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Pakistan fully capable to respond to challenge posed by non-state actors: Kakar

PM reprimands "bizarre" justifications, narrative on killing of Gaza children by Israel

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has emphatically stated that Pakistan is fully capable to respond to the challenge posed by non-state actors. Speaking at Margalla Dialogue titled "Evolving World Environment Charting the Course for Our Future" in Islamabad Wednesday, he said we do not have to rely on the outside security apparatus to take on the challenge. He said Pakistan is confident and self-reliant to take on the challenge.

The Prime Minister said the external aggression has gone to minimum due to our defense capabilities. On the economic front, he said the country

with a huge population under the age of thirty has a great potential to be channeled and tapped.

Referring to his discussions with some diplomats who defended Israeli actions by citing Israeli children's deaths, he expressed his surprise at the argument. However, he reiterated that the killing of any child, regardless of faith or origin, is condemnable.

"So how many Palestinian children have to be killed to appease and address the Israeli anger? One, five, ten, 500, 1000, 4,700? Can they give us a number so that we can satisfy those parents to wait as some 10,000 children needed to be killed to address the Israeli anger," he remarked.

He said those claiming to be the followers of Prophet Moses, were actually following the footsteps of Pharaoh by killing the children which was "utterly unacceptable." The prime minister, who had also been the IPRI's board member, highlighted the potential for connectivity with the countries in the region including India, and said Pakistan never shied away from establishing trade links with India but it could not beg that as trade should be for mutual benefits. However, he said before such links, it was essential to speak out on the Kashmir conflict as without addressing that issue, it was challenging to have normal relations with the current Indian regime.

Cabinet approves levy of 40% tax on banks' windfall profit earned during 2021-22

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Cabinet in its meeting chaired by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq on Wednesday, accorded approval, upon the recommendation of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), to impose 40 percent tax on windfall profit earned by banks on the foreign exchange transactions during the years 2021 and 2022.

The Finance Act, 2023 introduced a new section 99D in the Income Tax Ordinance 20121 which would enforce the imposition of tax on windfall income profits and gains of the banks. The cabinet also approved amendments in the Hajj Policy 2024 under which the government and private unutilized sponsorship schemes quota would be returned to the Saudi Government, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. Besides, in accordance with the Saudi government's laws, a fool-proof monitoring system over the financial arrange-

ments of Hajj group organizers would be enforced whereas under the new Hajj policy, children below the age of 10 years would be able to perform the religious obligation.

For the pilgrims above the age of 80 years, conditions for keeping an assistant/helper would be relaxed, however, the Hajj group organizers would enter into agreements with the Hujaj (pilgrims) in that regard, enabling them to enlist the services of local supporters during their stay in Saudi Arabia.

The condition would be inserted in the agreement for the provision of services and its violation would lead to imposition of fine and black listing of the relevant Hajj group organizer, it was added. The meeting also sanctioned a reduction in the hard-ship Hajj quota. A total of 50 percent quota of hiring local supporters would be dedicated to those Pakistani students who are studying in different universities.



ISLAMABAD: The IMF Mission Chief for Pakistan Mr. Nathan Porter and IMF Resident Representative for Pakistan Ms. Esther Perez Tuiz call on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Formally invites Lashkari Raisani to join PML-N: Shahbaz Sharif vows to resolve issues of Balochistan, prosper it together with mature approach

President PML-N says next PM would be the person whom to be elected by masses in general elections; says Nawaz Sharif to lead party's election campaign; Bilawal just like a younger brother; says we have to move ahead with mature approach instead of making allegations on each other

Independent Report

QUETTA: The central President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and former Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has categorically stated that the next Prime Minister of the country would be the person whom would be elected by the masses in elections. He said that if the people vote and elect Nawaz Sharif as next Premier then he (Nawaz) would definitely be the Prime Minister.

He said that it is mature approach and thinking of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to resolve the issues of Balochistan together with all stakeholders. He

said that we have to develop the province and make it prosperous taking all stakeholders on board.

Shahbaz Sharif was speaking to the media persons soon after his meeting with the Chief of Sarawan and former Chief Minister, Nawab Aslam Raisani and Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani at Sarawan House on Wednesday morning.

Also present at the presser along with Shahbaz Sharif was Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani besides the PML-N senior leader Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, provincial President, Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail and others.

The PML-N President on the occasion said

that he has come to Sarawan House to invite Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani to join the PML-N. He said that with his (Lashkari) joining, the party would strengthen in the province and otherwise.

He said that Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Jaffar Mandokhail would settle the things while meeting with Lashkari Raisani.

He on the occasion also mentioned that our relations with family of Lashkari Raisani are old as his father (Nawab Ghous Bakhsh Raisani) used to stay at their home in Lahore in 70s. He said that yesterday (Tuesday), several political elders joined the Party.



QUETTA: A delegation of Sibi led by Mir Hads Khan Marri meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki.

Governor Balochistan maintains: Importance of higher and professional education unavoidable for progress

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has firmly stated that the importance of higher and professional education is just unavoidable for the overall development as such we have to pay much focus on it. The Governor said that the Engineering University of Khuzdar is progressing fast, which is also evident from its campuses established in different districts of the province. He also commended

the role of the Khuzdar University for continuing the journey of development in the development sector.

The Governor stated so during visit of the Khuzdar University's Campus in Uthal on Wednesday. Present on the occasion were the Vice Chancellor of Khuzdar University, Professor Dr. Maqsood Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of Lasbela university, Professor Dr. Dost Muhammad Baloch, Principal Secretary to Governor, Hashim Khan Ghilzai.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanging view with Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amiri-Moghaddam at Naval headquarter.

Notification of Info Commissioners very soon: Balochistan cabinet approves Information Commission, says Jan Achakzai

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan Cabinet has approved the Information Commission and as such the notification of Information Commissioners would be issued very soon.

This was announced by the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai while speaking to Mir Behram Baloch and Mir Behram Lehari who called on him here on Thursday.

Jan Achakzai said that it is included in his priority to make Information Commission Balochistan effective, therefore, he got approved the rules of business of the Information Commission from the provincial cabinet striving round the clock.

Now he would get appointed four Information Commissioners of the Balochistan Information Commission for the first time.

At least 30 people killed in HIOJK bus crash: Police

Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least 30 people were killed in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (HIOJK) on Wednesday when a passenger bus skidded off a mountainous road and plunged down a rocky slope, police said.

The accident took place on a remote mountain road in the Doda area, about

200 kilometres (124 miles) southeast of the region's capital Srinagar.

"Thirty passengers were killed in the accident, caused by the driver's negligence by hitting the crash bar of the road," senior police officer Sunil Gupta told AFP.

"The bus tumbled down the mountain some 250 metres (800 feet)."

