

Independent

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Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 05. No. 312 Jamadi-ul-Awal 01, 1445 AH Thursday November 16, 2023 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday calling Israeli barbarism in Palestine unparalleled even in the medieval era, reprimanded the world's double standards on war ethos and its "bizarre and surreal" rationalization of the killing of children in Gaza.

The prime minister, addressing the annual Magalla Dialogue 2023 conference held by Islamabad Policy Research Institute on "Evolving World Environment: Charting the Course for Our Future," said Israeli forces were targeting vulnerable people in hospitals and eliminating children.

Referring to his discussions with some diplo-

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

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

He said those claiming to be the followers of Prophet Moses, were actually following the footsteps of Pharaoh by killing the children which was "utterly unacceptable."



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the Caretaker Federal Cabinet.

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

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

The Finance Act, 2023 introduced a new section 99D in the Income Tax Ordinance 20121 which would enforce the imposition of tax on windfall income profits and gains of

the banks.

The cabinet also approved amendments in the Hajj Policy 2024 under which the government and private unutilized sponsorship schemes quota would be returned to the Saudi Government, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Besides, in accordance with the Saudi government's laws, a fool-proof monitoring system over the financial arrangements of Hajj group organizers would be enforced whereas under the new Hajj policy, children below the age of 10 years would be

able to perform the religious obligation.

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

The condition would be inserted in the agreement for the provision of services and its violation would lead to imposition of fine and black listing of the relevant Hajj group organizer, it was

added.

The meeting also sanctioned a reduction in the hardship Hajj quota. A total of 50 percent quota of hiring local supporters would be dedicated to those Pakistani students who are studying in different universities of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and their deployment would be made as welfare staff.

The cabinet in its previous meeting had constituted a committee to bring improvement in the Hajj Policy 2024 and under its recommendations the above-mentioned amendments were made.

Are the decisions taken before decisions: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) while allowing federal government to conduct investigation in respect of all matters under commission with reference to Faizabad Dharna has directed Attorney General of Pakistan it should be got entered in TORS that filing review petitions were an accident or were filed under some one directives.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa remarked are the decisions taken before decisions. Who thinks courts were being controlled, this case is its major example.

He observed it was known to all who was doing this all. But no one has courage to mention name. The enemy of country is not outsider. All are enemies by themselves inside the country.

Justice Athar

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

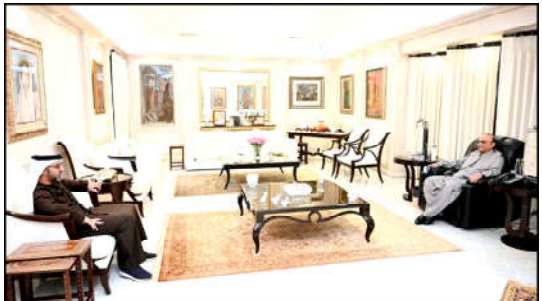
The court dismissed the petition of Sheikh Rashid being withdrawn by him.

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

AG, Sheikh Rashid and his counsel appeared in the court.

The CJP questioned from the counsel of Sheikh Rashid why he had filed review petition.

The counsel said some misperceptions emerged from agencies report. Upon it we filed review petition.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) President, Asif Ali Zardari exchanging views with Hamed Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al-Zaabi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during meeting held in Karachi.

PPP to contest election on its performance: Gilani

MULTAN (APP): Former Prime Minister and Central leader of Pakistan Peoples Party Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani said that PPP's revolutionary measures were not hidden from the masses and PPP would take part in elections based on its track record of best services towards them. He was talking to people at the residence of Haji Altaf and Fida Hussain, during his visit to Banda Sandela union council here on Wednesday.

Gilani remarked that people were faced with dif-

iculties due to inflation and poor economic conditions in the country.

He claimed that PPP would address people's issues by eliminating inflation. PPP strongly believe in the power of masses vote, he added.

He said the PPP would take revolutionary steps further to serve the people, adding that the PPP would provide jobs and also improve the health and education sectors. On this occasion, Syed Ali Haider Gilani was also present.

RTI law ensures transparency, improves governance: Secretary Information Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Information Secretary Nadeem-ur-Rahman Memon stressed the importance of the right to information law in ensuring transparency and improving governance, saying that the Constitution of Pakistan specifies access to information as a fundamental right of citizens.

Memon was speaking at a training workshop held on Wednesday to sensitize information officers about the relevant laws. The workshop was organized by the Sindh Information Commission in collaboration with Transparency International.

