his security.

The Interior Ministry has recommended to ECP to hear the contempt case in the jail. During the hearing, ECP said how the Interior Ministry will hold peaceful elections when it is not able to give security to an individual. The ECP while summoning the secretary Interior Ministry adjourned the further hearing of the case until November 13.

It is important to mention here that as per the production orders, the PTI chairman has to be presented before the ECP in the contempt case.

CM Naqvi defends his govt decision to suspend Nawaz's sentence

Independent Report
LAHORE: Giving his point of view on the suspension of PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif's sentence in the Al-Azizia reference by the Punjab government, caretaker Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi has said that the remission has been granted as per the law.

The Punjab chief minister said that the provincial government received a request and it approved the suspension of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's sentence under Section 401 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which deals with suspensions, remissions and commutations of sentences. He said that the same request was also sent to the former Punjab chief minister Usman Buzdar, but the latter rejected the request without even hearing it.



HARNAI: Chairman PkMAP Mahmood Khan Achakzai addressing a public gathering at Killa Zardalu

AJK President says: India emerging as 'Terrorist State' under Modi's extremist policies

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mehmoood Chaudhry has said that, owing to Modi's extremist policies, India was fast emerging as a terrorist state on the global scene.

Addressing the grand ceremony organized on the occasion of the 76th foundation day of Azad Jammu Kashmir government in the state metropolis on Tuesday, the President, while referring to the BJP's divisive policies, said that Modi would prove to be Gorbachev for India.

"The day is not far when India will disintegrate", he said. Lauding Kashmiris' decades' long struggle against India's belligerent occupation, Barrister Chaudhry said that Kashmiris have never accepted Indian rule and its dominance over the territory.

Paying rich tributes to the Kashmiri martyrs, who laid down their precious lives to liberate the territory of Azad Jammu and Kashmir from Dogra rule, the president said, "Our elders struggled hard to liberate the territory from the clutches of Dogra under the leadership of Ghazi Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan".

The establishment of the state of Azad Kashmir was not a mere coincidence but our forefathers waged a long struggle against the Maharaja and, ultimately, a revolutionary government under the leadership of Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan was established on 24 October 1947.

"There has been a long political and military struggle which was written in blood", he said, adding that it involved the blood of martyrs, sacrifices of innocent women and a journey of migration.

"History bears witness to the fact that people of the state of Jammu and Kashmir have always struggled against oppression and tyranny", he said, adding that the sacrifices of Sabz Ali Khan, Milli Khan watered the freedom movement with their blood.

"They were skinned alive and their heads were beheaded but they refused to bow before the oppressor", he said. Kashmiri people, he said, fought a historic struggle. "Today, we pay our respects to our martyrs, those Mujahids and Ghazis who lit the candle of freedom by sacrificing their lives", he added.

ANF Balochistan recovers 665.37 kg of drugs

QUETTA (APP): Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Balochistan has recovered 665.37 Kg of drugs, 20 kg of suspected material in 9 operations and arrested 6 accused persons in drug smuggling and impounded 4 vehicles.

A handout issued here on Tuesday said that the seized drugs comprised 5 kg opium, 652 kg hashish, 8,340 kg heroin and 30 grams methamphetamine (Ice).

The operation carried out by ANF continued on 9th October till 22nd October 2023, it further said.

Sharif brothers are under delusion if they think to rig the polls: Pervaiz Elahi

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has said Sharif brothers are mistaken if they think to rigging in election. "No one can even think of rigging the election", he said in an informal chat with media in Accountability Court (AC) Tuesday.

Pervaiz Elahi said Nelson Mandela has come. He should now hold his brother Shehbaz Sharif accountable for inflation.

Inflation has escalated so much that people are forced to commit suicide.

He underlined people have committed suicide on arrival of Nelson Mandela.

Who are doing all this will face its consequences in election, he held.

Constituting bench of Supreme Court regarding election case is better for country. Election date will be announced due to supreme court. Political repute of chairman PTI has increased, he said adding no one will hear Sharif brothers as their political shop stands shut.