Govt slashes petrol price by Rs2.4 per litre

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker government — in relief to the inflation-weary Pakistanis — has slashed the petrol price by Rs2.4 per litre for the next fortnight.

The new prices will come into effect from November 16, at midnight and remain in place till November 30.

In a statement, the Finance Division said the rates of petroleum products were slashed by up to Rs9.01 on the recommendation of the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority.

The per litre price of high-speed diesel (HSD) was slashed by Rs6.47, while the prices of kerosene oil and light diesel oil were reduced by Rs6.05 and 9.01, respectively.

Sharif visits Sarawan House, meets Nawab Aslam Raisani, Lashkari

Independent Report

QUETTA: The central President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and former Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif visited Sarawan House on Wednesday morning. Upon his arrival at Sarawan House, Shahbaz Sharif was welcomed by the Chief of Sarawan and former Chief Minister, Nawab Aslam Raisani and Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani along with other tribal and political leaders.

Also accompanied with Shahbaz Sharif were the senior leader of PML-N and former Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Later, Shahbaz Sharif had meeting with Nawab Aslam Raisani and Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani and discussed different political matters. Shahbaz Sharif also formally invited Lashkari Raisani to join the party.

A lot of talkers came, but practically nothing done: Nawaz Sharif

QUETTA (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif has said that a lot of talkers came, but nothing was done practically.

Addressing workers in Quetta on Wednesday, he said that the people should question where the change went. "The children should be informed who did what. The society was polluted with hatred and jealousy. The people should support the good people as there is some difference between the talkers and doers," he maintained.

The PML-N Quaid said that they did not want the power for themselves, but they want a prosperous Pakistan.

The former premier has returned to Lahore after his two-day visit to Balochistan.

Meanwhile, former

prime minister Shehbaz Sharif called on Aslam Raisani and Lashkari Raisani and invited them to join the PML-N.

Lashkari Raisani accepted the invitation and said that he had decided to become part of the political process. "I will announce my decision shortly."

Speaking on the occasion, PML-N president Shehbaz Sharif said that unity and participation are inevitable for progress. "We all will jointly make Balochistan prosperous."

Terming Bilawal Bhutto his younger brother, he said that Bilawal would gain nothing through accusations. "It is time that we all should look into our collars. The person elected by the people in the general elections will become the prime minister."



QUETTA: Muslim League (PML-N) President and former Prime Minister, Shahbaz Sharif along with Haji Lashkar Raisani and others addresses to media persons during press conference after meeting, held in Quetta.

Are the decisions taken before decisions: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Athar Minallah remarked every institution should do its work on its own. Don't get such work done from us which was done some time in the past by exercising powers of clause 184.

The court dismissed the petition of Sheikh Rashid being withdrawn by him.

A three members bench of SC presided over by CJP Qazi Faez Isa took up for hearing case pertaining to implementation of court's decision in Faizabad Dharna case.

AG, Sheikh Rashid and his counsel appeared in the court. The CJP questioned from the counsel of Sheikh Rashid why he had filed review petition. The counsel said some misperceptions emerged from agencies report.

Pak's economy being harmed under garb of smuggling and Afghan transit trade, Jan Achakzai

Minister Information asserts Pakistan can't allow economic terrorism in name of Afghan transit trade; its wrong use must be stopped; says over 105,000 immigrants repatriated from Balochistan via Chaman border

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated Pakistan's economy is being harmed under the garb of smuggling and Afghan transit trade. The Minister Information asserted that Pakistan can't allow economic terrorism in the name of Afghan transit trade as its use should be stopped forthwith.

He said that it has been witnessed that the process of harming country's economy is continued under the garb of Afghan transit trade after the Taliban's

government in Afghanistan. The Minister Information was addressing a hurriedly called press conference at Quetta Press Club on Wednesday.

Jan Achakzai said that Pakistan wants promotion of trade in the region, and in this regard, wholehearted efforts are continued as well. He said that Afghanistan is our neighbour brotherly country, and we also have trade and commerce relations with it.

As Afghanistan is a landlocked country, so Pakistan has provided passage for the foreign trade to it, adding he mentioned.

But, Pakistan can't allow economic terrorism in

the name of Afghan transit trade and smuggling, he asserted.

Jan Achakzai revealed that the mafia people smuggle the goods and luxury items under the garb of Afghan transit trade on which Pakistan has increased the duty manifold in order to discourage their import.

What tough measures taken by the Army Chief Syed Asim Munir for stabilizing the country's economy are also included the elimination of smuggling, he mentioned.

He said that the economic terrorists are taking advantage of the country's soft attitude.

7 terrorists killed in Tank IBO

RAWALPINDI (APP):

The security forces on Wednesday killed seven terrorists in an intelligence-based operation in Kiri Machan Khel area of Tank District.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the security forces carried out the operation on the reported presence of terrorists in the general area Kiri Machan Khel on the night of November 14 and 15.

An intense exchange of fire took place during the operation, due to which seven terrorists were sent to hell, it added. The terrorists' hideouts were also busted during the operation.

The forces also recovered weapons and ammunition from the killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities, including recent target killings of policemen in Tank and surrounding areas.

The sanitization operation was being carried out to eliminate terrorists if any found in the area, the ISPR said.

"Locals of the area appreciated the operation and extended their full support to the security forces in the elimination of terrorism," it added. The terrorists' hideouts were also busted during the operation.



LASBELLA: Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar talking to participants regarding problems faced by teachers and students at Lasbela University.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Resurgent militancy

While Pakistan may not be witnessing the mass-casualty terror attacks — particularly against civilian targets in urban centres — that the nation saw a decade ago, the militants are making their presence felt through frequent, deadly forays targeting security personnel. Two separate attacks on Monday, one in Dera Ismail Khan, the other in North Waziristan, are the latest in this series of murderous assaults. In the D.I. Khan incident, two civilians and a security man lost their lives when terrorists struck an oil firm while two soldiers were martyred in the North Waziristan gunfight.

D.I. Khan and its proximate districts — Lakki Marwat, Zhob, Mianwali — have all been seeing a spate of militant activity in the recent past, resulting in the loss of many security men, and it is this geographic area that the military and intelligence apparatus need to focus on to eradicate the resurgent militant threat. The area in question covers three provinces — KP, Balochistan and Punjab. It is also close to the Afghan border. In fact, some observers say that the southern KP districts provide ‘easy’ access to militants to carry out attacks in neighbouring areas of Punjab and Balochistan.

Experts have attributed the high frequency of attacks to the insufficient presence of troops in the area, while others say militant networks are quite active in this region. It is a fact that security forces are engaged on multiple fronts to counter the terrorist threat.