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

He said that the organization of a training session to make the officers aware of the relevant laws and to perform their duties under the said laws and the participation of public information officers of different departments in this session was a positive move.



KARACHI: Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Karachi Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman addressing the meet the Press at Karachi Press Club.

Security forces kill 7 terrorists in Tank district: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (Online): During an operation by the security forces in Kari Machankhel area of Tank district, 7 terrorists were killed and their hideouts were also destroyed and arms and ammunition were recovered. According to ISPR, on the night of November 14 and 15, security forces conducted an operation based on intelligence information about the presence of terrorists.

During the operation, there was a fierce exchange of fire between the security forces and the terrorists, as a result of which 7 terrorists were killed, while the hideouts of the terrorists were also destroyed and weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the terrorists. These terrorists were active in several terrorist activities including the recent target killing of police in and around Tank.

IHC issues written order on staying PTI chairman jail trial in cipher case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued written order of staying PTI chairman jail trial in cipher case.

The court remarked prima facie Chairman PTI trial cannot be called open trial. The written order was issued by Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz. It has been said in the order that no document has been brought on record to meet the prior conditions of jail trial. If any such document is there then it should be presented in the court on next hearing.

Govt slashes petrol price by Rs2.4 per litre

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

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

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

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

Shop owner chased, gunned down robber in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A robber was reportedly shot dead after he along with his accomplice allegedly looted a computer shop located in Bahadurabad on Wednesday.

According to the CCTV footage, two robbers — who were on two different motorbikes — can be seen looting a computer shop at gunpoint and taking laptops along with cash and mobile phones.

After looting the shop, the robbers fled from the scene, unaware that the armed shop owner was chasing them. The owner of the computer shop — after seeking an opportunity — opened fire at the robber and shot him dead.

Jamal Shah, British Pakistani soprano discuss matters of music industry

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah was called on by British-Pakistani soprano and Sufi opera singer Saira Peter, here at Division on Wednesday to discuss mutual interest issues pertaining to the music industry. During the meeting, Saira Peter, accompanied by her official manager Zafar

Francis and her husband Stephen Smith, an ethnomusicologist and pianist/hamonium player, proposed the organization of her solo concert at the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA). Presently, Saira Peter collaborates with British artists in creating the world's inaugural full-scale "Sufi Opera," a musical stage drama centered.



KARACHI: Special Assistant to PM on Maritime Affairs Vice Admiral (retired) Mr. Iftikhar Rao briefing about IMO Workshop under Integrated Technical Cooperation Program for Implementation of Hong Kong Convention, Pakistan, 2023 at Avari Towers.

Need to look inward, not blame each other: Shehbaz

QUETTA (INP): PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif has said that they will accept whoever the public chooses as the prime minister, and if the public chooses Nawaz Sharif, then he will be accepted.

Shehbaz said this when asked to comment on PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's recent statements that the next prime minister will be from Sindh and that PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif should focus on Lahore only.

He was addressing the media in Quetta along with senior politician Nawab Lashkari Raisani on Wednesday. Further commenting on Bilawal's remarks, Shehbaz said every one should do durable politics, adding that whatever

happened in Pakistan in the last seven decades was before everyone and there was no use crying over spilt milk now.

"It is not appropriate to blame each other. We need to look inward and do some introspection also," he suggested.

About the previous coalition government, he said he wasn't just sitting at home doing nothing, adding that he went from one place to the other and did everything he could in a coalition government.

"We saved the country from going bankrupt. If the state is saved, politics will also be saved. If the state had not survived, the situation would have been worse than Sri Lanka's," he stressed.

Bushra Bibi seeks private meeting with husband

ISLAMABAD (APP): The spouse of the Chief of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Bushra Bibi, filed a petition on Wednesday in the Islamabad High Court (IHC), seeking permission to meet her husband without the presence of security personnel.

In her plea, she stated that, in accordance with court directives, she was allowed to meet her husband every Tuesday. However, the presence of jail staff during these meetings compromised the privacy needed to discuss family matters. Therefore, she requested the issuance of directives to the superintendent of Adiala Jail to allow private meetings with the PTI chief.

Five outlaws held, arms, other item recovered

KARACHI (INP): The police arrested five outlaws including robbers and a gambler, recovered arms and other items from their possession during separate actions in different areas of the metropolis on Wednesday.

According to details, during a police encounter near Nipa Chowrangi, two robbers were injured and held with weapons. The injured robbers were shifted to hospital.

The police on a tip-off conducted raid in Gulshan-e-Mehmar and arrested two accused involved in smuggling of non-custom paid cigarettes.

