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Returns home after four years of self-imposed exile

Nawaz Sharif says no to revenge, urges all powers to work together for country's prosperity

Says PML-N competent enough to steer country out of crisis; Pakistan cannot progress without 'good relations' with neighbours, Says talking with restraint to avoid saying what he's not supposed to; Will have to go on track of development with double speed

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif Saturday stressed that state institutions, politics and the pillar of the state needed to work together. Nawaz Sharif, who returned to Pakistan today after spending four years in self-imposed exile, said he has "no wish for revenge" and only wanted the well-being of the public.

people of Pakistan. He shared his experiences of facing imprisonment, deportations, and false allegations but affirmed his dedication to public service whenever the opportunity arose.

The PML-N supremo began his much awaited speech with a verse. "I am meeting you today after several years, but my relationship of love with you is the same. There is no difference in this relationship,"

of sacrifice. "I was put in jails, deported. Fake cases were made against me. Shabbaz Sharif was made against Maryam. But no one left the flag of Muslim League, said Nawaz.

"Tell me, who are they who separated Nawaz Sharif from his nation? We are those who built Pakistan. We made Pakistan an atomic power. We brought an end to load-shedding." He also waved an electricity bill during his speech

Nawaz signs petition to revive appeals in convictions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Prime Minister, Mian Nawaz Sharif, has placed his signature on a petition aimed at reactivating appeals related to his convictions in the Avenfield and Al-Azizia references.

According to PML-N sources, once his signature is secured, Nawaz Sharif's plane will depart for Lahore.

Nawaz Sharif's legal team has prepared a petition to revive the appeals against his convictions in the Avenfield and Al-Azizia references, as an Oath Commissioner arrives at Islamabad Airport for his biometric data collection.

It's worth mentioning that Nawaz Sharif's legal team had previously reached Islamabad Airport to initiate the submission of applications aimed at reviving his appeals in the Al-Azizia and Avenfield references.

Among those present at the airport were former Law Minister Nazir Tarar, Amjad Parvez, and other individuals. Barrister Zafarullah Khan is also on-site at the airport to confer with Nawaz Sharif.

mother and wife became victims of politics. This wound will never heal."

"My mother and wife used to welcome me whenever I returned from abroad. Maryam fell unconscious on hearing about the death of her mother. I could not lay my mother and father in the grave. Some wounds never heal. However, love for Pakistan is in my heart," he added.

He recalled how he couldn't pay the final respects to his mother, father or wife.

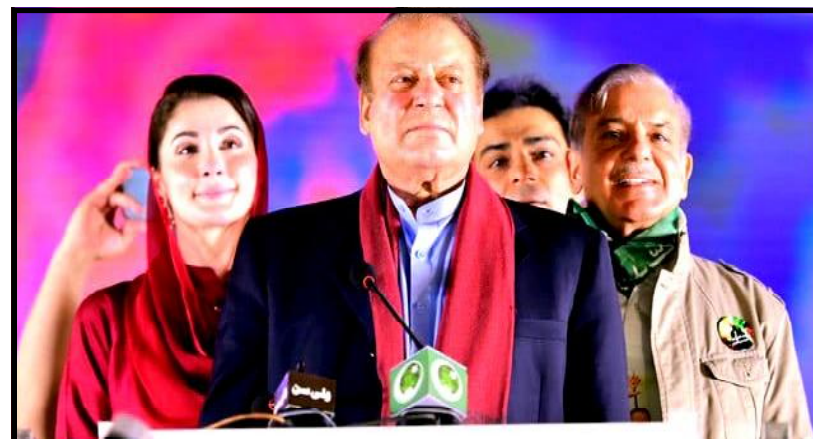
Sharing his emotional ordeal, Nawaz revealed that he approached the jail superintendent with a plea to

get information about his wife.

Nawaz disclosed that his request to speak on the phone, a mode of communication outside the prison walls, was denied, highlighting the stringent conditions he faces while serving his sentence.

Adding to his ordeal, Nawaz candidly expressed, "Cots were hard to come by in my prison," further reflecting the challenging conditions he encountered in his confinement.

In a devastating turn of events, the jail superintendent, faced with the heart-breaking task, had to deliver the devastating news of



Nawaz Sharif's wife's passing.

The former Prime Minister affirmed his deep love for the country, proclaiming, "I am also a true Pakistani, the love of the country is in my heart." His heartfelt declaration underlines his unwavering commitment to his homeland, resonating with a vast audience of supporters.

During his address, Nawaz delved into historical and diplomatic matters, sharing a remarkable anecdote about a time when "Bill Clinton called him asking not to detonate nuclear weapons, with five billion dollars offered."

In a moment of political discourse, Nawaz Sharif, while discussing cur-

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How many have come and gone to erase Nawaz Sharif: Maryam

LAHORE (Online): Senior Vice President and Chief Organizer of Muslim League-N, Maryam Nawaz said that Nawaz Sharif came back with honor and glory.

Addressing a public meeting at Minar Pakistan, Maryam Nawaz said that she welcomes the Muslim League-N workers from the bottom of her heart, there are also people from Sindh, Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Kashmir in Minar Pakistan.

Maryam Nawaz said that there was a rush everywhere including the ring road, motorways, I will not

give a speech, only Nawaz Sharif will do it.

Maryam Nawaz said today only Nawaz Sharif will give a speech, I will not give a speech, 10% people are present here and the rest are on the streets.

She said those who were saying it (Nawaz Sharif) is over, they must be watching on the screen today, Nawaz Sharif is once again present among you and me today.

I thought Minar Pakistan is a very big place, Minar Pakistan has become small for the lions of Muslim League.



Addressing the charged crowd at the Minar-e-Pakistan in Lahore, the former three-time prime minister expressed his unwavering commitment to serving the

he said. "The love I am seeing in your eyes, I am proud of it."

Nawaz said he never betrayed his supporter nor did he shy from any kind

referring to load shedding and rising electricity prices.

The former prime minister said that the loved ones who are separated from you will never meet again. "My

Basic purpose of education is character building as well, says Governor Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that one basic purpose is also the character building and the education or degree which can not bring change in one then it must be reviewed.

The Governor was addressing the second convocation of Alhamd Islamic university here on Saturday.

Prominent among those present at the convocation were the guest of honour, former Senator Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani, president of Alhamd university, Dr Shakeel Roshan, Dean and Director of NUST Balochistan, Brigadier Dr Waseem Khaliq, pro-rector Urva Javed, besides other dignitaries from various walks of life.

Addressing the convocation, Governor congratulated the graduates of the university on their graduation and said it happens to be an important and happy occasion for the students when they get fruit of performance and hard work.

He said that education is actually the joint asset of all human beings and development of any society is based on it.

The Governor said that the teachers are honoured and respected due to their great service for the cause of education irrespective of their religion, colour and race.

He stressed that it is duty to parents along with teachers to play effective role in best education and upbringing of their children. He noted with concern

that unfortunately many areas of the province lack educational institutions even in the present developed era.

Moreover, the people are suffering from different hardships because of the lack of health facilities and non existence of the health centers, he maintained.

He said that education is so expensive today that the parents are compelled to get their children admitted in the religious seminaries.

He exhorted the students to mobilize their capabilities and potential by acquiring education.

He also appreciated the whole team of Alhamd University for organising successful convocation and expressed best wishes for the students graduating in the convocation.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar addressing the participants of 2nd Convocation of Alhamd Islamic University

BNP should postpone long march: Govt. playing part for peaceful solution to tribal disputes: Jamali

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (R) Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has stated that the provincial government is playing part for sustainable solution to the tribal disputes from the day first.

However, the solution to the disputes is possible through dialogue.

In an official statement issued here on Saturday, the Minister Home said that Balochistan is counted as the sensitive province in the country due to the law and order situation.

He mentioned that section 144 has been enforced

in the province just to maintain law and order situation. He said that the dialogue is part of the strong traditions of the tribal society. He said that tribal disputes become hurdles in establishing peace.

The caretaker Minister Home said that the tribal disputes always harm the people, this is why section 144 was enforced in the province. He also reiterated government resolve to remove hurdles in the peaceful solution of the disputes.

Mir Zubair Jamali stressed that BNP should postpone its long march due to the security concerns.

Tank police repulse terrorist attack on police station

TANK (APP): The district police have repulsed a terrorist attack on a police station late Friday night.

According to a police spokesman, unknown militants stormed Gomal police station with heavy weapons late at night and tried to enter into the police station.

The police promptly and effectively retaliated and an exchange of fire occurred during which Gomal police station SHO Asghar Khan Wazir got injured after receiving a bullet in his neck. However, the attack was repulsed by the valiant police personnel and terrorists managed to escape while taking full advantage of darkness.

Caretaker PM contacts Palestinian President, assures Pakistan's unwavering support

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq had a telephone call with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and discussed the situation in Gaza in detail and assured Pakistan's unwavering support to the Palestinians.

According to statement issued by spokesperson of Prime Minister's House, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar made a telephone call to discuss the situation resulting from recent atrocities committed by the usurping Israeli army on innocent Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

Prime Minister strongly condemned the continuous, indiscriminate

and worst shelling of Palestinians by the Israeli occupation forces, especially the shelling of Al-Ahli Hospital. Prime Minister described Israel's bombing and aggression as deliberate and despicable.

Both leaders emphasized that the international community should immediately play its role in stopping this massacre by Israel. Caretaker Prime Minister said that Pakistan has also sent the first batch of aid to its Palestinian brothers and sisters which reached Egypt yesterday.

Prime Minister also reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian conflict.

Pakistan, China agree to strengthen cooperation between mainstream media

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and China have decided to further strengthen cooperation between the mainstream media of the two countries.

The decision was made during a meeting of Chinese media delegation led by China's Political Counsellor Ms. Bao Zhong with the Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi, said a press release issued here on Saturday.

The two sides also decided to highlight Pakistan China Economic Corridor projects through PTV, Radio Pakistan and APP.

Both the countries agreed to further strengthen practical cooperation in joint reporting and exchange of media delegations.

In his remarks, Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi said that Pakistan valued "Chinese President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)."

"BRI project is a manifestation of bringing peace and prosperity through economic development", Murtaza Solangi maintained.

The role of media in creating public awareness regarding the centrality of CPEC and iron friendship

with China for economic development was indispensable, Murtaza Solangi opined.

The minister said that Pakistan would strengthen ties and cooperation with China in various fields in the new phase of high-quality development of CPEC.

The minister expressed Pakistan's desire to benefit from China's development experience. "We will benefit from China's achievements in poverty alleviation, research and development, information technology, media and other fields", he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Chinese Political Counsellor said CPEC will be made a corridor of love and friendship.

She assured that China would increase cooperation with Pakistan in media, information technology, agriculture and industrial sector.

Besides Federal Secretary Information and Broadcasting Zahoora Ahmed, Executive Director General EP Wing, Managing Director APP, Director General PBC and Director Current Affairs PTV were present in the meeting.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki being briefed about Data Center Cloud and Information Technology by IT experts

Caretaker Federal Minister Education visits Quetta district Jail

Independent Report QUETTA: The Caretaker Federal Minister for Education, Madad Ali Sindhvi visited the district jail in Quetta on Saturday.

The Deputy Inspector General of Prisons, Zia Tareen welcomed the Federal Minister for Education.

During the visit, the Federal Minister Education was briefed about the educational facilities made available for the prisoners in the prison.

Madad Ali Sindhvi inspected different parts of the Quetta jail.

Speaking on the occasion, the Federal Minister said that steps are being taken to impart technical training to the prisoners in jails of the province.

Work continues to formulate comprehensive strategy for promotion of IT industry: CM

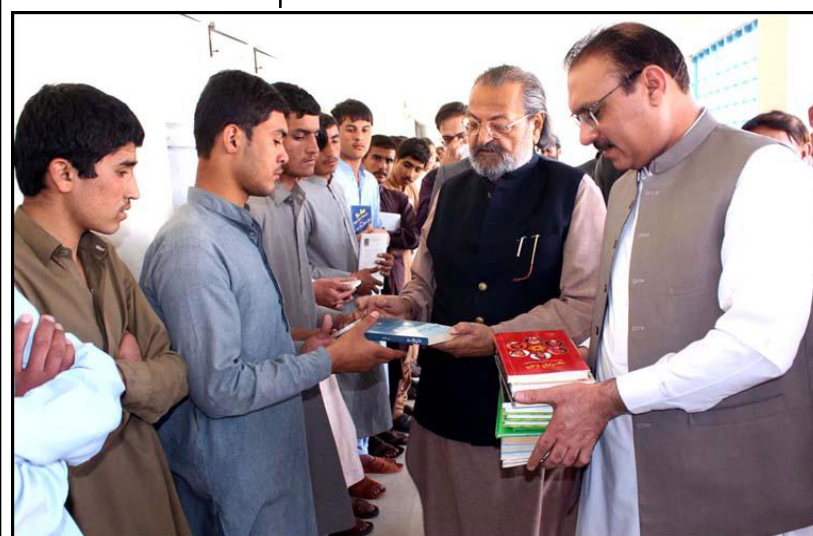
Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that we are working on formulation of a comprehensive strategy for promotion of information technology in the province. The Chief Minister was speaking on occasion of the high level meeting regarding Balochistan Digital Roadmap 2030 here in Quetta on Saturday.

All concerned high ups and government functionaries participated in the meeting.

He appreciated the enforcement of real time system management in Education and Health and said it's results are wonderful.

He, however, stressed the need to extend the jurisdiction of real time system management in other departments as well.

He said that the data of a student from class one to the employment and livelihood through software like student life cycle.



QUETTA: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhvi distributing books among Juvenile Prisoners during his visit to Central Jail.

War crimes enough evidence to impose sanctions on Israel: experts

LAHORE (APP): Lawmakers and human rights (HR) activists told the international community on Friday that damning war crimes were enough evidence to impose economic and defence sanctions on Israel for unleashing the reign of terror against innocent Palestinians.

Talking to APP, Special Assistant on Human Rights Mushaal Hussein Mullick said that war crimes and genocide were taking place in the Palestinian territory, regretting that nobody was punishing Israel for its crimes. She said the perpetrators of war crimes should be prosecuted. Mushaal said the entire Muslim Ummah is aggrieved and concerned over the deteriorating situation in the Middle East. She said reports suggest that about one hundred Palestinian children are being butchered by the Israeli state on daily basis. Demanding immediate ceasefire, the Special Assistant demanded the international community that humanitarian aid should be provided to the Palestinians.

She said the international human rights organisations should also be allowed access to the Palestinian territory to assess the ground situation. Mushaal Mullick said the people of Pakistan and Kashmir stand by their Palestinian brothers and sisters. She said that

the importance, amid the painful situation is of preserving the lives of all civilians. It also demanded an end to the military escalation by lifting of the siege on the Gaza Strip, and contributing urgently to the entry of relief and humanitarian aid for civilians.