Moreover, southern KP is also considered a hotbed of TTP activity. The security planners need to take all these realities into account while forging a counterterrorism plan that can bring peace to the affected areas, and prevent militant activities from metastasising into another full-blown insurgency.

It should be remembered that the earlier insurgencies — which started out of Malakand and former Fata — took similar trajectories, that led to a high civilian casualty rate. It took the sacrifice of many security men to neutralise the threat through multiple military operations.

We can debate the folly of engaging the banned TTP for ‘peace’, and indeed, there should be accountability of all state functionaries who allowed the militants to return and establish a fresh foothold in their former stomping grounds. But the immediate need is to stop militant attacks and break up terrorist networks. Already major attacks have occurred in Karachi, Chitral, Peshawar, Mianwali, Zhob and Gwadar.

Therefore, through intelligence-based operations, security forces need to pre-empt terrorists, and plug the gaps that allow militants to strike at security men and civilians.

Unless these steps are taken, Pakistan will be dragged back to its violent past when bloodthirsty outfits struck at will, and the state was reduced to fighting the fires lit by the militants. Better intelligence gathering and proactive CT strategies are urgently needed.

Increasing margins



Arooj Waheed Dar

The economic turmoil in Pakistan can be attributed to several reasons including, but not limited to, exclusive institutions and lack of equal opportunities, that have culminated in low productivity and low economic growth. Exclusivity coupled with lack of entrepreneurship, particularly for women, have resulted in the dearth of innovation, limiting investment by the richer segments in non-productive sectors.

Sustainable and inclusive development decrees that equal opportunities must be available for all irrespective of age, gender, religion, etc. Despite this realisation, policymakers have failed to effectively address the issue of gender disparity and financial inclusion, limiting the entrepreneurial potential of women in Pakistan. With low levels of saving and investment, the primary focus of the majority of the population in Pakistan remains centred on seeking employment rather than creating job opportunities. In terms of entrepreneurship, Pakistan presents a dismal situation for women who toil away, employing their skills and talents for meagre daily wages, or for no pay.

According to the Labour Force Survey for 2020-21, only two per cent of employers in Pakistan are women, representing a mere 0.1pc of the total working female population. Eighteen per cent working women are own-account workers. A staggering majority of working women, around 60pc,

are contributing family workers. Not only do these statistics raise alarm regarding the lack of female entrepreneurship, they also underscore the scarcity of decent work opportunities for women in Pakistan.

However, these figures, though worrying, are not surprising, given that 70.5pc of these working women have never attended school and only 6.25pc have graduated with formal degrees. While training programmes are in place, those which are reserved for women focus primarily on skill provision such as tailoring, cooking, beauty parlour training, and so on. No counselling is provided on entrepreneurship. Lack of access to credit and/or initial capital prevents women from pursuing and creating decent work opportunities.

Additionally, the lack of options for safe and affordable transportation inhibits the capacity of women to engage in entrepreneurial activities. In Pakistan, a large part of female mobility is controlled — women need permission and an escort. While men have the cost-effective option to commute by motorbikes and bicycles, women either choose to stay at home, or remain dependent on males to accompany them due to cultural constraints. Commuting via public transport poses the risk of harassment, while travelling by rickshaws, Qingchis and cabs is becoming increasingly unaffordable. All this coupled with the atrociousness of the idea of a female travelling by Bykea keeps women restrained at home.

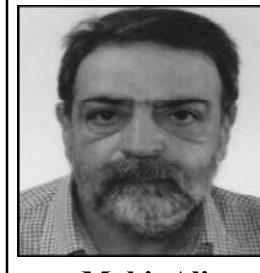
The sheer magnitude of the consequences of these problems mandates serious action from policymakers. Historically, the government has exerted fruitless effort in trying to raise tax revenues by burdening

the salaried classes beyond its capacity, but has failed to implement more sustainable and productive ways to raise revenues. What better way is there to increase the tax base than to productively engage more than half the population confined at homes due to fear of harassment, burden of household responsibilities, lack of mobility, cultural norms, or lack of knowledge?

These constraints are not difficult to evade — digitalisation presents an optimum solution to the problem. With the advent of e-commerce forums, it is becoming increasingly crucial to provide digital access to women so they can engage in economic activities from the safety of their homes. To improve digital access for females, measures need to be taken to expand device ownership, internet access, as well as digital literacy. Currently, women in Pakistan remain disadvantaged across all three domains. Through digitalisation, women will have easy access to markets and better knowledge of opportunities for innovation and growth.

Enhancing the accessibility of digital financial services for women is also imperative. In 2022, only 8pc of bank account holders were female, with very few women familiar with digital payment methods. Microfinancing, while available, has only had limited impact on female entrepreneurship since women often borrow on behalf of male relatives. Hence, better regulation and digital payment awareness are crucial to enhancing women’s access to financial services, which can in turn lead to increased female entrepreneurship. In a nutshell, digital and financial inclusion are the cornerstones of decent work opportunities for women in Pakistan. — Courtesy Dawn

If not now, when?



Mahir Ali

Amid all the horrors on show as a consequence of Israel’s explicit determination to pulverise the Gaza Strip, nothing is quite as soul-searing as the tiny white shrouds. In one instance, a newborn’s non-existence was acknowledged with a death certificate before a birth certificate could be processed.

The world occasionally wrings its hands and whispers banal platitudes about protecting civilian lives, but refuses to demand a ceasefire. The US and its acolytes can barely pluck up the nerve to call for ‘humanitarian pauses’ — a brief and fairly meaningless hiatus before the baby killers once more flex their fingers around the triggers.

Alongside the Netanyahu regime, the chief culprit is the American political, military and corporate establishment. If it so desired, the US could have restrained Israel’s genocidal impulses long ago — or, at least belatedly, last month. It chose, instead, to offer additional lethal weaponry and littoral cover via aircraft carriers. Within the US, meanwhile, pro-Palestinian protesters are routinely being branded as fans of Hamas, even if they happen to be Jewish. Donors are withdrawing their support from universities and other institutions unless they effectively criminalise any manifestations of empathy for Palestinian lives.

Dissenters against the Zionist credo are losing their jobs. The Israel lobby is determined to dislodge any legislators who diverge from its desired path of unquestion-

ing acquiescence to the Jewish state’s nastiest Nazi-like inclinations.

Michigan congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, the only Palestinian in the House of Representatives, has been targeted. Her comrades in the Squad have stood by her, and several of them will face challenges next year from rivals funded by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

But Aipac and its allies such as the Anti-Defamation League are also at war against fellow Jews who don’t bite the Zionist bullet, notably groups such as Jewish Voice for Peace and If Not Now, which have coordinated many of the regular demonstrations in New York and elsewhere that have challenged Israeli impunity.

