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Feb 8 sun will rise with PPP's victory, say Zardari and Bilawal

KARACHI (INP): The PPP chairman and co-chairman have extended congratulations to the party candidates who won the local body by-elections in different cities of Sindh. In a post uploaded on X platform on Monday, PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari expressed his gratitude to the people for party's victory in the LB by-elections in Karachi and other parts of the province. The heart of Sindh also raised the slogan of Jeay Bhutto, Zardari said, adding the success of Murtaza Wahab and Salman Abdullah Murad is a special message for PPP's rivals in Karachi. Asif Zardari paid rich tributes to party workers for victory in by-elections, saying "Every PPP worker

should start the election campaign by becoming the ambassador of Ms Benazir Bhutto Shaheed." Zardari said the sun of February 8 will rise with the message of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's victory. "There are few days left and PPP will end people's problems," he added. In his tweet, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also extended congratulations to the successful candidates in the LB by-elections, showing praise on Karachi Mayor and Deputy Mayor Murtaza Wahab and Salman Abdullah Murad, and Deputy Mayor Sukkur Arshad Mughal on their success in the elections. Bilawal said the entire Sindh including Karachi has once again defeated the politics of hatred and divisions.

The people have made their decision, now, God willing, the victory of Pakistan People's Party is written on the wall on February 8, Bilawal added. The Pakistan Peoples Party has emerged as a majority party in local bodies' by-elections in Sindh. According to unofficial results, PPP has secured six out of ten seats in five districts of Karachi division including all the three seats of Union Committee Chairmen in South, Kemari and Malir districts. Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab and Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad are among the winners who won a Union Committee Chairman seat each in Saddar and Gadap towns to meet legal requirements for retaining their respective offices.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (R) Maqbool Baqir called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

WHO, health ministry join hands to upgrade 464 hospitals for Universal Health Coverage

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination and the World Health Organisation on Monday joined hands to refurbish 464 health facilities across the country as a step forward to achieving the government's "top agenda" of Universal Health Coverage.

In this connection, a ceremony for the signing of Letter of Understanding between the health ministry and the world health body was held at the PM House which also marked the handing over of health equipment worth over Rs 2 billion including mobile health clinics, ambulances, and mobile vaccination vans.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Caretaker Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan witnessed the ceremony as Secretary Health Ifkhar Ali Shallwani and WHO Representative in Pakistan

Dr Palitha Mahipala signed the document. Being executed with the WHO's support, the project will have zero financial implication for the Government of Pakistan.

Under the project, the WHO would support Pakistan in renovation of 464 health facilities across the country including 41 in AJK and Gilgit Baltistan, 131 in Balochistan, 64 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 26 in Punjab and 202 in Sindh. The WHO would support the upgradation of 21 health facilities, 14 labour rooms and six EPI training centers in AJK and GB; 99 health facilities, 26 labour rooms, and six EPI training centers in Balochistan; and 36 health facilities 21 labour rooms and seven EPI training centers in KP.

The project also consists of refurbishing 15 labour rooms, nine EPI training centers and two

nutrition stabilisation centers in Punjab; and 150 health facilities, 46 labour rooms and six EPI training centers in Sindh.

The WHO support for upgradation of the health facilities throughout the country will contribute to meeting the objective of Universal Health Coverage besides creating a better image of the government in the public for provision of decent health care services to them.

This support will also contribute to the SDG 3 for good health and also SDG8 which is decent work environment and economic growth. The project will help strengthening the primary healthcare system and promote the referral system mechanism besides reducing the burden on major hospitals. Under the plan, the primary health care facilities would be computerised and equipped with around 70 modern facilities.

PM, Sindh CM discuss action against smuggling, power theft

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister of Sindh Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqir Monday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar wherein they discussed the ongoing action against smuggling and power theft in the province. In the meeting, they deliberated over the administrative matters as well as the law and order situation in Sindh. The chief minister apprised the prime minister of the steps taken by his government for the public welfare. Prime Minister Kakar appreciated the Sindh government for progress on the administrative matters, under the leadership of the chief minister.

Nawaz Sharif says Those talking about deal living in fool's paradise

MANANWALA (Online): PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif has said those talking about deal living in fool's paradise. Future of PML-N is bright. Decision about party tickets will be made on merit. I salute those who stood with party in hard time. There is no room for opportunists in the party, he said this to possible candidate of PML-N Khan Jahanzeb Khan from PPP 143 Sheikhupura who met Nawaz Sharif at his residence. He held country is passing through a critical phase in the prevailing situation. We will have to work for integrity and restoration of national economy so that country could regain its lost stature. "I salute to tigers of PP-143, he added. INP adds: PML-N supremo and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif arrived at party's secretariat in Model Town on Monday morning after more than four years. The elder Sharif reached the PML-N secretariat with his daughter and party's senior vice president Maryam Nawaz.



LAHORE: Quaid of PML (N) Nawaz Sharif addressing former parliamentarians and ticket holders of Sialkot.

Lt Col among four martyred, three terrorists killed in Khyber operation

RAWALPINDI (APP): A Lieutenant Colonel was among four soldiers of Pakistan Army, who embraced martyrdom on Monday while eliminating three terrorists and injuring as many during an intense exchange of fire amid an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted in the general area Tirah of Khyber District on reported presence of terrorists. During the conduct of operation, the troops led by Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hassan Haider, effectively engaged the terrorists' location as a result of which three terrorists were sent to hell, while three terrorists got injured, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The martyrs, brave sons of soil, were identified as Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hassan Haider (age: 43 years, resident of Islamabad), Naik Khushdil Khan (age: 31 years, resident of District Lakki Marwat), Naik Rafique Khan (age: 27 years, resident of District Charsadda) and Lance Naik Abdul Qadir (age: 33 years, resident of District Murree), having fought gallantly embracing, Shahadat, during intense exchange of fire.



GARHI KHUDA BUX: Peoples Party (PPP) President, Asif Ali Zardari is laying floral wreaths and offers Fateha for the peace of departed soul of at grave of the PPP Founder, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto, at Bhutto Mausoleums in Garhi Khuda Bux.

PIA flight operations fully normalised

KARACHI (INP): After weeks of fuel issues, the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) spokesperson on Monday said that the national flag carrier's flight schedule is fully restored after restoration of fuel supply from Pakistan State Oil (PSO). The spokesperson said in a statement that not a single flight of PIA from Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, or any other airport is canceled today. All flights are on time and as per schedule, the statement added. The financial crunch and the fuel crisis forced PIA to cancel over 800 flights in the last three weeks. Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) suffered a 'loss' of Rs10 billion. Earlier on Wednesday, Pakistan International Airlines suspended total of 24 flights including 16 international and 8 domestic scheduled. The PIA spokesperson stated that 24 flights were suspended amid no fuel supply. Pakistan State Oil (PSO) set a condition of Rs100 million in daily payment for Pakistan International Airlines to resume fuel supply. The Pakistan International Airlines spokesperson said the fuel would be supplied to the national airline upon payment of Rs100 million daily. However, airlines will inform the PSO to provide fuel to their aircraft. The aircraft would get the fuel after approval from the national airline.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking to media persons during his visit to Gizri Football Stadium in Karachi.