Former lawmaker, senator Shehar Kamran strongly condemned the Israeli indiscriminate attacks, oppression and killings of innocent civilians, adding Israeli bombing on hospitals and civilian population is enough evidence to impose war crimes on Israel. She urged the international community to take strict defence action against Israeli barbarism and demanded economic and defence sanctions on Israel. Kamran strongly condemned horrific crimes committed by the Israeli military against the Palestinians, adding genocide of Palestinians by Israeli forces is intolerable for the whole Muslim world. Israel and its military forces, the occupying power, bears full responsibility for the fate of civilians in the Gaza Strip, while the real tragedy they are subjected to under bombardment, siege, and starvation, without electricity, food, or clean water, are being forced to abandon their homes, she underscored.

She denounced Israel for its policy of indiscriminate collective punishment that

it applies in a flagrant violation of both international law and international humanitarian law, as well as its legal responsibilities as an occupying power, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions. The Amnesty International (AI) in its recent documented report on Friday submitted unlawful Israeli attacks, including indiscriminate attacks, which caused mass civilian casualties and must be investigated as war crimes as Israeli forces continue to intensify their organised genocide-assault on the occupied Gaza Strip. The organization spoke to survivors and eyewitnesses, analysed satellite imagery, and verified photos and videos to investigate air bombardments carried out by Israeli forces between 7 and 12 October, which caused horrific destruction, and in some cases wiped out entire families.

Here the organisation presents an in-depth analysis of its findings in five of these unlawful attacks. In each of these cases, Israeli attacks violated international humanitarian law, including by failing to take feasible precautions to spare civilians, or by carrying out indiscriminate attacks that failed to distinguish between civilians and military objectives, or by carrying out attacks that may have been directed against civilian objects, it reveals.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar distributing degrees among students during 2nd Convocation of Alhamd Islamic University

Caretaker PM's participation in BRF reaffirms Pakistan commitment to CPEC, regional connectivity, shared prosperity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar recently concluded his significant visit to China, which reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to timely completion of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, a flagship of Belt and Road Initiative, besides profusely advocating the need for collective efforts for regional connectivity and shared prosperity.

The prime minister had been to Beijing, China to participate and address the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation at the invitation of President Xi Jinping.

Chinese President Xi opened the Forum with about 140 nations in attendance.

Besides PM Kakar, the dignitaries at the forum included Russian President Vladimir Putin, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, Republic of Congo President Denis Sassou Nguesso, Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet, Argentina's President Alberto Fernandez, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, and Indonesian President Joko Widodo.

Addressing the High-Level Forum of BRF titled 'Connectivity in an Open Global Economy', Prime

Minister Kakar appreciated President Xi's vision for creating a global community with shared future and the Belt -and-Road Initiative which held immense significance for global connectivity, common development and shared prosperity.

The visit coincided with another milestone in the bilateral ties as the two countries are celebrating the 10th anniversary of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

In his address, the caretaker prime minister highlighted the crucial role of CPEC in generating new economic opportunities in Pakistan.

Underscoring its salience for Pakistan's robust economic development, he endorsed the Chinese proposal for developing CPEC as a corridor of growth, innovation, livelihood, green economy, openness and inclusiveness. He also underlined the need for a united global response to address complex transnational challenges faced by humankind and to prevent backsliding on the gains achieved under UN Sustainable Development Goals and 2030 Agenda.

He emphasised the urgency of addressing infrastructure gaps in the developing world by investing in transportation, energy and digital economy.

On the sidelines of the Forum, he also met with the leaders of different

countries including Russia, Kenya and Sri Lanka.

He also held meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang as well as the senior leadership of the Communist Party of China and discussed the ways forward to deepen bilateral relations.

During his meeting with the Chinese president, the two sides, discussed various dimensions of the multi-faceted Pakistan-China relationship, and reaffirmed their longstanding and steadfast friendship, all-weather strategic cooperation, economic and trade ties, and CPEC.

Caretaker Prime Minister Kakar, in a bilateral meeting with Chinese Premier Li Qiang, reaffirmed the time-tested and iron-clad friendship between Pakistan and China and agreed to further strengthen high-level dialogue and engagement.

"In a warm and cordial atmosphere, leaders of the two countries had in-depth exchanges of views and reached extensive consensus on strengthening the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, practical cooperation in various areas, and international and regional issues of mutual interest," a joint statement said.

The two sides reaffirmed that mutual trust remained at the core of China-Pakistan relationship.

During an interaction with the Chinese think

tanks and scholars, the prime minister termed CPEC a manifestation of strategic relationship which proved as a "catalyst for growth, poverty alleviation and jobs creation".

Caretaker prime minister also held a meeting with President of Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, on the margins of 3rd BRF.

The two leaders reviewed bilateral cooperation with a special focus on trade, investment and energy and expressed satisfaction with the steady expansion of Pakistan-Russia relations.

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

On the sidelines of the BRF, the caretaker prime minister met President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and President of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe.

He also met Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of 3rd Belt and Road Forum and discussed the Gaza situation.

Besides, the prime minister held meetings with the leading Chinese companies and encouraged their corporate executives to explore the vast investment potential of Pakistan.

These included CEOs and executives of Chinese enterprises Minmetals,

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

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

Sharing Pakistan's vision for sustainable and inclusive development, he outlined Pakistan's investor-friendly policies; including the establishment of Special Investment Facilitation Council, which would act as a one-window platform to facilitate foreign investment.

During the visit, the United Energy Group of China and Pakistan Refinery Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the investment worth \$1.5 billion in the petroleum sector.

The MoU will help increase the petrol production capacity of the refinery from 250,000 metric tons to 1.6 million metric tons and high-speed diesel from 0.6 million metric tons to 2 million metric tons.

During the visit, the two sides signed 20 agreements and MoUs, covering cooperation on the BRI, infrastructure, mining, industry, green and low-carbon development, health, space cooperation, digital, development cooperation and export of agricultural products to China.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in meeting with former GDA leader Ali Gohar Khan Mehar, who joined PPP and others, held at Bilawal House in Karachi.

Nawaz Sharif says no to revenge, urges all powers...

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rent Prime Minister Imran Khan, remarked, "I don't want to take this name. I don't answer brick with stone."

Nawaz Sharif asked that if there was someone else in my place, you know who would have been able to speak in front of the President of the United States? Is this what we are punished for, our government is overturned? We are punished?"

The former prime minister said, "Is that why I was fired?" That's why I was kicked out? Because Nawaz Sharif did not take salary from his son? What is this decision? Does the Pakistani nation agree with this decision?"

He said that the country will make a comeback after reaching the limit of destruction and they will bring it back to prosperity.

Nawaz fondly recalled his era of economic stability and prosperity, reminiscing about the time when "bread cost 4 rupees, petrol was priced at 60 rupees per liter, and the dollar's exchange rate stood at 104 rupees."

Nawaz expressed his conviction that if his government's economic plans had continued, Pakistan would not be grappling with joblessness today. He highlighted the current grim situation where households face the challenging choice between paying their electricity bills or providing for their children.

In a poignant revelation, Nawaz Sharif noted that people are resorting to borrowing money to pay their electricity bills due to inflation's heavy toll on their finances.

He emphasized that the ongoing inflation woes are not confined to the era of Shahbaz Sharif.

According to Nawaz Sharif, inflation's roots pre-date Shahbaz Sharif's time in office, urging a more comprehensive examination of the economic complexities facing the nation.

Nawaz provided insights into his vision for Pakistan's economic future, stating that the country was on the path to becoming an Asian Tiger with preparations for G20 participation underway. He acknowledged that those who were initially behind Pakistan have progressed, and Pakistan remained where it was.

The former prime minister

shared the challenges he has personally faced, having undergone a two-year trial in Pakistan, culminating in his current address to the people after a six-year hiatus.

Despite facing political sit-ins during his government, he emphasized the substantial infrastructure development under his leadership, including the construction of the Swat Expressway and Lowari Tunnel, which contributed to Pakistan's evolving transportation network.

"I am giving a speech today after six years. I found this bill today. Nasrullah Khan's May 2016 bill was Rs 1317. The same employee's bill for August 2022 is Rs 15687."

He asked that "did Shahbaz Sharif increase the price of electricity? Electricity is expensive since you ousted Nawaz Sharif from power. "I am not offering a cleanup for Shahbaz Sharif."

Nawaz reiterated that he had forgotten the past after seeing the public's love, but quoted a verse from Ghalib: "Zindagi apni kuch is shakal se guzri ghalib, hum bhi kya yaad karain gain k khuda rakhte they."

In a bold assertion, former Prime Minister called upon his audience to ponder the achievements of his tenure and questioned what has been accomplished in the years since.

He pointed to monumental infrastructure projects as evidence of his government's transformative initiatives, including Lahore's Orange Line and Karachi's Green Line, challenging critics to consider these substantial developments.

Nawaz Sharif reiterated his commitment to responsible governance, emphasizing that his leadership did not resort to divisive tactics or disrupt societal harmony.

He lauded the peaceful coexistence of people, particularly highlighting the contentment of women within his vision of Pakistan. He proudly stated that there was no discord that required the silencing of any beats or rhythms.

Reflecting on his leadership, Nawaz Sharif noted that his tenure was marked by planning for the future in accordance with the spirit of the constitution.

He emphasized the

need for collaboration between state institutions responsible for upholding the constitution and political leaders, indicating that the progress and prosperity of the nation depended on their harmonious efforts.

He underscored the necessity for unity and collaboration, emphasizing that the country cannot progress without such concerted efforts. Acknowledging the recurrent challenges faced by Pakistan due to fundamental differences, he called for addressing these issues, promising a new journey towards prosperity.

Nawaz Sharif unequivocally conveyed his focus on serving the nation rather than seeking retribution. He expressed a profound desire for the well-being and prosperity of the people, emphasizing that his heart harbored no vendetta.

Drawing attention to the ordeal of his daughter Maryam Nawaz during her arrest, he noted her resilience and determination. Despite facing adversity, she demonstrated unwavering courage. Nawaz also recounted the experiences of other prominent political figures, including his brother Shahbaz Sharif and several others who have endured imprisonment and trials.

In a poignant reflection, he highlighted his personal journey, spanning the years from 1990 to the present, during which he was either abroad, incarcerated, or facing legal proceedings.

Former Prime Minister addressed the need to reclaim Pakistan's lost stature, break free from constraints, and usher in an era of prosperity. He stressed the importance of finding solutions to the nation's economic challenges, particularly in eradicating poverty.

Nawaz Sharif underscored the significance of nurturing peaceful relations with neighboring countries and the global community.

He emphasized that progress cannot be achieved through conflicts with neighbors and advocated a dignified approach to resolving the longstanding issue of Kashmir.

Reflecting on history, he lamented the separation of East Pakistan, pointing out the missed opportunity of an economic corridor between the eastern and western regions of Pakistan. He

implied that the lack of unity and harmony had resulted in this loss.

Addressing the issue of revenge, Nawaz Sharif reiterated that his intentions are focused on changing Pakistan's destiny rather than seeking retribution.

He asserted that his words were carefully chosen and carried the essence of his convictions.

During his speech, Nawaz Sharif held the flag of Palestine, condemning the perceived oppression faced by the Palestinian people.

He empathized with the challenges faced by Pakistanis and called for a diligent and determined approach to tackling these issues. He encouraged the nation to embrace challenges head-on, acknowledging the path ahead is difficult but not insurmountable.

Expressing his strong resolve, Nawaz Sharif proclaimed his commitment to rebuilding Pakistan, envisioning the nation as an IT powerhouse. He promised to initiate a new journey with unwavering enthusiasm, vowing to accelerate progress and address pressing issues.

After spending over four years in self-imposed exile in London, former three-time prime minister and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif's charter plane that landed earlier at Islamabad International Airport reached Lahore.

A visibly emotional Nawaz embraced his daughter Maryam and greeted other party leaders on stage.

Afterwards, PML-N's Khawaja Saad Rafique read out his party's resolution condemning Israeli atrocities on Palestinians.

Shehbaz Sharif acknowledged the profound significance of the occasion, as people from all walks of life travelled thousands of miles to be part of this historic rally. He commended the unwavering dedication of workers and the overwhelming turnout of the masses.

"Nawaz Sharif is not just a name; he is the embodiment of struggle, passion, and unwavering dedication to this nation," declared Shehbaz Sharif, resonating the sentiments of the gathered multitude.

Highlighting the historic nature of this rally, Shehbaz Sharif noted, "In

the span of 76 years, there has not been a gathering of such magnitude at Minar Pakistan."

Expressing his gratitude, Shehbaz Sharif extended a warm welcome to his brother, Mian Nawaz Sharif, amidst thunderous applause and enthusiasm from the audience.

The event was described as a celebration of unity, as people from diverse backgrounds and regions joined hands to welcome "the son of the nation," reflecting a shared sense of hope and optimism.

Throughout his address, Shehbaz Sharif underlined the immense contributions of Nawaz Sharif to Pakistan, noting that Nawaz Sharif has consistently altered the destiny of the nation for the better.

He acknowledged Nawaz Sharif's role in ending the darkness of load shedding, transforming Pakistan into a nuclear power, and his unwavering commitment to the nation's progress.

Nawaz arrived in Islamabad in the afternoon, where he completed legal and biometric formalities. His chartered plane landed in the capital city with more than 150 people from his party and media organisations, PML-N said.

Afterwards, Nawaz left for Lahore and reached his hometown a little after 5pm.

Upon his arrival in Lahore, former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif and other PML-N leaders welcomed Nawaz. From the airport, Nawaz Sharif reached at Minar-e-Pakistan in a helicopter to address a gathering.

Nawaz Sharif's copter landed at historic Lahore Fort where senior PML-N leadership welcomed him.

Before heading to the venue for his speech, Nawaz Sharif offered Magrib prayers.

Before his arrival in Mainr-e-Pakistan his daughter Maryam Nawaz reached the venue amid rapturous welcome. A teary-eyed Maryam also gave a short address to the gathering.

PML-N Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz thanked all the supporters gathered at the Greater Iqbal Park.

"Alhamdulillah, I'm very happy today. Today is a big day," she said.



QUETTA: Former Senator Nawabzada Haji Lashkari Raisani addressing oath taking ceremony of Paramedical Staff Association Civil Hospital Unit

New Zealand into Rugby World Cup final after outclassing Argentina

Paris (AFP/APP): Will Jordan scored a hat-trick of tries as New Zealand outclassed Argentina 44-6 on Friday to set up a Rugby World Cup final against the winner of the second semifinal between England and defending champions South Africa. The result at a rainy Stade de France saw the All Blacks become the first team to reach the final of a World Cup on five occasions.

"It's so sweet. It's new territory for this group," was said player of the match Jordie Barrett.

"I am just so proud of this group. It's not done yet. We will have a very tough match regardless of who we have next week."

The three-time champion,

who beat Ireland in a thrilling quarter-final last week, outscored Los Pumas by seven tries to none, mixing some doughty early defence with front-foot flamboyance in attack.

History was on New Zealand's side coming into the match, the All Blacks having won 33 of the 36 previous encounters between the two sides with Los Pumas claiming two victories, with one match drawn.

And although it was Emiliano Boffelli who opened the scoring for Argentina with a fifth-minute penalty, it was not long before New Zealand's dominance shone through.