FIA arrests notorious human trafficker in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Anti-Human Trafficking Cell arrested a human smuggler from Karachi's Korangi area.

According to the FIA officials, the accused, identified as Attaul Rehman was allegedly engaged in the grave offense of human trafficking and was receiving passports under the false pretext of facilitating employment opportunities abroad. The FIA disclosed that the arrested trafficker had taken substantial sums of cash from citizens, meanwhile, during the raid, the law enforcers recovered several passports from the possession of the arrested individuals.

Joining Hong Kong Convention will boost ship recycling business; SAPM

KARACHI (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Maritime Affairs, Vice Admiral (Retd.) Iftikhar Ahmed Rao, announced on Wednesday that governmental efforts are currently underway to secure Pakistan's accession to the Hong Kong Convention (HKC). He expressed confidence that formal approval from the cabinet would soon be obtained for this purpose.

Speaking at the three-day International Maritime Organization (IMO) National Seminar titled 'The Ratification and Implementation of the Hong Kong Convention, Pakistan 2023,' the SAPM highlighted the prospective benefits of joining the HKC. Rao emphasized that this accession would likely draw a substantial number of ships to country's ship breaking yards, thereby stimulating growth within the country's ship-breaking industry.

Rao underscored the global shift towards recognizing ship-breaking as

ship recycling, emphasizing its environmentally sustainable and energy-efficient nature. He lamented the decline of Gadani Ship Breaking Yard, attributing its regression to past neglect.

Moreover, Vice Admiral (Retd.) Iftikhar Ahmed Rao asserted ongoing efforts to revitalize and restore the former prestige of Pakistan's ship-breaking industry. He acknowledged the implementation of various international regulations governing ship-breaking, including waste disposal, labor safety, and the establishment of environmentally friendly yards. Rao expressed regret that the country had not timely joined the HKC, which came into effect in 2009.

The SAPM outlined future endeavors post-joining the HKC, highlighting aspirations to align with the European Union's ship-breaking standards. Additionally, the concluding day of the seminar witnessed addresses by IMO consultants Takeshi Naruse.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Sindh President, Senator Nisar Ahmed Khuhro addresses to media persons during press conference, held at Peoples Secretariat building in Karachi.

SHC adjourns hearing against acquittal of accused in MPAs murder case

SUKKUR (INP): Sindh High Court bench Sukkur on Wednesday adjourned hearing of a petition against acquittal of accused in People's Party MPA Shehnaz Ansari's murder case till December 05.

Shehnaz Ansari was shot dead in Noshehro Feroz, three years ago, in February 2020.

The MPA was shifted to Nawabshah hospital in precarious condition where she took her last breath, police said.

The high court bench adjourned hearing of the case till Dec 05 due to absence of the lawyers of accused. The court also or-

dered defence lawyers to appear in the next case hearing at any cost.

The model court had handed life term to main accused Waqar Khokhar in the murder case, while acquitted other three accused including a woman.

An appeal was filed in the Sindh High Court bench against the decision of the model court.

She was elected to the Provincial Assembly of Sindh as Pakistan People's Party (PPP) candidate on a reserved seat for women in 2013 election. She was re-elected to the assembly again on a reserved seat in 2018 elections.



LARKANA: Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI-F) Leader, Maulana Nasir Mahmood Soomro presides over a meeting to review the arrangements of Shaheed Islam and Toofan Aqsa Conference held on 30th November coming ahead, at Jamia Islamia in Larkana.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Resurgent militancy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Increasing margins



Arooj Waheed Dar

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Through digitalisation, women will have easy access to markets and better knowledge of opportunities for innovation and growth.

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

In a nutshell, digital and financial inclusion are the cornerstones of decent work opportunities for women in Pakistan. — Courtesy Dawn

If not now, when?



Mahir Ali

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

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

Alongside the Netanyahu regime, the chief culprit is the American political, military and corporate establishment. If it so desired, the US could have restrained Israel’s genocidal impulses long ago — or, at least belatedly, last month. It chose, instead, to offer additional lethal weaponry and littoral cover via aircraft carriers.

Within the US, meanwhile, pro-Palestinian protesters are routinely being branded as fans of Hamas, even if they happen to be Jewish. Donors are withdrawing their support from universities and other institutions unless they effectively criminalise any manifestations of empathy for Palestinian lives.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Unless he’s toppled before the next election, he

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commerce News

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

Expert committee formed to finalize modalities for GDS trading on PSX

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

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

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

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

The route will operate twice a week, symbolizing the strengthening of bilateral ties between China and Pakistan. The inaugural flight is planned to depart from Karachi at 23:00 local time on November 18.

