

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

Vol. XIII No. 317 Reg. mails-B/ ID-445 Monday November 13, 2023, Rabi-us-Sani 28, 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

PM reminds int'l community to intervene; implement solution to Palestine issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, during his participation in the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit in the Saudi Capital of Riyadh on Saturday, has reminded the international community to promptly intervene and implement a durable solution to Palestine issue as the five-week ceaseless Israeli military aggression led to genocide and stoked fears of engulfing the region into wider conflict.

He underscored the urgency of bringing an end to Israel's aggression and brutality with an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, lifting of the siege of Gaza, and rapid and unhindered humanitarian and relief assistance.

The prime minister of Pakistan was among the prominent leaders of the

Muslim world that vociferously and very candidly highlighted the root causes leading to the current humanitarian crisis with over 11,000 deaths in Gaza due to Israel's indiscriminate aerial and ground blitz after October 7.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hosted the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit considering the human catastrophe that befell upon the Palestinian territories with Israel's belligerent military invasion.

The summit assumed significance as it brought the Muslims leaders from across the globe and continents together on one platform, expressing a unifying stance and forging a spirit of brotherhood and affinities for the unfortunate civilians of Gaza undergoing horrors of usage of globally banned arsenal

and weapons by Israel occupation forces.

Caretaker Prime Minister Kakar, in his remarks, reaffirmed that a permanent solution to the conflict was in the establishment of a secure, viable, contiguous and sovereign state of Palestine on the basis of pre-June 1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its Capital.

He stressed that the Israeli occupation forces were acting in clear violation of the international humanitarian and human rights laws, and their indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force amounted to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

He also reiterated Pakistan's solidarity and support for the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination.



RIYADH: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar being seen off by high diplomatic officials of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia after completing his three day official visit of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

PTI releases a white paper on country's unimaginable economic destruction during last 20 months

ISLAMABAD (Online): The economic team of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has issued a white paper on the unimaginable destruction of the country's economy during the last 20 months.

According to PTI spokesperson, in the white paper, the details of PDM's incompetent and incompetent government's serious playing with the economy have been placed before the nation with data.

White paper also presented a detailed review of the best economic performance of the PTI government in 17 years in 3.5 years.

The PTI spokesperson said that when PTI took over the government in 2018, the economy was under the worst crisis in

history.

PTI inherited a revolving loan of 1.6 trillion rupees and annual capacity payments of up to 1.4 trillion thanks to the incompetence of the PML-N government: White paper. In fiscal year 2018, the current account deficit was 19.2 billion dollars and the foreign exchange reserves were at the level of 9.4 billion dollars, spokesperson said.

He said that Pakistan needed immediate funding of 32 billion dollars to pay its external debt in 2018.

PM Imran Khan made every effort to reduce the current account deficit and obtain foreign loans from friendly countries to pay the external debt, spokesperson said white paper.

It is said in the white

paper that the World Bank has included Pakistan in the top three countries that are fighting the best against the Corona epidemic due to Prime Minister Imran Khan's commendable handling of the Corona epidemic. Imran Khan also ensured the investment agriculture, construction and industry. Spokesperson said that Imran Khan limited the inflation rate to 12.7% while protecting the nation from the effects of the highest global inflation due to the commodity super cycle.

PTI achieved 6% growth rate in the third and fourth year of the government. PTI is the only government after 2007 which has grown at a speed of 6% for 2 consecutive years in fiscal year 22.

Solangi assures regional journalists of solving their problems

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi Sunday assured the regional journalists of solving their problems on priority.

He was addressing as the chief guest at the oath-taking ceremony of All Pakistan Newspersons Alliance (APNA) at a local hotel.

The Alliance has representation of all the regional journalists from small cities, tehsils and towns of all the four provinces. The APNA aimed at securing the rights of these journalists working at grass root level.

ing at gross root level. He said that journalists of small cities and towns are the main source of news feeding to major media houses and real asset of the journalism. Since the politics has roots at local level, the journalism also has roots at local level, he said.

asserting that journalism is the ears and eyes of a living society and without these, a living society has no brain. He said that journalistic patterns and practices are fast changing mainly because of technological advancement, thus ensuring speedy development and impacting the so-



The APNA Central President Mian Ghaffar, Central General Secretary Muzammil Soharwardi, KPK President Malik Muhammad Javed Mohmand, Sindh President Fiaz Hussain, Balochistan President Fahad Tariq, and Punjab President Shehbaz Khan also spoke on the occasion.

Caretaker Federal Information Minister acknowledged the efforts and hardships of the regional journalists in news gathering.



PM Kakar felicitates Justice (ret) Arshad Hussain took oath as caretaker CM KPK

PESHAWAR (Online): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Justice retired Arshad Hussain Shah took oath of office.

The swearing-in ceremony was held at Governor House Peshawar where Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali administered oath to Justice Retired Arshad Hussain Shah.

Chief Justice Peshawar High Court, Advocate General, Mayor Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali, former caretaker provincial cabinet members, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, IG Police Akhtar Hayat Gandapur, Commissioner Peshawar and administrative heads of provincial departments participated in the ceremony.

Governor Haji Ghulam Ali congratulated Caretaker Chief Minister Justice Arshad Hussain Shah on assuming new responsibilities and expressed his best wishes.

It should be noted that after the death of Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Azam Khan, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali approved the appointment of retired Justice Arshad Hussain Shah as Caretaker Chief Minister on Sunday.

According to the order issued by the Governor, he approved the appointment of caretaker Chief Minister under Article 224.

APP adds: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday felicitated Justice retired Syed Arshad Hussain Shah on taking oath of the office of Caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The prime minister also extended his best wishes to the caretaker chief minister, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. After the death of former Caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan, the appointment of Justice (ret) Arshad Hussain had met the important constitutional requirement, he added.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Senior Deputy Convener, Dr. Farooq Sattar along with leaders of Muslim League (PML-N) addressing to media persons during press conference after meeting held at t Bahadurabad Markaz in Karachi.

Minus anyone is not part of our agenda: Saad

KARACHI (Online): Leader of Muslim League (N) and former Federal Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique has said that "minus" anyone is not included in the agenda of PML-N. He said he will correct the mistakes that have been made in the past and socio-political relationship will be promote.

In the culture that PTI had instilled, they even distanced themselves from talking to each other. Saad Rafique

While holding a press conference with Ayaz Sadiq and other PML-N leaders at the Karachi Press Club, Khawaja Saad Rafiq said that they are honored to be in the big press club of Asia.

Members of Karachi Press Club have made great sacrifices for democracy.

He said that we are making political and social contacts in Karachi.

We went to meet Pir Sahib Pagara where we had

a positive discussion which will go ahead, we will also go to MQM, if the government is formed he will make constitutional amendments, he added.

Khawaja Saad Rafique said that the biggest city of Pakistan has become ruins, it is the biggest city of Asia which has been neglected in every government, we have made a map of the future.

He said that in the culture that PTI had practiced, they had distanced themselves from talking to each other.

"Minusing" anyone is not included in the agenda of PML-N, we are grateful to all those people who have believed that Nawaz Sharif will become the prime minister, Saad Rafique

He said Karachi city has been ignored for decades, social connection should not be broken and connections should be maintained.

PM arrives after concluding official visit to KSA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday arrived here after completing his three-day official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia where he attended the Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit in Riyadh over the Gaza situation.