The All Blacks spurred their first chance of a kick

at goal, instead going to the corner for an attacking line-out and after a series of pick-and-drives, a long Richie Mo'unga cut-out pass found Jordan and the winger crossed for an easy try that the fly-half converted. As forwards linked impeccably with backs, Jordan then turned provider, drawing in the final defender just enough to allow Jordie Barrett a line into the corner for New Zealand's second try.

Although they pinched a couple of All Black line-outs, Los Pumas looked increasingly ragged around the breakdown and consistently lost territory through their ill-discipline at the ruck.

پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی (پی پی پی) کے قائد اور سابق وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے لاہور میں ایک جلسے کا افتتاح کیا۔ ان کے ہمراہ ان کے بیٹے اور دیگر اہل خانہ بھی تھے۔

(021-99205285-7) مسلم لیگ ق کے قائد اور سابق وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف

No. 1617/PRO/678/2023 Dated: 19-October-2023

پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی

1۔ چیئر پرسن، پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی (پی پی پی) کے قائد اور سابق وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے لاہور میں ایک جلسے کا افتتاح کیا۔ ان کے ہمراہ ان کے بیٹے اور دیگر اہل خانہ بھی تھے۔

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پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی

PID K No. 1216/23

Speakers say Cross border trade important for Pakistan to address food security challenges amid climate crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): The speakers at a webinar on food security and agriculture promotion through cross border trade said the Asia region had a tremendous agriculture potential and could help enhance resilience to environmental degradation food security challenges through cross border trade between the regional states.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) organized the webinar titled "Innovation for Food Security and Regional Trade for Agriculture Promotion", which was moderated by its Project Coordinator Abdullah Khalid.

James McNee, First Secretary of Canadian Embassy in Pakistan, in his opening remarks, said cooperation and coordination were instrumental in pro-

moting and galvanizing the endeavours intended to address trade, food security and agriculture sector issues.

He said Canada had a long history of exporting grains, canola and other agricultural products to Pakistan, which, however, needed the political will to modify legislation on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) to transform its existing agricultural production.

The envoy underscored that linkages had been established between grain institutes in Canada and Punjab province to further study the GMOs that were being raised in Canada for their suitability to the soil of the region.

"There is a need to develop sustainable agricultural solutions by Pakistan that address food security

and climate change on priority. Canada has food security on its priority. Recently, I witnessed the 2022 floods devastation that washed away standing crops inundating acres of cultivated land in Punjab and other provinces," he added.

Dr Vaqar Ahmed, SDPI Joint Executive Director, in his welcome remarks, informed the participants that the Institute had planned a hackathon for November 17-18 inviting teams from neighbouring countries to participate in the debate about food security, agriculture and trade.

"Food security is an international issue where 9.2% of world population is facing hunger and malnourishment with 55% of that number existing in Asia region alone," he said.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Sports of Balochistan Nawabzada Jamal Raisani meeting with Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed.

Pakistan to host All Flags Together event to showcase cultural diplomacy, UN unity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan is set to host the second edition of the All Flags Together (AFT) event on Thursday, November 2, at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) premises. The event would be organized by Devcom-Pakistan in collaboration with the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture and the PNCA.

The AFT event is a daylong celebration of cultural diplomacy and UN unity. It will feature a range of activities, including a youth conference, an interactive panel discussion with experts, international food stalls, an art and craft exhibition, and a showcase of organizations' work, as per a news release.

The event is expected

to draw over ten thousand participants, including diplomats, UN officials, youth, and citizens. It is a free-entry event, but registration is required.

Munir Ahmed, Executive Director of Devcom-Pakistan, emphasized that the AFT event is intended to support UN organizations and member states in their efforts to protect human rights, preserve cultural heritage, and promote peace through interfaith harmony, democracy, and development.

He stated, "Unity and understanding are essential in commemorating the UN day annually on October 24th to celebrate the anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter in 1945."

AIOU extends admissions deadline for ODL programs till Nov.07

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

According to the AIOU, the programs offered in this phase include Associate degree in Arts (BA General), Associate degree in Commerce (B.Com), Associate degree in Education, BS (ODL) programs, B.Ed programs, BBA, postgraduate diplomas and certificate courses.

FIA's operation in full swing against money laundering

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Gujranwala Zone Sajid Akram Chaudhry on Friday raided against elements involved in illegal currency exchange and arrested two suspects in the operation. He recovered domestic and foreign currency of 1 crore 31 lakh rupees, 15460-euro, 4 lakh Japanese yen, 5626 Malaysian ringgit, 1941 US dollars, 5745 Qatari riyals, 38520 Thai baht, 3690 British pounds, 53781 Saudi Riyals, 1005 Canadian Dollars, 1000 UAE Dirhams and currency of other countries from the custody of accused.

Pakistan Sweet Home organizes blood donation camp in High Tech Taxila

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Sweet Home Blood Bank and Zamurrad Khan (Hilal e Imtiaz) here on Saturday organized a grand blood donation camp at High Tech Taxela with a mission to save innocent lives. A large number of young students donated blood at the camp.

Addressing on the occasion, Head of Pakistan Sweet Home, Zamurrad Khan said that youth were the valuable assets of the country and the nations who sacrifice for their countrymen can change the destiny of the country. He that today, he was extremely happy to see that the students of High Tech were fully engaged in the great mission of saving innocent lives by donating blood in large numbers. Our youth is second to none in selfless service to humanity.

The spirit of service among the youth is admi-

nable. Today, the selfless spirit of serving humanity has won the hearts of young students, he expressed.

Zamurrad Khan said donating blood is a great continuous charity and an act of worship. Innocent children fighting with thalassemia, hemophilia and blood cancer while we are not alone. If I have to travel all over Pakistan for these children, I will go from city to city and collect blood donations for them, he said and added I am extremely grateful to the students, especially the administration, who responded to my voice today and participated in this good cause. Undoubtedly, the young students always donated blood in large numbers for Thalassemia affected children in every difficult situation, he said. He appealed to other educational institutions.



ISLAMABAD: People are buying used jackets from vendors along the road side at Aabpara Market in Federal Capital.

Campaign for registration of house servants and tenants data in full swing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Gujranwala Zone Sajid Akram Chaudhry on Friday raided against elements involved in illegal currency exchange and arrested two suspects in the operation. He recovered domestic and foreign currency of 1 crore 31 lakh rupees, 15460-euro, 4 lakh Japanese yen, 5626 Malaysian ringgit, 1941 US dollars, 5745 Qatari riyals, 38520 Thai baht, 3690 British pounds, 53781 Saudi Riyals, 1005 Canadian Dollars, 1000 UAE Dirhams and currency of other countries from the custody of accused.

He said that, during this campaign various teams of Islamabad Capital Police are going to the streets and door-to-door to ensure the registration of tenants and domestic workers as well as to inquire about the problems faced by the citizens.

In this regard, the Counter Terrorism Department (CID) Islamabad has registered a data of 190 house servants of 397 houses from Bara Kahu Police Station jurisdiction. The purpose of this

campaign is to avoid any untoward incident by maintaining law and order in the federal capital adding that the registration of tenants and domestic workers could not only keep a close watch on miscreants but also prevent the elements involved in any kind of suspicious activity.

He said citizens are also requested that they can ask for the identity of a person if someone dressed in civil clothes comes to their house in order to collect the data.

Unregistered employees and tenants could be involved in serious incidents like theft and robbery by impersonating as a common citizen and Islamabad Capital Police is trying to provide a safe environment to the citizens of the federal capital by using all its resources.



ISLAMABAD: Supporters of Pakistan Muslim League (N) leaving for a welcoming public gathering at a Minar-e-Pakistan Lahore as Three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif arrived back in Pakistan on October 21 after four years of exile, primed to make a political comeback ahead of elections.

U.S. awards prestigious USAID scholarship to 112 Pakistani students in Sindh

ISLAMABAD (APP): United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission Director Kate Somvongsiri joined Higher Education Commission Executive Director Aayesha Ikram to award scholarships to 112 high-achieving Pakistani undergraduate students.

These U.S. government scholarships, made possible through USAID's Merit and Needs-based Scholarship Program (MNBS), will support students who were affected by last year's devastating floods, and enable them to complete degree programs at six universities in Sindh said a news release.

"Higher education enables students from all socioeconomic backgrounds to expand their knowledge base and increase their career opportunities," Mission Director Somvongsiri said.

"We are delighted to support high-achieving students in completing their studies so that they can realize their personal and pro-

fessional ambitions as Pakistan's future leaders." Higher Education Commission Executive Director Ms. Ikram commended the United States' support for higher education in Pakistan, noting that the program awards over 50 per cent of its scholarships to young women. She remarked that the

U.S. government's continued collaboration in higher education has built a positive legacy spanning 75 years.

The USAID-funded MNBS, a partnership between the Higher Education Commission and 30 Pakistani universities, provides university scholarships to students to pursue degrees in selected Pakistani universities. The scholarships cover tuition, housing, textbooks, and a food stipend. Since it began in 2004, the program has awarded scholarships to more than 6,000 high-achieving students from low-income families across Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the fade color of grass on green belt along the Srinagar Highway due the frost, which is begun falling in the cold morning of Federal Capital.

Academic Staff Association office-bearers call on Rector IIUI

ISLAMABAD (APP): Office-Bearers of the Academic Staff Association (ASA) of International Islamic University, led by Dr Tariq Javed and Dr Faiz ur Raheem, President and General Secretary ASA respectively, called on Dr Samina Malik, Rector IIUI on Friday here at the Faisal Masjid Campus.

The Rector was informed that the teaching community expected that appointments on higher positions should always be according to the Statutes of IIUI. Prof Tariq informed that rules require appointment on the position of Deans to be chosen from among the 3 senior most available faculty members. Similar seniority is required to be followed for Chairpersons too, said a press release issued on Saturday.

Any step of appointing junior faculty members and ignoring seniority and rules must be discouraged.

Such actions may result in distress among the teaching community and create a non-conducive working environment. The university was already facing several issues of decrease in admissions, and many teachers are disheartened due to delays in holding selection boards and not getting any promotion after lengthy service. In such a situation violation of rules and appointment of juniors can further deteriorate this academic environment.

The delegation also demanded that the government of Pakistan announce a 30-35% pay increase in the current budget admitting inflation and difficult economic conditions of the government servants. However, the relief has not reached the IIUI employees so far. ASA demanded immediate release of the announced salary increase to ease the lives of IIUI personnel.

Partly cloudy weather expected in most parts of country

ISLAMABAD (Online): Partly cloudy weather is expected in most parts of the country during next twelve hours.

However, light rain thunderstorm (with snow-fall over high mountains) is likely at isolated places in Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, upper Sindh and northeast Balochistan.

Temperature of major cities recorded this morning.

Islamabad thirteen degree centigrade, Lahore eighteen, Karachi twenty-seven, Peshawar seventeen, Quetta and Muzaffarabad twelve, Gilgit six and Murree nine degree centigrade.

According to weather forecast for Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, partly cloudy weather chances of light rain with thunderstorm in Srinagar.

IRSA releases 92,200 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 92,200 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 69,200 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1528.94 feet and was 130.94 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 34,400 cusecs and 35,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in the River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1209.85 feet, which was 159.85 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded 7,500 cusecs and 30,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 48,000, 46,000, 42,700 and 13,600 cusecs respectively.



ISLAMABAD: Gardeners are busy in gardening at Nursery in Sector H-9, in Federal Capital.

India's approach towards Kashmir absolutely unrealistic, arrogant: APHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has said that the Indian approach towards the Kashmir dispute is absolutely unrealistic and arrogant.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar said that a political dispute like Kashmir cannot be resolved through military might.

He strongly condemned the brute use of military power, including draconian laws Armed

Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) by India to suppress the will and genuine demand of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Kashmiris' demand for their inalienable right to self-determination bears legitimacy and the rightful support of the United Nations resolutions, he added.

He said in a democratic and civilized world it is a brazen act of state terrorism and violence to deploy one million troops against a small population of the occupied territory.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the close part of the Pirwadhei Fly over as heavy motorists are surprised that after the expensive of millions rupees buses and trucks are not allowed to maneuver on it, in Federal Capital.

30 outlaws including 12 professional beggars arrested

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Police apprehended 30 outlaws including 12 professional beggars from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered liquor, drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a public relations officer said.

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

Following these directions the Kohsar police team arrested an accused namely Shamroz Masih and recovered one 30 bore pistol from his possession. Golra police team arrested

an accused namely Awais involved in illegally selling petrol. The Sumbal police team arrested an accused namely Javed Afzal and recovered 1620 gram hashish from his possession.

Likewise, the Tarnol police team arrested four accused namely Ahmed Sher, Wali Khan, Shahbaz and Ghulam Haider and recovered two 30 bore pistols, one 9mm pistol and one Kalashnikov from their possession.

The Industrial Area police team arrested two accused namely Ali Raza and Ashfaq and recovered 537 gram hashish and 20 liters of alcohol from their possession. The Sabzi Mandi police team arrested an accused namely Sher Khan and recovered one 30 bore pistol from his possession.

Court has heard Dr Aafia Siddiqui on priority basis: Mushtaq

ISLAMABAD (Online): Senator Mushtaq Ahmad has said the court has heard Dr Aafia Siddiqui case on priority basis and it has asked from the government regarding progress in the case on every hearing seriously.

He said this while talking to media men after hearing of Dr Aafia Siddiqui case in Islamabad High Court (IHC) Friday.

He pointed out that Dr Aafia Siddiqui is in American jail since 7507 days. The jail where Dr Aafia Siddiqui is imprisoned is the worst jail of US.

Aafia Siddiqui has been kept in jail in the worst condition among all over 10000 prisoners serving sentences therein.

Keeping Aafia Siddiqui in prison for such long period is due to lack of interest on the part of government, he remarked.

Due to criminal negligence of all the governments Dr Aafia Siddiqui is in jail. She is facing hardships in terms of her meeting with family members and provision of amenities.

I contacted telephonically with the caretaker Prime Minister (PM) when he was on US tour. I asked him to raise Aafia Siddiqui case in US. I was pained he too ignored this case like previous governments.

I demand of government to give roadmap, he said adding the legal and political ways for return of Dr Aafia Siddiqui are there.

NAB recovers 600 million from Arain City Management through plea bargain

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has successfully recovered Rs 600 million from the management of Arain City Fateh Jang Rawalpindi through a plea bargain, and this amount will soon be distributed among the victims.

The NAB spokesperson stated that Accountability Court Number 1 granted approval for the plea bargain. According to the records maintained by NAB, there are 1,019 victims in Arain City Fateh Jang Rawalpindi case.

He urged the victims to get in touch with NAB Rawalpindi to initiate the process of reclaiming the stolen amount.

The Arain City Administration launched a housing society in Fateh Jang 18 years ago without obtaining the necessary NOC and collected a significant sum of money from the public. However, it failed to provide ownership of plot to any of the buyers.



