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Writ of state to be maintained at every cost: Caretaker CM directs to make advance planning for prevention of Turbat like subversive acts in future

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the incident occurred in Turbat is sorrowful, and adding he asserted that the writ of state would be maintained at every cost.

He directed the concerned authorities to ensure prevention of such incidents by making the system of information sharing more coordinated among all concerned institutions.

He also directed to make advance planning for prevention of the Turbat like incidents in future by taking prompt action on the basis of intelligence based operation.

The Chief Minister was chairing a high level meeting on the law and order here on Tuesday.

The Provincial Minister for Home, Zubair

Jamali, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir, Inspected General of police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, Additional Chief secretary Home, and other concerned high ups participated in the meeting.

The meeting particularly discussed the Turbat firing incident that claimed lives of four labourers and a police cop besides reviewing the law and order situation. The Inspector General of police briefed the meeting about the Turbat incident.

The Chief Minister directed to make foolproof security arrangements alongside profiling of the labourers.

He stressed that the system of joint intelligence would have to be more coordinated to reach out to the elements involved in the incident and their facilitators.



LAHORE: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addresses to media persons during press conference, at Mayo Hospital in Lahore.

UN should take concrete steps for lasting solution of Palestine & Kashmir issues: Sanjrani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sajrani Tuesday called on the United Nations (UN) to take concrete steps for the lasting solution of Palestine and Kashmir issues as it was impossible to establish peace in the world without solving the two problems.

During a meeting with a parliamentary delegation, led by President of the Rwandan Senate Dr Kalinda Francois Xavier, he said, "No human being in the world can remain silent on the atrocities and human rights violations that are happening in Palestine."

The Senate chairman emphasized the universal nature of the issue. "The cruelty and brutality going on in Palestine is not related to any religion; it is cruelty to humanity," he said, "according to a News release issued by the Senate Secretariat. Sadiq Sanjrani also stressed the importance of the Kashmir issue, stating, "The occupied Kashmir issue is a core issue of Pakistan," and called for its resolution in line with the UN resolutions. He advocated for the right to self-determination for Kashmiris.

He urged the United Nations to adopt a common plan of action for immediate solutions to the two problems. He expressed the belief that negotiations were the solution to the problems and urged the UN to facilitate talks for resolving the issues. In a show of Pakistan's commitment to international cooperation and diplomacy, he noted, "Wherever there is a problem of humanity in the world, Pakistan definitely raises its voice." The Senate chairman advocated for peace and harmony through parliamentary diplomacy.

He stressed the importance of collective efforts in removing obstacles to development and promoting regional peace, stating, "We have to step up collective efforts to remove obstacles and promote regional peace and harmony using parliamentary diplomacy."

Sadiq Sanjrani warmly welcomed the Rwandan delegation and expressed Pakistan's strong dedication to nurturing its bilateral relationship with Rwanda.



QUETTA: Provincial President Pakistan Peoples Party Mir Changez Khan Jamali meeting with Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai

SC bars accountability courts to decide NAB references

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday barred the accountability courts from taking final decisions on NAB references and adjourned hearing of the appeal against the verdict regarding NAB law amendments. A five-member larger bench of the top court headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi heard

the intra-court appeal against the judgment about amendments in the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) law.

During the course of proceedings, the CJP remarked that if the court should have declared all the three amendments null and void.

The third amendment came in May, and six hearings were held after that, he said, adding that the three NAB amendments were directly interconnected. He noted that the Federal Gov-



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over a high level meeting regarding law and order situation

Muhammad Ali says Decision to increase gas tariff taken in national interest

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Minister for Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali has stated that decision to increase gas tariff was taken in the greater national interest.

Addressing a news conference along with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi in Islamabad on Tuesday, he said the decision will not affect 57 percent of the gas consumers. He said 36 percent middle class consumers will pay the prices according to their gas consumption, while only 7 percent rich class will be charged with high prices.

The Minister said the government is also giving 139 billion rupees subsidy to the domestic gas sector, while 45 billion rupees subsidy is being given to Urea and fertilizer sector. He categorically stated that no increase in gas tariff has been made for Tandoors.

Muhammad Ali said there are several factors which compelled the government to increase in the gas prices. He said the gas reserves are declining for the past ten years and resultantly government imports LNG on cheap prices to meet requirements. Sharing statistics about gas needs in the country, he said total gas requirement by OGRA in the country is of 916 billion rupees while it costs 513 billion rupees with a deficit of 403 billion rupees.

Governor slams Turbat incident; vows not to sabotage peace

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of four labourers and a police constable in the attack on a police station in Turbat area on Tuesday.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Tuesday, the Governor said that we would not let sabotage the peaceful situation of the province at all.

He exhorted the law enforcement agencies to mobilize all available resources to apprehend the culprits involved in the incident.

The Governor also expressed condolence and solidarity with the bereaved families of those martyred in the incident.

Interior Minister announces crackdown on illegal foreigners from tomorrow

Orders official to be respectful with undocumented immigrants

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti announced on Tuesday that the provincial and federal authorities will begin a major crackdown on "unregistered migrants" in phases starting from November 2. He also said that the government will decide the border of deportation for these migrants. In an interview with PTV news channel, Bugti said that authorities will strictly begin tracking and arresting foreigners staying in the country without registration or documents from November 2.

He added that migrants will be sent to temporary centers where they will be provided with basic needs such as medical care and accommodation. "All basic

facilities will be provided at these centers to illegal foreign nationals," he reassured.

Bugti further clarified that the expulsion of illegal foreign nationals will be carried out in phases, and people with no travel documents will be deported in the first phase. He stated that all provincial governments would play an active part in the operation against illegal foreigners, adding that committees have been formed at the divisional and district levels.

The minister said that the government will decide the border of deportation for "undocumented migrants," adding that any migrants in Pakistan illegally should go back to their countries voluntarily

to avoid mass arrest and forced deportation. In response to a query, Bugti said that Pakistan has generously hosted the world's largest protracted refugee population for over three decades, in line with Islamic values of hospitality and generosity.

Meanwhile Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti on Tuesday directed officials and agencies to be respectful with undocumented immigrants while detaining them in holding centers after the deadline. Talking to media persons here, he said strict action would be taken against officials found involved in manhandling of the immigrants and including Afghans while transporting them to the holding centers.



QUETTA: Former MPA Mir Zabid Reki meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Incident being thoroughly investigated: Elements involved in Turbat incident to be given exemplary punishment, says Zubair Jamali

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Captain (Retd) Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has strongly condemned the killing of four labourers and a police cop in the Turbat firing incident.

In an official statement issued here on Tuesday, the Minister Home stated that the Turbat incident is being thoroughly investigated from all angles and as such those involved in it would be awarded exemplary punishment.