It’s not just younger American Jews who don’t feel obliged to ally themselves with a state that no longer bothers to conceal its fascist fangs. There are similar trends in Europe, where countries such as Germany and France were among the first to crack down on pro-Palestinian demonstrations, outlawing the Palestinian flag in some instances.

Suella Braverman, the British home secretary until this week, failed to do the same; although her dog-whistle to the far right to disrupt last Saturday’s rally in London — after police refused to ban it — proved effective, and swelled the number of protesters.

Braverman, whose extremist predilections make some of her Tory colleagues seem undeservingly moderate, was sacked on Monday. By inducting former prime minister David Cameron as the new foreign secretary, Rishi Sunak must have been hoping to distract popular attention away from his government’s irredeemable disarray.

Unless he’s toppled before the next election, he

is more than likely to make way at Downing Street for Keir Starmer, whose stint as Labour appears to be based on taking instructions from the Israeli embassy.

He’ll still win the next election, given the Conservative Party’s evolving meltdown, but less convincingly than he would have without unequivocally latching onto the Zionist trajectory. Joe Biden is in a somewhat different position.

He needs every vote he can get, and appears to have lost the reluctant backing of Arabs, Muslims and progressives among the Democrats. His likely 2024 rival, the appalling Donald Trump, knows that his electoral base is immune to any kind of common sense. If the multitudes disenchanted with Biden don’t bother to vote, Trump will be king.

Perhaps that’s what America deserves. It’s on the wrong side of history — as it was 52 years ago, when it collaborated with the Yahya regime on the Bangladesh issue. Back then there was little popular opposition in the West to the military massacre in the East, which was excused by reference to militant brutality against non-Bengalis. Neither Gaza nor the West Bank, though, enjoys East Pakistan’s geographical advantage.

Much of the Global South has demanded a ceasefire in Gaza, but Israel can ignore that. The ummah is as impotent as the UN, although the latter is at least making the right kind of efforts. The Gaza death toll is already multiple times the level of Hamas’s atrocities.

Many of the countries that did nothing to avert the Holocaust or the Nakba that followed are also doing nothing to stop what several members of Netanyahu’s government have designated as the 2023 Nakba, which involves not just mass killings but the prospect of mass expulsion too. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

ML-1 to become favourable transit route for region: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said the Main Line (ML-1) railway project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would prove a favourable transit route for countries in the region. The prime minister vowed to complete ML-1 on a priority basis, saying the project would also improve connectivity between the country’s seaports with its economic zones.

Chairing a meeting to discuss ML-1 here at the PM House, the prime minister said the project would contribute to the improvement of communication network in the country. PM Kakar said there existed huge potential for foreign investment in Pakistan Railways and stressed the need for early materialization of its projects.

He stressed meeting the targets of the project within stipulated time and directed the formulation of a comprehensive reform

strategy for Pakistan Railways to maximize the benefits of the ML-1.

Emphasizing transparency in the implementation of ML-1, he said, the project would result in the creation of new employment opportunities and reduced travel time and freight rates. The meeting was held that the ML-1 project was in its final stage of modalities and its groundbreaking would be performed by early next year. The project will be completed in two phases.

In the first phase, a 930-kilometre-long rail track will be laid from Karachi to Multan. Also, the railway infrastructure damaged by the 2022 flood will be upgraded as per international standards. In the next phase, the 796-kilometre-long rail track from Multan to Peshawar will be laid in line with the requirements of the future. The meeting was attended by caretaker federal ministers including Shamshad Akhtar and Sami Saeed, PM’s Adviser Ahad Khan.



Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting to discuss ML-1 Project in Islamabad.



Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce and Industry, Dr. Gohar Ejaz addressing the audience at the Margalla Dialogue 2023 in Islamabad.

Expert committee formed to finalize modalities for GDS trading on PSX

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Finance has established a committee, comprising experts from the financial sector, to finalize the modalities for issuing and trading government securities on the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX).

The Committee, led by the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Akif Saeed, is tasked with developing the overall infrastructure, including the necessary systems and processes, ensuring operational

Serene Air set to launch Karachi, Islamabad, Beijing flight from Nov 19

BEIJING (APP): Serene Air, a Pakistani airline, is set to launch a new international route from Karachi to Islamabad to Beijing, starting on November 19.

Cabinet committee okays SOE Policy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCSOE) on Wednesday approved the revised State-Owned Enterprises (Ownership and Management) Policy 2023 and recommended it for approval to the Federal Cabinet. Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs Dr Shamshad Akhtar chaired the CCSOE meeting, which, besides the committee members, was attended by the chairman

Pakistan’s exports to Turkiye dip 4.97%

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan’s export of goods and services to Turkiye witnessed a decrease of 4.97 per cent during the first three months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year. State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

Dr Kausar Abdullah stresses need to control environmental pollution

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik on Wednesday stressed the need to take immediate measures to control environmental pollution for the conservation of natural resources and agriculture development in the country.

PSX gains 14 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Wednesday gained 14.14 points, a slight positive change of 0.02 percent, closing at 56,680.07 points against 56,665.93 points the previous trading day. A total of 661,624,152 shares valuing Rs24,353 billion were traded during the day as compared to 526,356,508 shares valuing Rs19,539 billion the previous day.

Pak Pavilion inaugurated at China Outbound Travel and Tourism Market Expo

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi on Wednesday inaugurated the Pakistan Pavilion at the China Outbound Travel and Tourism Market (COTTM) Expo-2023, held at the China National Agriculture Center in Beijing. The inauguration of the Pavilion was part of a series of activities aimed at celebrating year 2023 as the ‘Year of Tourism and Exchange’ between Pakistan and China.

KP governor urges journalists to play role for country's development

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali on Wednesday urged the journalists to play their role in the development of the country. He was speaking as the chief guest at a ceremony organized here at Dera Press Club (DPC) to celebrate its 'Golden Jubilee'. The ceremony was also attended by JUI-F Leader Maulana Ubaid ur Rehman, Commissioner Zafar ul Islam, Regional Police Officer Nasir Mehmood Satti, former provincial minister Haleem Qasuria, Gomal University

Vice Chancellor Dr Shakibullah, and others. The governor said the journalists were 'eyes and ears' of the society, who not only highlighted the public aspirations but also play their role in forming public opinion. He said the journalists should highlight the positive image of their country through their pen. "We should stand with our state and its institutions," he said. The governor quoted examples of some other Muslim countries which faced destruction due to their weak institutions in the recent past.

He said all the citizens should have to fulfill their responsibilities for social development, peace and prosperity. The journalists should also play role to create awareness among the masses and to motivate youth for research and businesses, he added. The people had a potential and talent, however, they needed guidance so that they could work for the country's development and the media could play an important role in that regard, the governor said. Haji Ghulam Ali said after assuming the charge

of his office, he had meetings with the administrations of all universities of the province and steps were being taken to make them all self-reliance. He said the issues of Gomal University would also be resolved as it was the second largest university in the province after Peshawar University. The universities should focus on research work and equip youth with technical training so that they could become useful citizens of the society, he added. Earlier, DPC President Yasin Qureshi, in his welcome address.