In areas of common interests Solangi assures all possible coop to Chinese enterprises in developing greater understanding

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi here on Monday said that as China-Pakistan cooperation was proceeding to greater depths, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting shall play a greater role in extending all possible cooperation to Chinese enterprises in developing greater understanding and cooperation on the areas of common interests. Delivering his speech at the launching ceremony of the report on ten years of China Pakistan Economic Corridor by All Pakistan China Enterprises Association and Pakistan China Institute, he said that the Ministry of Information and its associated organizations like Pakistan Televi-

sion, Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation and Associated Press of Pakistan were already engaged with their counterparts in a structured framework to enhance the media cooperation. Appreciating the Pakistan-China Institute for hosting such a timely and important event, he said, "This event is important in the sense that it will highlight the significance and outstanding work being done by Chinese enterprises in Pakistan to the world". He said that the PCI's commitment to promotion of the sustainable endeavors of Chinese enterprises had been pivotal in enhancing the understanding of the public regarding the work of the Chinese enterprises.

He said the nation will not let the sacrifice of its brave men go in vain," Asif Zardari said in a statement issued here by the party secretariat. He said an operation like that of Swat is necessary to rid our beloved nation from terrorists. They are the enemies of the country and it is necessary to eliminate them. Asif Zardari prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Senior Leader, Sharjeel Inam Memon addresses to media persons during press conference, held at PPP Media Cell Bilawal House in Karachi.

Participants of 50th specialized training program meet IGP Sindh

KARACHI (APP): The participants of the 50th Specialized Training Program met IGP Sindh, Riffat Mukhtar Raja, at the Central Police Office Karachi as part of the study program. They benefited from the information obtained during the lecture and briefing on all matters and measures related to policing, according to spokesman for Sindh Police on Monday. During the meeting, DIGP - Headquarters Sindh briefed the participants on the importance and effectiveness of IT-based policing, covering operational

and investigative aspects and highlighting the successes achieved in combating crimes using modern techniques. IGP Sindh emphasized that the success of policing depends on the quality of the investigation. If all investigative issues are handled with innovation and technique, it becomes impossible for the accused to escape the law. He also pointed out that poor investigation quality can be exploited by the accused. The participants were reminded of the significance of their knowledge and skills in various fields.

Sindh Governor enquires health of mother of MQM-P leader

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori visited the mother of Muttahida Qaumi Movement convener Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui at Darul Sehat Hospital here. The Sindh Governor also prayed for the speedy full recovery of the ailing mother of the MQM-P leader, said a statement on Monday.

Zardari expresses sorrow over martyrdom of soldiers

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians, Asif Ali Zardari has expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of four soldiers, Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hassan Haider, Naik Rafiq Khan, Naik Khushdil Khan and Lance Naik Abdul Qadir. "The nation will not let the sacrifice of its brave men go in vain," Asif Zardari said in a statement issued here by the party secretariat. He said an operation like that of Swat is necessary to rid our beloved nation from terrorists. They are the enemies of the country and it is necessary to eliminate them. Asif Zardari prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

Saudi delegation meets Education Minister to enhance cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of the Riyadh's Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University at Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi met with the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindh to enhance mutual cooperation in education. Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf Bin Saeed Al Malkiy and President International Islamic University, Islamabad Prof. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi present on the occasion. Madad Ali Sindh said Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University had a rich history and prestige, adding that



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Ahmed Bin Salem Al Amri, President of the Riyadh's Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University at Kingdom of Saudi Arabia along with Nawaf Bin Saeed Al Malkiy, Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan and President International Islamic University, Islamabad Prof. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi met with the Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindh.

Interior Minister vows wipe out terrorism from Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfaraz Ahmad Bugti expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of Lt. Col. Muhammad Hasan Haider and other soldiers in the operation against terrorists in Tirah Valley on Monday. Sharing grief with the families of the martyrs, the minister prayed for the martyred Lt. Col. and other martyrs. In his message, the minister said that the security forces fought bravely and brought the three terrorists to their logical end.

he had prioritized the quality of education, reduction of out of school children and research on Seerat Nabi (PBUH) since taking over charge as minister. The minister offered 15 research fellowships to KSA at QAU. He said that the work and efforts of Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi had been exemplary. The minister appreciated the upgradation of the systems in IIUI and said the standard of education at IIUI had been consistently on the rise under the leadership of Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi. He stressed the need to increase the scope of research on Seerat ul Nabi (PBUH).

Govt believes in freedom of media: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has stated that government strongly believes in freedom of expression and media. He was addressing a ceremony organized on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of Independent Urdu in Islamabad. He appreciated the role of the Independent Urdu in promoting digital Urdu journalism in Pakistan, besides providing quality content to its audience through different means. The Minister said that the platform has contributed significantly to the progress of digital Urdu journalism in the country.



ISLAMABAD: A sixteen-member delegation of the American Pakistan Public Affairs Committee led by Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly Phil Ramos called on Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Dr. Nadeem Jan.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Election season

The promise that democracy will be restored soon is a breath of fresh air in this current atmosphere of doom and gloom. After a rough start, the election machinery has started to click into gear. The chief justice's stern warning to the media, telling it to desist from airing any further speculation on the timing of elections, has signalled to other stakeholders that there may be a finality to the Feb 8, 2024 date that can be banked on.

It is encouraging to note that the PTI, PML-N and PPP — the three largest political parties in the country — have all welcomed the announcement and seem eager to begin the contest. Right now, their attention should be focused on the upcoming electoral exercise rather than anything else. There is not a lot of time for them to regroup and launch effective campaigns. Now that the country is in election mode, the ECP should expect increased scrutiny of its actions. The immense task of ensuring that the upcoming elections are free, fair, impartial and inclusive rests on its shoulders, and it needs to do much better if it wishes to be remembered for discharging its duty responsibly.

There are several things that need immediate attention. For instance, the caretaker government is reportedly attempting to undertake a large-scale reshuffle of officers at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting despite the announcement of an election date.

All such tinkering with the executive branch must be stopped forthwith. The state must be oriented towards one thing alone: assisting the ECP in delivering a credible election. Everything else is unnecessary at this point in time. Secondly, the ECP must start utilising its considerable powers to ensure that the contest will be fair. The arrest of former National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser on corruption charges the day after elections were announced is not a good omen.

The public perception is that the PTI and its people will continue to be harassed with arbitrary detentions and arrests on trumped-up charges for as long as they refuse to toe the establishment's line. There is little justification, legal or moral, for a political party to be treated in this manner, and it is up to the ECP to put a stop to the victimisation.

Other parties have also been complaining about being denied a level playing field. They have accused the caretaker governments and other powerful forces of manipulating the state machinery to favour the PML-N.

There is no point in asking the electorate to vote if a handful of people are going to overrule their choices anyway. The Pakistani people must not be denied the right to choose their future themselves. The ECP should be wary of these sentiments and demonstrate it is working to counter them.