PESHAWAR: Al-Khidmat Foundation sending humanitarian aid for the affectees of Earthquake in Herat Afghanistan, in Peshawar.

Railways minister commends 17% rise in passenger, freight revenues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister of Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar on Tuesday commended the railway team for their successful efforts in boosting passenger and freight train revenues by 17%.

Chairing a meeting to assess the operational and administrative capabilities of the railways, he said the commercialization of the railway station would be executed incrementally.



BEIJING: Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Tuesday delivered a speech at the International Symposium held in Beijing to Commemorate the 10th Anniversary of China's.

Special teams formed as crackdown continues: Over 15,000 illegal immigrants deported from all over Balochistan: Jan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that the crackdown is continued against the illegal immigrants all over the province.

He informed that over 15,000 illegal immigrants have so far been deported from all over the province.

Those deported from the province are mostly included in the Afghan nationals.

Jan Achakzai also said that the administration is taking steps for repatriation of the illegal immigrants in the province.

For the purpose, three points have been established in Quetta, Pishin and Killa Abdullah, he added.

He also said that special teams have been formed for repatriation of the illegal immigrants.

In addition to this, the database is also ready for repatriation of the illegal immigrants in the country, he added.

Jan Achakzai said that we are deeply concerned about involvement of illegal immigrants in the country.

Some of them have been found involved in the murder, dacoities and some in the terrorism acts, he regretfully pointed out.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Quetta told that in all 52 cases have been registered against the illegal immigrants under the Foreign Act in Quetta.

According to the Deputy Commissioner, the illegal immigrants have been given deadline of October 31 to leave Pakistan.

According to the policy of government, just a week has been left for the illegal immigrants to leave the country.

Otherwise legal action would be taken against them, as already announced by the government.

BRI brings paradigm shift to concept of development, connectivity, regional integration: Sadiq Sanjrani

BEIJING (APP): Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani said on Tuesday that Belt and Road Initiative with a worldwide appeal and membership has brought a paradigm shift to the concept of development, connectivity and regional integration.

In these testing times, Chinese President Xi's landmark initiatives of Belt and Road Initiative, Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative and Global Civilization Initiative offer us a wholesome and practical solution for international peace and security.

The Chairman Senate made these remarks while addressing the opening ceremony of International Symposium to commemorate the 10th anniversary of China's principles of Amity, Sincerity, Mutual Benefit and Inclusiveness in Neighbourhood Diplomacy held here.

Director of the Office of the Central Commission of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Wang Yi read the written speech by President Xi and also delivered a speech.

Sadiq Sanjrani said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has become a model and exemplary project of BRI having transformed the economic landscape of Pakistan. As an open and inclusive platform, CPEC is now inviting participation from third countries.

The Global Development Initiative has placed development at the core of China's exchanges with the world, accelerating the UN 2030 SDGs Agenda. Pakistan is the first partner country of China under GDI.

"Together, as good neighbours and best friends, we are charting a course of action for socio-economic development and uplift," he added.

He said that similarly, Global Security and Global Civilization Initiatives are setting a new course by presenting over-arching concepts contributing positively to the global security and civilizational landscapes. These initiatives are also assuming an increasingly central role in our neighbourhood diplomacy and concepts.

Terming Pakistan-China relationship as a practical demonstration of the vision of our founding father, he said it is an all-weather partnership deeply rooted in mutual trust and respect. It is time-tested and timeless, and nurtured over the years by successive generations of our governments and our people.

The chairman said that the unfolding crisis in Gaza has shaken the very soul of humanity.

Rs. 1.4 billion recovered from defaulters: 156 more connections of defaulters suspended as QESCO continues drive

Independent Report
QUETTA: As many as 156 connections of the defaulters of electricity utility bills and arrears were disconnected as the extensive crackdown of Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) is continued all over the province including Quetta.

According to the spokesman of QESCO, the connections of defaulters were suspended in different areas of the province. Moreover, 27 shunt

and tempered meters were also removed in Jinnah Town and A one City areas of Quetta.