LAHORE: A view of MoU signing ceremony between Punjab government and the National Highways and Motorway Police an environmentally friendly measure to combat smog by restricting the entry of vehicles without fitness certificates and route permits on motorways and highways. Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi is also present on the occasion.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali cutting the cake at Dera Press Club (DPC) to celebrate its 'Golden Jubilee'.

Minister urges public vigilance for healthy lungs, fight against air pollution

LAHORE (APP): Punjab's Caretaker Primary and Secondary Healthcare Minister Dr. Jamal Nasir has urged citizens to ensure the use of masks, as healthy lungs are a sign of a healthy life, and to avoid pollution from city dust, dirt, and smoke. He said that for information and guidance regarding treatment of any urban disease, citizens should contact the helpline 1033. Lungs are affected by pollution and

smoking, leading to permanent damage. He was chairing a meeting to review the measures and facilities available in the government hospitals on the occasion of World Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Day on Wednesday. Dr. Nasir mentioned that while chronic respiratory diseases are incurable, their harmful effects can be minimised through caution and preventive measures.

181 new dengue cases reported on Wed

LAHORE (APP): Dengue outbreak is still active in Punjab, as 181 new cases were recorded here on Wednesday. According to the latest Health Department data, a total of 12,045 confirmed dengue cases were reported across 36 districts in Punjab this year. During the last 24 hours, Lahore reported 92 new dengue cases, Rawalpindi 08, Multan 17, Gujranwala 32, Faisalabad 09, Narawal 04, Sheikhupura 3, Attock 03, Okara 03 and Dera Ghazi Khan reported two new dengue cases.

Caretaker CM KP inspects Ayub Teaching Hospital's progress

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice @ Arshad Hussain Shah Wednesday paid a visit to Ayub Teaching Hospital (ATH) and inspected various facilities. Hospital Director Dr. Atif Lodhi along with other key officials were also present on the occasion and warmly welcomed him. During the visit, extensive discussions took place between the Chief

Minister and the hospital administration, primarily focusing on the ongoing upgrades and the facilities offered to the patients. The Chief Minister stressed the pivotal role of delivering high-quality medical services to the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and underscored the necessity of expanding the hospital's infrastructure to accommodate the increasing number of patients.

RTI law ensures transparency, improves governance: Memon

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Information Secretary Nadeem-ur-Rahman Memon stressed the importance of the right to information law in ensuring transparency and improving governance, saying that the Constitution of Pakistan specifies access to information as a fundamental right of citizens. Memon was speaking at a training workshop held on Wednesday to sensitize information officers about the relevant laws. The workshop was organized

by the Sindh Information Commission in collaboration with Transparency International. Public information officers from various government departments as well as active human rights activists attended the workshop. Memon said that the Sindh Assembly has passed the Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Act 2016 to ensure the fundamental right of citizens.

CM Naqvi acknowledges revolutionary steps taken for automation of transport sector

Punjab Govt implements environment-friendly steps; restricts vehicles without certificates on motorways,

LAHORE: The Punjab government has initiated an environmentally friendly measure to combat smog by restricting the entry of vehicles without fitness certificates and route permits on motorways and highways. An agreement was formalized today between the Punjab government and the National Highways and

Motorway Police during a signing ceremony at the Chief Minister's Office, attended by Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi as the chief guest. The enforcement of an axle load regime will ensure that overweight trawler trucks are prohibited from entering motorways and highways under any circumstances. According to the

agreement, there will be a systematic exchange of information regarding vehicle fitness and route permits between the Punjab Transport Department and the Motorway Police. Both departments will appoint focal persons to oversee the exchange of information and ensure the enforcement of rules, fostering cooperation and collaboration.

7 injured in road accident

FAISALABAD (APP): Seven people including a woman received injuries in a road accident in the area of Balochi police station. Rescue 1122 spokesman said here on Wednesday that a speeding passenger van going from Faisalabad to Lahore went out of control due to brake failure near Balochi Stop on Sheikhupura Road. As a result, the van hit wall of a roadside hotel and caused serious injuries to 7 passengers including Tasleem Shahid, wife of Shahid (41).

PML-N to form government with power of vote: Muqam

PESHAWAR (APP): President of Pakistan Muslim League-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Amir Muqam said on Wednesday that PML-N is the only party capable of steering the country out of crises and towards progress. He made these remarks during a rally in Bisham, Shargla, where local leader Fazal Maqbool Gajar announced his decision to join PML-N

along with his family members and hundreds of followers. Amir Muqam emphasized that under the leadership of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, PML-N will bring progress and prosperity to the country through the power of votes. He highlighted that PML-N is the only party capable of creating consensus and resolving the issues faced by the country.

International News

Biden, Xi meet amid disputes over military and economic issues

Monitoring Desk SAN FRANCISCO: U.S. President Joe Biden meets Chinese leader Xi Jinping for the first time in a year on Wednesday for talks that may ease friction between the two superpowers over military conflicts, drug-trafficking and artificial intelligence. However, deep progress on the vast differences separating them may have to wait for another day. Officials on both sides of the Pacific have set expectations low as Biden and Xi are set to discuss Taiwan, the South China Sea, the Israel-Hamas war, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, North Korea, and human rights - each of them areas where the leaders have been unable to resolve long-standing disagreements. Advertisement • Scroll to continue Biden and Xi arrived in San Francisco on Tuesday,

where they were set to hold their meeting on the sidelines the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit. Leaders from the 21-country group - and hundreds of CEOs in San Francisco to court them - meet amid Chinese economic weakness, Beijing's territorial feuds with neighbors, and a Middle East conflict that is dividing the United States from allies. Efforts to carefully choreograph Xi's visit may be upended in San Francisco despite efforts to drive home people from the streets. The route from the airport to the conference site was lined with demonstrators for and against China's ruling Communist Party, an unusual sight for Xi, who last visited the United States in 2017. Biden has sought direct diplomacy with Xi, betting that a personal relationship he has cultivated

for a dozen years with the most powerful Chinese leader since Mao Zedong might salvage ties that are increasingly turning hostile. Advertisement • Chong Ja Ian, a political science professor at the National University of Singapore, said the two sides are engaged in what Mao referred to during the Chinese civil war as "talk and fight, fight and talk". "That is, to talk while building up forces," Chong said. Xi and Biden are expected to meet far from the conference location at Filoli Estate, miles outside of San Francisco and carefully chosen for its security, serenity and remoteness. "The table has been set...over the course of many weeks for what we hope will be a very productive, candid, constructive conversation," White House spokesperson John Kirby said.