War, hypocrisy and tragedy



Maleeha Lodhi

How has the world responded to Israel's continuing war on Gaza and the humanitarian catastrophe there? Clearly, the UN Security Council failed in its duty to stop hostilities. This from a world body whose primary responsibility is to maintain international peace and security.

Its inability to pass resolutions calling for a truce or humanitarian pause exposed the polarisation among its members which paralysed the Council. The US was the principal stumbling block in efforts to achieve a ceasefire. Its unconditional support for Israel handed Tel Aviv carte blanche to continue its barbaric military campaign in utter disregard for world opinion.

The Security Council's inaction led to an emergency session of the General Assembly, which approved, by an overwhelming majority, a resolution calling for a truce. Only the US and a handful of countries voted 'no'. While this resolution has moral and political weight and aimed to mount diplomatic pressure on Israel and its backers, it is non-binding. Therefore, it could do nothing to end Israel's war on Gaza.

These developments demonstrated America's increasing diplomatic isolation as several of its Western allies joined most of the international community to back an immediate ceasefire. While some European countries shifted their position to voice concern for the humanitarian crisis and loss of Palestinian lives, Washington refused to ask Israel to cease its bombardments or lift the siege of

Gaza, showing indifference to the devastating humanitarian consequences of Israeli actions.

UN officials repeatedly declared that Israeli violence directed at over two million Palestinians trapped in Gaza was collective punishment and violated international humanitarian law. But the US and its Western partners only called out Hamas for the attack on Israel and accepted Israel's carpet bombing of an entire population as Israel's 'right to defend itself'.

They showed no compassion for thousands of Palestinian casualties, who were portrayed as human shields for Hamas — an egregious example of dehumanising Palestinians. President Joe Biden even questioned Palestinian casualty figures saying he had 'no confidence in the numbers the Palestinians are using'. When Washington began to voice concern for civilian deaths it was too little, too late especially as it continued to oppose a ceasefire.

These developments laid bare the US-led West's hypocrisy. While Western leaders denounced Russian military actions and targeting of civilians in Ukraine, they refused to apply the same principle to Gaza.

The EU Commission president Ursula von der Leyen once characterised Russia's 'attacks on civilian infrastructure' that aimed to deprive people of water and electricity as 'acts of pure terror'. But neither she nor any Western leader chose to describe Israel's action of cutting off electricity, water, food and fuel supplies to Gaza in a similar way. Nor did Israel's use of white phosphorus in indiscriminate artillery attacks urge Western governments to denounce this violation of international humanitarian law.

There was no Western condemnation of Israel's attacks on Jabalia refugee camp in which scores of people were killed and for which Tel Aviv claimed responsibility, justifying civilian

deaths as a 'tragedy of war'.

Western countries who claim to be standard bearers of human rights and constantly lecture other countries on this adopted a deafening silence on Israeli atrocities and genocidal actions. This display of double standards was not new. Western concern for human rights has always been selective, its criticism usually directed at adversaries and opponents, while friendly countries have been shielded from censure.

Germany and France imposed a ban on pro-Palestinian rallies in a bid to criminalise expressions of sympathy for Palestinians. This made a mockery of their democratic credentials and showed the shallowness of their commitment to freedom of expression. In the US, donors threatened to cut off funding to universities where students rallied in solidarity with Palestinians.

The Guardian reported that prominent American figures from magazine editors to Hollywood agents faced sackings or rebuke for supporting Palestinians. Elsewhere in Europe, pro-Palestinian activists were hounded on the pretext of being antisemitic. In the UK, Home Secretary Suella Braverman branded pro-Palestinian demonstrations as 'hate marches', called for curbs on protests and urged criminalising waving the Palestinian flag. All this in so-called democracies who claim civilisational superiority over countries of the Global South.

The Western media's role has been as one-sided as that of their governments and blind to the suffering of the Palestinian people. Major networks echoed Israeli propaganda and mostly covered the war from the prism of 'Israel's right to defend itself'. Western TV anchors seemed to read from the same script and disregarding massacres carried out by Israel, kept asking interviewees if they condemned Hamas.

The most flagrant example of disinformation spread by Western channels was of Israeli babies beheaded by Hamas, which had no basis in fact. Only when the scale of killings in Gaza could not be ignored and criticism of their bias mounted did networks such as BBC change course to cover these. Meanwhile, Western social media companies censored Palestinian content, as confirmed by international human rights organisations including Amnesty.

The response from Muslim countries neither matched the catastrophic situation on the ground nor met the expectations of their own people. Other than diplomatic activism at the UN to secure a General Assembly resolution, it did not go beyond issuing denunciations of Israel. While several South American countries cut ties with Israel only Jordan and Bahrain did so from among Arab states who had established diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv.

Does all this mean the Palestinians have been abandoned? Yes and no. Yes, because the international community failed to stop the carnage in Gaza. No, because across the world, from west to east, people came out in unprecedentedly large numbers to show solidarity with the Palestinians and demand a ceasefire. Public outrage over the humanitarian disaster expressed in protest rallies was in sharp contrast to the pusillanimous position adopted by their governments. Public opinion in the US was also at sharp variance with the Biden administration's stance. A Data for Progress poll found 66 per cent of American voters supported a ceasefire.

The consequences of the biggest disaster to befall the Palestinian people since 1948 will be far-reaching for the region and for the world. I will take that up in another column. -- Courtesy Dawn

Significance of Gadani ship breaking yard

By Mohsin Naseer

One of the biggest ship-breaking yards in the world is located in Balochistan, near the seaside town of Gadani. The Gadani ship breaking yard has 132 ship-breaking plots spread on a sea-shore that is 10 km (6.2 miles) long. After Aliaga of Turkey and Alang of India and Chittagong of Bangladesh, Gadani of Pakistan is the third-largest shipbreaking yard globally.

The ship breaking industry is a major source of income and employment enterprises that produce steel, iron, copper, brass, aluminum, and wood, which bolsters our national economy. Local steel mills and rerolling mills use the steel scrap from Gadani to make steel bars, rods, pipes, and sheets. Foundries and engineering workshops use iron scrap to create castings and machine components. The electrical and metal industries use the scrap copper, brass, and aluminum to manufacture wires, cables, cutlery, and ornamental objects. Carpenters and furniture makers use the leftover wood to create tables, cabinets, windows and doors.

The Gadani ship breaking yard also recycles various items from the ships, such as generators, engines, boilers, compressors, pumps, valves, pipes, fittings, cables, switches, lights, fans, air conditioners, refrigerators, furniture, mattresses, carpets, curtains, utensils, crockery, books, magazines, paintings, and souvenirs. These items

are sold in local markets or exported to other countries. The Gadani ship breaking yard has a history of more than four decades. It was established in the 1960s and reached its peak in the 1980s when it was the largest ship-breaking yard in the world with more than 30,000 direct employees. However, it faced a decline in the 1990s and 2000s due to increased competition from newer facilities and higher import duties for decommissioned vessels in Pakistan.