ISLAMABAD: Workers are busy in giving final touch to the newly installed over head pedestrian bridge at Srinagar Highway in Federal Capital.

Wanted member of house bugler gang held; snatched cash, gold ornaments recovered

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Police Anti robbery and dacoity unit (ARDU) police team arrested a wanted member of a house burglar gang involved in numerous snatching activities and recovered snatched cash, gold ornaments and wrist watch from his possession, a public relations officer said. He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad capital police have intensified their crack-

down against the criminal elements in order to eliminate crime from the city.

Following these directions, the anti-robbery and dacoity unit (ARDU) police team used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending a wanted member of a house burglar gang involved in numerous snatching activities in various areas of Islamabad. The accused was identified as Atta Ullah Shah.

The police team also recovered snatched cash, gold ornaments and wrist watch from his possession.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Sunday October 22, 2023

Homecoming

The prodigal son returns. With his party's goodwill all but squandered by the disastrous mismanagement that defined the PDM-led government, Nawaz Sharif is scheduled to return to Pakistan today, hoping to revive his political fortunes. The state awaits him with open arms, and his own party has left no stone unturned in preparing a grand welcome.

He is to fly to Islamabad on a chartered flight and proceed from there to Lahore, where he will be feted with songs, flowers and celebration. The party has commissioned a new anthem for the occasion and hired two planes to shower him with rose petals.

In his hometown, Mr Sharif will address supporters at the Minar-i-Pakistan, where attendees have been promised free motorbikes, roti, and even absolution if they honour their quaid with a rousing welcome. A lot seems to be riding on the occasion for the PML-N.

Afraid of jinxing the Oct 21 festivities, the party had cancelled all political engagements with constituents in the lead-up to the big day. It believes that a large crowd will greatly help its efforts to renew its claim of being Punjab's most popular party.

To ensure that Mr Sharif's return is a comfortable one, all legal hurdles have been removed from his path. The PML-N chief, who was declared a 'proclaimed offender' by the Pakistani judicial system for fleeing from the law, has been given some extraordinary relief.

On Thursday, Mr Sharif secured protective bail in the Al Azizia and Avenfield references, in which he currently stands convicted, from the Islamabad High Court. The National Accountability Bureau, which had once relentlessly hounded the Sharif family over their alleged corruption, suddenly found no objections to Mr Sharif returning to the country and proceeding directly to a jalsa instead of a courthouse.

Likewise, an Islamabad accountability court came to the timely conclusion that it ought to suspend a perpetual arrest warrant outstanding against Mr Sharif in a graft case involving vehicles taken from the Toshakhana.

It has never seemed more obvious that neither Mr Sharif's past conviction nor this sudden relief has much to do with the law. Instead, his legal fortunes seem to be dictated by his party's willingness or unwillingness to play second fiddle to the deep state. Indeed, this seems to be the only 'law' that prevails over our political class.

Toe the line, and you can be prime minister; overstep, and you end up in jail. Mr Sharif should know: he has tried and been made to suffer three times already. It is most unfortunate, however, to see him standing on the wrong side of history once again. Clearly, his principles are not worth more to him than another shot at power. Will he rue the choice he has made? Time will tell.



Basil Nabi Malik

Upon assuming his new position as the top judge of the Supreme Court, Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa has set out at a rapid pace to execute his judicial vision. He called for a full-court meeting, constituted a full court to hear a contentious matter, and with the support of his fellow judges, had its proceedings telecast live.

In the meantime, CJP Isa also began consultations with the two senior-most judges after him, in relation to bench formations. Eventually, and subject to certain caveats, the law requiring such consultation was declared lawful.

However, despite the swiftness with which these steps were taken, it may be appropriate to observe that the CJP's tenure, in fact, begins now. With the full

court hearings out of the way, many will be evaluating how the CJP handles the various challenges afflicting the judiciary.

Undoubtedly, the CJP's seat has always faced challenges, with expectations of straightforward redressal of pressing judicial issues on the one hand, and calls for judicial restraint on the other. But what are these pressing issues? There are many, of course, but a few come to mind as particularly urgent.

The first of these relates to the very image of the judiciary itself. On account of the controversial manner in which the Supreme Court has handled matters in the past, there is a perception that the Supreme Court shall always be beholden to the personal likes and dislikes of certain senior judges.

In essence, the perception is that the ideology and political inclinations of senior judges may influence the business of the Supreme Court in a way that favours a particular outcome, result, or scenario.

Such perceived partisan conduct would not only damage the credibility of the judiciary, it would also re-

move any semblance of impartiality or neutrality in the institution.

Many may recall how cases related to Nawaz Sharif or Imran Khan would coincidentally, it seems, find themselves fixed in court and even decided in record time, whereas others were not.

In fact, many have questioned as to what criteria had allowed certain political cases to be fixed and decided first, whilst cases in relation to the constitutionality of the law relating to DHA Quetta, or the legality of the Army Act trials, amongst others, were not. It is also pertinent to ask about the basis of Aasiya Bibi's case fixation and decision, whilst similar cases, including that of Junaid Hafiez, are yet to be decided.

The science around case fixation has not been well explained, and it is precisely on account of this that repeated allegations of partisanship have been raised.

Therefore, either the method should be disclosed, and thus made more transparent, or if the mechanism itself is flawed, then the processes involved

must be overhauled, improved, or replaced in a manner in which they are not beholden, or seen to be beholden, to any one or another individual.

Secondly, one hopes the chief justice will seek to finally settle the controversy surrounding the mode and method of appointing judges to the Supreme Court. Throughout the appointment process, Justice Isa, as he was then, had championed the formulation of criteria for appointments, and in its absence, for the seniority principle to be followed. With him now at the helm, it is time to finally evolve those criteria, preferably containing multiple factors, and with consultations with all stakeholders, so as to put this issue to rest.

Thirdly, in the context of the ever-tumultuous times we live in, it is evident that cases of political importance will continue to land in the Supreme Court for years, if not decades.

In light of this inevitability, it is important to implement a mechanism where such cases could be tackled efficiently whilst

also ensuring that the existing backlog of pending cases is not affected adversely.

One suggestion that may merit consideration, although not foolproof, involves constituting a formal bench in the Supreme Court that is dedicated solely to constitutional issues. Such a bench, to whatever extent possible, if at all, may be fixed in composition and be permanent in tenure. In doing this, it would perhaps be possible to free up the remaining judges to tackle the backlog of cases pending in the apex court.

Such a bench would not be person-specific, but rather designation-specific, ie, it should be composed of a certain number of judges in terms of their ranking in seniority and expertise in the Supreme Court, and if needed, may also include additional judges in view of gender inclusivity.

Other than the above, it cannot be emphasised enough that in these polarising times the CJP should be a uniting force for the judiciary as opposed to a dividing one. Irrespective of dissent in

judgements or differing opinions, the CJP must be seen to be fair, equitable, and transparent in his dealings within, with no preferences in terms of one or the other. The divisions of the past require healing, and only a compassionate and understanding CJP can close the chasm.

In relation to this, I could perhaps speak of how doing all this would create a legacy for the incumbent CJP. But, to be frank, by the time a judge becomes the top judge, legacies in most cases have already been made. Those final years don't do much for the creation of a legacy, but can certainly be the undoing of one.

On account of this, I feel that all incoming chief justices should be least concerned about the legacies they may leave, and more concerned about preserving the legacies they already have. And if they are able to wield responsibly the powers and responsibilities that come with the office of the chief justice of Pakistan, then, in any case, it will become the stuff of legends, not that of legacy. -- Courtesy Dawn

Great expectations

When good is bad



Syed Asad Ali Shah

In recent years, Pakistani banks have been posting exceptional profits, while the rest of the economy has been contracting. This paradox can be attributed, in part, to the monetary policy advised by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and enforced by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to control inflation.

With a policy rate at a staggering 22 per cent, banks have found a safe haven in lending to the government of Pakistan at a mark-up rate of 23 per cent, resulting in an astounding spread of 10-12 per cent compared to their average deposit costs. Unfortunately, this trend has serious repercussions for the broader economy.

Flourishing banking sector amidst economic contraction: Pakistan's overall GDP contracted by 0.6 per cent in FY2023, but the

banking sector reported a record-high profitability. According to a recent clarification by the SBP, the banking sector posted a robust profit of Rs284 billion in the first half of calendar year (CY) 23, making a staggering 125 per cent increase compared to the same period in CY22. Furthermore, the Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of the banking sector surged to 17.8 per cent by the end of June 2023, significantly surpassing the SBP's minimum regulatory requirement of 11.5 per cent and the international standard of 10.5 per cent.

While shareholders, management, and employees in the banking sector are benefiting from this remarkable growth with increased profitability, dividends and attractive remuneration packages, the condition of ordinary citizens in the broader economy is looking bleak. During the last financial year, the per capita income dropped steeply from \$1614 to \$1400 (-13 per cent), pushing the rate of poverty to 39.4 per cent and adding 12.5 million Pakistanis below the poverty threshold. Additionally, large-scale manufacturing recorded a negative growth of 10.6 per cent, and infla-

tion soared to over 30 per cent. This situation raises two possibilities: one, the country's banking sector is an oasis of excellence in a dwindling economy; and two, there is something seriously wrong with our policy framework.

Fiscal deficit is the key driver of banking-sector growth: Interestingly, the primary driver of the banking sector's asset growth and profitability is the fiscal deficit of the government. In fact, the higher it goes, the higher the windfall for banks, since over 50 per cent of their total assets are now invested in theoretically risk-free government securities with high interest rates. However, this phenomenon is counterproductive, because it has led to a squeezing of the private sector, which is supposed to be the engine of economic growth in a market economy.

According to a recent SBP report on mid-year performance of the banking sector, the advances to the private sector have declined by 7.0 per cent over the last six months, with significant loan repayments by all three segments—corporate, small and medium, and consumer finance. Each of these sectors is reported to have retired Rs535 billion, Rs94 billion

and Rs40 billion respectively during the last six months, which paints a concerning picture for the economy. So, on the one hand, the cost of bank financing is becoming unaffordable for the private sector, while on the other, there is virtually no availability of equity financing to support private entrepreneurs in the country owing to a complete absence of venture capital and private equity funds, and dismal state of our capital market where raising of funds is nearly impossible.

A review of the balance sheet of the banking sector over the past two years reveals an alarming trend. Bank investments in government securities have increased by Rs7.4 trillion, exceeding the total increase in bank deposits of Rs5.3 trillion. This suggests that the government's budgetary rupee needs (fiscal deficit) are far more than the increase in total deposits made by the people of Pakistan in the banking system. To bridge this gap, banks have been borrowing from the SBP through its operate market operations (OMOs).

Vicious cycle of stagflation and growing cash economy: It appears that the country is caught in a vicious cycle where the economy is

contracting alongside rising inflation for two reasons.

One, the higher interest rate only increases the government's borrowing costs and fiscal deficits, which is mainly financed through bank deposits and remaining routed through banks at higher costs.

Second, the private sector, which produces goods, services and employment in a free market economy, has reduced its credit requirements due to lower demand and higher borrowing costs. This has led to businesses either retiring existing loans or struggling to survive with current loans at a higher cost. Consequently, many businesses have scaled back operations due to decrease in demand, resulting in supply shortages and cost escalation—both of which are inflationary.

While banks are reaping phenomenal profits without undertaking significant risks or innovation, the overall impact on the country is stagflation—a combination of economic stagnation and inflation. Furthermore, the financing of inefficient public-sector projects, which inherently includes significant leakages

in the form of kickbacks and commissions, fuels the expansion in the informal cash economy, as reflected in the sharp rise in Cash in Circulation during the last few years.

To break this destructive cycle, the size of government at all levels must be drastically reduced. This reduction should include the elimination of unproductive expenditures and the excessive role of governments in the economy to allow more resources to flow to the private sector to promote productivity growth. It will necessitate a disruptive roadmap to restructure the economy through what I had described in my earlier articles as 'creative destruction', including closure of redundant departments and agencies that do not add value and are cost ineffective.

This will necessarily entail massive privatization of state-owned entities to alleviate the continuous drain on the country's resources.

Further, to promote a productive and competitive private sector, a major overhaul is required to improve and strengthen the quality of our regulators. -- Courtesy TheNews

Broken promises



Asghar Soomro

A lack of political stability and policy continuity has always been attributed as the primary reasons for the failure of education in Sindh and other parts of the country. However, it is bewildering to witness continuous poor progress, stagnation, or even decline, despite the PPP being in power consecutively for the past 15 years.

Ironically, the very political stability that should have produced better results has had the opposite effect, as admitted by Sindh's education secretary in a television interview some time ago. He said that 60 district officers of education, appointed on the basis of political considerations, seriously lacked competency. Just days before his transfer and a few weeks before retirement, the secretary seemingly absolved himself of any responsibility by speaking the truth. So, should he be appreciated for his honesty or held accountable for not fulfilling his role? Nevertheless, he has done a favour to the caretaker education minister by highlighting a major problem, even if not tackling it.

Since incompetent and politically favoured officers have been un-touchable, various initiatives such as education reforms and legislation to make education a fundamental right remain mere rhetoric. As we analyse progress from 2007-08 to 2019-20 against four critical indicators—literacy

rate, enrolment, gender gap and the population of out-of-school children—it becomes apparent that over a decade has been wasted without achieving significant improvements in these areas.

In 2008, when the party took over the government after Benazir Bhutto's assassination, there was hope that it would genuinely deliver on its promises. However, when it comes to education, this hope appears to be a mirage. According to the findings of the Pakistan Social and Living Measurement (2007-08) survey, the overall literacy rate among the population aged 10 years and above stood at 56 per cent. Disappointingly, this rate has only marginally increased by 2pc, reaching 58pc during the entire period.

Looking at the gender-wise break-up, male literacy decreased from 69pc to 68pc, while female literacy surprisingly improved from 42pc to 47pc. Surveys conducted during the intervening period indicate continuous fluctuations, with percentages sometimes increasing and sometimes decreasing. However, the overall trend demonstrates lacklustre progress.

Many so-called experts within the education department and donor community offer clichéd opinions, without bothering to analyse the reasons behind the decline in male literacy rates and the increase in female rates. The latter is particularly perplexing given that 51pc of girls are still out of school. Therefore, it is essential to conduct an accurate analysis of these trends to identify their exact causes. Instead of making assumptions, it is worth trying to understand what has worked well and what has not so that remedial steps can be taken accordingly.

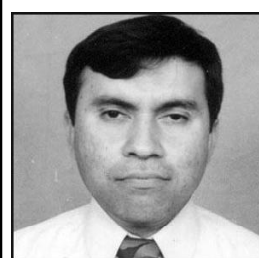
Regrettably, Pakistan ranks among the top three

countries in the world in terms of being home to the largest proportion of out-of-school children aged five to 16 years. Balochistan has the highest percentage at 47pc, followed by Sindh at 44pc. Alarmingly, 51pc of girls in Sindh are out of school. Looking at the urban and rural breakdown, 58pc of children in the rural areas do not attend school due to the same chronic problems. The situation in district Thatta is especially dire, with 71pc of children out of school.