German Economy and Climate Minister Robert Habeck, Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Finance Minister Christian Lindner leave following their comments on the ruling of Germany's Constitutional court that the government's re-location of 60 billion euros (\$65 billion USD) of unused debt from the pandemic era to climate fund was illegal, in Berlin, Germany.

Russian resources minister visits North Korea amid new missile development

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: A Russian delegation led by natural resources minister Alexander Kozlov is visiting Pyongyang, North Korean state media said on Wednesday, as the politically isolated state announced new progress in its banned ballistic missile programme. Kozlov arrived on Tuesday, as U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin met with U.N. member states enforcing the Korean War armistice in Seoul and said they were concerned

that China and Russia are helping North Korea expand its military capabilities by enabling Pyongyang to evade U.N. sanctions. Russia and North Korea were conducting talks on the economy, science and technology, KCNA state media reported, without elaborating. Kozlov told a reception that Russia wants to develop "substantial cooperation" with North Korea based on the agreements made by Russian

President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un when they met in September in Russia's far east, KCNA reported. He also cited North Korea's "full support" for Russia over regional and international issues, the report said. A delegation led by the country's culture minister left for St. Petersburg on Tuesday to attend a cultural event, KCNA said in another article.

UN Security Council is trying for a fifth time to adopt a resolution on the Israel-Hamas war

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: After four failed attempts, the U.N. Security Council is trying for a fifth time to come up with a resolution on the Israel-Hamas war, but it remains to be seen whether serious divisions can be overcome to produce a consensus on wording. The current draft under negotiation would demand "immediate extended humanitarian pauses" throughout the Gaza Strip to provide civilians with desperately needed aid. It also would demand that "all parties" comply with international humanitarian law that requires protection for civilians, calls for special protections for children, and bans hostage-taking. But the draft, proposed by council member Malta and obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press, makes no mention of a ceasefire. It also doesn't refer to Hamas' surprise attack on Israel on Oct. 7 that killed around 1,200 people and took some 240 others hos-

tage. Nor does it cite Israel's retaliatory airstrikes and ground offensive in Hamas-ruled Gaza that the Gaza health ministry says has killed more than 11,000 Palestinians, two-thirds of them women and children. The 15-member council, which has the responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, has been paralyzed since the war began by its internal divisions. This is especially the case between China and Russia, which want an immediate ceasefire, and the United States, Israel's closest ally that has called for humanitarian pauses but objects to any mention of a ceasefire. In the four previous tries, a Brazil-drafted resolution was vetoed by the United States, a U.S.-drafted resolution was vetoed by Russia and China, and two Russian-drafted resolutions failed to get the minimum nine "yes" voted needed for adoption.

US extends sanctions waiver allowing Iraq to buy electricity from Iran

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: The Biden administration has extended by four months a sanctions waiver that will allow Iraq to continue to purchase electricity from Iran and gives Iran limited access to the proceeds to buy humanitarian goods. Secretary of State Antony Blinken signed the 120-day waiver extension and it was transmitted to Congress on Tuesday, U.S. officials said. The move is likely to draw criticism from Iran hawks on Capitol Hill and elsewhere who believe the extension will reward Iran at a time when it is coming under increasing pressure to end its support for proxy groups, including Hamas, that are destabilizing the Middle East. There is roughly \$10 billion in Iraqi payments

Israeli army claims seizing parliament in Gaza

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: The Israeli army claimed on Tuesday it had captured Gaza's parliament building and other government institutions run by Hamas in Gaza City, as its forces deepened their offensive in the besieged Pales-tinian enclave. Military units "took over the Hamas parliament, the government building, the Hamas police headquarters and an engineering faculty that served as an institute for the production and development of weapons", the army claimed in a statement. Hamas dismissed the Israeli army's claim that it had taken over institutions. The move was a "pathetic attempt to manufacture victory and imaginary control of empty places or those previously targeted and destroyed", Bassem Naim, a senior Hamas official, said in a statement.

400 employees of Biden govt call for ceasefire in Gaza

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: More than 400 Biden administration employees have sent an open letter to the US President, demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza while more than 10,000 carnation stems were laid on the steps of the Capitol Hill, each representing a civilian life lost since Oct 7. The open letter by the Biden administration employees reflects a significant call for the ceasefire, breaking from the usual practice of aides staying in the background. The appeal outlined

Japanese helicopters train to repel invaders amid nationwide military drills

Monitoring Desk IRISUNA: A Japanese Apache helicopter on Wednesday flew low over an uninhabited island in Okinawa in a simulated attack on invading forces, part of exercises under way in Japan to prepare its air, sea and land forces for a potential conflict in East Asia. The flight over Irisuna, about 70 kilometres (43.5 miles) from the main Okinawa island, was part of the country's 11-day nationwide 05JX. The drills, which end Monday, also include an air defence exercise in Japan's.

North Korea says it tested new solid-fuel engines for intermediate-range ballistic missiles

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: North Korea said Wednesday it successfully tested new solid-fuel engines designed for intermediate-range ballistic missiles as it works on enhancing its nuclear-capable arsenal with more powerful, harder-to-detect weapons that can potentially target U.S. military bases in Guam and Japan. North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said the country's military scientists tested the first-stage and second-stage missile engines on Saturday and Tuesday. The report did not say when the new missile system was expected to be completed. The tests extend a torrid run in North Korea's weapons development efforts, which some analysts say could be boosted by an

North Korea says it tested new solid-fuel engines for intermediate-range ballistic missiles

alleged arms cooperation with Russia as they align in the face of separate, intensifying confrontations with the United States. Tuesday's test came as Russia's natural resources minister, Alexander Kozlov, arrived in North Korea for talks over unspecified trade and technology exchanges, as the countries continued to build on a rare summit in September between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian Vladimir Putin. Kim's trip to the Russian Far East, where he also visited major rocket and military sites, sparked concerns about a potential arms alignment between the countries, in which North Korea provides munitions for Russia's war in Ukraine in exchange for Russian technology transfers.

Faizabad sit-in case Govt informs SC about notifying inquiry commission

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government on Wednesday informed the Supreme Court that it has notified the constitution of a three-member inquiry commission in the Faizabad sit-in case.

The commission, headed by retired inspector general of police (IGP) Akhtar Ali Shah, also included former IGP Tahir Alam Khan and additional secretary interior Khushkhal Khan, and would submit its findings in two months.

Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the commission were also listed in the notification issued by the government.

It would try to ascertain who was responsible for the sit-in; what were the factors that led to it; and who were its financiers; who were the people who issued edicts and gave statements in its favour.