Earlier, at the King Khalid International Airport, the prime minister was seen off by the high diplomatic officials of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

During his visit, the prime minister addressed the summit besides, held meetings with the Arab and Islamic countries leaders on the sidelines of the main event.

Multan-Sukkur Motorway M-5 closure due to fog

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of commuters, the entry of all kinds of traffic from RYK Toll Plaza (559 SB) has been restricted due to fog in patches and decreased visibility in the area of Beat-27 of Motorway Zone MW (C-II) MULTAN, Sector-II, M-5.

The diversion is being established at 579 rukan pur to 525 Azampur.

All precautionary measures have been adopted while FWO has also been informed for closures of Toll Plaza public relations officer told APP on Sunday.

OIC displayed weak stance on Palestine issue: Maulana Fazal

MURREE (INP): Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the head of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl, stated on Sunday that while the Muslim Ummah is currently united, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has unfortunately displayed a weak stance on the issue of Palestine.

Speaking at a public gathering in Murree, Fazl expressed solidarity with the Palestinians and assured them of continued support from Pakistan at all international forums.

Fazl urged the global community to play a role in halting the atrocities against Palestinians, noting that protest demonstrations

against Israeli oppression had taken place in the United States, United Kingdom, France and other countries. The JUL-F leader highlighted that Israeli forces had committed atrocities against innocent Palestinians, including children and women which, according to him, was a cowardly act.

Fazl further said that it was the duty of the entire Muslim Ummah to stand with the Palestinians and wage a war against Western forces. The JUL-F chief mentioned that his party believed in ideological politics, adding that instead of adhering to the narratives of the past, everyone must move towards a new direction.



MURREE: Amir Jamiat Ulema Islam Maulana Fazlur Rehman addressing Tofan Al-Aqsa Conference

Govt fails to make progress on World Bank funded projects

ISLAMABAD (Online): The progress on more than half of the federal projects worth 6.7 billion dollars sponsored by the World Bank is unsatisfactory, while the World Bank has expressed serious concerns about these projects in its report.

The progress on the projects has been described as unsatisfactory.

The World Bank, together with the Ministry of Economic Affairs, has reviewed 20 projects worth \$6.7 billion.

Progress on projects worth \$3.4 billion has been

found to be partially satisfactory, while projects worth \$453 million have been identified as problematic.

The worst irregularities have been found in the WAPDA department, which has been ruled by retired generals for decades.

Apart from this, projects related to National Transmission and Dispatch Company, FBR, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Finance and State Bank are also facing problems, due to which benefits from these projects have been delayed.



DOHA: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haq meeting with Chief of Hamas Ismail Haniyeh

Siraj meets Ismail Haniyeh in Qatar, expressed solidarity with Palestinians

LAHORE (Online): Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Sirajul Haque met Hamas chief Ismail Hania in Qatar. On this occasion, the central leadership of Hamas and Director of Foreign Affairs of Jamaat-e-Islami Asif Luqman Qazi were also present.

Ismail Haniyeh, head of Hamas, gave a full briefing to Jamaat-e-Islami leader Sirajul Haq on the current situation in Gaza.

Ismail Haniyeh said in the meeting of Sirajul Haque that we are grateful to Jamaat-e-Islami and the Pakistani nation for expressing solidarity with the people of Gaza and Palestine.

Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Sirajul Haque while talking to Ismail Hania said that the whole Pakistan nation and Muslim Ummah stands with you.

Sirajul Haque in-

visited Ismail Haniyeh to address the historic Gaza March in Lahore on November 19.

Meanwhile, Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haque has returned to Pakistan after a six-day visit. He visited Iran, Turkey and Qatar during his six-day visit.

Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haque met with Iranian leader Ayatollah Agha Qumi and other leaders in Tehran.

Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haque met the Speaker of the Turkish Parliament Numan Kurtulmus and discussed the situation in Gaza.

Siraj-ul-Haq emphasized the joint role of the governments of Muslim countries, including Turkey, to save Gaza.

Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haque addressed the Palestine March in Istanbul.

Train crushes Sindh minister's brother to death in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A train crushed to death brother of Sindh Caretaker Minister for Mines and Minerals Development Mir Khuda Baksh Marri in Karachi on Sunday.

The incident was reported within the limits of Steel Town Police Station in Karachi.

The deceased was identified as Muhammad Hassan Marri, brother of the Sindh interim minister, said Rescue officials.

The police said the dead body has been shifted to a hospital for further legal action.

The police said Hassan Marri was roaming around in the area with ear plugs when he met the accident. Witnesses said he was guarding his herd of goats,



KARACHI: Consul General of UAE Bakhait Atiq Al-Romiti, Maulana Bashir Farooqi, Atif Bajwa, Salman Rafique and others visiting National Stadium during mega IT entry test organized by Sailani Welfare International

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Constant threat of polio

As far as Balochistan is concerned, it is a good sign that no fresh polio case has been reported in the province since January 2021. The Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Polio Eradication had recorded last case of polio from Killa Abdullah district of Balochistan in January two years ago. This means Balochistan is free of the polio virus for around two years. But, it is equally matter of great concern that five cases of polio have been reported from rest of the country. The official reports suggested that the wild Poliovirus 1 has crippled another child in Pakistan as a 31-month-old male child has been found affected by polio in UC-4 Gujro, Gadap Town, in District East Karachi.

According to the EOC Sindh, a 31-month-old boy has been affected by Wild Poliovirus 1 in the notorious UC-4 Gujro, Gadap Town in District East Karachi. It is the 5th polio case of 2023 in Pakistan and the 2nd case in Karachi. The official of EOC maintained that the latest polio case had been reported from the same area in the Gadap Town where the 4th polio case of the year was reported last month. Needless to mention here is that the fifth child who has been affected by the polio is an Afghan national. As per the official reports, this child had received three doses of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) as per routine immunisation, two shots of intravenous polio vaccine (IPV) while the child has also received OPV doses on more than seven occasions. He maintained that genetic sequencing of the isolated virus was under way but no travel history of the child had emerged. He added that an intensive investigation had been launched to ascertain the circumstances that led to resurgence of the poliovirus in Karachi.

It is also worth mentioning here that most of the polio cases in Karachi have been reported from the same UC-4 Gujro, Gadap Town, which has been a hub of Afghan nationals who regularly travel to their native areas in Afghanistan from there. The UC is also known for resurgence of polio vaccination during anti-polio campaigns. A day earlier on Thursday, it emerged that Type-1 Wild Poliovirus (WPV1) was detected in nine environmental samples that were collected in October. Four of those samples were collected from Karachi, two from Chaman and one each from Peshawar, Kohat and Nowshera. According to officials, the total number of polio cases in Pakistan in 2023 has reached five while the new detections have taken the total number of positive environmental (sewage) samples in the country in 2023 to 64. The matter of concern is that the polio virus has also been detected in the environmental samples in Quetta, Pishin, Killa Abdullah and Hub districts in spite of the fact that no new case of the crippling disease has been reported yet since January 2021.

Surely the credit of this particularly achievement goes to the provincial government, health department, EOC Balochistan and, above all, the health workers who have served the cause with utmost dedication and extra passion. But, still there is a need to go extra mile to achieve the goal of polio-free province and the country. For the purpose, joint efforts are needed on part of all the stakeholders including the parents and community besides the health officials engaged in the task of polio eradication.