Additionally, there is the concerning trend of declining school attendance among children aged 10 years and older. In 2008, the attendance rate was 58pc, but it has since dropped to 55pc as of 2019-20. Analysis of the net enrolment rate at the primary level, from class one to five, reveals progress at a snail's pace in the province, indicating incompetence and insufficient capacity in planning and implementation. For example, in 2007-8, the net enrolment rate stood at 51pc, and it has only slightly increased to 55pc by 2019-20. Moreover, during this 12-year period, girls' enrolment only marginally improved by 3pc, rising from 46pc to 49pc.

In the era of artificial intelligence, we are still grappling with basic problems in the education sector. Decades pass without any significant progress, leaving half of the population trapped in a vicious cycle of illiteracy and poverty. Regardless of who is responsible for the deterioration of education in the past, significant improvements could have been achieved if elected leaders had genuine intentions towards and concern for the children of hapless and poor voters. Sadly, neither the voters nor the leaders prioritise education. -- Courtesy Dawn

Water crisis



Dr Noman Ahmed

For the past few weeks, Karachi residents have been experiencing extraordinary disruptions in their water supply. A power breakdown led to the closure of operations at the Dhabeji pumping station, which receives the bulk of the city's water from the Keenjhar/Indus source.

Meanwhile, illegal water hydrants, hundreds of them, are being chased by the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC). These hydrants, which routinely cripple water supply in many areas of the city, flourish because of the clandestine collusion of influential local people, industrialists, law enforcement agencies and water utility staff. We can see this in Korangi and Karachi West, where certain plants and industrial enterprises benefit from an abundant supply of water while the residents next door protest on the streets as their taps run dry.

Research shows that there are many locations in the city that do not receive piped water for months. As per KWSC practice, water is to be supplied for a few hours on alternative days. However, even this frequency is flouted, especially in the western and southern part of Karachi. Water tankers can be seen plying the streets. The general perception is that tankers do roaring business when there are water shortages. But one must review this observation. In the manner of other service delivery options, there are several types of tanker operators in the city. Some

large-scale contractors exercise significant clout over public utilities and other concerned echelons of government. Due to their scale, these operators access the formal credit market and improve their fleet with new vehicles. With better vehicles, they can economise on fuel and reap more profits per kilometre.

Medium-scale contractors are also able to run their business in a financially viable manner. The situation of small-scale operators is dismal. These operators possess less than five vehicles. Most of them are old and in need of urgent repairs. The high cost of fuel has affected their performance. As they do not qualify for formal credit, vehicle improvement is a remote possibility for them. Such operators may also complain about the high-handedness of police personnel.

The cost of tankers for the majority is exorbitant. People cannot afford them on a regular basis. But there is no other option. Neighbourhood residents often pool their money so that one tanker-load of water may be shared—sometimes among as many as five households. Residents are often forced to cut down on even essential water use to make the commodity last for a few more days.

In many low-income areas, people are unable to wash clothes or take a shower for days. Health and hygiene, especially of womenfolk, is badly affected. In some places, boreholes are drilled to extract groundwater for non-drinking purposes. This water is often brackish and saline, causing skin infections. Besides, continuous extraction can cause the water level to fall. Such unregulated practices are no solution.

Supply and demand challenges create new niches for operators who often acquire water from illegal hydrants that, in turn, ob-

tain it from large boreholes in suburban or other locations. Several hydrants are operating in locations in Balochistan on Karachi's western fringe. Many residents of Lyari, Orangi, Qasba and Baldia have no option but to rely on this source. However, this water is of poor quality and absolutely unfit for drinking. Meanwhile, the authorities are doing nothing about the illegal use of suction pumps.

Some quarters fear the privatisation of KWSC. The mayor, who is chairman of the KWSC board, says that this option is not under consideration. What ever the case, interventions are important. An all-inclusive survey must be carried out to review the underground and on-ground infrastructure and provide details on their status, performance capabilities and shortcomings. This survey may be organised at the level of newly articulated union committees and towns to ensure effective coverage. On the basis of this study, development projects should be prepared in an integrated manner. The planning for such projects must also take into account issues related to changing land use, densities and occupancy profiles.

The issue of hydrants must be revisited. If at all the hydrants are to continue, they must be decentralised to reduce transportation costs and road hazards. Water quality checks by the KWSC are also critical to ensure that contaminants have been removed effectively. Contaminated water is a source of disease that leads to fatalities.

The federal and provincial governments must consider the creation of an urban water regulatory authority to deal with all formats of water supply. This urgent step is required to safeguard the interest of all stakeholders, especially the consumers. -- Courtesy Dawn

CM Punjab directs Commissioner, FWO authorities to speed up work on Ring Road project

Independent Report
RAWALPINDI: Caretaker Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has directed the Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chatta and FWO authorities to speed up work on Rawalpindi Ring Road project.

The CM visited Rawalpindi Ring Road project on Friday night and reviewed the progress on the project while inspecting the site of Khalsa Khurd, Adiala Interchange.

The speed of work should be accelerated by enhancing the work force

on the project, the CM said.

He also instructed the NESPAK to provide the drawing work related to the project at the earliest.

The authorities were directed to speed up the earth work, he said adding, the number of dumpers should be increased.

He directed the Commissioner to visit the project regularly and submit report.

"I will monitor the pace of the work on Rawalpindi Ring Road project," the CM said.

Chief Minister

Mohsin Naqvi also visited the FWO camp office where he was briefed by Colonel Nadeem of FWO about the earthwork.

The CM was also informed about other issues related to the project and told that the 38.3 km long Rawalpindi Ring Road Project would comprise six lanes.

Provincial Minister, Dr. Jamal Nasir, Commissioner, Regional Police Officer, City Police Officer, Deputy Commissioner and authorities concerned of FWO were present on the occasion.



LAHORE: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali meeting with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

KP Governor meets Governor Punjab in Lahore

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali on Saturday visited Lahore where he met with the Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman.

They discussed the overall situation of the country including political, economic and law order and discussed the activities, inter provincial coordination

and mutual relations between Punjab and KP.

Matters related to commercialization of research sector of public sector universities and delivery of high education came under discussion.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor said that mutual cooperation for promotion of agriculture, education and industrial development would be helpful in the country's overall development.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi inaugurating first commercial nursery of PHA in Gulberg.

Dutch Honorary Consul General discusses bilateral cooperation with Baligh

Independent Report
LAHORE: Honorary Consul of The Netherlands in Lahore Asma Hamid called on Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman at the Governor's House on Saturday and discussed matters of mutual interest, promotion of bilateral cooperation and the Palestine situation.

The governor said bombing and atrocities against innocent children and civilians in Palestine are painful. He said wherever there is injustice, voice should be raised against it. He said exchange of trade, educational, and

cultural delegations between Pakistan and The Netherlands would further expand the bilateral relations between the two countries, adding that there was need to boost trade relations with The Netherlands.

Balighur Rehman said Pakistan was offering favourable business opportunities to the international companies in various sectors. He said Pakistan was providing foreign investment facilities in various sectors through Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

He said the development of industry and foreign direct investment is vital to development of any country.

Dutch Honorary Consul General Asma Hamid said Pakistan and The Netherlands had cordial relations, adding that Dutch companies were investing in Pakistan in dairy, livestock, veterinary and other sectors. She reiterated her determination to play her role in further promoting trade relations between Pakistan and The Netherlands.

Governor inaugurates Wedding Expo

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Saturday inaugurated the Wedding Expo at the Expo Centre Karachi Around 80 stalls have been established in it.

The stalls of jewellery, makeup and wedding dresses have also been set up.

The Governor visited different stalls on the occasion.

Later, talking to media persons, he said that all the political parties and stakeholders should be united for the country.

He demanded to constitute a Commission titled Istehqam-e-Pakistan to strengthen the economy of the country.

He invited to join him at the Governor House to show solidarity with Palestinian brothers and sisters on Sunday.

Women Empowerment: USAID to offer scholarships to south Punjab girls

MULTAN (APP): The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is set to provide scholarships to girls across South Punjab, with a focus on modern education, research, gender equality, and economic empowerment.

This initiative was revealed during a meeting chaired by Vice Chancellor Women University, Dr. Kalsoom Paracha and attended by USAID representative Sheraz, along with faculty members from various university departments.

Dr. Kalsoom Paracha emphasized the pivotal role of the University in instilling confidence among women in the region. She highlighted the University's mission to empower women and

acknowledged the achievements of local women in research activities. The University has adopted a contemporary curriculum to benefit its students and emphasized the importance of a student exchange program to broaden their horizons, she said.

Additionally, discussions were held regarding the Consortium Conference scheduled for 2024. USAID representative Sheraz, outlined various initiatives aimed at improving the health, education, law, agriculture and economic empowerment of women.

Notable individuals present at the meeting included Dr. Shehryar Naveed, Mazhar Iqbal, Dr. Maimoona, Dr. Kanwal Rehman, and others.

Nawaz Sharif will become PM for 4th time: Mariyum

LAHORE (Online): PML-N information secretary Mariyum Aurangzeb has said Nawaz Sharif, was, is and will become Prime Minister (PM) for the fourth time.

"The country was entrenched in the crisis of terrorism and loadshedding in 2013. Today the country is still facing economic crisis. The financial loss was not caused during 16 months. Economic destruction was caused during the 4 years. We have saved country from going default, she said this while talking to media men on the occasion of reviewing public meeting arrangements in Minar-e-Pakistan ground.

Nawaz Sharif arrival is message of prosperity for people, she declared.

The doors to Aiwan-e-Prime minister have opened for Nawaz Sharif on October 21, she held.

To a question from a journalist that it seems as if there will be solo flight for PML-N in election she said yes by the grace of God.

CM inaugurates PHA nursery in Gulberg

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated the first commercial nursery of Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) at Gulberg, here on Saturday.

He visited the nursery and witnessed flowers and plants placed in the nursery. He also inspected the flower shop and ordered to improve quality of bouquets.

The CM said the Parks and Horticulture Authority would establish more flower shops in Lahore. Flower shops on the pattern of Lahore will also be established in Multan, Gujranwala, Faisalabad and other cities.

The PHA DG gave a briefing about various

kinds of plants and flowers in the nursery and said that people could buy plants, flowers and bouquets from the commercial nursery at cheap rates. Free delivery service of plants, flowers and bouquets at homes will also be provided. More than 400 kinds of plants and flowers will be available at the nursery. Local and foreign plants will be provided at the nursery. PHA will also provide landscape designing and planning services.

Secretary Housing, Secretary Information, Commissioner Lahore, CCPO, DGPR, DIG Operations, Deputy Commissioner and DG PHA were also present on the occasion.

Large consignment of Indian Gutka seized in Mirpurkhas

MIRPURKHAS (APP): The Customs Intelligence seized a huge consignment of smuggled Indian Gutka on Saturday while conducting operations in Mirpurkhas. According to Customs officials, the team of Customs Intelligence Hyderabad foiled the smuggling of a large consignment of Indian Gutka by conducting an operation. The smuggled Gutka was being hidden in a straw truck and was being transported from Mirpurkhas. Director Customs Intelligence Amir Rashid told APP that the value of seized Indian Gutka was around one and a half crore rupees.

KP government released two billion rupees for health card

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Saturday released two billion rupees for health cards to restore health card service in various hospitals.

Talking to the media, Health Advisor Dr. Riyaz Anwar said that more reforms will be brought in the health care service and administrative deficiencies will be removed.

He said that the health card service was stopped due to lack of funds, but now the health card service has been

restored due to the release of a grant of two billion.

He said that the funds were released on the special instructions of Chief Minister Azam Khan.

A ban was imposed on unnecessary development works in MTI hospitals, the Health Advisor said. He said that MTI hospitals focus on the treatment of patients.

To a question, he said that instead of building new buildings in hospitals, they will focus on patient care and facilities.

Breast cancer awareness lifeline for women fighting disease in shadows

MULTAN (APP): Speakers in a symposium organized by the All Pakistan Women Association (APWA) said Breast Cancer awareness is not just a call to action rather it's a lifeline for countless women who are fighting a battle in the shadows.

They informed that in a country where cultural norms often hinder discussions on women's health, breast cancer remains a silent epidemic.

A good number of notable women including Rizma Waheed, Naseem Baloch, Mehwish Abdul Haq, Musarat Sheikh,

Humaira Fareed, Seerat Fatima, Shahida Sheikh, Saima Faisal Sadiq Jabeen, Sania Fatima, APWA general secretary, Nazia Yasir, Tehmina Munir and others were present on the occasion.

Addressing the symposium, Head of the Oncology Department at Nishtar Medical University (NMU), Dr. Ahmed Ejaz Masood stated that the lack of awareness and cultural stigmas surrounding women's health issues contribute to the problem. He maintained that one of the greatest challenges in Pakistan.

11 dead, 1,307 injured in Punjab road accidents

Independent Report
LAHORE: At least 11 people were killed and 1,307 others injured in 1,219 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 673 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 634 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams, according to a report released by Rescue 1122 here on Saturday.

The data analysis showed that 623 drivers, 34 underage drivers, 157 pedestrians, and 538 passengers were among the victims of road accidents. The statistics show that 253 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 269 persons, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by 84 in Multan with 87 victims, and at third Gujranwala with 83 accidents and 82 victims.



KARACHI: Supporters of Palestine Foundation take part in a rally against Israeli airstrikes on Gaza and to show solidarity with Palestinian people, in Provincial Capital.

Solidarity walk with Palestinian Muslims at PMC

PESHAWAR (APP): A solidarity walk was organized at Peshawar Medical College (PMC) to denounce Israeli actions and atrocities in Palestine and to express support for Palestinian Muslims. Students and teaching staff from Peshawar Medical College, Peshawar Dental College, Rufidah Nursing College and Jinnah Medical College participated in the walk the other day.

The participants held placards bearing slogans condemning Israeli actions and expressing solidarity with oppressed Palestinian Muslims.

Following the walk, a protest meeting was conducted on the lawn of Peshawar Medical College.

The event featured speeches from various dignitaries, including Dean of Peshawar Medical College, Prof. Dr. Hafeez

ur Rahman; Principal, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Aman Khan; Principal of Peshawar Dental College, Prof. Dr. Shamim Akhtar; Vice Principal of Jinnah Medical College, Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ishaq, and Prof. Dr. Shamsul Haq.

The speakers strongly condemned Israel's barbaric acts against innocent Palestinians.

They characterized Palestinian settlements and hospitals as clear violations of human rights and international law.

They called on the international community to take notice of Israeli atrocities and take actions to halt them. The speakers appealed to the public to offer moral support to the Palestinian cause and provide financial assistance to the vulnerable Palestinian population.

Mobile snatcher arrested during police encounter: SSP

PESHAWAR (APP): An alleged mobile snatcher has been arrested in an injured condition during a police encounter in the limit of Town police station here Saturday.

SSP Operations, Kashif Aftab Abbasi told the media that the accused Sirtaj son of Zareef, a resident of Afghanistan

were arrested and a case was registered against him under different sections.

He claimed a pistol and 17 snatched mobiles were recovered from his possession.