In 2001, the Government of Pakistan reduced the ship-breaking duties including taxes and tariffs from 15% to 10% and aimed to offer further incentives if industry activity improves. As a result, the Gadani Ship breaking yard witnessed a revival in the 2010s and achieved a record output of 107 ships with a combined Light Displacement Tonnage (LDT) of 852,022 tons in the fiscal year 2009-2010.

The Gadani ship breaking yard is also known for its efficiency and speed in dismantling ships. It can break up to 125 ships of all sizes per year with a combined light displacement tonnage of 1 million tons. It takes only 30 to 45 days to break a ship with 5,000 LDT at Gadani compared to more than six months at Alang or Chittagong.

The Gadani ship breaking yard is a vital source of income and employment for Balochistan and a significant contributor to the local and national economy. It is also a place where old ships are given a new life by being recycled into useful materials and items. The Gadani ship breaking yard is a testament to the resilience and resourcefulness of the people of Balochistan who have turned a barren beach into a bustling industrial hub.

Commerce News

Governance issues must be solved for achieving desired results: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik said on Monday the country was well aware of all challenges related to food security and governance issues needed to be managed to achieve desired results.

He said this while addressing a round table conference at Forman Christian College here.

He said, "The country has gone through two crucial phases one is Covid and the other floods and both changed the scenario." He said that country was self-sufficient

in all commodities. The minister said that food security was governed by three 'As' that were availability, affordability and accessibility, adding that more debate was held on availability of commodities but there was also a need to understand the significance of other two areas.

He further said that no doubt climate change was a fact and could not be denied, adding that to address the issue of climate change adoption of technology was necessary. He said that he was happy that our scientists and researchers were well

aware of issues of climate change and climate resistant varieties were also being developed.

He said, "We are focusing on streamlining the regulatory issues."

Dr Kausar said that soyabean import issue had been solved up to 80 to 90 percent which was a big issue for the poultry industry and added that only few hitches were left which would be solved as well.

The minister said that one thing should be kept in mind that in agriculture import and export were not indication of any food scarcity.



Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik attended the Round Table Conference held at FCCU.

NARC distributes over 300 tons of 7 high-yielding wheat seeds varieties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (NARC) has provided over 300 metric tons of certified wheat seeds to farmers in order to enhance per-acre crop output in the country and increase farm profitability for achieving sustainable agriculture growth and economic development.

The council had distributed 07 wheat seed varieties among farmers and different seed companies including Punjab Seed Corporation which will cement the efforts of the government to ensure the availability of certified seeds during the current Wheat Program

Coordinator in the National Agriculture Research Center Maqsood Qamar. Talking to APP here on Monday, he said that the distributed seed varieties were comprised of heat and stem rest-tolerant, which would help the local farmers enhance their crop output during the season and maximize their farm income.

Out of the total 07 seed varieties, four varieties were for rain-fed areas and three were for irrigated areas and would help to enhance local output of both irrigated and rain-fed areas, he said adding that NARC was taking other measures to assist local wheat growers.

New law for resolution of trade disputes to define time frame

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General Trade Disputes Resolution Organization, Ministry of Commerce, Abdul Salam Shah on Monday said a new law for the resolution of trade disputes was coming in the cabinet to define a time frame to resolve the different disputes of international trade through 'The Trade Dispute Act 2022.'

Under the new law, trade disputes would be decided in a time frame for providing 'Ease of Doing Business' to the Import and export business, he told APP here. President of

Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Dr. Khuram Tariq, told APP that trade agreements must be strictly implemented.

Earlier, the joint sitting of the parliament passed 'The Trade Dispute Resolution Bill, 2023' to establish a commission attached with the Ministry of Commerce to settle the dispute between trading parties and 'The Trade Organizations (Amendment) Bill, 2023'.

The House passed the bill with a majority incorporating minor amendments. The Trade Dispute

Resolution Bill, 2023 provides for the establishment of a comprehensive regime in Pakistan for the swift and effective resolution of disputes relating to the export and import of goods and services including through E-Commerce.

Clause 61 of the bill described as "All law enforcement agencies and authorities in the federal and the provinces shall be under an obligation to provide and render full and complete assistance to the Commission as and when the secretariat thereof may require such assistance."



PESHAWAR: A delegation led by Founder / President Bajaur Chamber of Commerce and Industry Haji Lali Shah meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

LESCO detects 68 power pilferers on 59th day of anti-power theft campaign

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has detected a total of 68 connections from where the customers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts: Lahore, Sheikhpura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara, on the 59th day of grand anti-power theft campaign.

A LESCO spokesman told the media on Monday that the company had also submitted the FIR applications against 68 electricity thieves, out of

which 38 FIRs have been registered in respective police stations, while 10 accused have been arrested.

Grand anti-power theft operations against electricity thieves are being conducted on the directives of the Federal Power Division and the LESCO Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer Shahid Haider is supervising these operations. The LESCO chief vowed that the operations would continue without discrimination until the complete end of electricity theft.

RCCI delegation calls on Charge D Affairs of Romania

RAWALPINDI (APP): A delegation of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) headed by President Saqib Rafiq called on H.E Mr Edward Robert PREDA Charge D Affairs/ Minister Plenipotentiary at the Romania Embassy here on Monday.

According to RCCI spokesman, Charge D Affairs of the Romanian Embassy appreciated RCCI's efforts in promoting trade and diplomatic ties.

Pakistan's exports to China increase by 26.42% in 3 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's export of goods and services to China witnessed an increase of 26.42 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.

The overall exports to China were recorded at US \$633.374 million during July-September (2023-24) against exports of US \$501.000 million during July- September (2022-

23), showing growth of 26.42 per cent, SBP data revealed.

On a year-to-year basis, the exports to China also surged by 68.57 per cent from \$167.923 million in September 2022, against the exports of \$283.077 million in September 2023.

Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to China rose by 42.29 per cent during September 2023 as compared to the exports of \$198.932 million in August 2023, the SBP data revealed.

Rupee sheds 89 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Monday witnessed an 89-paise devaluation against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 285.28 against the previous day's closing at Rs 284.31.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 285 and Rs 287.5 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by Rs 4.51 to close at Rs 306.59 against the last day's closing of Rs 302.08, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen increased by 01 paise and closed at Rs 1.90; whereas an increase of Rs 7.01 paise.

Kunwar highlights hope amid economic challenges in real estate projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation from the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), leaders from the business community, and government officials engaged in a comprehensive discussion on Monday concerning the opportunities and critical challenges faced by the real estate industry. During an exclusive business networking meeting, they expressed their commitment to working collaboratively to maximize its potential.

The Chief Guest, Caretaker Minister for Law and Justice Punjab,

Kunwar Muhammad Dilshad, remarked that in the face of economic challenges and political uncertainties, the projects in accordance with high standards offered a ray of hope to the investors, showcasing the nation's potential to thrive despite adverse circumstances. ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari encouraged the real estate developers and business delegates to actively participate in the journey toward a brighter future for Pakistan. Kunwar's Associates Chairman.