We cannot forget



Muna Khan

We were in Lebanon following Israel's 'longest war in the Middle East' in 2006 where Hezbollah fought back for 34 days. Wars shouldn't have winners but Hasan Nasrallah topped popularity polls across the region then, irrespective of faith.

So, here we were face to face with members of an organisation once famed as suicide bombers but who were now a dominant political player as elected members of the government. These young men walked us through this exhibit, talking in broken/basic English, Arabic, French about Israel's war crimes in Lebanon. There was no whataboutery, nothing was lost in translation. The men even gifted us memorabilia when we left — stickers, notebooks, literature and CDs, and a better perspective on armed resistance, sans hyperbole.

My friend wanted to visit Qana, a village in southern Lebanon, 12 kilometres north of the border with Israel, the site of devastating Israeli air strikes in 1996 and 2006 that killed hundreds, many of them children. We managed, without Google maps, to find a site which villagers

had chosen to memorialise by placing schoolbags, shoes and other paraphernalia. I hope you won't think I was participating in disaster tourism; the few villagers who helped us find this place said they were happy that Pakistanis hadn't forgotten.

I understood why Hezbollah had memorialised the gruesome images outside one of the country's most popular tourist destinations and why villagers came together to place objects around trees. It is easy to use 'never forget' hashtags on social media but quite something else to stand still and witness the impact of war. Many friends slam this as 'war porn' but having taken many guests to the War Remnants Museum in Saigon when I was living in Vietnam, I assure you there is no 'viewing for emotional gratification'. Many American friends said they did not have the full picture about their country's role in Vietnam until they visited this museum.

After switching to a market economy five years following the end of the American war in 1975, Vietnam's growth has been remarkable; it has emerged as the fastest-growing economy in Southeast Asia and is expected to emerge as one of the top 10 consumer markets by 2030. The largest demographic in Vietnam has no connection to a war that ravaged its country, but every day, hundreds of school-

children visit that War Museum to remember the price it has paid to be where it is today. There is no doubt about the aggressor.

Are these museums commemorating hyper-nationalism? I leave that to people far smarter than I to answer as I can only speak about the impact visiting such places had on me. I am not Hezbollah, Hamas or Viet Cong or sitting far away waiting to hear if my entire family has been wiped out in Gaza or if one person was spared in an attack that will be blamed on a group that is defending its territories.

Palestine is an open-war museum. The demonstrations across the world are a testament to how people get it now. It is also a reminder about today's demographics: younger people have no connect to testimonies about the Holocaust. They only know who the oppressor is right now: Israel.

In his interview to Democracy Now, the American writer Tan-Nehisi Coates spoke about his visit to Palestine, and how uncomplicated the issue is.

"You don't need a PhD in Middle Eastern studies to understand the basic morality of holding a people in a situation where they don't have basic rights," he said.

You understood on the first day, he told another gathering. That's something we should never forget. -- Courtesy Dawn

Rising terrorism



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Since the dawn of this century, terrorism has been the principal threat to the people of Pakistan. By 2015, Pakistani law-enforcement authorities had succeeded in crushing terrorist forces, through military operations in Swat, South Waziristan and North Waziristan. A National Action Plan was adopted in 2015 to flush out the remaining terrorist holdouts through intelligence operations. The strategy worked well till 2019, with few terrorist incidents.

However, since 2020, the terrorists have become active again. This year alone, there have been dozens of terrorist attacks, mostly against the security establishment. This upsurge has put at risk the success Pakistan had achieved against terrorism. With the TTP having launched a full-fledged war against Pakistan's people, we need to introspect over what went wrong, and what can remedy deteriorating law and order.

Since the Taliban takeover of Kabul in 2021, there has been a 60 per cent increase in terrorist incidents in Pakistan. This is not to suggest that the Taliban government is responsible. However, the TTP continues to have space in Afghanistan to plan and carry out attacks in Pakistan. Ostensibly, the objective is to dislodge the government of Pakistan from the Pakhtun tribal belt in former Fata, and enforce the Taliban's interpretation of Sharia.

Pakistanis are often puzzled why our western

neighbour is working against us after all we did for the liberation of Afghans from Soviet occupation and the humanitarian support rendered during the US-led 'war on terror'. Pakistan hosted millions of Afghan refugees, many of whom were undocumented for decades, with some suspected of unlawful activities.

Regrettably, Indian-sponsored terrorism is the other dynamic underlying heightened terrorist activity in Pakistan. Last year, the government announced that a dossier containing details and evidence of New Delhi's role in a deadly 2021 car bombing in Lahore had been prepared which was to be shared with the UN. In 2020, Pakistan had unveiled a dossier documenting evidence of how New Delhi had used terrorism to destabilise Pakistan. From Kashmir Singh (apprehended in 1973) to Surjeet Singh (1982) and Sarabjit Singh (1990), India used a series of intelligence agents to organise and bankroll terrorism in Pakistan. India has also used the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) between 2002 and 2012 to create civil unrest in Balochistan. In 2016, Kulbhushan Jadhav, a serving Indian officer, was apprehended in Balochistan, carrying a passport bearing the name of Hussain Mubarak Patel. He confessed to committing terrorism and spying for Indian intelligence.

Some domestic factors have also contributed to the rise of terrorism here, including vertical inequalities (gap between rich and poor) and horizontal inequities (gap between the various regions of Pakistan). Poverty levels have risen sharply, which makes it easy for detractors to recruit potential terrorists.

Identifying reasons for the rise of terrorism in Pakistan is easy. The real challenge is how to address them. The first policy option is to stay closely engaged with the Taliban government on issues of effective border management, the rights of those living on both sides of the border, bilateral and transit trade, the return of undocumented refugees, and the need to shrink the space given to the TTP. Unilateral actions on any of these issues should be the last option.

Meanwhile, it is clear that the Modi government does not want to normalise ties with Pakistan. Any initiative by Pakistan at this time is not likely to be reciprocated. After the 2024 elections, there might be some space for diplomacy to lower tensions and India's hostility towards Pakistan. Mean-while, Pakistan needs to effectively counter India's propaganda of 'cross-border terrorism', and also watch closely the growing Indian interest in regaining lost space in Afghanistan.

Addressing the root causes of poverty, social inequalities and underdevelopment in Balochistan is a pressing need. The recent demonstration by the people of Gwadar for their rights and basic facilities is a case in point. Balochistan is central to CPEC and overall national development. The people of Balochistan must have full ownership of the development programmes in their province. Setting up effective local governments is the answer to meeting the demands of local population and countering BLA propaganda.

Political instability, living beyond means, resurgence of terrorism, bad governance, unemployed youth, extremist outfits, and a mindset of 'might is right' are an explosive mix. No wonder, our people feel despondent. Their hopes and belief in Pakistan can be revived by creating a justice system that ensures equal rights for every citizen. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Rs 46 bln recovered from power pilferers in anti power theft drive

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary Power Division Rashid Langrial on Sunday said that an amount of Rs 46 billion has been recovered from the power pilferers from September 7 to October 31 during the ongoing anti-power theft campaign.

"Today as the results for the first two months (53 days to be exact) are out, I must put things in perspective.

Our estimated annual losses across the national grid for the current year are Rs 589 billion. Of total Rs 589, roughly Rs 199 billion come from ex-FATA, Balochistan tube-wells and AJK," he revealed on a social media handle.