The SSP said the investigation was underway to arrest the other accused on his plantation.

Police conducts operation in the limits of Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): The Peshawar police conducted a raid on the death of accused Shahsawar, who is in custody in the Edwards College student murder case, in the hope of arresting other accused involved in it.

According to details, the official said that during the raid, the accused started indiscriminate firing on seeing the police party, however, the police party also retaliated and as

a result of the cross-firing, the accused Shahsawar died on the spot after being shot by his co-accused.

During the cross-firing, a policeman was hit by two bullets but luckily survived because he was wearing a bulletproof jacket, SSP Operations Kashif Aftab Abbasi told media men.

He said during the encounter, the police vehicle was also hit by several bullets.

Dera police arrested 3 drug peddlers

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Dera police during a successful operation against drug dealers recovered 2200 grams of hashish and 340 grams of heroin from three drug peddlers in the limits of Cantt police station on Saturday. According to the police spokesman, under the leadership of SDPO City Circle Muhammad Adnan along with SHO Cantt police station Gul Sher Khan conducted a successful operation against drug dealers and recovered 2200 grams of hashish from the possession of Nawaz son of Qayyum Nawaz resident of Grid Road. Police arrested the accused as per the rules. While in another action, 210 grams of heroin was seized from Abid son of Ghulam Yasin resident of Zafarabad Colony. Meanwhile 130 grams of heroin was recovered from the possession of Muhammad Junaid son of Muhammad Yasin resident of Mujahid Nagar, and arrested the accused as per the rules.

The Cantt police station registered separate cases against the arrested drug peddlers.

3 motorcyclists killed, as many injured in road accidents

FAISALABAD (APP): Three motorcyclists were killed while three others sustained multiple injuries in two road accidents during the last 12 hours in Faisalabad. Rescue 1122 spokesman said on Saturday that a speeding car hit a motorcycle on Jhang Road near Chak No. 70-JB.

Mansooran Saturday morning. As a result, 41-year-old Munawar Abbas of Jhang received injuries and died on-the-spot. Rescue 1122

shifted 30-year-old Amanullah to Allied Hospital in a critical condition. In another accident, 12-year-old Faizan Idrees and 15-year-old Hammad Iftikhar of Chak No. 6-JB Gulshan Town were killed whereas 24-year-old Amir Boota and his brother Usman Boota (28) of Chak No. 64-JB were injured seriously when their motorcycles collided with each other while overtaking a trailer near Meeranwala Bungalow.



Pakistani people are participating in demonstrations across Pakistan after Friday prayers in the Pakistani city of Peshawar to show solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Dr Gohar conducts successful meetings with Chinese Business Leaders

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Dr Gohar Ijaz concluded a series of highly productive meetings with China's prominent business leaders and investment groups on the sidelines of the 3rd Belt and Road Forum in Beijing.

These meetings were aimed at strengthening economic ties between Pakistan and China and exploring various investment opportunities in Pakistan, said a press

release issued here.

Dr. Gohar Ejaz met with Wang Zihai, Director of China-Pakistan (Qingdao) International Cooperation Hub.

The discussions centred on investment opportunities in Pakistan, including areas such as Civilian and Defense equipment, EV Lithium Batteries, Solar Panels, and Semiconductors.

The role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC)

in facilitating these opportunities was a key point of conversation.

In a meeting with Li Yiman, Chairperson of Eman Logistics, the focus was on expanding Pakistan's presence on Chinese digital platforms.

Eman Logistics plans to launch "Pakistan National Pavilion" display centres in China, demonstrating a commitment to digital diplomacy.

The Minister assured

full support and facilitation for this endeavour. Dr. Ejaz also engaged with Jin Weidong, President of Wellhope, a leading Chinese agri-producer. The Minister highlighted the significant opportunities within Pakistan's agricultural, poultry, and meat sectors.

Wellhope's global leadership in smart farming and meat processing can pave the way for a mutually beneficial partnership.



BEIJING: Federal Minister of Commerce, Dr. Gohar Ejaz holding a meeting with Mr. Bhambhani, CEO of ADM Group regarding establishing EV charging stations network across Pakistan.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi in a group with a delegation of Women Chamber of Commerce who called on him under the leadership of Dr. Shehla Javed Akram.

Business Facilitation Centre to remove hurdles in investment process: SM Tanveer

Independent Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer said on that establishment of a Business Facilitation Centre (BFC) in Lahore would help remove every obstacle in the investment process, as the officers of the relevant provincial and federal departments would provide all facilities to investors under one roof.

In a consultative meeting with presidents of chambers of commerce and industry (CCIs) here at TEVTA Secretariat, he said that an effective digital system had been evolved through BFC for immediate redress of complaints of investors and industrialists.

"The Business Facilitation Center is an important initiative towards ease of doing business and the elimination of slowness in the investment process," he remarked.

SM Tanveer said that

the one-window BFC would start functioning within next two months, asserting that all kinds of information regarding investment would be available in the knowledge hub of BFC.

He mentioned that performance of the Business Facilitation Centre would be monitored at all levels and the investor would be updated about the application process through the mobile app, he concluded.

Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Kashif Anwar said that business community is satisfied and grateful to the caretaker government. Gujranwala CCI President termed the BFC a positive step by Provincial Commerce and Industry Minister and his department. Punjab Department of Commerce and Industry Secretary Ehsan Bhutta briefed the meeting about the business facilitation centre highlighting its aims.

Pakistan Embassy in Hague organizes AI&Big Data Expo Europe

ISLAMABAD (APP): Embassy of Pakistan, the Hague in collaboration with the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) set up a 'Tech Destination Pakistan' pavilion in 'AI & Big Data Expo Europe', at RAI, Amsterdam on 26-27 September 2023.

IT companies from Pakistan namely Abacus Consulting, Royal Cyber, Brickclays, Xynotech, Coeus Solutions, Digifloat, Graywhite, NN Software, and Reach the Globe showcased their services/products in the Expo, a press release issued by the Pakistan embassy, the Hague, Netherlands said on Saturday.

On first day of the Expo, Ambassador Suljok Mustansar Tavar visited the Expo and met with Pakistani exhibitors. Chief Executive Officer Abacus Consulting Fatima Asad gave a presentation on opportunities in the IT

Sector of Pakistan.

She presented Pakistan as an emerging market, offering huge potential not only for sourcing services but also as a very conducive market for investment.

Ambassador Suljok appreciated the efforts of Pakistani exhibitors to promote professionalism and talent from Pakistan in the IT sector.

Embassy of Pakistan, the Hague organised a networking event attended by Pakistani exhibitors and IT professionals, academia and professionals working in Netherlands-based MNCs. Ambassador Suljok gave an overview of the initiatives taken by the Embassy to promote IT services exports.

He said that webinars and in-person events have been held in collaboration with PSEB, TDAP and Pakistani IT professionals in the Netherlands. Participation of Pakistan in this Expo was part of the business plan.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the Fruit and Vegetables Market as vendors are busy in buying fruits from whole sale dealers in Federal Capital.

Women chamber of commerce delegation calls on CM Punjab

Independent Report

LAHORE: A delegation from the Women Chamber of Commerce, headed by Dr Shehla Javed Akram, met Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday.

The delegation head apprised the CM about performance of the chamber and other matters.

Talking to the delegation, the CM said: "We are launching a One-Window Operation to create ease in doing business in Punjab. Various no objection certificates (NOCs) will be provided under one roof

through the One Window Operation, he added.

The CM promised that problems of the Women Chamber of Commerce would be solved on a priority basis. He underscored that an effective role of women in practical field is inevitable for a durable progress of the country. More than half of the population of Pakistan consists of women. A society cannot move forward without the progress of women. The CM appreciated that the women, linked with industry and trade, were standing shoulder



MULTAN: Farmer busy spraying pesticides on the crop to protect them from insects at his field.

Cottage industry vital for poverty eradication, believes LCCI official

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt said on Saturday that cottage industry played an important role in poverty eradication in a country.

He expressed these views in a meeting with a delegation of All Pakistan Cottage Industry and Sweets and Bakers Association here. Butt also discussed with the delegation matters pertaining to closure of markets at 10 pm in the context of smog and Wednesday holidays and other issues being faced by the cottage industry.

He said that Lahore Chamber is trying hard to solve the problems of the cottage industry, adding that government should pay immediate attention to the restoration and improvement of this

important sector. He was of the view that by paying attention to the cottage industry, the government can solve many economic issues, as cottage industry is proved very important all over the world. He said that there is a huge demand for hand-woven carpets, embroidery work, brassware and traditional bangles at the global level.

He said that cottage industry in urban and rural areas can grow more with less resources. Butt said that with the help of cottage industry, the people of rural areas would get employment, and migration from these areas to urban areas would also stop.

Ghulam Sarwar Malik, head of the delegation, said that Bangladesh has developed because of the cottage industry.



MULTAN: Worker busy in coloring on the part of a traditional bed (charpai) at his workplace.

All steps taken to ensure availability of quality agri inputs: secretary

FAISALABAD (APP): Secretary Agriculture Punjab Nader Chattha has said that wheat crop could be cultivated over 16 million acres of land in the province this year and the government was trying its optimum best and taking all possible measures to ensure provision of quality agricultural inputs to farmers.

Addressing a Farmer's Day function, he said that last year, the Faisalabad division in Punjab province got the highest average wheat yield of 38 maunds per acre. Now, it's the time that farmers should

cultivate wheat over maximum area with national spirit so that the food security could be achieved, he added.

He said that the government was contemplating to reduce input cost of the crops in addition to providing quality fertilizers and pesticides so that the farmers could get abundant production of the wheat during Rabi 2023-24.

He directed the officers of Agriculture (Extension) Department to take immediate steps to ensure provision of quality agricultural inputs in the market.

International shows crucial for attracting foreign investment: SAPM

LAHORE (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Investment Muhammad Tahir Javed Saturday stressed the need for organising more and more international standard exhibitions in Pakistan to attract foreign investment in the country.

Talking to the media after visiting the 77th edition of Pakistan Lifestyle Furniture Exhibition and International Building & Construction Industry Exhibition at Expo Centre Lahore, he said that all possible measures were

being taken to increase foreign investment in the country. The SAPM acknowledged the importance of the furniture industry, and expressed his optimism that foreign exchange could be earned by exporting furniture to other countries. He said that the government would provide all possible support to industrialist and business community for their revival as the authorities were committed to increasing exports of the country.

Tahir Javed said that peace, stability and business-friendly policies

were key to attracting foreign investment in the country, adding now the time had come to divert Pakistan's productivity towards exports. The government is taking measures to promote country's exports in the short term, he said and added the continuation of economic policies was necessary for rapid development of Pakistan.

He expressed his resolve to provide maximum facilities to the furniture industry, saying that Bahrain was willing to invest in the furniture industry in Pakistan.

Gold rates dip by Rs.150 to Rs.208,350 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.150 and was sold at Rs. 208,350 on Saturday compared to its sale at Rs. 208,500 the previous day of trading.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.129 to Rs.178,626 from Rs.178,755 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.163,741 from Rs.163,869, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

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

People throng 'Landa Bazaar' to buy second-hand clothes

SIALKOT (APP): With the advent of winter, a large number of people are visiting the landa bazaar for purchasing second-hand shoes, woollies, children wear and jackets.

The landa bazaar, established on the footpaths of Railway Road, Allama Iqbal Chowk and Aalam Chowk of the city of Sialkot continue to attract people with humble backgrounds. Every year in winter, thousands of people visit these points to purchase items for personal use and their families.

Despite considerable increase in prices of second-hand items, people still find

them affordable due to unprecedented increase in prices of new items.

During a survey of some shops, it was found out that inflation and poverty were forcing more and more people to opt for used clothes. "My purchasing power does not allow me to purchase new items," said Usman Hameed, a father of five, while talking to APP at a landa shop situated on the Railway Road.

During a visit to all bazaars, it was observed that people mostly buy second-hand shoes, sweaters, jackets and other clothes to keep themselves warm during winters.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Trade and Industry S. M. Tanveer presiding over a meeting regarding establishment of One Window Business Facilitation Center.

Mirpurkhas Division: a fertile hub for agriculture

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Divisional Commissioner Faisal Ahmed Uqeli stated on Saturday that Mirpurkhas Division is a highly fertile area for agriculture. He expressed these views during his visit to the Fruit Farm and Sindh Horticulture Research Institute in Mirpurkhas.

He emphasized that Mirpurkhas Division's agricultural potential is significant, and to further promote agriculture in the region, the government of Sindh and the district administration are considering various agricultural projects.

These initiatives aim to benefit local farmers, enable them to establish their businesses, and generate foreign exchange by exporting agricultural products to foreign countries.

During the event, Nawab Abdul Sattar Khan, a prominent industrialist and agronomist, was also present with his team of agricultural experts. Nawab Sattar informed Commissioner Mirpurkhas that prior to the partition of India, the seeds produced in the seed farm were distributed across the entire country from the Mirpurkhas region.

China's Q3 data shows 5 pct growth target "well within reach": veteran China watcher

WASHINGTON (Xinhua/APP): China's recently released economic data shows that a 5-percent year-on-year gross domestic product (GDP) growth is "well within reach," a veteran China watcher said Friday.

"The Q3 numbers just released do not support the downward economic spiral hypothesis, rather they support the view of a modest recovery from Q2 making 5 percent year-on-year GDP growth well within reach," Nicholas Lardy, a senior fellow at Washington D.C.-based

think tank the Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE), told Xinhua via email.

China's economy expanded 4.9 percent year on year in the third quarter, and went up 1.3 percent on a quarter-on-quarter basis. It grew 5.2 percent year on year in the first three quarters of 2023, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

Lardy, an expert on the Chinese economy, noted that the quarterly growth of 1.3 percent is almost two-thirds more than that of 0.8 percent in the second quarter.

Pakistan Microfinance Network urges soft policies for disadvantaged people

HYDERABAD (APP): The seventh annual conference of the Pakistan Microfinance Network, a joint organization of institutions providing financial services to low-income people in Pakistan, was held in Islamabad. According to a press release issued on a Saturday, Suleman G. Abro, the President and CEO of SAFCO microfinance

company, urged policymakers, regulatory bodies, and banks to make changes to their policies and regulations so that disadvantaged people can easily access quick financing. Suleman G. Abro discussed the experiences, challenges, and opportunities of SAFCO microfinance company's journey in transforming from a non-profit organization.

Muslims protest around world to demand end to Gaza aggression as death toll reaches 4,100

Monitoring Desk
AMMAN: Protesters from Jakarta to Tunis on Friday demanded an end to Israel's bombardment of Gaza after nearly two weeks of intense air and artillery strikes that authorities there say have killed 4,100 people.

Israel is gearing up for a ground war in the tiny, crowded Palestinian enclave aimed at eradicating Hamas, the militant Islamist group that rampaged into Israeli towns on Oct. 7, killing 1,400 people and seizing hostages.

While some Western governments have voiced support for Israel's military campaign, many Muslim states have called for an immediate ceasefire, with many of their people angry at conditions in Gaza and expressing solidarity with Palestinians.