Israel committing unimaginable atrocities in Gaza, say politicians

LAHORE (APP): Lawmakers called upon the international community on Monday to intensify its efforts in securing an immediate ceasefire to halt the catastrophic humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Palestine. In this dire situation, Palestinians are desperately searching for their loved-ones amidst the widespread destruction of their homes.

Over the past two-and-a-half-weeks, the world has borne witness to an unfolding tragedy of unprecedented proportions in the occupied Palestinian

territories. Lawmakers characterise this conflict as a systematic attempt at the genocide of the Palestinian people, underscoring the urgent need for global intervention to address Israel's aggressive actions.

Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence Mushahid Hussain Syed emphasised the longstanding historical ties between Pakistan and Palestine, spanning centuries rather than mere years. He pointed out that leaders throughout Pakistan's history, including its founding father, Quaid-e-Azam, have consistently lent their

political, diplomatic and economic support to the Palestinian cause.

Senator Mushahid stressed that the ongoing Israeli atrocities in Gaza represent the gravest genocide in human history, calling on the Pakistani nation to raise its voices in support of the oppressed. Referring to Israel's recent bombing of hospitals in Gaza, he condemned these actions as war crimes and urged an immediate cessation of such heinous acts.

Former senator Shehar Kamran told APP that more than two million people in the Gaza Strip

are struggling to survive amidst a catastrophic humanitarian crisis and the level of civilian casualties has been manifold and unprecedented. She strongly condemned the dangerous and insane remarks made by the Israeli Minister Amichai Eliyahu about dropping of a nuclear bomb on Gaza.

Such comments and threats of violence reflect the irresponsible cruel attitude and criminal mindset, she said, adding it is not only morally reprehensible but also counterproductive to achieving lasting peace in the region.



MUZAFFERABAD: Speaker Lagestaltive Assembly of AJK Chaudhry Latif Akbar participate in the rally of Pasban-e-Hurryyat to mark the "Youm-e-Suhada" in the Capital of AJK.



RAWALPINDI: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi in a group photo with medical professionals and survivors of breast cancer during an awareness seminar, at Behbud Association of Pakistan.

Punjab Governor says: Promotion of technical education fosters employment opportunities for the youth

LAHORE: Chairman TEVTA Brigadier (Retd) Muhammad Sajid Khokhar called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore, here today. Promotion of technical and vocational education was discussed in the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the promotion of technical education fosters employment opportunities for the youth. He said that skilled youth play a positive role in the economic development of the country. Governor Punjab said that

technical courses provide employment opportunities to the students, which makes many families economically self-sufficient and prosperous. He said that it is commendable that Tevta is making them economically independent by providing technical and professional education to the young generation.

KP caretaker govt ready for elections, says Aamir

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Local Government and Rural Development (LG&RD) Engineering (PHE), Engineer Aamir Durrani on Monday said that the caretaker provincial government is ready for the elections and is in contact with various departments in this regard.

Expressing satisfaction over preparations regarding elections by various departments, he said that the caretaker provincial

government will play its full role in holding transparent elections, saying the preparations of all departments are complete in this regard. He expressed these views while addressing a meeting regarding election preparation here. Besides, Secretary Local Government and Rural Development (LG&RD) Daud Khan, Special Secretary Muhammad Masood, Coordinator Local Governments Sajid Gul and other relevant officials also attended the meeting.

CS Punjab inaugurates Rescue Services centres in Lala Musa, Dinga

Independent Report LAHORE: Punjab Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman visited Gujranwala and Gujrat on Monday and inaugurated the newly established Rescue Services stations at Lala Musa and Dinga. He also inspected the Punjab government's flagship project Motorway Link in Gujranwala and reviewed the construction work of 15.2 km-long dual

carriageway that would link Gujranwala to Lahore-Sialkot Motorway. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, the chief secretary said that emergency services are being improved across Punjab and Rescue stations are being equipped with modern equipment. He said that Rescue stations have been provided with modern gadgets, ambulances and motorcycles.

Women urged to practice 5-min self-examination every month to detect breast cancer

RAWALPINDI (APP): Begum Samina Alvi, wife of the president of Pakistan, Rawalpindi, she stressed the need to sensitize the general public about shunning the taboo about breast cancer.

Samina Alvi mentioned that the world overall had a 98 percent recovery rate from breast cancer, however, pointed out that in Pakistan, insufficient mammographic facilities led to a high mortality rate due to the

detection of malignancy at a late stage. She said women of all ages including teenage girls of 12-14 years were also being diagnosed with breast cancer. She urged the women and girls to learn the five-minute routine of self-examination and spread the word among at least 20 other women folks in their circle. For the Behbud Mother and Child Hospital, Samina Alvi announced a donation of Rs 500,000 on behalf of her family.

Five involved in different crimes in riverine areas arrested

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Rangers Sindh arrested five suspects allegedly involved in different crimes in the riverine areas and recovered arms and ammunition from their possession.

The accused were apprehended from a village in Obaro, district Ghotki, according to a spokesman for Sindh Rangers on Monday.

Fawad Chaudhry files petition against anti corruption Punjab

RAWALPINDI (Online): Former minister Fawad Chaudhry has filed petition against Anti Corruption Punjab in Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi bench.

Punjab government and DG Anti corruption have been made respondents in the petition of Fawad Chaudhry.

Advocate Faisal Chaudhry brother of Fawad Chaudhry filed the

petition on behalf of his brother. The petitioner has taken the plea the allegations from anti corruption are false and baseless. The allegations on occupying state land are false. It was said in the petition lands were purchased from private persons. Affidavits of private persons are available.

International News

UN leaders say Gaza war must 'stop now', as dozens more die

Monitoring Desk GAZA: U.N. agency leaders saying "enough is enough" demanded a humanitarian ceasefire on Monday nearly a month into Gaza's war, as the enclave's health authorities said dozens more people were killed in overnight attacks by Israeli fighter jets and troops.

Israel has rebuffed mounting international pressure for a ceasefire, saying hostages taken by Hamas militants during their rampage in southern Israel on Oct. 7 should be released first.

"An entire population is besieged and under attack, denied access to the essentials for survival, bombed in their homes, shelters, hospitals and

places of worship. This is unacceptable," the U.N. chiefs said in a joint statement.

"We need an immediate humanitarian ceasefire. It's been 30 days. Enough is enough. This must stop now."

The 18 signatories include the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk, the head of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and U.N. aid chief Martin Griffiths. A Reuters journalist in the Gaza Strip described the overnight bombardment from the air, ground and sea as one of the most intense since Israel launched its offensive.

Health officials in Hamas-controlled Gaza

said more than 9,770 Palestinians have been killed in the war since Hamas killed 1,400 people and seized more than 240 hostages on Oct. 7.

Israel, which says its forces have encircled Gaza City, faces mounting pressure over civilian casualties. A U.S. diplomatic blitz in the region is intended to reduce risks of the conflict escalating.