He said that the terrorists have once again targeted Turbat. However, the anti-state elements would not succeed in their nefarious designs at every cost.

The Minister Home expressed sympathy and condolence with the bereaved families of those martyred in the firing incident.

Caretaker Minister Information maintains: Two holding centres set up for illegal immigrants in Quetta as deadline over

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that two holding centres have been established in Quetta for the illegal immigrants sending back to their homeland. In an official statement issued here on Tuesday, the Minister Information said that holding centres have been established at Haji camp and PCSIR building on ending of the deadline for repatriation of illegal immigrants. Jan Achakzai said that all necessary facilities have been provided at both of the holding centres for the immigrants.



LANDIKOTAL: A large numbers of unregistered Afghan refugees families are willingly enroute their homeland with their homes necessities after the government of Pakistan decided in the apex committee meeting to return all those Afghans who are living in Pakistan unlawfully, at Machni area in Landikotal.

Pakistan persistently raising Palestine issue; demands immediate ceasefire: PM Kakar

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday reiterated that Pakistan was persistently raising the Palestine issue at the global fora and recent horrible, condemnable and inappropriate aggression by Israel was leading to human catastrophe.

During an interaction with the media persons during his visit to Mayo Hospital, he said that recently Pakistan co-hosted the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) emergency session along with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia over the issue.

The prime minister further said during his interactions with different global leaders, Chinese leadership and the international media, he had highlighted the issue and in unequivocal terms, conveyed the sentiments and stance of the government and Pakistani nation. Pakistan would continue playing its role

over the issue till its resolution, he reassured.

Considering the current crises, he said Pakistan demanded immediate ceasefire and opening up of humanitarian corridor.

The caretaker prime minister said Palestine was a historical and chronic issue but there was no reason for the inappropriate aggression exhibited by Israel.

To a question, he reiterated that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was a constitutional body that would give a specific date for holding of the general elections in the country. He said the delimitation process was a constitutional requirement and the previous parliament had done legislation over the issue while the Constitution mandated the procedure to be executed.

The prime minister assured that the interim set-up was ready to assist the ECP in the process.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and Dr. Kalinda Francois-Xavier, President of the Senate of Republic of Rwanda signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU), at Parliament House in Islamabad.

Bloodshed in Turbat once again: Four labourers, one police cop shot dead by armed assailants

Independent Report
QUETTA: Five persons including four labourers and a police constable were shot dead by unknown armed men in Nasirabad area of Turbat on Tuesday.

According to the official reports reaching here, some unknown armed assailants attacked the police station located in outskirts of Turbat and restored to indiscriminate fire on the labourers staying there.

Although police personnel present in the police station retaliated, but four labourers were hit by the intense fire. Besides four labourers, a police cop guarding them was also killed.

Meanwhile, the bodies of all five deceased were shifted to the Teaching hospital Turbat by the police and rescue teams reached there after the firing incident. In the meantime, other police force and Frontier Corps rushed towards the spot and controlled the situation.

Blome meets FM Jilani

ISLAMABAD (Online): U.S. Ambassador Donald Blome met today with Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilani to discuss a broad range of critical bilateral issues, including the safe and efficient processing of Afghan citizens eligible for relocation or resettlement in the United States.

The Ambassador highlighted the two countries' mutual interest in ensuring the safety and security of refugees and asylum seekers, and the importance of putting in place appropriate screening mechanisms so that individuals with legitimate claims of credible fear are not placed in harm's way.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti exchanging views with Jane Marriott, British High Commissioner during meeting held in Islamabad.

Entire Pakistani nation stands united on Palestine issue: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said that the entire Pakistani nation stood united on the issue of Palestine.

"There is no division on this (Palestine) issue. From Senator Mushtaq Ahmed to Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, we all are united.

Let me reiterate here that the winding up speech will be made by the foreign minister or any other minister assigned by the prime minister," he said while taking part in the debate on Palestine issue in the Senate.

The minister said the Upper House of Par-

liament, with its honourable members including Senator Raza Rabbani who had drafted the landmark 18th Constitutional Amendment, had raised its voice in favour of Palestine and its people.

Since the establishment of Pakistan, its every head of state and government - from Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to the incumbent Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar - had expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people, he added. Solangi recalled that at the age of 22, he was for the first time arrested for standing up and collecting donations for Palestinian brethren after the massacre of Palestinian women and children in Lebanon by Israel. The minister said the Pakistani nation had unshakable faith that the struggle and voice of the Palestinian people could never be suppressed. He said PM Kakar had telephoned Palestinian President Mahmood Abbas to express solidarity with the people of Palestine. He said the speech of Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Munir Akram, had perturbed the Zionists. Pakistan had always raised its voice for the right of self-determination of the people of Palestine and would continue to do so, he vowed.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Global impotence

As Israel continues its extermination project in Gaza, the global community — particularly the UN, OIC and Arab League — have displayed a shocking inability to stop the slaughter. While these multilateral bodies issue statements of outrage, Israel has murdered over 8,000 Palestinians, many of them children, since the outbreak of hostilities on Oct 7.

There appears to be no one on the global stage with the moral courage to take Tel Aviv to task for its barbaric violence targeting Palestinian civilians, especially with the US and other Western states shielding it from all censure.

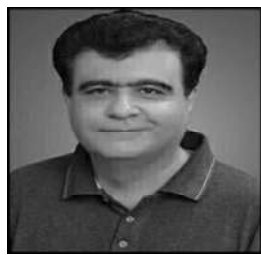
Within the hallowed halls of the UN, the US, using its veto power, has thwarted calls for a ceasefire in the Security Council, while also voting against a Jordanian resolution in the General Assembly demanding a humanitarian truce. Meanwhile, Israeli leaders and diplomats have openly expressed disdain for the UN. With regard to the Arab/Islamic world, the paralysis is even more glaring. Apart from a few voices — Iran, Qatar, Turkiye — that have forcefully demanded an end to the slaughter in Gaza, the Arab League and OIC are barely audible. For many Arab states and Islamic countries, it is business as usual as Israel unleashes hell upon the Palestinians. A similar disinterest has been witnessed for decades as India pummelled the Kashmiris in the occupied territory. The resource-rich Arab states are not without agency. Recall the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, when Arab petroleum producers deployed the 'oil weapon' against all those states that supported Israel. Oil prices went through the roof, as many Western states realised that there were costs to pay for blindly supporting Israel. Can such an economic boycott be considered today in solidarity with Gaza's defenceless people?

With most Arab rulers supported either economically or militarily by the West, such a proposition would not be endorsed. Moreover, Muslim states that have established diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv have not even considered suspending these until the Gaza massacre stops.

When it comes to the elites in the East and the West, cruel realpolitik trumps human empathy. However, for many common people across the globe, the tragedy in Gaza is an unmitigated humanitarian disaster, and Israel is clearly the guilty party, responsible for the mass murder of Palestinian innocents.