These areas are not the focus of this campaign because of their own peculiarities, he said and added that AJK collects its own bills but does not pay us at the same rate because it sees it as a contractually disputed payment; ex-FATA because they are exempted from meters due to a policy of appeasement in the wake of integration and Balochistan tube-wells on account of various factors, least of which is not the enforcement challenge.

He said, "We are working on the remaining problem space of Rs 390 billion of which we are able to recover Rs 46 billion in 53 days i.e. PKR 867

million per day. If the same level of state support and field effort can be maintained (and that is a big if, I must add), 80 per cent of the problem space gets resolved."

The secretary said they were conscious of the challenge of sustaining the drive beyond the campaign but they have demonstrated beyond doubt that there was nothing that could not be resolved with the right mix of state's will and field effort.

"That day, we promised that no one will be spared, high or mighty; sacred or not-so-sacred," he said.

He went on to say that

we have reshuffled, suspended, prosecuted even arrested our staff at a scale never seen before; put thieves behind bars at a rate never observed before i.e. roughly 470 persons per day; have shunned extraneous influence with full support of the Prime Minister, the Minister-in-Charge and other quadrants of state power.

In the process we have erred, learnt and corrected our course where needed, he said.

He said officers and staff have suffered at the hands of the little mafias and they were thrashed, injured, made hostage and fired upon.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi is cutting the ribbon to inaugurate Longi Solar's at Gulberg.



LAHORE: A large numbers of people is busy in buying shoes and warm clothes in a Landa Bazaar at Hajji Camp in Provincial Capital.

Real Estate president No more tax on construction sector due to IMF pressure

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Islamabad Estate Agents Association Sardar Tahir Mehmood and General Secretary Chaudhry Zahid Rafique have rejected the terms of imposing more taxes by the IMF and said that the construction sector is under IMF pressure but more taxes are not approved by increasing the tax.

This will cause the

storm of inflation, he added. He said that many sectors, including the construction sector, will face difficulties by increasing the tax, so the government should not avoid such decisions and give maximum relief to the business community, especially the export industry, so that Income can increase.

Rs.453.8m fine imposed on 3694 power pilferers

FAISALABAD (APP): The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) caught 3,694 power pilferers during the last 65 days and imposed Rs. 453.8 million fine for stealing electricity in various areas of the company during the ongoing special anti-power theft drive.

Spokesman Tahir Sheikh said here on Sunday that over 9.813 million detection units were charged.

Railways to introduce TDAS for improved track visibility in foggy conditions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is set to introduce the 'Train Driver Assistant System' (TDAS) to help train drivers a clear view of the railway tracks up to an impressive distance of 700 meters.

"The technology aims to enhance the safety and efficiency of train operations during adverse weather conditions, particularly in the presence of dense smog and fog," an official in the Ministry told APP.

The system, he said the TDAS is set to

ICCI, MCI collaborate to enhance Islamabad's business environment

ISLAMABAD (APP): As part of an ongoing effort to enhance the business environment in Islamabad, a collaborative meeting was held between the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI), led by Chief Officer Rana Waqas Anwar. The meeting, held

at the invitation of ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, brought together key stakeholders from both organizations to discuss pressing concerns and explore potential solutions. During the meeting, a comprehensive range of issues affecting the business community was addressed.

FBR crackdown on Non-Duty paid cigarettes with 429 raids

ISLAMABAD (APP): In an unprecedented effort to tackle the issue of Non-Duty Paid/Counterfeit cigarettes, the teams of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) have recently carried out a remarkable 429 raids across the country.

The dedicated efforts resulted in the seizure of approximately 16 million Non-Duty paid/counterfeit cigarette sticks, according to a news release issued here on Sunday.

On the direction of Chairman FBR, Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana, Member Inland Revenue Operations, Mir Badshah Khan Wazir supervised the whole exercise.

According to him, the success of this exercise would convey an unequivocal message to the duty evaders to forthwith halt their illicit practices.

He also reiterated to continually fight the issue till its logical conclusion. It was further resolved that in the next phase of the drive, criminal proceedings would be initiated against such culprits.

PKI calls for an end to farmers' exploitation, urges immediate relief

MULTAN (APP): Chairman of Pakistan Kissan Ittehad (PKI), Khalid Khokar, vehemently called upon the government to address the alarming exploitation of farmers, emphasizing the urgent need for immediate relief. In a news conference and demonstration held on Sunday, Khokar highlighted the distressing situation faced by farmers who are grappling with a manifold increase in input

prices while not receiving adequate compensation for their produce. Khokar drew attention to the fact that cotton was not being purchased at the recommended price of Rs 8,500, leading to significant financial setbacks for farmers.

The maize crop, in particular, is causing farmers to incur losses of Rs 100,000 per acre. This grim scenario extends to other crops as well.

Elections will result in a stable economy: Atif

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's presidential candidate, Atif Ikram Sheikh, said on Sunday that elections will result in a stable economy as the elected government can implement tough reforms to strengthen the country facing serious problems.

Alignment between the elected government and people will stabilize the political and economic scenario, which is necessary for development and luring international investments, he added.

Talking to the business community, Atif Ikram Sheikh, who has also served as VP of FPCCI, Chairman of PVMA, and President of ICCI, said that Pakistan was facing unparalleled economic challenges that needed to be overcome.

The business leader lauded the government for undertaking the required reforms to improve the economy but added that a lot has to be done in this regard. "The business community supports all structural reforms."

Deadly diseases like diabetes can be controlled by healthy lifestyle, healthy food: Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali Sunday said that by adopting a healthy lifestyle and healthy food, dangerous and deadly diseases like diabetes could be controlled. Diabetes is a silent killer, diagnosis and proper management of this disease takes time and diabetes is a serious health challenge, he added.

To deal with this, we need to change our lifestyle, he said and added that as a result of prevention of diabetes, the risk of other diseases could also be reduced and in this context philanthropists should serve humanity. "I

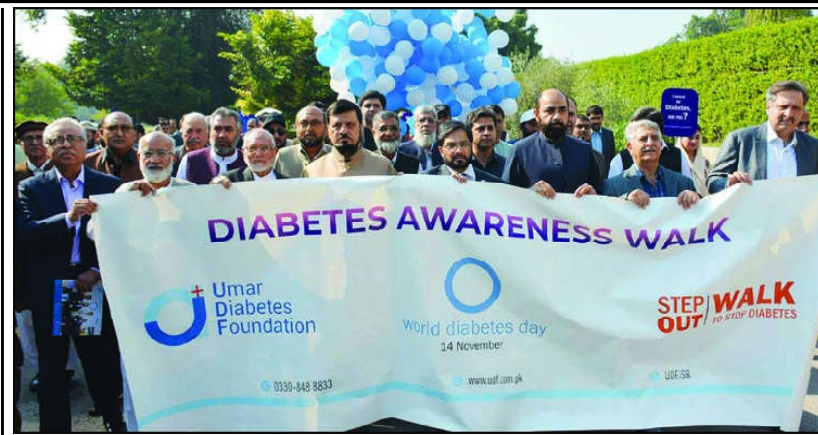
will fully cooperate with the welfare institutions engaged and serving the ailing humanity," he said while addressing a function organized by Omar Diabetes Foundation on the occasion of World Diabetes Day at Governor House here Sunday.