The health ministry in Gaza said dozens of people were killed by the Israeli air strikes in Gaza City and further south in Gaza neighbourhoods such as Zawaida and Deir Al-Balah. Hamas-affiliated Al-Aqsa TV quoted medical sources as saying at least 75 Palestinians were killed and 106 hurt in the attacks.



Meera Alul (C), a Palestinian-American, holds up a sign during a rally in support of Palestinians at the Colorado State Capital in Denver, Colorado.

Xi says China, Australia can become 'trusting partners'

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping told Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Monday their two countries stood to become "trusting partners" and were on the "correct path of improving and developing relations", state broadcaster CCTV said.

The two leaders met in Beijing during a four-day state visit by Albanese to China, a high-water mark in their nations' ties following years of tensions that cut billions of dollars in trade.

China and Australia, Xi said on Monday, "have no historical

grievances or disputes and no fundamental conflict of interests, and can totally become mutually trusting and mutually successful partners."

Xi told Albanese that Beijing hoped to "fully develop the potential of the China-Australia free trade agreement and open up cooperation in new fields including climate change and the green economy".

"Through both sides' efforts, China and Australia have resumed exchanges in various fields and returned to the correct path of improving and developing relations," Xi said, according to CCTV.

"Where there are efforts to cause disturbances in the Asia Pacific region, we must firstly stay vigilant, and secondly oppose them," the Chinese leader said.

China, Xi said, is keen to "develop more trilateral and multilateral cooperation" with Australia.

Beijing also seeks to "support the strengthening of development resilience for south Pacific nations, tackle challenges including climate change, and protect the peace and stability of the Asia Pacific region with openness and tolerance", Xi said.

More than 20 killed in Sudan after shell hits market: NGO

Monitoring Desk WAD MADANI: More than 20 people were killed Sunday after shells hit a market in a suburb of the Sudanese capital Khartoum, a committee of pro-democracy lawyers said in a statement.

It was the latest bloodshed in the fighting since April between the forces of army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

A statement from the committee for pro-democracy lawyers said the shells hit the market in Omdurman during an intense exchange of fire between the two sides.

"More than 20 civilians have been killed and others have been wounded," said the statement, which was sent to AFP. The committee keeps track of rights violations during the conflict and its civilian victims.

On Saturday, a medical source said shells that hit houses in Khartoum had killed 15 civilians.

Omdurman has repeatedly been the site of fierce battles between the two sides. Though most of the fighting was previously contained to the capital and the western region of Darfur, it has also spread to areas south of Khartoum according to witnesses.

well with the United Nations peacekeeping force as tensions mount between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

"We will pursue our partnership with military equipment, notably for the transport of troops protected by armour, which is key to maintain patrols," he said, adding that several dozen armoured vehicles would be given to the Lebanese army soon.



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ankara, Turkey.

Ukrainian officers investigated for holding awards ceremony struck by Russia, killing 19 soldiers

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Ukraine on Monday launched a criminal investigation into military officers who organized a troop-honoring ceremony that was hit by a Russian missile strike, killing 19 soldiers in one of the deadliest single attacks reported by Ukrainian forces.

The State Bureau of Investigation said it aims to hold military officials accountable for the Rocket Forces and Artillery Day

event held Friday near the front line in Zaporizhzhia, where Russian reconnaissance drones could easily spot the crowded gathering.

The carnage sparked a wave of criticism among Ukrainians who questioned on social media the planning of an event so close to the battlefield. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy lamented the deaths of the men of the 128th Separate Mountain-Assault Brigade.

Russia's Putin to stay in power past 2024, sources say

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Vladimir Putin has decided to run in the March presidential election, a move that will keep him in power until least 2030, as the Kremlin chief feels he must steer Russia through the most perilous period in decades, six sources told Reuters.

After defusing an armed mutiny by the leader of the Wagner mercenary group in June, Putin has moved to shore up support among his core base in the security forces, the armed forces and with regional voters outside Moscow, while Wagner has been brought firmly to heel.

Russian defence, weapons and overall budget spending has soared while Putin has made numerous public appearances, including the regions, over recent months. "The decision has been made - he will run," said one of the sources who has knowledge of the planning. Another source, also acquainted with the Kremlin's thinking,

Hamas leader Haniyeh briefs Iran's Khamenei over Gaza situation

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has met the leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, in Tehran, state media reported on Sunday, a day after a Hamas official said they held a meeting in recent days.

Iranian state media said Haniyeh, who has resided between Qatar and Turkey since 2019, "briefed Khamenei on the latest de-

Polish president to announce new PM on Monday

Monitoring Desk WARSAW: Poland's president will tell the nation on Monday evening whom he will appoint as prime minister, an aide said, drawing a line under weeks of uncertainty after the ruling nationalists lost their parliamentary majority in an Oct. 15 election. President Andrzej Duda, an ally of PiS, said before the election he would give the first shot at forming a government to the largest single party.

France to give armoured vehicles to Lebanese army defence minister

Monitoring Desk PARIS: France will send dozens of armoured vehicles to the Lebanese army so it can properly carry out patrol missions in the country, France's defence minister said in remarks published on Monday.

Speaking to Lebanon's L'Orient Le Jour newspaper after a trip to the country, Sebastien Lecornu said it was vital to beef up the Lebanese national army so that it could coordinate

APCEA in collaboration with PCI launch "Thousands of Miles with CPEC"

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises' Association (APCEA), in collaboration with the Pakistan-China Institute (PCI), launched "Thousands of Miles with CPEC: The Symbol of Pakistan-China Relations" here at the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS).

The essence of the "One Belt, One Road" vision, transcends the barriers of time, borders, and cultures.

It has spread across the world, creating in its wake the hallmark projects like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the greatest milestone of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations.

When Chinese President, Xi Jinping visited Pakistan in 2015, he formally determined the "1+4" co-operation formula and laid out centered upon the construction of CPEC, and key focus on four areas that are; the Gwadar Port, Energy

Sector, Infrastructure, and Industrial Cooperation.

From the large-scale industries to the young learners at school, CPEC has made an impact wherever it went since its inception in 2013. "Thousands of Miles with CPEC" is rooted in the social aspect of this mega project, and takes the perspectives of those who have first handedly experienced the transformative power exerted by a decade of CPEC.

While hailing the macro-economic contributions of CPEC via the Power, Infrastructure, IT, and Agricultural sectors, etc., the cultural role it has played in building a Pak-China community of shared interest cannot be overlooked.

This unique project explores the very role of CPEC from the perspectives of people belonging to various walks of life; ranging from common citizens, natives around project sites, and talented local employees to government functionaries and diplo-

mat.

The launch ceremony was in attendance by dignitaries representing both Chinese and Pakistani leadership including Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Murtaza Solangi, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Li Yong, Counselor for Commercial Affairs, Senator Mushahid Hussain, Chairman of Senate Defense Committee. It also had significant participation from Chinese enterprises and companies as well as from both local and Chinese journalist communities.