Hundreds of thousands have marched in Europe and North America demanding an end to Israel's vicious military campaign. This is despite the fact that many of these 'democratic' states have threatened to take legal action against supporters of Palestine, while witch-hunts of pro-Palestine activists have also been reported. Yet the bravery of the common citizen marching in support of justice for Palestine and demanding an end to the slaughter, needs to be saluted, while the global elite's shameful inaction on the Gazan massacre deserves nothing but opprobrium.

A racist liberalism



Dr Niaz Murtaza

The post-1945 liberal world order based on human rights and democracy is unique in history given its wide coverage of key issues and global acceptance. Many philosophies had earlier given similar ideas but had left out key issues and groups, such as women and slaves, or lacked global acceptance.

The adoption of this order in the UN conventions with its near-global membership make it the first globally dominant liberal order even if not all states accept all UN tenets. Even autocratic states are judged against, and have to defer partially to, them. It is intellectually simple. Unlike copious metaphysical edicts, all its detailed clauses can be derived from two moral tenets: don't harm anyone and help those in need. Given these two, a secular person like me doesn't need even a third one, let alone numerous tenets, to guide my life. Clearly, this order emerged, at least immediately, from the West though it absorbed the earlier ideas of other cultures.

This order had the potential to give a just world after 1945. But it has slowly lost its appeal. Il-liberal ideologies such as fundamentalism and populism are now firing the imagination globally given its failure to fulfil its promise. While the acts of autocratic states have undercut it too, a bigger cause has been its hypocritical and racist use by its Western author states such as the US. On issue after issue, they have conjured up excuses for why these te-

nets can't be applied when white Western states fight other races — on immigration, trade, global governance or in actual wars.

High racist walls are being erected around Fortresses Europe and US to exclude coloured immigrants, both documented and undocumented, on the openly racist pretext of protecting racial dominance and cultures. The logic is often couched in terms of economic burden, though studies show that immigrants of all status boost economic growth.

The plan to have rules-based global trade via the WTO remains unfulfilled. Western states have exacted concessions from weak southern states on issues beneficial to them such as foreign investment and intellectual rights but refuse to lower barriers in areas critical for southern ones like agriculture. Western states have stubbornly refused to democratise the IMF, World Bank and the UN. The US has shamelessly aided megalomaniac autocrats in many southern states despite the abuses its allies were inflicting locally. Even within Western states, coloured people are often treated as second-class citizens.

But this racist liberalism has unleashed its powers most destructively in wars pitting Western powers against hapless southern peoples, as in Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine. Elaborate UN, and their own, laws on protecting civilians are tossed into the trash bin as the US and its Western allies pursue their military interests. The aim of eradicating terrorism has been used as free licence to inflict grievous harm on southern civilians without remorse.

Nowhere is this done more viciously now than by Israel in Gaza. We are told ad nauseam that

Israel has the right to defend itself even though it's an occupier. A rational view on this right would cover Israel beefing up its air, land and sea border security, eliminating attackers from its land and strengthening its intelligence against future attacks. These steps alone can pre-empt a similar Hamas attack, which was wrong in targeting Israeli civilians. But only a highly racist view would include under this right indiscriminate bombing of a dense civilian area to destroy Hamas when it also kills thousands of Gaza women, kids and elderly.

The Israeli attacks are more about revenge and repairing bruised egos. Gazans are being treated like sheep locked in a small pen, not allowed to leave while being butchered brutally by a mass murderer. Yet racist Western liberal conscience remains unmoved by the sight of such ghastly suffering. Coloured lives matter less than white ones is the clear message from the West.

These actions of domestically democratic Western states globally mirror those of unaccountable autocrats. Liberalism, though, is not inherently racist, only so in the hands of Western elites who adopted liberalism as it aided capitalism to spread nationally. While capitalism exploits weaker classes in markets only, racism exploits weaker ethnicities in all facets of life. But the entire West is not complicit in this hypocrisy as the marches of hundreds of thousands in Western cities against Israel show. Resistance to Western racist liberalism exists among many whites too. The path forward is for southern progressives to link with Western ones to challenge racist liberalism and pursue a global liberalism.

-- Courtesy Dawn

All hail the king



Syed Saadat

Democracy in a country with very little self-accountability and conscientiousness among the movers and shakers in government is nothing less than a curse. Our political leaders behave like kings from the Dark Ages who would assert undue power over the weak and, at the same time, show extraordinary servitude to kings more powerful than themselves.

One example of this observation involves a government servant, who once belonged to the powerful military, being given a clean chit in 'assets beyond means' allegations, after a reportedly short meeting with the then prime minister, while another government servant, a former principal secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, who belonged to the beleaguered civilian bureaucracy, spent years in jail before being acquitted.

When kings are happy, they shower their courtiers with gifts and honour as in the case of a former prime minister who decided his principal secretary was worth his weight in gold. He was granted an extension in service upon retirement and later nominated Pakistan's executive director to the World Bank for a term of four years.

Ironically, the incumbent executive director was appointed for three years instead of four, apparently to bring the appointment period in line with the election cycle in Pakistan, which now seems an exercise in futility as the outgoing government made the appointment for the next four years as well. Who said that the retirement age is 60 years

in Pakistan? Apparently, with the right connections, one can keep on serving indefinitely.

According to reports, another appointment made a day before the dissolution of the National Assembly last August was that of Pakistan's deputy permanent delegate to Unesco in Paris for three years. There was reported evidence that in making this appointment the former prime minister had used his discretion in the manner of an unprincipled king rather than a custodian of the public trust. A legal battle ensued and currently a couple of civil servants, who are both aspirants for the position, are fighting a legal battle in the Islamabad High Court.

Whether or not the individuals in these appointments are qualified and the most suitable for the role is a separate debate. Even, if some believe they are the best candidates for the job, an outgoing government has no moral justification to use its own discretion in making these appointments.

In such cases, the Pakistan Administrative Service seems to be acting like a clique in winning these positions by allegedly manipulating the PM Office. Everything cannot be proscribed by rules and procedures; there are certain things that one would expect senior bureaucrats, who are supposed to be highly educated, to stay away from on the basis of their own understanding and experience.

But such cultured behaviour remains, unfortunately, a highly utopian idea among the movers and shakers in the corridors of power in Pakistan.

Hence, we need a law to do away with the discretion of the prime minister in all such appointments, especially in the matter of foreign postings, as the office has repeatedly failed to uphold merit in the face

of manipulation. Secondly, the process of selection should be transparent and public. Corrupt practices are often concealed under the cloak of secrecy and security in this country.

One would not be surprised if in a few years from now, international organisations start selecting the appropriate candidates for these positions on their own. This might be a blessing in disguise as doing away with the discretion of Pakistani governments to make these appointments would mean a triumph of talent over sycophancy.