Omar Foundation Chairman Justice (Retd) Mian Muhammad Ajamal, CEO Dr. Umar Rohab, Professor Dr. Ahrar Ahmed, Dr. Sheikh Fahad Falah, members of the Board of Directors, diabetes experts, social and political personalities and representatives of the business community also

participated in the ceremony.

Chairman Umar Foundation Justice (Retd) Mian Muhammad Ajamal, Professor Dr. Ahrar Ahmed and CEO Dr. Umar Wahab while addressing the ceremony, informed the Governor and other stakeholders about the Umar Foundation were performing by serving the people in Islamabad, Muzaffarabad and Peshawar.

He said that Pakistan was the third largest country in the world in terms of the prevalence of diabetes, where there were more than 30 million diabetic patients.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam leading the walk on the occasion of World Diabetes Day organized by Omar Diabetes Foundation at Governor House.

CM visits Bibi Pak Daman mazar, reviews renovation work

Orders removing encroachments on 32 major roads

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid a detailed visit to Mazar Bibi Pak Daman Sunday morning here and reviewed progress being made on the renovation and extension of the project.

Provincial Minister for Auqaf Azfar Ali Nasir also accompanied him. The renovation and extension project of Mazar Bibi Pak Daman is near completion. The CM ordered early completion of the project and ordered to complete the task during the current month.

Naqvi visited extended parts of the Mazar and monitored work being carried out at the central part along with renovation of the dome of Mazar. Mohsin Naqvi inspected the finishing work of other domes including the central dome and issued necessary directions to Secretary Communication and Works. CM also directed to illuminate all the domes of Mazar with elegant lights.

He offered a special prayer at the Mazar for the progress, prosperity, stability, integrity peace of the country and for the safety of oppressed Palestinian Muslims. Secretary C&W gave a briefing about the completion of renovation and extension project of the Mazar. Secretary Auqaf, Commissioner Lahore division and officials concerned were also present.

Meanwhile, the Punjab government, on special orders of Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi of Punjab has decided to permanently remove temporary encroachments on 32 major roads of the city.

Speakers stress inter-faith harmony at 'Building bridges' dialogue

LAHORE (APP): An inter-faith dialogue titled 'Building bridges' was organised by the Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) at Naulakha Presbyterian Church, here on Sunday.

Prominent religious personalities including Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman Abdul Khabeer Azad, Kul Masalik Board Chairman Asim Makhdoom, Naulakha Presbyterian Church Senior Pastor Dr Majid Abel, Data Darbar Masjid Khateeb Mufti Ramzan Sialvi, Maulana Zubair Abid, Prof. Mehmood Ghaznavi, Prof. Sohail Raza, Head of Presbyterian Education Board Mrs. Veeda Javed, Mrs. Margy Trimble, Miss Sheryl Burke, Rev. Emmanuel Khokhar and a delegation from Board of Education Presbyterian participated in the event.

The participants discussed promotion of religious tolerance in society, and overcoming challenges and problems in this regard. All leaders expressed their determination to work hard for promotion of religious tolerance and harmony.



LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council Maulana Tahir Ashrafi addressing a press conference Naulakha Presbyterian Church in Provincial Capital.

Police responds to 28,000 calls, messages on Women Safety App

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Police and Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) jointly responded to 28,000 calls and messages from women in the province, during the on-going year.

The PSCA official sources told APP on Sunday that the Women Safety App was developed for women to ensure their safety, an application that allows users to send an alert to the police or to a family member with just one tap.

He said the Anti-Women Harassment and Violence cells had taken timely action through the App and arrested the accused in the last 10 months against whom strict legal action was taken.

The App was launched to provide immediate help to women in which various links including Cyber Crime, Rescue, National Highway, Motorway and other helpline numbers had also been provided. The App also allows its users to review different public locations in terms of safety, an official said adding that green pins indicate the location was safe for women, orange means the area was partially secure.



LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi reviews progress being made on the renovation and extension of the project during his visit Mazar Bibi Pak Daman.

KP, China Window sign MoU to promote Pak, China friendship, culture

PESHAWAR (APP): A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Sunday between the Provincial Department of Local Government, Elections and Rural Development (LGE&RDD) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan and China Window, a Chinese cultural center established in Peshawar.

The MoU aims to promote Pakistan-China friendship, Chinese culture, and development in various areas of life throughout Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The MoU signing ceremony was held in the conference room of the Local Government Department. Secretary Local Council Board Mian Shafiqur Rehman and Administrator of China Window Amjad Aziz Malik signed the memorandum. Secretary Local Government, Elections and Rural Development Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dawood Khan, Special Secretary Establishment Local Government Muhammad Masood Khan and Director China Window Imtiaz Ahmed were also present on the occasion.

Five drug dealers held during raid

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested five drug dealers and recovered more than 05 kg of drugs from their possession during the crackdown here on Sunday.

According to a police spokesman, Rata Amral police conducted a raid and arrested two drug dealers namely Ameen and Abdul Jawad and recovered more than 2.5 kg of drugs from their possession. Similarly, Sadiqabad police held Haider Ali and recovered 1.4 kg of drugs from his custody. While Race Course police recovered 600 gram of charas from Fazal Haq. Following the operation, Waris Khan police recovered 570 gram of charas from Adnan. Police have registered separate cases against the accused and further investigation was underway. City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Mehmood Hamdani commended police teams and said the arrested accused will be brought to justice with solid evidence. He made it clear that strict action will be taken against those involved in supplying drugs.

AKU and UAJK jointly conduct course of health awareness communications

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): The Agha Khan University (AKU) and University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) jointly conducted a transformative two-day short course, titled "Accessing, Interpreting, and Reporting Health-Related Information to the Public," at UAJK on Saturday and Sunday.

This joint initiative, meticulously designed and executed by AKU, aimed at empowering media professionals and Mass Communication students with essential skills to effectively disseminate accurate health information. According to a press release of UAJK, the course was conducted by a grant from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), funded by the University of Warwick, and expertly organized by the Section of Non-Communicable Diseases & Mental Health, Department of Community Health Sciences (CHS) at AKU, that made a significant impact on students of Mass Communication.

Shafay says: PML-Q to make seat adjustments with PML-N

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid Punjab General Secretary Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said in a statement on Sunday that the PML-Q is not merging with any other party.

However, he added, the party would reach seat adjustments with the PML-N in some constituencies. He said the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid would maintain its individual status and its candidates would participate in elections on the tractor symbol.

International News

Erdogan says legal amendment could be needed to solve Turkish judicial crisis

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: President Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday parliament may pass a legal amendment to resolve a judicial crisis involving an unprecedented clash between two of the country's top courts.

The unprecedented confrontation between the tribunals stoked a debate over the rule of law this week, when the appeals Court of Cassation refused to abide by a ruling of the Constitutional Court over a jailed parliamentarian and made a criminal complaint against judges of the top court.

"It is not difficult to make legal arrangements regarding individual applications (to the Constitutional Court)," Erdogan told reporters on a flight back from Saudi Arabia, according to a text published by his office on Sunday.

"But the work is not done after completing the legal amendments on individual applications," he added, signalling that more legal changes on the matter could be considered.

At issue is a ruling by the Constitutional Court over last month that jailed parliamentarian Can Atalay should be released.

Atalay, 47, was sentenced to 18 years in prison last year after being convicted of trying to overthrow the government by organising nationwide protests in 2013, along with Turkish philanthropist Osman Kavala and six others.