Protests suddenly erupted across much of the region late on Tuesday after Gaza authorities said hundreds of people had been killed in a blast at a hospital. Hamas said an Israeli airstrike was responsible. Israel blamed a failed rocket launch by a Palestinian group.

In Jordan, which made peace with Israel in 1994, but where much of the population has Palestinian heritage, more than 6,000 protesters marched in the centre of the capital while thousands more rallied near the Israeli embassy.

Protesters voiced support for Hamas, urging it to attack Israel with rocket strikes and suicide bombings, and addressing the Palestinian group with the chant: "We are your army."

Thousands of demonstrators also gathered in each of Turkey and Egypt, two other countries that have long had full diplomatic relations with Israel, demanding an end to the bombing.

About 2,000 people gathered in front of Istanbul's Beyazit Mosque, burning an effigy of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and waved Palestinian flags. Some held placards reading: "Stop the genocide" and "Terrorist Israel".



French President Emmanuel Macron attends a video-conference with the families of French hostages by the Hamas militants who had entered Israel from the Gaza Strip, at the Elysee Palace in Paris, France.

Cairo peace summit grapples with Gaza war as risks to region rise

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Egypt opens a summit on the Gaza crisis on Saturday to try to head off a wider regional war but assembled Middle Eastern and European leaders are expected to struggle to agree a common position on the conflict between Israel and Hamas militants.

Two diplomats said it was unlikely there would be a joint statement from the gathering because of sensitivities around any calls for a ceasefire, and whether to include mention of Hamas's Oct. 7 attack on Israel and Israel's right to defend itself.

The absence of a top official from Israel's main ally the United States and some other major Western leaders has cooled expectations for what the hastily-convened event can achieve.

The U.S., which has no ambassador currently assigned to Egypt, is represented by its embassy Charge d'Affaires.

The summit meets as Israel prepares a ground assault on Gaza following Hamas' attack that killed 1,400 people. More than 4,100 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's counter-offensive, amid a growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Arab countries have voiced anger at Israel's unprecedented bombardment and siege of Gaza, home to 2.3 million people.

Shortly before the opening, trucks loaded with humanitarian aid began entering the Rafah crossing into Gaza, footage from Egyptian state TV showed. Egypt has been trying for days to channel humanitarian relief to Gaza through the crossing, the one access point not controlled by Israel.

North Korea condemns US for supplying long-range missiles to Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea on Saturday condemned the United States for supplying Ukraine with long-range ballistic missiles known as ATACMS, saying any strike on Russia with them will only hamper peace efforts.

On Tuesday, Ukraine said it used the U.S.-supplied Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) for the first time, inflicting heavy damage on two airfields in Russian-occupied areas. Russian forces invaded Ukraine in February 2022 and the Kyiv government has repeatedly asked Washington for the missiles, while promising not to use them inside Russia.

"The U.S. finally delivered ATACMS ground-to-ground missile system to Ukraine despite the deep concern and strong opposition of the international community," Sin Hong-Chol, North Korea's ambassador to Russia, said in a statement carried by state media KCNA.

US veto at UN to shield Israel could weaken its Ukraine rallying cry

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: US credibility rallying support for issues like Ukraine may have been compromised, some diplomats said, after Washington this week blocked United Nations action to protect Palestinian civilians in Gaza from the war between Israel and Hamas.

The US veto in the UN Security Council bolstered long-held criticisms of the West by Russia, China and some developing countries and could once again hinder Washington's immediate ability to win backing for issues tied to human rights and humanitarian law. In 2017 and 2018, the United States - under then-President Donald Trump - cast two vetoes to shield its ally Israel, complicating a US campaign to reform the UN Human Rights Council.

Washington ultimately gave up due to a lack of support.

US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield justified Wednesday's veto by telling the council more time was needed for diplomacy on the ground as President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken focused on brokering aid access to Gaza and trying to free hostages held by Hamas.

The United States is "firmly committed to urgently addressing the dire humanitarian needs of civilians in Gaza, as both President Biden and Secretary Blinken emphasized during their trips to the region," Nate Evans, spokesperson for the US mission to the United Nations in New York, said on Friday.

But after successfully and repeatedly isolating Russia in the 193-member UN General Assembly over its February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Washington may have to work harder if lobbying to build support for any future action.

"The wider world will see an equivalence between this veto by the US and Russia's behaviour over Ukraine."

India drowns in shame as police dump dead body in canal

Monitoring Desk
BIHAR: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India took stern action as an inhuman video went viral on social media.

In the disturbing video, policemen were seen throwing the remains of a dead man from a bridge into a canal.

The man had a road accident and his body parts were thrown in the canal by the police of Bihar. The NHRC issued a notice to Bihar government while terming the act as a violation of human rights.

The NHRC said that human rights must be respected even after a person's death.

"The police personnel involved in the incident acted in an uncivilised manner and they disregarded the basic human values," said the commission.



Palestinians look for survivors in the rubble of a building hit during Israeli bombardment in Khan Yunis, on the southern Gaza Strip.

White House seeks more aid for Israel and Ukraine in \$105B funding request

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The White House on Friday requested that Congress provide more than \$105 billion in aid to Ukraine and Israel and other national security needs.

The move comes one day after President Joe Biden's Oval Office address, where he announced his intention to provide more funding for "America's national security needs" and support for "our critical partners."

If approved, \$61.4 billion in aid would go to Ukraine, and \$14.3 billion would go to Israel. The White House requested \$9.15 billion in aid for humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, Israel, Gaza "and other needs."

The proposal also includes funding for U.S. border operations, supporting shelters and services for migrants and efforts to counterentanyl.

"It's a smart investment that's going to pay dividends for generations, help us keep American troops out of harm's way, help us build a world that is safer, more peaceful, and more prosperous for our children and grandchildren," Biden said in Thursday's address.

The funding for Ukraine would go toward additional weapons and equipment, support for the country to provide "critical services to its people and sustain its economy," assistance for displaced Ukrainians and nuclear and radiological incident response capabilities, among other resources, according to a White House fact sheet.

Aid to Israel would fund the country's air and missile defense systems' readiness, including support for the Iron Dome. It would also go toward replenishing Department of Defense stockpiles that the White House said "are being drawn down to support Israel in its time of need," and increasing U.S. embassy security, the fact sheet said.

"Without additional replenishment funding, DOD will be unable to continue to backfill the Military Services for equipment provided via drawdown to Ukraine and Israel, thereby degrading U.S. readiness."

US 'concerned' about Russia-Hungary ties

Monitoring Desk
BUDAPEST: The United States is concerned about Hungary's relationship with Russia," US Ambassador to Hungary David Pressman said in a statement.

Earlier this week, Pressman said in a post on X: "Hungary's leader chooses to stand with a man whose forces are responsible for crimes against humanity in Ukraine, and alone among our Allies." Hungary, which is also a Nato member, has opposed many EU initiatives to support Ukraine in resisting Moscow's forces and gets most of its crude oil and gas from Russia.

"The United States is concerned about Hungary's relationship with Russia," US Ambassador to Hungary David Pressman said in a statement.

South Korea's Yoon departs for Saudi Arabia and Qatar

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol left for Saudi Arabia and Qatar on Saturday to discuss business cooperation as well as to discuss security conditions amid the crisis in the Middle East, his office said.

Yoon, in what would be the first state visit by a South Korean leader, will hold talks with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Sunday, and will travel to Qatar on Oct. 24-25 for a summit and to attend a business forum.



Pro-Palestinian demonstrators take part in a sit-in protest as the conflict between Israel and Hamas continues, in Istanbul, Turkey.

Canadian PM says India's actions making life hard for millions of people

Monitoring Desk
OTTAWA: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Friday the Indian government's crackdown on Canadian diplomats was making normal life difficult for millions of people in both countries.

Trudeau spoke a day after Canada said it had withdrawn 41 diplomats following an Indian threat to unilaterally revoke their status. New Delhi is angry that Trudeau last month suggested Indian agents might have been involved in the June murder of a Sikh separatist leader in Canada.

"The Indian government is making it unbelievably difficult for life as usual to continue for millions of people in India and in Canada. And they're doing it by contravening a very basic principle of diplomacy," Trudeau said.

"It's something that has me very concerned for the well-being and happiness of millions of Canadians who trace their origins to the Indian subcontinent."

Italian PM leaves partner after sexist comments

Monitoring Desk
ROME: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said on Friday she had separated from her television journalist partner Andrea Giambro, who has drawn criticism in recent weeks for sexist comments.

Meloni told reporters last month she should not be judged over Giambro's no-remarks and in future would not answer questions about his behaviour.

The split comes as the 46-year-old prime minister celebrates her first year in office at the head of a right-wing coalition government that has defended the traditional family as one of its policy hallmarks.

"My relationship with Andrea Giambro, which lasted almost 10 years, ends here," Meloni wrote on her social media accounts. "Our paths have diverged for some time, and the time has come to acknowledge it," she added.

Meloni said she would not be distracted by difficulties in her private life, adding: "All those who hoped to weaken me by striking me at home, would have no success." The couple, who met in a TV studio in 2014, has a seven-year-old daughter. Giambro, 42, is the presenter of a news programme transmitted by Mediaset, part of the MFE media group owned by heirs of the late Silvio Berlusconi, a former prime minister and Meloni's ally.

Ukraine replaces Soviet emblem on massive Motherland monument

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Kyiv started taking down or modifying Soviet-era monuments after its 2014 pro-EU revolution and Moscow's 2022 invasion of Ukraine has accelerated that process. It stands in front of a museum. "The dismantling of old Soviet symbols is the most visually convincing evidence of the fundamental changes taking place in our country," Yuriy Savchuk, the museum's director, told AFP. "After all, this issue has not been resolved for, let's be honest, 32 years," he added, referring to the date when the Soviet Union fell. The museum exhibited part of the Soviet-era coat of arms that was removed.

The 62-metre (203-foot) statue was dismantled this summer, over a year into Moscow's devastating offensive, to replace the Soviet emblem with the trident—the Ukrainian coat of arms.

The titanium statue was built in 1981, when Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union, in honour of the Soviet victory over the Nazis.



Israeli soldiers oversee evacuation from Kiryat Shmona, a town in Israel near the Lebanese border.

UN chief pleads for Gaza lifeline at Egypt border crossing

Monitoring Desk
RAFAH: U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres used a visit to Egypt's crossing with the Gaza Strip on Friday to make an emotional appeal for aid trucks to move into the besieged enclave, days after the U.S. raised hopes of a diplomatic breakthrough.

Standing at the Rafah Crossing in the Sinai Peninsula, where more than 200 aid trucks are waiting and much more relief is stockpiled, Guterres described the delay in delivering food, water, medicines and fuel to those in need as heartbreaking.

"These trucks are not just trucks - they are a lifeline, they are the difference between life and death to many people in Gaza," he said, as hundreds of people including truck drivers and aid volunteers chanted pro-Palestinian slogans and waved banners around him.

"To see them stuck here makes me very clear - what we need is to make them move, to make them move to the other side of this wall, to make them move as quickly as possible and as many as possible." Rafah has remained shut since shortly after Israel began its bombing of Gaza in retaliation for a deadly assault by the Hamas militant group on Oct. 7, and wrangling over conditions for delivering the aid has prevented its reopening.

Aid trucks enter Egypt's Rafah border crossing with Gaza Strip

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Trucks with humanitarian aid that has been stranded in Egypt entered the Rafah border crossing with the besieged Gaza Strip on Saturday after days of diplomatic wrangling over conditions for delivering the relief.

Television images showed trucks moving into the border crossing area from the Egyptian side. Rafah is the main route in and out of the Gaza Strip that is not controlled by Israel, and the focus of efforts to deliver aid to Gaza's 2.3 million residents.

Israel imposed a total blockade and launched air strikes on Gaza in response to a deadly attack on Israeli soil by Palestinian group Hamas on Oct. 7.

Hamas, which has controlled Gaza since 2007, said a relief aid convoy of 20 trucks would enter on Saturday, carrying medicine, medical supplies and a limited amount of food and canned goods.

The U.N. has warned of "humanitarian catastrophe" in Gaza, where food has been running out and supplies of fuel needed to keep hospital back-up generators running have reached dangerously low levels.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres visited the border on Friday in a push to get the aid in, saying a mechanism for inspection of the aid demanded by Israel was still being worked out.

Many of Gaza's residents have crammed into the south of the territory to avoid air strikes in the north.

Britain's Sunak meets Palestinian and Egyptian leaders in Cairo

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak met the leaders of Egypt and the Palestinian Authority in Cairo while agreeing with them on the need to let humanitarian aid into Gaza and avoid civilian casualties in Israel's war with Hamas.

Sunak met Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas as part of a diplomatic tour of the Middle East. During the talks Sunak stressed the imperative of avoiding a wider regional conflict and preventing any further unnecessary loss of civilian life, his office said.

"We've also made good progress on tangible areas like ensuring access for humanitarian aid to those who need it," Sunak told broadcasters in Cairo.

When U.S. President Joe Biden visited on Wednesday, Arab leaders cancelled a meeting with him after a blast at a Gaza Strip hospital. Israeli and Palestinian officials blamed each other for the explosion.

Biden did leave with a promise from Israel to allow limited shipments to Gaza via the Egyptian controlled Rafah crossing, provided the aid is monitored to prevent any reaching Hamas.

"When this crisis unfolded, one thing we have prioritised consistently is getting the Rafah crossing (open). It's been a feature of all my conversations, and I'm very pleased that that will now imminently happen," Sunak said.

"(Sisi) and I had a good discussion about how the UK can provide practical assistance on the ground to ensure the sustainability of that aid through the crossing," Sunak also visited Jerusalem on Thursday to show support for Israel and to try to negotiate a way to secure the release of hostages taken by Hamas. He then met Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Saudi Arabia, where he encouraged bin Salman to use Saudi's leadership in the region to support stability.

In Friday's talks with Abbas, Sunak's office said he expressed "deep condolences" for the loss of civilian lives in Gaza.

'Erratic' Hurricane Norma on track to hit Mexico's Baja California

Monitoring Desk
MEXICO CITY: Hurricane Norma strengthened as it churned toward the southern tip of Mexico's Baja California peninsula on Friday afternoon, threatening heavy rainfall beginning on Saturday at the area's popular tourist resorts.

After weakening slightly earlier in the day, the U.S. National Hurricane Center (NHC) said Norma was again at Category 3 strength, packing maximum sustained winds of 120 miles per hour (193 km/h) as it headed north.

Norma is located some 195 miles (314 km) south of Cabo San Lucas, a popular resort city known for its golden sand beaches, night life and whale watching. The "major hurricane," according to air force hurricane hunters, is advancing to the north at a speed of 8 mph (13 km/h), the NHC said.

"It's a very strong storm," state Governor Victor Manuel Castro told reporters at a press conference, describing it as "erratic."

Castro called on all bars, clubs and other businesses to close on Friday evening, and for people to stay indoors. He added that public transport will close from 9 p.m. to allow local hotel workers to get home.