The only reason these positions are left to the discretion of the Pakistani government is to create a sense of ownership and representation among these international institutions for all member states. Sadly, here too we come across as manipulative, opportunistic and selfish.

Lastly, while we were busy making these controversial appointments, an international organisation appointed a former Nadra chairman as technical adviser; ironically it is the same individual who was forced to resign as chairman Nadra by the PDM government a few months ago. Now, a global organisation is set to benefit from his advice while we choose to ignore what he said in his resignation letter — to avoid appointing a bureaucrat to the position of chairman Nadra and to choose a professional instead.

Maybe, the caretaker government thought that by professional he meant a professional soldier which is perhaps the reason the cabinet has recently paved the way for the appointment of a serving military officer as chairman Nadra. All hail the king. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News



Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif addressing event titled "Internet Governance in Pakistan" in Islamabad.

Pakistan's internet vision shines at regional governance conference

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Internet Governance Conference, a pivotal event focusing on addressing pressing issues in Internet governance and resource allocation within the Asia-Pacific region, was held on Tuesday. The conference was attended by industry leaders, experts, government officials, and national and international stakeholders from the telecommunication and information technology sector.

Notable speakers included the CEO Asia-Pacific Network

Information Centre (APNIC) Foundation, Sylvia Cadena; who shared the Foundation's particular focus on Pakistan for projects in the social sector; and the Director General of APNIC, Paul Wilson among others. On the occasion, Caretaker Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Dr. Umar Saif, shared his insights and vision for the future of Internet governance. He appreciated the efforts of PTA and other stakeholders such as APNIC for contributions

in this domain. The Federal IT Minister emphasized the urgency of addressing the challenges related to Internet Governance. He underscored the importance of overcoming these challenges to enable businesses to flourish. He also highlighted the potential of 5G and the Internet of Things (IoT) in Pakistan, stressing the need to evolve the internet architecture to align with the demands of the contemporary era and enable Pakistanis to become first-class internet users.

ECC approves gas price revision

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet here on Tuesday approved revision of the natural gas sale pricing for different categories of consumers for the fiscal year 2023-24, with effective from November 1st, 2023.

The Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamsad Akhtar presided over the ECC meeting, which among others was attended by the Minister for Privatization, Fawad Hassan Fawad; Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Sami Saeed; Minister for Power & Petroleum, Muhammad Ali; federal

secretaries, and other senior government officials of the relevant ministries.

According to press statement issued by the finance ministry, the cabinet committee during its meeting considered the single item agenda regarding the revision of the natural gas sale pricing for different categories of the consumers for the FY 2023-24.

The ECC earlier on October 23, 2023, had considered the summary submitted by the Petroleum Division and approved the increase in the natural gas prices, however the Federal Cabinet in its meeting held on October 30, 2023.

Dr Kausar calls for effective steps to command area expansion programme in rainy areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Food Security and Research, Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik Tuesday called for executing the second phase of the command area expansion programme and water conservation in rainy areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, prior to opting for next phase of national programme or improvement of waterways in country.

He said maximum resources and effective measures should be employed to achieve the targets and goals and added there should be no delay in the timely completion of these projects.

He said that the Ministry of Food Security and Research would provide maximum support and assistance in this regard.

Highlighting the main features, he gave a briefing on the National Programme for the Improvement of Waterways in Pakistan, Phase II, Command Area Expansion Program in Rainy Areas and Water Conservation in Rainy Areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on behalf of the Federal Water Management Cell.

Director General Federal Water Management and National Project Coordinator Mohammad

Asif Kakar were also present on the occasion.

Federal Minister for Food Security and Research, Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik, informed that the total cost of the three projects under the Federal Ministry of Food Security and Research was 194.066 billion rupees.

The federal government has Rs 61.624 billion rupees (32 per cent), all provinces except Sindh along with Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan have 76.227 billion rupees (39 per cent), while farmers have a share of 56.214 billion rupees (29 per cent).

Gold rates up by Rs.900

ISLAMABAD, Oct 31 (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.900 and was sold at Rs.213,000 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs.212,100 the previous day of trading. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.771 to Rs.182,613 from Rs.181,842.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.2,550 and Rs.2,186.21 respectively. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$3 to \$2,015 from \$2,012, the Association reported.

Significant amendments to market treasury bills, 1998, & Ijara Sukuk Rules, 2008

ISLAMABAD (APP): In response to the increasing demands of the financial market in general and Islamic financial institutions in particular for introducing new instruments, the Finance Division moved a summary for the Cabinet for amendment in the existing Government of Pakistan Market Treasury Bills 1998 and Government of Pakistan Ijara Sukuk Rules 2008.

In a landmark

decision, the Federal Cabinet has granted its approval to the summary presented by the Ministry of Finance, leading to substantial amendments to the subject legal instruments, said a press release issued here.

The amendments aim to enhance efficiency and provide flexibility for issuing, registering, trading and transferring Government Securities through any institution.

Economy yielding positive results due to stabilization measures: Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): The economic indicators of first quarter of the current fiscal year (2023-24) show Pakistan's economy had set the growth momentum and was yielding positive results owing to government's stabilization measures, the finance ministry said in its recent report released here on Tuesday. "Hard earned gains on the fiscal and external accounts have started to translate into a pick-up in economic activity," said Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Dr.

Shamsad Akhtar in foreword of the monthly Economic Update and Outlook for October 2023.

She said, markets have rallied on positive economic data and signs of an emerging recovery, adding the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) has rallied 11% in October and has crossed the psychological barrier of 51,000 points, for the first time since May 2017. The international and domestic bond markets have rallied around 8% in October on expectations of ease in inflationary pressures and a positive

expectation for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff review in November. The rupee (PKR) recovered 9% in October due to reforms initiated on the exchange companies and crackdown against illegal transactions.

The recent release of Large Scale Manufacturing (LSM) data showed a positive growth of 0.5 percent during July-August FY2024 against the contraction of 1.3 percent last year. The month-on-month (MoM) and year-on-year (YoY) basis growth trajectory is

encouraging, as LSM grew by 8.4% and 2.5% in August 2023, respectively. In agriculture sector, the cotton production showing a bumper increase of 126.6 percent (estimated at 11.5 million bales) for 2023-24, compared to last year. Rice production is also showing a surge of 18.0 percent compared to last year.

The increase in these main crops is encouraging for the exports and overall economic outlook in FY2024. Moreover, input situation is positive as farm tractors production and sales show a steep

growth of 45.0 percent (11,586) and 64.1 percent (12,090), respectively during July-September FY2024 over the same period last year.

During Q1 FY2024, the strong revenue performance led to a primary surplus of Rs 417bn (0.4% of GDP) against the target of Rs 87bn under the IMF Standby agreement (SBA). FBR revenues clocked in at Rs 2,042bn compared to the target of Rs 1,978bn during Q1, with a strong 37% y/y increase in direct taxes.