All defendants denied the charges regarding the protests, which they said developed spontaneously, in the biggest popular challenge to Erdogan in his more than two decades in power.

In response to the Constitutional Court ruling, the Court of Cassation said the Constitutional Court's ruling was unconstitutional.



Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan attends Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

300,000 attend London's pro-Palestinian rally

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: More than 100,000 pro-Palestinian protesters marched through central London on Saturday, with police making more than 80 arrests as they sought to avert clashes between the marchers and groups opposed to the rally.

The pro-Palestinian march drew counter-protesters from far-right groups on Armistice Day, the anniversary of the end of World War One, involving commemorations of Britain's war dead.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said it was disrespectful to hold the rally on Armistice Day, and ministers had called for the cancellation of the march—the biggest so far in a series to show support for the Palestinians and call for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

Police said there were "significant numbers" of counter-protesters present in central London, and skirmishes broke out between them and police near the Cenotaph war memorial, close to the Houses of Parliament and in Westminster.

Some of the right-wing protesters threw bottles at officers, and police vehicles sped around the city to respond to reports of tensions in the streets. London's Met Police said later it had made 82 arrests of counter-protesters in a move designed to keep the peace, as far-right groups had tried to get close to the pro-Palestinian rally.

"We will continue to take action to avoid the disorder that would likely take place if that happened," the force said in a statement on social media.

After two-month hiatus, Moscow hits Kyiv again

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ending nearly two months of relative calm in the Ukrainian capital, a missile targeted Kyiv on Saturday without causing casualties, as frontline regions fended off waves of drone attacks overnight.

"Just between yesterday evening and this morning, (Russia launched) almost 40 drones and rockets..."

Ballistic attacks against Kyiv, drones, and rockets against Odesa, the Kharkiv region," said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

A missile targeted Kyiv "after a long pause of 52 days," said the head of the Kyiv city military administration Sergiy Popko.

AFP journalists in central Kyiv had heard two strong explosions and saw trails in the sky at dawn. Air sirens sounded soon after that.

The air force said it destroyed a missile approaching Kyiv — either an Iskander ballistic missile or an S-400 anti-aircraft missile — without reporting casualties.

Air defences last downed a missile in Kyiv on September 21.

The falling debris wounded seven people, including a child.



The leading candidate of the Dutch Labour Party, Frans Timmermans attends The March for Climate and Justice to demand political change before the elections in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

House Republicans split over aid for Ukraine, casting doubt on war effort

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: When President Joe Biden gave his State of the Union address in March 2022, five days after Russian forces invaded Ukraine, the Republicans and Democrats who filled the chamber showed nearly unanimous support for Kyiv's defense.

Twenty months later, that tone has changed. While most members of Congress still voice support for Ukrainians, a rift among the Republicans who control the House of Representatives has emerged and cast doubt on the prospects of passing even a fraction of the \$61 billion of additional aid Biden requested for Ukraine in October. Cracks had started to emerge in the House GOP by the time Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky made a surprise trip to the Capitol to address a joint session of Congress in December 2022. Rep. Russ Fulcher, a Republican who represents the western half of Idaho, said at the time he was "not comfortable with burdening the American taxpayer" with more aid without proof that the money was being well spent.



Britain's King Charles III, William, Prince of Wales, Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh, and Anne, Princess Royal, attend the National Service of Remembrance at The Cenotaph in Whitehall in London, Britain.

King Charles, UK PM lead remembrance services overshadowed

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: King Charles and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak led Britain in remembering the country's war dead on Sunday, seeking to unify communities a day after a large pro-Palestinian march was marked by skirmishes between far-right counter-protesters and police.

At a solemn ceremony at the Cenotaph war memorial on Whitehall in central London, Charles, Sunak, other politicians and senior members of the royal family held a two-minute silence and then laid wreaths to honour those killed in war.

Sunday's events were overshadowed by scenes of violence on Saturday, when far right protesters against a pro-Palestinian march skirmished with police, and accusations that Britain's interior minister had fuelled the tensions. Suella Braverman, whom opposition politicians and some in the governing Conservative Party have called on to step down, praised the police for their handling of Saturday's events.

"Enough" conflict, says Pope Francis as he calls for more aid to Gaza

Monitoring Desk
VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis on Sunday reiterated his plea for an end to hostilities between Israelis and Palestinians, and called for "much more" humanitarian aid for Gaza.

"Enough, enough brothers, enough", Francis said, adding the wounded in the Gaza Strip needed to be taken care of immediately and the protection of civilians assured. He also said hostages held by Hamas must be freed.

Addressing the crowds in St Peter's Square after his weekly Angelus prayers, Francis said arms would never bring peace and that the conflict must not widen.

"I am close to all those who suffer, Palestinians and Israelis," he said, adding he was praying for them. Israel said on Sunday it was ready to evacuate babies from Gaza's largest hospital, but Palestinian officials said people inside were still trapped as intense fighting rages nearby.

EU 'appalled' by reports of 1,000 killed in Darfur

Monitoring Desk
The European Union (EU) said on Sunday it was "appalled" by reports of more than 1,000 people killed this month in Sudan's West Darfur in an apparent "ethnic cleansing campaign" by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

"These latest atrocities are seemingly part of a wider ethnic cleansing campaign conducted by the RSF with the aim to eradicate the non-Arab Masalit community from West Darfur, and comes on top of the first wave of large violence in June," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said in a statement.

Since April, forces loyal to army chief Abdel Fattah el-Burhan — Sudan's de facto head of state — have been at war with the RSF commanded by his former deputy, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo. The EU statement said there were "credible eyewitness reports [that] more than a thousand members of the Masalit community were killed in Ardama.

UK lawmakers urge govt to proscribe Iran's Revolutionary Guard

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: British lawmakers and members of the upper house of parliament have called on the government to proscribe Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist organisation, saying it would be a step towards restoring stability to the Middle East.

Proscribing the IRGC as a terrorist group would mean it would become a criminal offence in Britain to belong to the group.



ISLAMABAD: Activists of Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen Pakistan (MWM) holds Philistine and Pakistani national flags during Philistine protest march in Federal Capital.

Ashrafi emphasizes urgency of implementing 'Joint Declarations on Palestine'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and the Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Sunday said Saudi Arabia, a key regional player in the Middle East, continued to play a crucial role in addressing the ongoing conflict between Palestine and Israel.

Addressing the media after the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit in Riyadh, he underscored the imperative of executing the declarations articulated during this significant gathering of Muslim world leaders regarding the Palestine issue. Ashrafi who is also the Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council, necessitated mutual understanding and collaborative endeavors to realize shared objectives. He said as the situation in the region remains tense, the Kingdom's diplomatic efforts, humanitarian support, and commitment to a just resolution had garnered global attention.

He noted that the participation of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, Jordanian

King Abdullah, Amir of Qatar Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Pakistani Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, and other dignitaries at the summit was a testament to their collective determination to pursue both temporary and permanent resolutions to the Palestine issue in the current circumstances.

Ashrafi said Saudi Arabia had been actively engaged in diplomatic efforts for an immediate ceasefire and to seek a peaceful resolution to the conflict mentioning that the Kingdom's leadership had conducted high-level discussions with various international counterparts, emphasizing the

importance of ending the hostilities and achieving a comprehensive peace agreement. He said Saudi Arabia and other Islamic countries were consistently advocating for a two-state solution as the basis for a lasting peace. "This solution envisions an independent Palestinian state coexisting alongside Israel, with mutually agreed-upon borders and East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine," he maintained.