The event commenced with introductory remarks from Executive Director PCI, Mustafa Hyder Syed, who welcomed the guests by emphasizing on the strong and enduring friendship between Pakistan and China. In his welcome remarks, the Chairman of the All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises' Association (APCEA) and Country Representative of POWERCHINA.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar witnesses a ceremony of the signing of letters of understanding between WHO and the Government of Pakistan on Universal Healthcare.

PUC calls for national unity, action against extremism, terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Executive and Consultative Body of Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC), under the leadership of Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, on Monday convened with more than 200 members representing various religious scholars and leaders from across the nation.

The gathering aimed to address the current situation in the country and make vital decisions for the betterment of Pakistan.

The council, while acknowledging the urgent

need for national unity and action against terrorism and extremism, highlighted that hostile elements were actively undermining Pakistan's economic and social well-being, as evidenced by recent acts of terrorism in the country.

Keeping in view the sensitivity of the situation, the PUC announced nationwide conventions of religious scholars and leaders, under the umbrella of 'Paigham-e-Pakistan' and urged to fully implement the 'National Action Plan' to combat extremism and terrorism effectively.

NADRA cancels over 18,000 illegal identity cards

ISLAMABAD (INP): National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has canceled over 18,000 illegal identity cards through a robust system, coordinating with other stakeholders, says in media reports.

The step has been taken to address the issue of counterfeit identity cards and fake documents, which pose a threat to national security.

New measures include biometric verification of parents and relatives during the processing, SMS alerts to family heads, and two-stage verification for data access. Disciplinary actions are also taken against facilitators of forgery.

NADRA has also strengthened its accountability and inquiry system, leading to penalties and dismissal of those involved in illegal practices.

SC disposes of 1,419 cases in over one month

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court disposed of about 1419 cases during the period from September 18 to October 20, 2023. The bench headed by Justice Tariq Masood concluded 600 cases while the other four disposed of 819 cases during the period, an SC report said.

The bench No. 2 of Justice Tariq Masood disposed of 88 cases in the week starting September 18, 126 cases the week starting from September 25, 105 cases in the week starting from October 2, 81 cases in the week starting from October 9 and 200 in the week starting from September 19.

Court to hear cipher case today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Special Court established under official secret act will hear Cipher case today (Tuesday). The list of the lawyers who will appear on behalf of chairman PTI has been filed in the court. The list was filed by Suleman Saifdar counsel for PTI chairman through advocate Khalid Yousuf.

According to list 8 lawyers including Suleman Saifdar, Umair Khan Niazi, Sikandar Zulfqarnain Salim, Khalid Yousuf, Ahmad Masar, Sohail Khan, Niazullah Niazi and Usman Riaz Gill will appear before the court during the case in jail.

Court grants Sheikh interim bail in May 9 incident case

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Monday granted interim bail to Awami Muslim League chief Sheikh Rasheed in the May 9 incidents case.

At the outset of the hearing, AML chief lawyer, Sardar Abdul Raziq argued that Sheikh Rasheed had no connection with the May 9 incidents and was not involved in the happenings.

Sindh gov't declares Nov 13 as holiday for Hindu Community on Diwali

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh government has declared holiday on November 13 for Hindu Community on the occasion Diwali.

According to a notification issued here on Monday, the holiday is declared for all government offices, autonomous bodies, semi-autonomous bodies, corporation and local councils under the administrative control of Sindh government.

PM directs maximum facilitation, swift visa issuance to Sikh Yatrees

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday directed the authorities concerned to extend maximum facilities to the Sikh Yatrees intending to attend their religious festivals in Pakistan.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review the visa facilities being provided to the Sikh Yatrees by the Government of Pakistan, said the Sikh pilgrims coming to the country to visit their holy places were the guests in Pakistan.

He was briefed on the Sikh festivals being held throughout the year, and the facilities for issuance of visas provided to the pilgrims.

He instructed the relevant authorities to extend all-out facilities to the Sikh Yatrees for carrying out

their religious rituals and visiting their holy places.

The prime minister also directed to accelerate the visa issuance process while ensuring the transparency in the system.

He said the Sikh Yatrees coming to Pakistan via Kartarpur Corridor must be provided with the facilities of international standards.

The interior ministry briefed the meeting on the visa facilities for Sikhs, time duration required for visa issuance, administrative affairs of Kartarpur Corridor and annual festivals of Sikhs.

Prime Minister Kakar also instructed the authorities to present a comprehensive strategy for facilitation of Sikh pilgrims coming via Kartarpur Corridor or from other countries.



HYDERABAD: DIG Hyderabad Division Tariq Aziz Dharejo presents shields to Teachers during 1st award ceremony to teachers, organized by Pakistan Private Schools and College Association at Besant hall in City.

SHC hearing over prisoners languishing in jails for non-payment of fine

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court on Monday heard petition with regard to prisoners remaining in jail over non-payment of paltry fine or Diyat.

Justice Amjad Ali Sehto heard petition of Shahab Osto Advocate with regard to plight of the prisoners, who failed to pay small fines or Diyat over non-payment.

The bench expressed resentment over non-payment of the money despite court orders. "Don't you feel how people suffer in jail," Justice Sehto asked.

"Sindh government has already paid fines of prisoners to the Nazir Sindh High Court in 2019," Additional Advocate General said. "Four inmates

were released after the amount paid by the government," AAG further said.

The high court bench summoned the Nazir SHC and the jail superintendent.

Petitioner had pleaded to the court that thousands of poor prisoners have been imprisoned for years over non-payment of fines or diyat amount despite their release orders. He pleaded to the high court to summon the list of such prisoners in Sindh's jails and sought court order for payment of money from Bait-ul-Mal for poor and destitute prisoners. Diyat is financial compensation that is paid to a victim or heirs of a victim. The compensation may be paid in the cases of murder, bodily harm, or damage to property.

Eyewitnesses identify MQM target-killer in Tahir Plaza fire case

KARACHI (INP): In an important development, two eyewitnesses Monday identified three terrorists including Mutthahida Qaumi Movement's (MQM) notorious target-killer Saeed Bhamrah in the Tahir Plaza fire case.

"Saeed Bhamrah and his accomplices opened fire and set ablaze the lawyers' offices in the plaza in Karachi," the eyewitnesses stated in their testimonies during the hearing of the case in an anti-terrorism court (ATC).

Statements of eyewitnesses, witnesses, the rick-

shaw-driver and the gunman of the murdered lawyer were also recorded.

"On the day of the incident, I was near Tahir Plaza," the rickshaw-driver said.

"Suddenly, there were gunshots and a stampede. I myself saw Saeed Bhamrah and other accused firing shots," he added.

"I had also identified them during the identification parade in front of the judicial magistrate," he stated.

"Saeed Bhamrah and other accused had entered Tahir Plaza.



KARACHI: Students are travelling dangerously on an overloaded vehicle that may cause any life risk for them during drive, showing negligence of concerned authorities, located on Sultanabad area in Karachi.