Caretaker Minister for Privatization, Fawad Hasan Fawad holds a stakeholder meeting for privatization of HBFL in Islamabad.

Caretaker PM gets briefing on SL-3 Lahore Ring Road

70pc construction work on Imamia Colony flyover, Shahdara completed: PM told

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday received briefing regarding the construction of the southern portion (SL-3) of Lahore Ring Road. The prime minister was apprised that 8kms long southern portion of the SL-3 would be completed by January 30, 2024 which would significantly ease vehicular traffic coming from South Punjab, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The caretaker prime minister appreciated the provincial government's efforts to expedite the uplift projects.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq

Kakar on Tuesday was apprised that 70 percent construction work on Imamia Colony flyover, Shahdara was completed. During a briefing on his visit to the site, the caretaker prime minister was apprised that Imamia Colony flyover was being constructed over Lahore-Faisalabad railway line, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

It was a 18-month project which would be completed with the cooperation of the provincial government in six and half months till December 2023, it was added. The prime minister lauded efforts of the provincial government for accelerating pace of the

construction work on different development projects.

Meanwhile, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday visited the Mayo Hospital here and reviewed the reconstruction of the emergency block as well as other facilities. The prime minister inspected the ongoing construction work in the hospital as well as the nursing counter and consultant room established at the emergency block.

He appreciated the Punjab Government's program for reconstruction and rehabilitation of hospitals under Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi.



LAHORE: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar receives briefing regarding the construction of the southern portion (SL-3) of Lahore Ring Road, in Lahore.

Punjab ready for deportation of Illegal foreigners: Mohsin

Independent Report LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has announced the completion of all preparations for the deportation of Afghan nationals residing illegally in the province.

With the looming deadline of October 31, directives have been issued to the Chief Secretary and Inspector General of Police to ensure the swift evacuation of illegal foreign residents from Punjab, he added.

Mohsin Naqvi has said that preparations have been completed to send back the illegally residing immigrants from the province. He said that

instructions have been issued to the chief secretary and inspector general (IG) in view of the October 31 deadline given to the illegally residing foreigners.

Mohsin Naqvi emphasized that there will be no leniency granted to any foreigner staying unlawfully in Punjab.

The provincial government is unwavering in its approach, and stringent action will be taken against those found harboring illegal refugees, he said adding that no exemptions will be made.

The Chief Minister also called upon unregistered Afghans to voluntarily depart from

Punjab, as all necessary steps have been taken to facilitate the repatriation of illegal Afghan citizens.

CM Naqvi warned of action against those who provided refuge to the illegally residing foreigners and no tolerance would be shown.

He reiterated that the illegally residing foreigners should leave the country by themselves, otherwise, the government completed arrangements for their repatriation starting from November 1.

CM Mohsin Naqvi said that temporary camps and holding areas have been established in different districts for the illegal immigrants.

PM hails CM Naqvi's outstanding performance as a beacon for governments

Independent Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar praised Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi's swift actions in promptly passing on the benefits of reduced petroleum prices to the people of the province. He personally took to the field, providing relief to the citizens - a gesture that set a significant example.

Under Mohsin Naqvi's leadership, progress is not only being made in Punjab, but it is also evidently visible. The chief minister's exceptional capacity to deliver results sets him apart at every level.



LAHORE: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar exchanging views with Muhammad Ballegh-Ur-Rahman, Governor Punjab during meeting held in Lahore.

Dr. Javed says: Pakistan is witnessing an alarming increase in the rate of genetic diseases

LAHORE (Online): Balqis Shabbir, a large number of faculty members and female students participated. He also led an awareness walk on the occasion.

In his address to the participants of the awareness seminar, the caretaker provincial health minister Prof. Dr. Javed Akram said that it is very important to spread awareness about breast cancer in the society. The burden of breast cancer has shifted from West to East. Pakistan is witnessing an alarming increase in the rate of genetic diseases.



LAHORE: Former Federal Minister Zahid Hamid is casting the vote during the annual election of Supreme Court Bar Election, in Provincial Capital.

Afghan family in Jhelum approaches IHC against eviction notice

JHELUM (INP): As the government's deadline for the evacuation of illegal Afghan immigrants has reached, an Afghan immigrant family from Jhelum has approached the Islamabad High Court (IHC) against the eviction notice issued by the institutions. IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the petition of the Afghan national.

"According to the notification of the Government of Pakistan, only the illegal

Afghan nationals have been asked to go back," the petitioner's lawyer said.

"The petitioner and his wife have Afghan Citizen cards. Their three children are minors and studying in school," he added.

Meanwhile, lawyers and activists have said the scale of the crackdown is unprecedented, appealing for more time for Afghans—some of whom have lived for decades in the country—to be given more time.

Two camps established in Attock for Afghan refugees

ATTOCK (Online): The provincial government has established two repatriation camps in Attock where as deadline for illegal immigrants to leave the country sets in. These camps were established in Government College of Technology Attock and Degree College Hazro where the illegal and undocumented immigrants would be kept before reinterpretation or deportation.

Regional Police Officer Rawalpindi Syed Khurram Ali along with Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaquat Ali Chattha visited these temporary camps on Tuesday. Deputy commissioner Rao Atif Raza along with SP Investigation Javeria Muhammad Jamil separately briefed them about the boarding, lodging and security arrangements at these camps. On this occasion, RPO Syed Khurram Ali checked the security arrangements of the campus and issued appropriate orders to the concerned officers in this regard.

Minister attends oath taking ceremony of PCE

Independent Report LAHORE: The oath taking ceremony of the General Council of Pakistan Chamber of Education was held in a private hotel in Lahore on Tuesday.

Provincial Minister of Livestock, Transport and Mines and Minerals Ibrahim Hasan Murad specially participated in the ceremony. Chairman Pakistan Chamber of Education Ali Raza, President Pakistan Chamber of Education Bashir Ahmed Hattar, President Lahore Chamber of Commerce Sheikh Kashif

and members of various divisions also participated in the ceremony.

Chairman Pakistan Chamber of Education Ali Raza welcomed the guests and expressed his thoughts about education and its importance. Provincial Minister Ibrahim Hasan Murad administered the oath to the members of the Executive Council and congratulated and expressed best wishes for the future. Addressing the ceremony on this occasion, Provincial Minister Ibrahim Hasan Murad said that he welcomes the school leaders.

May 9: Lahore police summon Asad Umer

LAHORE (INP): The Joint Investigation Team on Monday summoned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Asad Umar related to May 9 riots.

In this regard, he was asked to appear at the DIG Investigation office Lahore to record his statement in five terror cases pertaining to the May 9 mayhem.