Ashrafi said the Kingdom had provided financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority, helping it maintain essential public services and meet the needs of its population.

King Abdullah, Amir of Qatar Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Pakistani Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, and other dignitaries at the summit was a testament to their collective determination to pursue both temporary and permanent resolutions to the Palestine issue in the current circumstances.

Ashrafi said Saudi Arabia had been actively engaged in diplomatic efforts for an immediate ceasefire and to seek a peaceful resolution to the conflict mentioning that the Kingdom's leadership had conducted high-level discussions with various international counterparts, emphasizing the

Indonesia Ambassador declares Murree 'Sister City' to Bali, urges tourism boost

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan, Adam M. Tugio on Sunday said that Murree can be counted among the most beautiful regions in the world and the natural beauty of Murree can compete with any major tourism spot in the world.

Indonesia Ambassador to Pakistan, Adam Tugio said that the world-famous tourist destinations of Pakistan, Murree, and Indonesia, Bali, can be called sister cities, for which the two governments should start talking and this will promote tourism on both sides.

He said this while talking to the Journalist and local business community in the local hotel of Murree.

The Ambassador of Indonesia said that there are historical religious and cultural relations between Pakistan and Indonesia, which are based on many factors needs to be transferred to the new generation. He said that Pakistan maintained friendship with Indonesia from the early years of independence, which can not be denied in the form of modern mutual economic, trade, cultural and diplo-

matic relations.

The ambassador of Indonesia said that 600 soldiers went from Pakistan for the freedom of Indonesia, some of whom sacrificed their lives there, and as the sun of freedom rose in Indonesia, the relations between the two countries were growing day by day. Meanwhile, the ambassador of Indonesia said that the founder of Indonesia, Ahmad Sukarno, and the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, had a relationship of personal friendship, that's why you see similarities between most famous Jinnah Cap and Soekarno Cap.

He said that Allama Iqbal's poetry has an influence on many movements in Indonesia and Allama Iqbal is equally popular in Indonesia.

The Ambassador said that there is similarity in the food and culture of the two countries and the habits of the two nations are similar in terms of food and drink and spices. In response to a question Indonesian Ambassador Adam Tugio said that he will do his best for the visit of Murree journalists to Indonesia and in this

regard, Murree Press Club will be contacted soon.

He said that the visit of Murree journalists to Indonesia will give them an opportunity to know about Indonesia, which will increase mutual intimacy. Adam Tugio said that Indonesia announces scholarships for students every year and this year also the scholarship was awarded in the same way.

He emphasized that the children of Murree journalists should apply for Indonesia's scholarship, they should give priority to them and will be fully supported by the Indonesian Embassy Islamabad in this regard.

In response to a question, the Ambassador of Indonesia said that the mutual economic and trade relations between Pakistan and Indonesia are very strong and bilateral trade between the two countries is \$ 4.5 billion dollars, which needs to be further increased. He said that there is a need to promote mutual relations between the people of both the countries so that mutual intimacy between the people can increase.

President should represent all political parties: Solangi

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi here on Sunday said President Dr. Arif Alvi should represent all political parties in accordance with the law and the Constitution for fostering unity in the country.

Talking to media, Solangi said that the President's role was not limited to one party, urging him to speak on behalf of all the political parties.

He said if President Alvi continued to speak for one political party, it would undermine his own credibility. To a query, he said the country would be governed by the elected representatives, adding adherence to the Constitution should be a collective commitment. Highlighting the essence of democracy as a platform for dialogue, Solangi dismissed concerns over complaints and grievances, stating that every party and individual had the right to voice their concerns at appropriate forums including courts and the election commission.

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi here on Sunday said President Dr. Arif Alvi should represent all political parties in accordance with the law and the Constitution for fostering unity in the country.

Talking to media, Solangi said that the President's role was not limited to one party, urging him to speak on behalf of all the political parties.

He said if President Alvi continued to speak for one political party, it would undermine his own credibility. To a query, he said the country would be governed by the elected representatives, adding adherence to the Constitution should be a collective commitment. Highlighting the essence of democracy as a platform for dialogue, Solangi dismissed concerns over complaints and grievances, stating that every party and individual had the right to voice their concerns at appropriate forums including courts and the election commission.



SAPM on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrah Malik held meeting with ILO delegation.

Growing traffic woes in I'abad spark concerns among commuters

ISLAMABAD (Online): Road users in Islamabad are grappling with severe traffic congestion, particularly at the city's main entrance, Faizabad, during peak hours.

The presence of Islamabad Traffic Police personnel, combined with operational police, has intensified the situation, leading to allegations of undue stops and stringent penalties for alleged traffic violations. The Safe City cameras at this entry point are touted as potential proof of the traffic chaos, although authorities have yet to address the mounting concerns.

This surge in traffic policing practices follows a recent increase in fine amounts for traffic violations. Residents report instances of misbehavior by traffic police officers, with arguments and confrontations becoming common.

It is claimed that engaging in discussions or disagreements with the police can result in escalated fines and the imposition of additional penalty sections.

A recent incident involving Shehzad Masih, a motorcyclist and sanitary worker, highlighted the challenges faced by citizens. Masih admitted to violating a one-way route near CDA and, on November 4, 2023, was allegedly humiliated and fined Rs. 2000 by Traffic Constables Asad and Usman who later impounded his bike at Aabpara police station.

Seeking redress, Masih has called for action from Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, appealing to the Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti for a more courteous attitude and reduced fines, especially for the labor

class.

In response to these allegations, sources within the traffic police, speaking on the condition of anonymity, acknowledged the increased fine amounts. They expressed the difficulty in satisfying road users after imposing hefty fines, acknowledging the irked response.

However, they provided examples of various countries where substantial fines compel citizens to adhere to traffic laws. They emphasized that it is the responsibility of citizens to comply with traffic regulations, and a collaborative effort between the police and the public can contribute to a reduction in road accidents.

The newly appointed SSP traffic is reportedly working to understand road issues in Islamabad, proposing refresher courses for traffic policemen.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan Frederico Silva is taking keen interest in handmade items during Behbud art and craft bazaar at Pak China Friendship Center in Federal Capital.

Health advocates urge to strengthen GHWs on tobacco products

ISLAMABAD (INP): The public health advocates have issued a compelling plea for an immediate expansion of Graphic Health Warnings (GHW) on tobacco products within the country.

In a statement issued by the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), these activists have conveyed profound apprehension regarding the devastating impact of tobacco consumption on public health, particularly among children. They contend that fortified GHWs can assume a pivotal role in diminishing tobacco usage and averting associated health hazards.

Malik Imran Ahmed, the Country Head of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK), has emphasized the urgency for Pakistan to take immediate mea-

asures to augment the size and visibility of GHWs on tobacco products. The prevailing health warning, currently set at 60%, frequently goes unnoticed by consumers, including vulnerable children, owing to its diminutive dimensions and discreet placement. It's worth noting that Pakistan's neighbouring countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, the Maldives, and Myanmar have adopted significantly larger GHWs.

Imran has recommended increasing the GHW size to encompass a minimum of 85% of the primary display areas of cigarette packs and other tobacco products. This decisive action would guarantee that the warnings become conspicuous and easily discernible for all consumers, with particular consideration to children.