The commission would also identify those cable operators and broadcasters who violated the PEMRA rules.

Similarly, it would try to locate those people who spread hatred through mainstream media as well as social media.

Later the attorney general of Pakistan (AGP), on behalf of the government, submitted the notification to the Supreme Court (SC) during the hearing of the Faizabad sit-in case.

A three-member bench of the apex court, headed by Justice Qazi Faez Isa, heard the case.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa asked why somebody from the defence ministry was not included in the commission.

He, however, expressed the hope that the commission would conduct a transparent inquiry.



QUETTA: Former Provincial Minister Mir Habibur Rehman Muhammaddassani meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Domki.

AJK PM links AJK's survival to Pakistan's prosperity, stability

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that the survival of Azad Jammu Kashmir was inescapably linked to prosperity, development and stability of Pakistan.

Addressing a reception hosted in his honour by minister for Population Welfare Sardar Muhammad Hussain on Sudhanoti town of AJK on Wednesday, the PM said that welfare of people was the sole mission of his life. He said that cheap electricity was the right of every citizen.

"If people pay utility bills, then electricity up to 200 units could be provided free of cost. He said that it was for the first time in the AJK's history that the incumbent government suspended the notification regarding the increase in electricity prices. He said that the subsidy on wheat flour has been restored.

The government, he said, has allocated rupees 5 billion endowment fund

for the poor, widows, orphans, disabled, children and girls of the state. As per the scheme, he said, 20 thousand would be transferred to the each needy person on monthly basis through their easy paisa account.

Regarding the improvement of governance, he said, government employees working in health, education and other government departments would have to prove their metal and show their progress. He said that all vacant posts in ten district hospitals would be filled by December 30 this year.

"MRI machines are being provided in all divisional hospitals at a cost of Rs 84 crores", he said, adding that funds have been released for providing the electricity poles and transformers in all districts. He said that the government won't allow misuse of public funds. "The prime minister, ministers and all those who get salary from public taxes are accountable to the people", the PM said.



QUETTA: Secretary Livestock Tayyab Lehri, Director IDO Sabir Ahmed Khan, Representative UNHCR inaugurate grand handicrafts exhibition organized by UNHCR.

MBBS & BDS seats Abdullah chairs meeting of waiting list admission for academic session 2022-2023

QUETTA (APP): Health Sciences Syed Aurangzeb, Principal Loralai Medical College Dr. Saleem, Additional Secretary Law Department Saeed Iqbal, Vice Principal Makran Medical College Dr. Abdul Waheed Buledi, PS Abdul Waheed Bolan Medical College Quetta, In-charge Admission Bolan Medical College Quetta Nadeem, Section Officer Nizamuddin and Staff Officer Shaikat Zehri.

Balochistan Quetta, waiting list admission for the academic session 2022-2023 for MBBS and BDS seats, nomination/selection of candidates were discussed in detail in the meeting.

Addressing that meeting, Secretary Health said that Balochistan government was paying special attention on the medical sector saying that revolutionary measures have been taken in this sector.

He said that Health Department was very important while medical education was the backbone in the field of medicine.

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ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the inaugural session of Margalla Dialogue.

NDMA, PDMA Balochistan Unite for unprecedented Flood Simulation in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in collaboration with PDMA Balochistan, showcases a substantial commitment to disaster preparedness by organizing a pioneering SimEx on floods and earthquake emergencies in Quetta from November 15 to 17, 2023.

Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Muhammad Zubair Jamali inaugurated the Simulation Exercises and appreciated the efforts of NDMA for a proactive approach to deal with disasters and emergencies.

As part of a proactive approach, the NDMA has initiated a series of Simulation Exercises at national and provincial level.

The purpose of conducting multi-hazard mock exercises was to enhance the preparedness and response capabilities of Balochistan's disaster management agencies to deal with emergency like situation.

He emphasized the need for effective coordination and cooperation among all agencies involved in disaster management and relief activities.

Zubair Jamali lauded the efforts of NDMA for conducting mock drills and exercises on disasters and emergency situation in Balochistan.

Jamali mentioned that NDMA has played a proactive role in enhancing the national preparedness and response structure for any disaster.

Seven syndicates participated in the mock exercise in Quetta, including representatives from Provincial Disaster Management Authority Balochistan, District Disaster Management Authorities, and NGOs.

President Dr Arif Alvi said dehumanizing people had become a norm in the world where vested interests prevailed over humanity.

War, he said, was not a solution to resolve any conflict and always resulted in a never-ending vicious cycle of violence.

War not solution to resolve any conflict: President

ISLAMABAD (INP): He pointed out that using the right of veto against the cessation of war questioned the ethical standards of the countries concerned.

In Gaza, he said the massive killings of Palestinians committed by Israel needed urgent attention by the international community to act and play its role in stopping the bloodshed.

He said Israel, in its justification to eliminate Hamas was "killing the Palestinians like savages" and calling the colossal deaths as collateral damage.

The president mentioned that the world after several war-related deaths in Europe arrived at the culmination of peace treaties and bodies like the League of the Nations and the United Nations (UN).

He emphasized the role of the UN in waging peace initiatives to prevent disputes from escalating into conflicts and an effective mechanism to stop wars.

Besides conflicts, he said, the world faced several threats affiliated with climate change, artificial intelligence, negative social narratives, unequal wealth distribution, and dissatisfied mankind.

"The realistic solutions to these challenges need international cooperation requiring the adoption of viable systems and also embedding ethical morality into approach," he said.

President of IPRI Dr Raza Muhammad said as the world grappled with both natural and man-made disasters, it was time for a collective approach to save humanity from emanating the risks involved.

He highlighted the need for a global focus on conflict resolution, the economy, and climate change. Earlier, President Dr Arif Alvi and the guests in attendance observed a one-minute silence for the innocent people of Palestine who faced the barbaric acts of Israel.

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QUETTA: Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Muhammad Zubair Jamali visiting the mock drills, exercises on disasters and emergency situation in Balochistan in a simulation exercise (SimEx) organized by NDMA.

PTA faces resource crunch in audio leak investigation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) on Wednesday affirmed its lack of resources to trace the individual responsible for leaking audio recordings on social media.

The authority did not function as an investigative agency, it said in its reply submitted in Islamabad High Court regarding the audio leak case involving Najam-ul-Saqib, the son of the former Chief Justice.

Would announce decision about joining PML-N very soon, says Lashkari Raisani

Independent Report
QUETTA: The prominent tribal and political personality, Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani has announced that he would make decision about his joining the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) very soon.

Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani was speaking to the media persons soon after his meeting with the PML-N central President and former Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif at Sarawan House on Wednesday morning.

Shahbaz Sharif reached Sarawan House along with the party's leaders Sardar Muhammad

Ayaz Sadiq and Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail to meet Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani.