The JIT was constituted by Punjab government following the May 9 violence. Meanwhile, an anti-terrorism court on Saturday extended the judicial remand of PTI leader and former Punjab.

International News

Gaza now a 'graveyard' for thousands of children: UN

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: The Gaza Strip has become a graveyard for thousands of children, the United Nations said on Tuesday, as it feared the prospect of more dying of dehydration.

Israel has heavily bombed Gaza since Hamas fighters stormed across the border on October 7. The health ministry in the Gaza Strip said the strikes have killed more than 8,500 people, mainly civilians.

The UN children's agency Unicef said there was a risk that the number of child deaths directly from bombardment could become

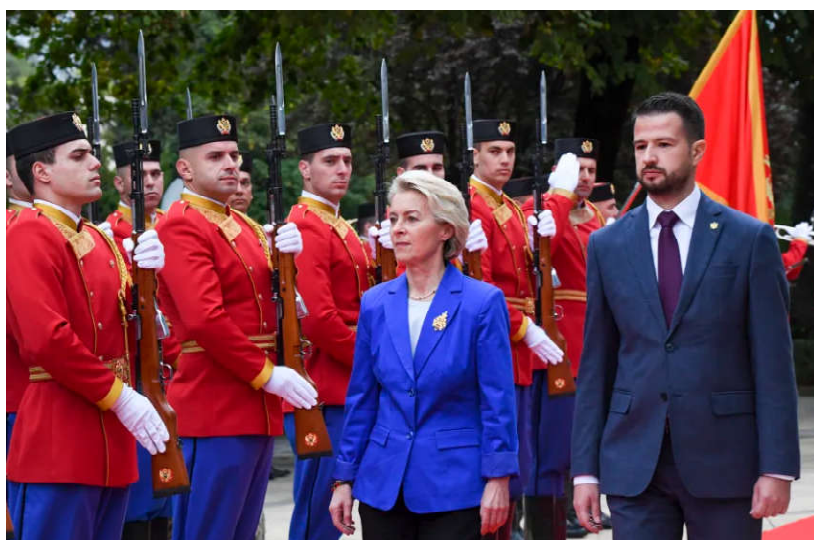
eclipsed. "Our gravest fears about the reported numbers of children killed becoming dozens, then hundreds, and ultimately thousands were realised in just a fortnight," Unicef spokesman James Elder said in a statement.

"The numbers are appalling; reportedly more than 3,450 children killed; staggeringly this rises significantly every day."

"Gaza has become a graveyard for thousands of children. It's a living hell for everyone else." He said the more than one million children living in the Gaza Strip were also suffering from a lack of clean water.

"Gaza's water production capacity is a mere five per cent of its usual daily output. Child deaths — particularly infants — to dehydration are a growing threat," he said.

Unicef is calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, with all access crossings into Gaza opened for safe, sustained and unimpeded access to humanitarian aid, including water, food, medical supplies, and fuel. "And if there is no ceasefire, no water, no medicine, and no release of abducted children? Then we hurtle towards even greater horrors afflicting innocent children," said Elder.



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, center left, reviews the honour guard with Montenegro's President Jakov Milatovic in Montenegro's capital Podgorica.

Singapore defense minister calls on China to take the lead in reducing regional tensions

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: Singapore's defense minister urged China as a dominant power in Asia to take the lead in reducing tensions in the region, warning that a military conflict like the one in Ukraine or the Israel-Hamas war would be devastating for the continent and its future.

Speaking Tuesday on the third and final day of an annual defense conference held by China, Ng Eng Hen stressed the importance of military-to-military communication to manage crises, expressing hope that the United States and China would resume the use of their

military hotline. Peace is precarious and never a given anywhere in the world, Ng said. "What has happened in Europe and the Middle East must never occur here.... We must do all we can to avoid it."

The Xiangshan Forum brought together defense officials from dozens of countries and organizations. China, which recently sacked its defense minister, was represented by Zhang Youxia, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu used the forum to highlight Russia's deepening ties

with China as it faces isolation from the West over its invasion of Ukraine.

Shoigu was given a military honor guard reception before a meeting with Zhang on Monday. The Russian Tass news agency quoted Zhang as saying that China is ready to respond with Russia to security threats and challenges and "jointly maintain global strategic balance and stability." Ukraine's defense attaché took issue with the conference giving the floor to Shoigu and the defense minister of pro-Russia Belarus on Monday, followed by an Iranian official who defended Russia's invasion on Tuesday.

Italy drafts plan for direct election of prime minister

Monitoring Desk

ROME: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and top ministers backed a constitutional reform proposal introducing the direct election of the prime minister, in an effort to end the country's chronic political instability.

Meloni made constitutional reform a key policy plank of her right-wing coalition after winning power in September last year.

Italy has had almost 70 governments since World War Two, more than twice the number in Britain and Germany. Repeated attempts to produce a more robust system, the last in 2016, have always floundered amid myriad, competing visions.

Government officials said that under the proposed reform coalitions will have to put forward premier candidates at the election, in a bid to enhance stability by forging a stronger bond between the government and voters.

The government also intends to change the electoral law to ensure that elections produce workable majorities, avoiding the kind of hung parliaments that emerged from ballots in 2013 and 2018, two sources with knowledge of the matter said.

"We have taken a big step towards the 'reform of reforms', which will give stability to the country and restore centrality to the popular vote," Reforms Minister Maria Elisabetta Alberti Casellati said in a statement.

Two dead, dozens of homes destroyed as bushfires rage across eastern Australia

Monitoring Desk

SYDNEY: Two people have been killed and dozens of homes destroyed in bushfires raging across Australia's northern Queensland state, as firefighters travel from across the country and from New Zealand to try and contain the out-of-control blazes.

Residents have been told to evacuate from two massive bushfires in the southeast portion of Queensland, even as dozens of fires continue to burn across the state where at least 45 homes have been destroyed and two people killed since last week.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese called the fires "devastating" in a visit to the state on Tuesday and said the federal government would provide extra support to deal with what it estimates will be at least 42,000 claims for assistance as a result of the destruction.



U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas testifies next to FBI Director Christopher Wray and National Counterterrorism Center Director Christine Abizaid during a Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs hearing on threats to the United States, on Capitol Hill in Washington, U.S.

A UN report urges Russia to investigate an attack on a Ukrainian village that killed 59 civilians

Monitoring Desk KYIV: U.N investigators on Tuesday urged Russia to acknowledge responsibility for a missile strike on a Ukrainian village that killed 59 civilians, conduct a transparent investigation into what happened, provide reparations for victims and hold those responsible to account.

The strike on a cafe in the village of Hroza on Oct. 5 was one of the deadliest strikes since the Kremlin's forces launched a full-scale

invasion 20 months ago. Whole families perished while attending a wake for a local soldier who died fighting Russian troops.