Similarly, six transformers of the defaulters were also removed in Harnai. The QESCO spokesman said that in all 386 FIRs have so far been registered against those involved in the power pilferage.

According to him, over Rs. 1.4 billion have been collected from 47,471 defaulters in the province.

I am part of PML-N, I will not resign from party: Abbasi

KARACHI (Online): Former Prime Minister (PM) Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said it is his appeal to the present and coming government to abolish NAB as Job of NAB is only keeping the politicians under pressure.

He said this while talking to media men after appearing in Karachi Accountability Court Tuesday.

He held NAB job is connecting and disconnecting the politicians. What is requirement of justice and where justice has gone, is not seen by any one. It is bad luck. What injustice is done here has no parallel in the judicial history.

He went on to say NAB has paralyzed the country. Today is 5th year that this case is running. I come to court repeatedly but nothing is done.

Five years have passed but only next date is given.

He demanded cameras be got installed in the courts so that people could see what is done in the court. Several judges have been transferred from the court but our case is where it was.

He remarked if politicians, judiciary and military leadership sit together then the problems facing the country will stand resolved. I am part of PML-N, he said adding I will not resign from party, he underlined.

Resolution of Kashmir, Palestine issues crucial to world peace: NA Speaker

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaz Ashraf on Tuesday said world peace was interlinked with the resolution of the Palestine and Kashmir issue in line with the aspirations of Kashmiri and Palestinian people.

The speaker, in his message on the day of the United Nations Organisation, said the prominent goal for the formation of the UNO was to maintain global peace.

He said that the nefarious and barbaric policies of India and Israel had been exposed with their atrocities on innocent children and women in Kashmir and Palestine.

The right to self-determination of the people of Palestine and Kashmir could not be suppressed by cruelty and coercion, he added.

He also called upon the UN to play a proactive role to immediately halt the genocide of the oppressed Palestinian and Kashmiri people by Israel and India.

The United Nations should take notice of the violations of basic human rights in Palestine and Kashmir, he stressed.

The speaker said the UN had emerged as a ray of hope for the whole world before Seventy-Eight years and Pakistan was an active member of the UNO since its establishment.

He also underscored the role of Pakistani missions in peace operations around the world that reflected Pakistan's supportive stance for UN.



LORALAI: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Education Prod. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch inaugurating Campus Management System at BRC

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Occupied Palestine, Kashmir striking examples of UN's failure: Amb. Munir

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Despite United Nations' many successes since its creation in 1945, the organization has failed to secure the right to self-determination and liberation from foreign occupation for the peoples of Palestine and Kashmir, Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram has said.

"The ongoing slaughter of Palestinians in Gaza by the Israeli bombardment and the massive violations of human rights of the people of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir are the most visible examples of the UN's failures," he said in a message to the UN community on the world body's 79th anniversary.

In this regard, the Pakistani envoy called for rein-

Occupied Palestine, Kashmir striking examples of UN's failure: Amb. Munir

forcing the U.N.'s capacity to respond to the old and new threats to international peace and security, to halt and reverse emerging great power tensions and the new nuclear and conventional arms race, to revive equitable and inclusive global economic growth, and to avert the existential threat posed by climate change.

"Despite the enormity of these challenges, the hopes of most of the world's peoples, especially the youth, remain pinned on the United Nations and on its active and sincere Secretary General."

In the past 78 years, Ambassador Akram pointed out that the UN has played a vital role in preventing another global conflict, resolving numer-

Occupied Palestine, Kashmir striking examples of UN's failure: Amb. Munir

ous disputes, and promoting international peace and security, arms control, economic and social development and human rights around the world, adding that the organization had remained the international community's primary platform for cooperation amongst nation states for peace, progress and prosperity.

The UN has adapted its structures considerably in response to emerging challenges and threats, in particular shifting its efforts from decolonization in the early years to equitable development, through the universally accepted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Pakistani envoy said.