Diesel truck overturns on RCD Highway; PCG aid ambulance in emergency

KARACHI (APP): In a recent incident that occurred during the night of November 4th and 5th, a diesel-laden truck bearing registration number FDA-208, with Asif as the driver, overturned on the RCD highway near Windar, resulting from a suspected accident.

The aftermath of this incident led to significant traffic disruptions, prompting swift action by local authorities, according to a spokesman for the Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG).

Immediately following the incident, traffic on

the RCD highway was suspended, and local police were promptly notified. Efforts were initiated to restore the flow of traffic and clear the affected area.

Meanwhile, the situation affected an ambulance en route from Quetta to Karachi and numerous other vehicles, causing them to become stranded in the traffic congestion.

It is important to clarify that the Pakistan Coast Guards have a long-standing policy of not halting ambulances and emergency service vehicles for routine checks.



RAWALPINDI: H.E. Mr. Nicolas Galey, Ambassador of France called on Minister for Defence, Lt Gen (Retd) Anwar Ali Hyder in Ministry of Defence.

DG Health for adopting preventive measures to cope with Congo Virus

KARACHI (APP): Given outbreak of Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CHF), 08 persons including health care workers infected in Quetta, Sindh Health Authorities asked all Directors, Medical Superintendents and District Health Officers to adopt preventive and care measures to cope with any situation in this context.

The Director General Health Services Sindh, in a letter addressed to Direc-

tors of Health, Medical Superintendents of all hospitals and DHOs, advised that the health care professionals, infection control teams and relevant sections of hospitals must be made vigilant to manage unfavorable situation.

In case of emergence of any suspected case, immediately isolate suspect/confirmed patients in dedicated isolation rooms equipped with infection control measures.

Director Information directs to expedite work on under construction building in Matiari

HYDERABAD (APP): Divisional Director Information Hyderabad, Irshad Ali Chandio on Monday visited the Information department's under-construction building in district Matiari and examined the ongoing construction work.

He issued directives to expedite the construction work promptly. On this occasion, Deputy Director Information Muhammad Sabir Kaka and Assistant Saeed Ahmed Sheikh provided a detailed briefing. The Divisional Director of Information expressed dissatisfaction with the slow pace of developmental work and the usage of sub-standard materials. He said

that a complaint regarding incomplete construction work would be lodged with the authorities of the provincial buildings department, urging for immediate completion of the work.

He stated that new constructions were underway in eight districts of the Hyderabad division and upon their completion, it will not only ease the office work but also aid in establishing more effective relationships with correspondents of media bodies. While talking to journalists, he said that despite limited resources, the information department was taking steps towards financial aid and grants for journalists and press clubs.



HYDERABAD: Dr. Arshad Abro, Dr. Shahid Islam Junejo along with doctors from Basra addressing a press conference, at Civil Hospital in Hyderabad.

Town Municipal Corporation's Chairman booked in FIR in dog bite case

HYDERABAD (APP): The Chairman of Town Municipal Corporation (TMC) Hussainabad Umair Chandio, son of Pakistan Peoples Party's leader Moulana Bux Chandio, has been booked in an FIR concerning a dog bite attack on a 5-year-old child.

According to details, the FIR has been lodged at Qasimabad police station on the order of the 7th Additional Session Judge who is also ex-official Justice of Peace.

of the FIR which has been registered under sections 270, 289, 290, and 337-R of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), also nominated by the Town Municipal Commissioner Kashmir Jamali.

Solangi maintained that his son was bitten by a stray dog on his hips and leg on September 19. He said he immediately shifted Mujtaba to Taluka Hospital Qasimabad from where he was referred to Liaquat University Hospital where he was admitted for a few hours and given the required medical treatment before being discharged.

IMF asked for report on losses of govt-owned enterprises

ISLAMABAD (Online): IMF has asked Finance Ministry to report losses of government-owned enterprises for first quarter of current financial year.

According to documents, Finance Ministry has sought time from IMF to provide report by December 2023.

IMF mission has refused to accept report of outdated statistics on the losses of state-owned enterprises during negotiations.

IMF delegation has also inspected Central Monitoring Unit team for the assessment of government-owned enterprises.

Sindh gov't declares Nov 09 as public holiday on account of Iqbal Day

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh government has declared a public holiday on November 09 on the occasion of Iqbal Day.

According to a notification issued here on Monday, the public holiday will be observed across the province for all government offices, autonomous bodies, semi-autonomous bodies, corporations and local councils under the administrative control of the Sindh government, except the essential services.

10 arrested from gambling den

KARACHI (APP): The District City Police on Monday arrested 10 accused from gambling den in Kalakot area.

They were arrested by the Kalakot police station of district City, according to SSP City Anjad Hayat.

Gambling chits, playing cards, and gambling money were recovered from the accused.

The accused were identified as Muqaddar Khan, Akram Khan, Sher Bahadur, Muhammad Aslam, Khan Bahadur, Muhammad Rajab, Muhammad Yousif, Ghulam Abbas, Irfan, and Muhammad Asif.

The action was taken on intelligence-based information. A case had been registered against the accused. The previous criminal records of the accused was also being ascertained.

Fire engulfs lands in Public School Hyderabad

HYDERABAD (APP): A fire gutted the agricultural land and bushes in Public School Hyderabad (PSH) here on Monday evening but no harm to life or damage to property or assets was reported in the incident.

According to the police, the fire tenders of Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (HMC) were called to extinguish the wild blazes.

The police said the cause of the fire was not known. The smoke emitting from the fire spread to the nearby localities in Latifabad in addition to affecting the air quality within the school premises.

The PSH is the largest semi-government school in Hyderabad built on over 100 acres of land.



KARACHI: Heavy dark smoke rising burning plastic warehouse building after fire broken out incident, located on Stadium Road Dalmia Cement Factory area in Karachi.

Deputy Speaker New York State Assembly calls on Health Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): A sixteen-member delegation of the American Pakistan Public Affairs Committee led by Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly Phil Ramos met Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan. The meeting discussed in detail the promotion of mutual cooperation in the health sector.

Dr. Nadeem Jan welcomed the delegation and

expressed the desire to forge close collaboration with American Pakistan Public Affairs. He said Pakistani diaspora is making excellent contribution in the U.S. and across the world and we look at their role with utmost admiration. A detailed discussion was held on providing trained nurses, pharmacists, technicians and physiotherapists from Pakistan to the New York State.

Sir Syed University leads collaborative efforts at SW'23 in Croatia

KARACHI (APP): Dean of the Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering of Sir Syed University of Engineering & Technology, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Aamir, gave a presentation regarding "Massive Information by a Plethora of Devices for Climate Protection through ICT" at the twenty-sixth Strategic Workshop

(SW'23), held in the picturesque city of Dubrovnik, Croatia that brought together renowned experts and academics to deliberate on the pressing theme.

The Session Chair, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Aamir, underscored the critical need to confront the contemporary challenges of climate change.



KARACHI: Commuters pass through nearby an open sewerage main hole that may cause any accident specially in night hours, showing the negligence of concerned departments, at Saddar area near Parking Plaza in Karachi.