The blast killed 36 women, 22 men and an 8-year-old boy. Numerous bodies were found torn to pieces, and it took nearly a week to identify all the dead. The U.N. Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine said in a report published Tuesday it "has reasonable grounds to believe" that a Russian Iskander missile.

Two killed in anti-government protest in Bangladesh

Monitoring Desk DHAKA: Two people were killed and dozens injured in clashes in Bangladesh on Tuesday between anti-government protesters and police on the first day of a three-day protest to push for the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) called for the blockade of roads for three days in response to clashes between party supporters and police on Sunday in which one policeman was killed and more than 100 people were injured.

The party has been calling on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign to allow elections scheduled for January to be held under a neutral caretaker government. Her government has rejected the demand. A police official in the central district of Kishoreganj, where the clashes took place, said two protesters were killed and dozens of people, including 15 policemen, were injured.

Spain offers drones, reinforcement to help Senegal tackle migration crisis

Monitoring Desk DAKAR: Spain has delivered six new multicopter drones to Senegal and plans to reinforce its deployed security personnel to help the West African nation tackle a migration crisis, Spain's acting Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska said.

Grande-Marlaska is in Senegal where he met his Senegalese counterpart, Sidiki Kaba, as the number of would-be migrants from West Africa,

especially Senegal, to reach Spain's Canary Islands this year is near a record high.

Grande-Marlaska said the drones delivered to the Senegal Police are designed to detect vessel departures so that they could be intercepted.

He added that Spain had also deployed a civil guard aircraft to help patrol the coasts of Senegal and Mauritania, in addition to 38 troops equipped with four boats.

Kremlin keeps Putin's ambitions on presidential election shrouded

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: The Kremlin, asked about President Vladimir Putin's political ambitions, said on Tuesday that the campaign for next year's presidential election in Russia had not yet begun and that there could be a varying number of candidates in the contest. Putin, in power as either president or prime minister since 1999.

PM calls CPEC 'a century's opportunity' for Pakistan with rapid economic growth in focus

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has termed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as 'once in a century-time opportunity' and said that Pakistan is focusing on the project's second phase to attain rapid economic and industrial growth. In an interview with China's Phoenix TV aired on Tuesday, the prime minister said the CPEC initiated under China's Belt and Road Initiative had helped Pakistan witness significant development in diverse sectors. The prime minister

mentioned that China's Urumqi and Pakistan's northern Gilgit-Baltistan had huge prospects for co-operation, particularly in trade and tourism. He said Pakistan was expecting big economic activity and an influx of tourists between the two countries, which he said would bring an improvement to the social and economic lives of the people. "Urumqi could become an opening gateway for us to the mainland China. It is a win-win situation for both Pakistan and China," he said. Also, he mentioned

the progress in Balochistan after the underdeveloped province was integrated through the CPEC projects. On the significance of BRI, Kakar said the unique opportunity and transformation would not be restricted to Pakistan but would spread to the region with the development of north-south roads and rail and road networks.

This, he said, would lead to the enhancement of China's economic and political influence in the world. PM Kakar said during his visit to China, he was "utterly and completely mesmerized" by the impressive journey of progress made by China. "This impression would transform me as the biggest ambassador of Pakistan-China friendship," he said. Asked to describe China in three words, he said, "Dignified, huge, and self-confident". Of the Pak-China ties, he termed them as "closest, most valuable and most desired as valued deeply by both sides".

"Pakistan and China are intertwined. Though two different countries, but one nation moving in the same direction," he said.



ISLAMABAD: President, Dr. Arif Alvi and Begum Samina Alvi in a group photo along with visually impaired persons during a ceremony in connection with White Cane Safety Day held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad.



LAHORE: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visits patients who received free eye surgery from the government, in Mayo Hospital.

Peace enemies are enemies of our traditions too: CM strongly condemns Turbat incident; grieved over martyrdom of labourers, police cop

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has strongly condemned the incident of firing in Turbat that claimed lives of four labourers and one police personal. In an official condemnation statement issued here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister expressed deep grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of four labourers and one police cop in the firing incident. He said that the inci-

dent of terrorism is condemnable and intolerable. He said that no religion of the world allows terrorism and killing of innocent people. He said that killing of armless labourers is a very tragic incident and those involved in it would be taken to task. The Chief Minister said that hospitality is tradition of Balochistan instead of killing the guests and those involved in the heinous crime are also enemies of

our traditions. He asserted that he wouldn't be sabotaging the endeavours being made for restoration of peace in the province. He said that Balochistan police jawan also embraced martyrdom while performing duty. He said that the sacrifices of brave jawans of the security forces would not be wasted at all. The Chief Minister said that all administrative officers and security forces are present at the spot and performing their duties.

15,000 teachers appointed on attachments: All attachments of Govt. teachers withdrawn in Balochistan: Secretary

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Secretary Education Department, Government of Balochistan, Saleh Muhammad Nasar has stated that all attachments of the teachers have been withdrawn in the province. Speaking to media the other day, the Secretary Education informed that at

least 15,000 teachers are appointed on attachments in the province. He also informed that the teachers from other districts are deputed in Quetta. As a result of the teachers of other districts being on attachments in Quetta, some 3,000 schools are closed in interior province, he noted with concern.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai briefed by Administrator Jabbar Baloch during his visit to Metropolitan Corporation.

BTTN organizes online Guest Lectures by Zoom on vital of Gwadar, CPEC

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN) organized an online Guest Lecture via Zoom on the importance of Gwadar and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on Tuesday. The lecture was given by Col Maqbool Afridi @ and the title of his talk was 'Gwadar-CPEC: A New Paradigm of Connectivity'. Col Afridi has 30 years of experience in the Pakistan Army and passionately advocates for Gwadar's development. He has authored several articles and as Gwadar Builders and Developers Association (GBDA) Chairman, he actively works on Gwadar's development and serves on Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and In-

dustry (FPCCI) committees. The Caretaker Minister of Health, Balochistan, Dr. Ameer Jogezeai, attended the lecture at BTTN, where he was accompanied by the head of BTTN, Brig Agha Ahmad Gul @, and the Faculty of Research of BTTN, while the Faculty of Research of the Center for International Strategic Studies, Sindh (CISSS) and members of Rabta Forum International (RFI) virtually joined from Karachi. Col Maqbool started his presentation by shedding light on the importance of Gwadar. He said that Gwadar has enormous potential from all angles and dimensions for any kind of business activity, whether known or emerging, with ever-developing technologies.



QUETTA: A delegation of Zamindar Action Committee led by Chairman Malik Naseer Ahmed Shah meeting with Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan.