Nawaz Sharif to visit Balochistan tomorrow

QUETTA (Online): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif will arrive in Quetta tomorrow (Tuesday) on a 2-day visit to Balochistan.

According to legal sources, Nawaz Sharif will discuss the political situation in Balochistan with the party leaders during his visit.

Sources say that Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz will also accompany Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

After meeting Mian Nawaz Sharif, important political leaders of Balochistan will join the (N) League.

Apart from this, the seat adjustment agreement between Muslim League-N and Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) is also expected to be announced.

While party leaders talking to the media, the central leader of PMLN Ayaz Sadiq has confirmed that Mian Nawaz Sharif will go on a two-day visit to Balochistan on November 14.

Maryam Nawaz will play a political role in Balochistan.

PPP declares Dar as illegal leader of House in Senate

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Nayar Hussain Bukhari has declared Ishaq Dar as an illegal Leader of the House in the Senate.

In an interview with local news Channel, Bukhari said that Dar is illegally taking the facilities of the Leader of the House and using this position for his own political purposes. He also questioned why Shahbaz Sharif was proposed as Leader of the House when he is no longer the Prime Minister.

Bukhari further alleged that the governor's house is being used by the Muslim League-N (PML-N) for political purposes, and that its leaders have gone there to condole and distribute tickets. He said that no one, including the Election Commission, has raised any questions about this, which is unacceptable.

"We have also filed cases," Bukhari said. "We have not left the party. If someone commits a crime, he should be dealt with according to the law. In 2018, people were sent to a party. This should not happen again today."

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad College for Girls (ICG) F-6/2 yesterday organised an event of its Alumni Reunion in which over 200 old students of institution participated.

The tagline of the event was "Bachpan se pachpan tak" held to celebrate 55 glorious years of success and achievements of college. The Chief Patron for Life Ms. Nusrat Khan, Chairperson and principal college Prof. Sabah Faisal, President Ms. Saira Kamran, Vice President Ms. Zainab Raza, Secretary Ms. Asia

PTI accuses ECP of planning to rig elections

ABBOTTABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) General Secretary Umar Ayub has accused the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) of planning to rig the upcoming general elections.

In a statement on social media, Ayub alleged that the ECP is planning to appoint District Returning Officers (DROs) and Assistant District Returning Officers (ADROs) of

grade 17 and 18 who have less than one year of retirement. He claimed that these officers will be specially rewarded if they follow the instructions of rigging, and will be shown the retirement stick if they fail.

Ayub said that this is a clear attempt to rig the elections, and that it is pushing Pakistan towards a path where there will be no way to restore democracy.

"The rigging plan before the general elections makes it clear that we are entering dark days," he said.

The PTI spokesperson has also condemned the negative propaganda campaign carried out against the party, and said that PTI is the only political party that fully believes in the observance of the constitution and the law.



ISLAMABAD: Woman visiting stall during "Folk Festival Lok Mela" at Lok Virsa.

I'abad Capital Police continues drive to check traffic rules violations

ISLAMABAD (APP): The campaign of Islamabad Capital Police to check violation of traffic rules is in full swing and special efforts are being made to maintain traffic discipline in the city.

The main objective of this road safety campaign is to ensure safety to the people while road users are being educated for lane discipline during driving.

Following the directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has constituted special teams to control lane violations on various roads and ensure smooth flow of traffic in the city. Strict checking is being made against those not using helmets during bike

ride.

Police teams remain present on all important roads and boulevards of the city in order to educate road users about traffic rules. FM Radio 92.4 is also disseminating the messages about road safety and to educate the audience about traffic rules.

Islamabad Capital Police has appealed to the citizens to cooperate with the force by following traffic laws. He said that action would be taken against those not following lanes while drivers the sole purpose is to ensure a safe road environment in the city.

Islamabad capital police hoped citizens will follow traffic rules and help police through their cooperation in ensuring a secure traffic system in the city.

Alumni of ICG F-6/2 celebrated "Bachpan Say Pachpan Tak"

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad College for Girls (ICG) F-6/2 yesterday organised an event of its Alumni Reunion in which over 200 old students of institution participated.

The tagline of the event was "Bachpan se pachpan tak" held to celebrate 55 glorious years of success and achievements of college. The Chief Patron for Life Ms. Nusrat Khan, Chairperson and principal college Prof. Sabah Faisal, President Ms. Saira Kamran, Vice President Ms. Zainab Raza, Secretary Ms. Asia

Malik and Treasurer Sania Harris were the driving force behind this event. This reunion was attended by many notable teachers and students who are at the height of their careers, and the credit goes to their alma mater. Some of the golden personalities from year 1970 to 1980 included Ms. Anis Sheikh, Ms. Rashida zafer, Ms. Naheed Saleem, Ms. Ruqaiya younis, Ms. Chand Qaiser, Ms. Tazeen Rehman, Ms. Shahnaz Ansari, Ms. Fouzia Mujahid, Ms. Shehnaz and the list goes on and on.

Malik and Treasurer Sania Harris were the driving force behind this event. This reunion was attended by many notable teachers and students who are at the height of their careers, and the credit goes to their alma mater. Some of the golden personalities from year 1970 to 1980 included Ms. Anis Sheikh, Ms. Rashida zafer, Ms. Naheed Saleem, Ms. Ruqaiya younis, Ms. Chand Qaiser, Ms. Tazeen Rehman, Ms. Shahnaz Ansari, Ms. Fouzia Mujahid, Ms. Shehnaz and the list goes on and on.

Missing boy reunited with his family

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police Sangjani

ports by family members. Upon receiving the application, the Sangjani police team registered a



police station team reunited a missing boy with his parents, a public relation officer said. According to the details, the Sangjani police station team received an application from a citizen in which he stated that his son named Saad had been missing and could not be traced despite hectic ef-

case and used technical and human resources and successfully traced the missing boy and reunited him safely with his family.

The parents appreciated the police team's efforts and thanked the Islamabad Capital Police for immediate assistance.

Millat Express narrowly escapes major accident

MULTAN (APP): The Lala Musa bound Millat Express narrowly escaped a major accident after it smashed into a tractor which was passing at Qutubpur railway crossing near Jahania on Sunday.

Pakistan Railways sources informed that the tractor was smashed into pieces when the train hit it.

No loss of life was reported in the accident, they said and added that after being alerted, Railway Police reached the spot and arrested the tractor driver.

DS Railways Multan Division, Mehmood Rehman Lakho said crossing a railway track carelessly puts the lives of the people and crew at stake. He appealed to the public not to violate rules and regulations and use railway crossing to cross the track.

MULTAN (APP): The Lala Musa bound Millat Express narrowly escaped a major accident after it smashed into a tractor which was passing at Qutubpur railway crossing near Jahania on Sunday.

Pakistan Railways sources informed that the tractor was smashed into pieces when the train hit it.

No loss of life was reported in the accident, they said and added that after being alerted, Railway Police reached the spot and arrested the tractor driver.

DS Railways Multan Division, Mehmood Rehman Lakho said crossing a railway track carelessly puts the lives of the people and crew at stake. He appealed to the public not to violate rules and regulations and use railway crossing to cross the track.



ISLAMABAD: A group photo of participants of Alumni ceremony titled "Bachpan se Pachpan tak" with Principal Prof Sabah Faisal held at Islamabad College for Girls (ICG) F6/2.