Shelters have been set up with a total capacity for 10,000 people, he added.

The NHC warned of dangerous winds, heavy rainfall and possible flooding across southern Baja California through Saturday. It forecast tropical storm conditions could extend as far as Sinaloa state on Mexico's mainland Pacific coast once Norma makes an expected turn to the west on Sunday.

Between 5-10 inches of rain is expected, and up to 15 inches (38 cm) in the hardest-hit areas around southern Baja through Sunday and then across parts of Sinaloa by Monday, according to the NHC. It warned of likely flooding and possible mudslides.

"Life comes first, we don't want any surprises," added Castro. "Everything indicates this hurricane will come early morning, attacking like a bandit in the night."



Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), Admiral Naveed Ashraf addressing passing out parade of cadets of 148th PMA Long Course, 67th Integrated Course, 35th Technical Graduate Course and 22nd Lady Cadet Course at Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) Kakul

PMA Kakul hosts impressive passing out parade for diverse groups of graduates

RAWALPINDI (APP): The passing out parade of cadets of 148th PMA Long Course, 67th Integrated Course, 35th Technical Graduate Course and 22nd Lady Cadet Course was held at Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) Kakul on Saturday.

Cadets from Iraq, Maldives, Nepal, Palestine, Qatar, Sri Lanka and Yemen were also amongst the graduates. Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), Admiral Naveed Ashraf was the chief guest on this occasion, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The chief guest reviewed the parade and gave awards to distinguished cadets. The coveted Sword of Honour was awarded to Academy Senior Under Officer Muhammad Abdur Rehman Awan of 148th PMA Long Course.

The President's Gold Medal to Battalion Senior Under Officer Muhammad Hamza Khalid of 148th PMA Long Course. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Overseas Gold Medal to Battalion Senior Under Officer Shreejan Baniya of 148th PMA Long Course from Nepal.

148th long course of PMA and long tale of great sacrifices of Army's brave soldiers

Independent Report

QUETTA: The 148th long course of the Pakistan Military Academy was held the other day.

Some one among those passed out in the long course may become the Second Lieutenant Moeed fighting for the sake of country after two or three months, any of them would become Lt. Arsalan Satti while bravely fighting the terrorists after one year. And some of them would become Captain Colonel Sher Khan, or Captain Asfandyar and Captain Roohullah while setting the example of bravery and courage after the span of four years.

And some may be remembered in the history as the Major Qaiser Sahi, Major Mustafa Sabir and Major Munib. And obviously some would be promoted, would take command and would become Lt Colonel Rashid Baig and some colonel Sohail Abid. Then some would become Brigadier Burki or Brigadier Hussain for defence of the motherland.

Afterwards, they would get promotion as the Major Generals becoming pride of their families.

Even then, the call of duty and love and affection with the country would take them in the battle field and they would become Major General Javed Sultan and Major General Sanaulah.

This tale of unwavering love and affection with the motherland has no limits and some of them are also Lt General Mushtaq Baig and Lt General Sarfaraz Ali. And those among them couldn't embrace martyrdom became Ghazi. Those moving ahead in the high ranks and statuses are the custodians of sacrifices of these martyrs and Ghazis. These brave and courageous youngsters are the pride of Pakistani nation. But unfortunately some people belonging to a political party settled in Europe and America giving up the country's nationality, have been attributing them bad names for their vested interests and bad intentions.

Actually these are the people who claim and give assurance that 9th May's was a pre planned conspiracy.

But by the grace of Allah Almighty these ones are left very few, and they would be exposed further with their acts.

We pay homage to all those mothers who presented their beloved children to this country for rendering sacrifice of their lives.

May Allah bless them all. Long live Pakistan Army and Long live Pakistan.

Like Israel in Palestine, India in Kashmir suppresses freedom struggle, Pakistan tells UNSC

UNITED NATIONS (APP): The United Nations Security Council, which has the primary responsibility to promote world peace, has failed to "stop the slaughter in Gaza", as it also failed in Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN, Munir Akram, has said, while stressing the need for reforming the 15-member body.

"Like Israel in occupied Palestine, India's massive occupation Army of 900,000 troops has sought to brutally suppress the freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people and to impose what its extremist leaders ominously call a 'Final Solution' for Kash-

mir," he told the 15-member Council on Friday night.

On Wednesday, the United States vetoed a Russian-led Security Council resolution that would have called for "humanitarian pauses" to deliver life-saving aid to millions of traumatized Gazans living under the relentless Israeli bombing on the embattled enclave.

Speaking in a debate on the contributions of regional mechanisms for peace and security, Ambassador Akram said he hopes that after the Security Council's failure, the General Assembly will take action and demand an immediate ceasefire; full, unhindered, and sustainable humanitarian access to suffering people in Gaza; and ensure that they are not displaced within or outside Gaza.

"Thereafter," he added, "we should seek to resuscitate the two-State solution, the only option for a durable peace in the Holy Land." Diplomats said that representatives of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM), who met on Friday, decided to convene an Emergency Special Session of the 193-member Assembly to discuss the alarming situation in Gaza. (There is no veto in the General Assembly, but its resolutions,

unlike those of the Security Council, are not binding. But they do carry the weight of world opinion and the moral authority of the world community.)

The General Assembly President, Dennis Francis, will fix the date for the emergency session.

In his remarks, Ambassador Akram said the Security Council's failures could be addressed by making it more representative of the UN's membership; more democratic, by enlarging the voice of the majority of small and medium sized States, and more accountable, through the democratic method of periodic elections.

New meteorological observing station under plan in Gwadar

BEIJING (APP): A meteorological observing station is expected to be built under the cooperation between China and Pakistan by the end of October and it will be seen in Gwadar Port, according to China Meteorological Administration (CMA).

Recently, a batch of brand-new meteorological equipment was already shipped to Gwadar Port, Pakistan through the Khunjerab Pass, a key land border crossing the two countries at Khunjerab, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China, according to a report of China Economic Net (CEN) on Saturday.

"This will not only help enhance the meteorological observation capacity of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) partner countries and regions, but also help them improve the monitoring and early warning capacity of typhoons and other catastrophic weather, and provide decision-making support for disaster prevention and mitigation," a source from CMA noted. China and Pakistan are important members of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Regional Association II.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Sports Minister of Balochistan Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani visiting Muslim Hands School of Excellence and Muslim Hand Country office

10 days left for undocumented foreign nationals to leave country

ISLAMABAD (APP): The repatriation of illegal foreign nationals to their homeland from different parts of Pakistan continues, as only ten days are left for undocumented foreign nationals to leave the country.

The government has asked undocumented foreign nationals to leave Pakistan by 1st of next month, otherwise the law enforcement agencies will take action as per law for repatriation of all foreign nationals living without any legal document in their possession.

Saudi Arabia re-elected as head of Executive Council of UNWTO for 2024

RIYADH (Online): Saudi Arabia has been re-elected as the head of the Executive Council of the United Nations World Tourism Organization for 2024.

This decision was taken at the meeting of the Executive Council of the World Tourism Organization under the United Nations.

According to the SPA news agency, Saudi Tourism Minister Ahmed Al-Khatib said that Saudi Arabia will chair the World Tourism Organization Board of Directors during 2023.

During this time, the Majlis-e-Amala took the best steps involving partnership, individuality and development.

Saudi Arabia achieved success in terms of cooperation and common vision among all the member countries of the organization.

The Saudi Minister of Tourism said that all the members of the Executive Council of the World Tourism Organization worked together for tourism. Now we want to continue the leadership role in 2024.

Health minister: Pakistan has world's most sensitive polio surveillance system

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Health on Saturday reported that a 24-month-old child has been diagnosed with polio in Karachi district, Sindh. This is the fourth polio case reported in Pakistan this year.

The government has assured that emergency measures are being taken to eradicate polio. Meanwhile, poliovirus has been confirmed in environmental samples from four districts of Pakistan: Karachi, Rawalpindi, Chaman, and Peshawar. Genetic testing

has revealed that the virus found in all the samples belongs to the poliovirus cluster in Afghanistan.

Caretaker Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan expressed concern over the recent surge in polio cases and environmental samples testing positive for the virus.

He said that Pakistan has the world's most sensitive polio surveillance system, as rapid confirmation of the virus in environmental samples demonstrates that the system is working efficiently.

Sanam Javed Khan rearrested in another case

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist Sanam Javed Khan was rearrested shortly after the anti-terrorism court discharged her in the Askari Tower attack case.

As per details, the PTI activist was rearrested from the court premises in another case related to vandalizing the PML-N office.

The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) earlier issued the release order of the PTI activist Sanam Javed.

Unmute The PTI activist, who was allegedly involved in creating a law-and-order distur-

bance and attacking Jinnah House following the arrest of party chief Imran Khan on May 9, was arrested outside the prison.

The ATC issued release orders after the approval of the surety bonds in the case. Sanam Javed was granted bail in the May 9 riots case.

Violent clashes broke out across Pakistan after the former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan were arrested at the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday.



KARACHI: Activists of Civil Society are shouting slogans and holds Palestine flags during protest in Provincial Capital to show solidarity with the oppressed Muslims of the Palestine.

Nawaz to end inflation, unemployment and poverty: Khawaja Asif

SIALKOT (APP): Former federal defence minister and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader

Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that people coming from far-off areas in a large number and with such enthusiasm to the party gathering is a clear proof that people know Nawaz Sharif will end inflation, unemployment and poverty in the country.

Talking to media representatives at his residence, he said only Nawaz Sharif could change the lot of the people and the journey of development and prosperity would begin in the country under his leadership.

Khawaja Asif said, "Our history of the last 30 years proves that whenever Nawaz Sharif came to power, he brought prosperity. Whenever Nawaz Sharif came, he stabilized the country's economy." Recalling the events of May 9, Asif claimed that the violence and vandalism of military installations were "co-ordinated attacks planned by Imran Khan". He said that Nawaz Sharif made Pakistan a nuclear power by confronting world powers and on the other hand, another person (Imran Khan) challenged national institutions after he was ousted from power.

If voted to power we will make Pakistan economic power: Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (Online): PML-N senior leader and former Finance Minister (FM) Ishaq Dar has said if people gives opportunity we will make Pakistan an economic power.

"It takes time to correct economy. It is not magic wand that the whole economy will be corrected by moving this wand", he said this in a statement issued here Saturday.

He went on to say "Panama was a drama. One was to be imposed on the country. The country was devastated by lowering the national economy from 24th number to 47th number.

He held if people elect

PML-N again then our economic plan will be the same what it was in the past. Our 16 months in power were meant to save Pakistan from going default.

He underlined the previous government had set ablaze 100 storeys building which had reached 98th storey.

He remarked Maryam Nawaz has already been acquitted.

All the evidence of Nawaz Sharif case have come, he said adding all the cases against Nawaz Sharif were false. He will also emerge successful.

Putting the country on road to development is mission of PML-N, he underscored.



SOUTH KOREA: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah presenting shield to Korea senior officials at Migrant Multi-Cultural Festival in Changwon city South Korea.

Pak UN Mission organizes launch of Ambassador Zamir's book

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan's Mission to the United Nations hosted the launch of the book titled "The Security Imperative - Pakistan's Nuclear Deterrence and Diplomacy" authored by Ambassador Zamir Akram, an eminent former Pakistani ambassador.

The ceremony, held at Pakistan House, was attended by diplomats, representatives of think tanks, scholars and members of the media. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Zamir Akram said that Pakistan's nuclear program has been largely seen from a Western perspective. He was motivated to write the book to tell "the Pakistani story" of the development of nuclear deterrence and to debunk the propaganda and put the facts in perspective. Soon after the establishment of Pakistan, Ambassador Akram said, the country was confronted with serious security challenges.

PML-Q chief, JUI-F leader warmly welcome Nawaz Sharif

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) supreme leader Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Faziur (JUI-F) spokesman Saturday extended warm welcome to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif upon his return to the country. During his meeting with senior party leader Chaudhry Intiaz Ranjha, Chaudhry Shujaat said, "As an experienced politician, it is hoped that Nawaz Sharif will choose the path

of reconciliation."

Ch Intiaz Ranjha told APP that Ch Shujaat Hussain stressed the importance of national unity and emphasised the urgent need for politicians to come together for welfare of the country. Ch Shujaat said, "There is an urgent need to work towards revitalising the country's economy and eradicating unemployment and terrorism. All politicians should dedicate themselves to the country's welfare, setting aside personal gains," said Ch Intiaz.

Russian Ambassador urges bilateral resolution of Kashmir issue under UN resolutions

KARACHI (APP): The Russian Ambassador to Pakistan, Danila Ganich, has stated that Pakistan is a priority partner for Russia. He emphasized that Russia supports the resolution of the Kashmir issue through bilateral negotiations in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

Ambassador Danila Ganich made these remarks during a dinner program hosted in his honor by the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations (KCFR). The Russian Envoy also characterized Israel's actions in Palestine as "revengeful terrorism carried out with impunity, with the support of the United States."

He further stated that while Hamas's attack on Israel could be considered an act of aggression, responding to it with revenge-

ful terrorism is not the solution.

He added that it was a complex issue, and he expressed gratitude for Pakistan's co-sponsorship of the Russian draft resolution in the UN Security Council, which aimed to establish a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza. Both Russia and Pakistan worked together closely as brothers in presenting this resolution.

He also emphasized that the situation in Gaza involves more than just counter-terrorism; it entails acts of revenge and terror. Russia perceives it as an act of aggression against Palestine.

He mentioned that while Pakistan was Russia's priority partner, the level of trade was not as high as desired, even

though both countries were working to strengthen their ties. He emphasized that Pakistan is a powerful country with a large population, a significant position in the Muslim Ummah, a de facto nuclear state status, and a society based on traditional values.

The ambassador also pointed out that both Pakistan and Russia are champions of peace on the international stage. In response to another question, he explained the collaboration in the field of university education and how it could be further improved.

He expressed the need to enhance direct interactions between universities, which have only recently begun. He stated that significant positive outcomes might not solely rely on

states but could be achieved through private interactions between Russian and Pakistani universities, leading to stronger collaboration.

Regarding the status of banking relationships and visas between the two countries, the Ambassador pointed out that Pakistan's reliance on the US Dollar has hindered this relationship. In the realm of banking, Russia has proposed several solutions, emphasizing the need to reduce dependence on the US Dollar. Concerning visas, he believed that Pakistan and Russia should establish payment infrastructure before addressing and streamlining the visa issue.

In response to another question regarding the atrocities occurring in Kashmir, the Ambassador

reiterated his government's stance that it's a bilateral issue that should be resolved under UN Resolutions.

In addressing hindrances to trade between Russia and Pakistan, particularly the language barrier, the Ambassador mentioned that both governments are working to expand the scope of the Russian language in Pakistan, with several universities now offering courses.

The event was initiated with a welcome address by KCFR Chairperson Nadira Panjwani, who highlighted the historical background and the abundant resources of both countries, emphasizing that stronger ties would be mutually beneficial. Commodore Sadeed Malik conducted the session.



QUETTA: A view of dust storm in provincial capital.