President for mainstreaming visually impaired persons through skill-sets, jobs

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday said it was the collective responsibility of the society to mainstream the visually impaired persons by providing them with vocational skill sets and specialized jobs. Addressing an event held in connection with the White Cane Safety Day, the president stressed sensitizing the society towards blind and the visually impaired by identifying their special needs and accommodating them. Begum Samina Alvi, members of the diplomatic community, and visually impaired children attended the event meant to raise awareness about the ways to address the challenges

faced by persons with such disabilities, here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. The president said career education and vocational skills for visually impaired students should be started as early as possible in the mainstream school system. This will provide fellow students an opportunity to deal first-hand with persons with disabilities and learn to accommodate them in society, he said. President Alvi also emphasized improving the accessibility of visually impaired persons through assistive technological gadgets including the personal digital assistants that guide them as the sensory camera sees objects and describes them aloud.

He said the white cane was the tool for the visually impaired person to be identified in public, thus easing their mobility outdoors. He said ending discrimination and helping such people to become self-reliant and useful members of society needed to be the goal of the State. Dr Alvi said the country's first visually impaired diplomat Saima Saleem made history by making a speech at the platform of the United Nations. He also mentioned Yousaf Saleem who became the country's first visually impaired judge and set a courageous example for other people with such disabilities.

Strongly condemns Turbat terrorism: Cowardly act to target innocent citizens: Jan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has strongly condemned the incident of terrorism took place in Turbat on Tuesday.

He noted with concern that the labourers were also martyred in similar acts of terrorism in the recent past. He asserted that stern action would be taken against the terrorists. He also said that there's no room of such incidents and this is time to eliminate terrorists.

In an official statement issued here soon after the Turbat incident, Jan Achakzai said that the innocent and armless labourers have been targeted in Turbat once again. He said a police cop has also been martyred in the incident.

The Minister Information regretfully pointed out that the people who are engaged in labour are targeted. He said that it is meanness and cowardly act to target the armless citizens.

Misunderstanding being created about military courts & Army Act causing resentment among masses

Independent Report
QUETTA: The military courts established under Pakistan Army Act 1952 can hear the cases of common civilians. On May 9, 2023, certain specific elements targeted the significant military and civilian installations of national interests and security for their nefarious designs and that under pre-planned conspiracy all over the country. It was planned and conspired to harm the country's very interests and nothing else.

According to the official secret Act of Pakistan Army Act's article (12) (D), the hearing of only those common civilians would be done in the military courts, who are practically found involved in the attacks on the military installations or other military affairs or in subversive activities.

The misunderstanding created regarding Army Act and military judicial system by the Advocate Inamur Rehman Colonel (Retd) and other critics like him has caused resentment among the masses. These elements are presenting fabricated facts and maligning the military courts with the beshal military courts. As a result, it caused fear that the basic human rights may not be violated. However, such statements are mockery and far from reality and have no legal base.

Local administration shifted the four bodies of workers to their native town to Muzaffar Garh after completion of medico legal formalities, on directive of Balochistan CM.

Court reserves judgment on petition seeking removal of caretaker federal ministers

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) has reserved judgment on petition seeking removal of caretaker federal ministers after hearing the arguments. The petition filed against caretaker federal ministers came up for hearing Tuesday. A 5-member bench of EC presided over by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja heard the case. The petitioner Syed Aziz ud Din Kakakhel appeared before EC. The CEC inquired "you had not appeared during previous hearing."

The petitioner replied "I had become a bit late. I regret over it. The CEC inquired who is representing from government side. Additional Attorney General (AAG) told the court "I am representing federal government. The petitioner took the plea Fawad Hassan Fawad and Ahad Cheema were holding important posts during last government. Ahad Cheema has been made special assistant to PM on political basis. The CEC inquired what evidence you have that their political affiliation could be proved.

Senate calls for end to genocide of Palestinians Urges Intl' community to act against Israeli aggression

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate of Pakistan convened Tuesday to address the ongoing crisis in Gaza, denouncing the Israeli military's relentless assault on Palestinians. Describing the conflict as a systematic attempt at the genocide of Palestinians, the Senate emphasized the urgency of global intervention to counter Israel's aggressive actions. During the motion under rule 218, focused on Israeli atrocities and violations of the Geneva Convention and UN Resolution on Palestine, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed highlighted Pakistan's historical commitment to the Palestinian cause. Quoting the legacy of Pakistan's founder, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah,

Senator Syed underscored the strong solidarity between Pakistan and Palestine, drawing attention to the deep-rooted historical connections between the two nations. Senator Syed emphasized the importance of recognizing legitimate Palestinian political organization, Hamas, and its significant role in representing the Palestinian people. Referring to Israel's recent bombardment of hospitals in Gaza, Senator Syed condemned these actions as war crimes and called for an immediate cessation of such heinous acts. He recounted the historic Lahore gathering of March 23, 1940, which saw the passing of two seminal resolutions—the first emphasizing the self-determination of Muslims.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari exchanges views with Former Chief Minister of Balochistan Jam Kamal Khan during meeting held at Bilawal House.

Solangi directs Equal coverage to all political parties should be PTV's priority

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said providing equal coverage to all political parties should be Pakistan Television's priority. During a meeting with PTV News Current Affairs and Social Media teams, the minister was given a briefing about PTV News and current affairs programmes.

He was informed that news coverage and its scope has grown exponentially over the past few years. The PTV team informed the minister that an increase in the number of bulletins by PTV has helped the viewers to be aware of the latest developments. In news, on-camera reporting and reports on social issues were being given special importance, the minister was informed.

Participation of the leaders from various political parties in current affairs' programmes will increase PTV's credibility, Murtaza Solangi maintained. He said Pakistan Television being the largest media organization in the country, had an important national role in elections. The minister said that PTV's role in clean, transparent and impartial elections will be unforgettable.

There has been a change in the news section not only in terms of quantity but also the style of presentation from National News Bureau Islamabad and other centers have changed, the PTV team informed him. Federal Secretary Information and Broadcasting Zahoor Ahmed and PTV Director Current Affairs Aun Sahi attended the meeting.



QUETTA: PHE Chief Azam Zarkoon meeting with Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Jogezeai.

Mir Fida Rind slams Turbat incident; terms it against Baloch norms

Independent Report
QUETTA: The political and tribal personality from Kech, Mir Fida Hakim Baloch has strongly condemned the incident of Nasirabad, Turbat and described the killing of non-local labourers against the traditions and norms of Balochs. In an official condemnation statement issued here on Tuesday, Mir Fida Hakim said that Baloch is a brave, daring and hospitable nation. It is the tradition of Baloch nation to protect the enemy even when one is at their home, he said adding

that such incidents are conspiracy against Baloch nation and its land. He said that these are the elements who are trying to become hurdles in the way of development of the province and prosperity of Baloch nation. He said that the foreign lords would be failed in their nefarious designs. He said it was attempted to create insurgency by spoiling the circumstances of the province in the past, which had resulted in closure of the educational institutions in several areas.