Also present in the meeting was the Chief of Sarawan and former Chief Minister Balochistan, Nawab Muhammad Aslam Raisani.

Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani said that he is thankful to Shahbaz Sharif who came to us and invited to join the party. This is an honour for us, he maintained.

He said that the country is facing certain issues and crisis, which can be resolved through parliamentary democratic struggle.

High-level Kuwaiti delegation visits ANF Headquarters

RAWALPINDI (APP): A three-member high-level delegation led by Assistant Undersecretary of Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior for Criminal Security Affairs, Major General Hamed Manahi here on Wednesday visited Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Headquarters.

Director General ANF Major General Muhammad Aniq ur Rehman Malik, HI (M) welcomed the delegation. The delegation was given a detailed briefing on ANF's achievements against drug trafficking.

During the meeting, emphasis was given on the need to increase intelligence sharing against drug trafficking. ANF and the delegation also discussed steps to remove barriers in international controlled delivery operations. According to spokesman, ANF Pakistan and Kuwait's Anti-Narcotics Department reiterated to increase cooperation.



KARACHI: Former President and Co-Chairman PPP, Asif Ali Zardari exchanging views with Hamad Ubaid Ibrahim Salim Al-Zaabi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during meeting.

Elections crucial for democratic continuity, stability: NA Speaker

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf stated on Wednesday that elections are pivotal for the continuity and stability of democracy and for strengthening democratic norms. He emphasized that elections provide people with an opportunity to choose their true representatives.

On November 16, 1988, the Pakistani nation chose the Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) in general elections, and Mohtarama Shaheed Benazir Bhutto was elected as the first woman Prime Minister of Pakistan, he added. He underscored, "PPP believes in the power granted by the people and always respects the people's choice."

CMIT members review development projects' work in Bolan

QUETTA (APP): The Chief Minister Inspection Team (CMIT) members Muhammad Aslam Tareen and Raz Muhammad on Wednesday reviewed works of various ongoing development projects of the Department of Communications and Works in Kachhi Bolan district.

Xen Road Abdul Wahab Zehri and Xen Building Muhammad Akram Boloch were also present on this occasion.

The members of CMIT reviewed all the ongoing development projects in the district in detail and expressed satisfaction.

They said that all the ongoing development projects in the district were progressing towards completion.

The team hoped that these projects would be completed on time so that the people of Kachhi Bolan district would get the fruits of these development projects as well as development and economic prosperity in the area.

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QUETTA: Pir Agha Ibrahim Muneeb Mujdadi, Sardar Muhammad Iqbal Khilji, Professor Manzoor Ahmed and DSP Syed Mehdi congratulates Director General Public Relation Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran.

Special committee formed by CM GB reviews judicious supply, distribution of flour in different mills of GB

Independent Report
GILGIT: The special committee formed by the Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan (GB) reviewed in detail the judicious supply and distribution of flour among different flour mills of the GB here on Wednesday.

On the occasion, 5 gram flour was found less in some packs of the flour by Karim Flour Mill Bason.

The committee charged fine of Rs. 5,000 to the concerned flour mill on the spot.

It was also directed to submit challan of the same, otherwise it was warned to suspend the quota of the third week.

On the other hand, the meeting of the central coordination and consultation committee formed about

the prescribed price of wheat, subsidy and central policy is scheduled to be held today (Thursday).

The Minister Food Ghulam Muhammad would chair the meeting of committee to be held at the committee room of Soni Jawari center.

Needless to mention here is that important issues would be discussed in the meeting.

The Minister Food is the Convenor of central coordination committee.

Other members of the committee are included: Minister Education, Ghulam Shahzad Agha, Minister Excise and Taxation, Rehmat Khaliq, Minister Law, Syed Sohail Abbas, Minister planning and development, Raja Nasir Ali Khan, Minister

Social welfare, Dilshad Bano, Minister Home, Shams Lone, Advisor for IT, Suraya Zaman and Special Assistant for Information, Eman Shah.

The Secretary Food department Usman Ahmed would also be attending important meeting of the central committee.

The meeting would discuss the matters about uninterrupted supply of flour to the masses besides ensuring transparency in it and the subsidy.

It may also be mentioned that the committees have been given the task to make consultation with political elders, social leader, economic experts and media professionals at the provincial level, on special directives of the GB chief Minister.

UOT organizes session on entrepreneurship

QUETTA (APP): A session on 'Entrepreneurship As A Career Choice and Entrepreneurial Opportunities' was organized by the Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC) of the University of Turbat (UoT) at the video conference room of UoT. Students from different departments of the university participated in the event. In his opening remarks, Prof. Dr. Jan Muhammad, Vice Chancellor (VC) of UoT, extended wholehearted gratitude and appreciation to Shakoor Ahmed, Provincial Chief of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) in Balochistan, and resource person of the session for organizing an important session for the students of the UoT.



QUETTA: Group Director Security PTCL Brigadier (ret'd) Aziz Ahmed meeting with Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan.

There will be no injustice with Balochistan in future: Faisal Kundi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Faisal Karim Kundi has said that there will be no injustice with Balochistan in future.

Talking to the media on Wednesday, he said that the PML-N was looking for crutches.

"Nawaz Sharif has returned to the country after quitting the London narrative. Where is the narrative of 'vote ko izzat do' now?" he added.

The PPP leader said that the people will not accept the selection this time. "February 8 will tell for whom the people vote. We will decide about the formation of the government after seeing the number game on February 8," he maintained.

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Hassan Zehri says: People of Hub, Lasbela will not let looters hide behind artificial alliance

Independent Report
HUB: Senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party, spokesperson of former President Asif Ali Zardari and President of Hub district Mir Ali Hassan Zehri has said that it is a pity that the lust of looters has not ended since forty years. Personal interests and lust for wealth have blinded these self-interested elements.

With what mouth will they go to the public? He said that fearing the popularity of the Peoples Party, the Bhutani brothers are now trying to join the Muslim League (N) so that their looting can continue. They

think that in this way they will avoid defeat, but this is their mistake. Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that these self-interested elements have no manifesto, if they have any manifesto, it is only their own personal interests. He said that the tendency of the Bhutani brothers has always been to lick the soles of every incoming government and become a part of the government in any way.

Efforts to join the Muslim League (N) are proof of this. That these self-interested elements are using the platform of politics for themselves and not the people. The zealous

people of Hub and Lasbela have well recognized these self-interested elements and have come to know that these people have been fooling the people only for their own self and interests, but now their anti-people has come to the fore.

Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that the people have come to know that these rejected elements have no interest in Hub and Lasbela. During their 40-year tenure, these areas turned into ruins and no development work has been done. Even the basic facilities could not be reached to the people, although during this period, if these people wanted.