Cabinet committee okays SOE Policy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCSOE) on Wednesday approved the revised State-Owned Enterprises (Ownership and Management) Policy 2023 and recommended it for approval to the Federal Cabinet.

Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs Dr Shamsah Akhtar chaired the CCSOE meeting, which, besides the committee members, was attended by the chairman

of Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), federal secretaries, and other senior officers from the relevant ministries.

According to a Finance Ministry press release, as per the directions of last CCSOE meeting, the State-Owned Enterprises (Ownership and Management) Policy, 2023, was re-submitted to the committee for review, after incorporation of feedback received from the members of the committee.

Pakistan’s exports to Turkiye dip 4.97%

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

The overall exports to Turkiye were recorded at US \$90.272 million during July-September (2023-24) against exports of US \$94.998 million during July-September (2022-23), SBP data revealed. On a year-to-year

basis, the exports to Turkiye also dipped by 9.70 per cent from \$32.026 million in September 2022, against the exports of \$28.917 million in September 2023. Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to Turkiye decreased by 3.16 per cent during September 2023 as compared to the exports of \$29.863 million in August 2023, the SBP data revealed. Overall Pakistan’s exports to other countries witnessed a decrease of 4.96 per cent in the first three months, from US \$ 7.385 billion to US \$ 7.018 billion, the SBP data revealed.

Dr Kausar Abdullah stresses need to control environmental pollution

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

Addressing the launching ceremony of ‘Ecological Baseline Survey Report at Tharparkar (Sindh), he said that socio-economic package is indispensable

for livelihood in Tharparkar.

He said that the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is an academic research platform with the help of which we can solve many problems related to the environment.

Country Representative IUCN Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, ex-senator Javed Jabbar, Professor Z.B Mirza, Botanical Expert Khairpur University Dr. Muzaffar Hussain Sirohi and CEO (SECMS) Amir Iqbal also attended the ceremony.

The minister while hailing the positive initiatives and keen interest of private sectors in the environment said that water is being contaminated in some areas as piles of dirt are seen in the water, which is affecting the environment. All stakeholders should take serious steps to eliminate that water pollution, he added.

Malik expressed his concern about water pollution and stressed the immediate need to keep the environment clean and pollution-free.

PSX gains 14 points

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

Pak Pavilion inaugurated at China Outbound Travel and Tourism Market Expo

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

Pakistan and China. While commending the efforts of the exhibitors and tourism companies for the promotion of Pakistan’s tourism potential, Ambassador Hashmi noted that Pakistan was bestowed with a rich cultural heritage, diverse landscapes and unique cuisine. He encouraged Chinese tourists, academics and entrepreneurs to visit Pakistan and explore the country.

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

181 new dengue cases reported on Wed

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

Caretaker CM KP inspects Ayub Teaching Hospital's progress

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

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

RTI law ensures transparency, improves governance: Memon

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

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

CM Naqvi acknowledges revolutionary steps taken for automation of transport sector

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

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

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

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

7 injured in road accident

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

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

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

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

International News

Biden, Xi meet amid disputes over military and economic issues

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

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

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



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

Russian resources minister visits North Korea amid new missile development

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

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

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

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

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: After four failed attempts, the U.N. Security Council is trying for a fifth time to come up with a resolution on the Israel-Hamas war, but it remains to be seen whether serious divisions can be overcome to produce a consensus on wording. The current draft under negotiation would demand "immediate extended humanitarian pauses" throughout the Gaza Strip to provide civilians with desperately needed aid. It also would demand that "all parties" comply with international humanitarian law that requires protection for civilians, calls for special protections for children, and bans hostage-taking. But the draft, proposed by council member Malta and obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press, makes no mention of a ceasefire. It also doesn't refer to Hamas' surprise attack on Israel on Oct. 7 that killed around 1,200 people and took some 240 others hostage. Nor does it cite Israel's retaliatory airstrikes and ground offensive in Hamas-ruled Gaza that the Gaza health ministry says has killed more than 11,000 Palestinians, two-thirds of them women and children. The 15-member council, which has the responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, has been paralyzed since the war began by its internal divisions. This is especially the case between China and Russia, which want an immediate ceasefire, and the United States, Israel's closest ally that has called for humanitarian pauses but objects to any mention of a ceasefire. In the four previous tries, a Brazil-drafted resolution was vetoed by the United States, a U.S.-drafted resolution was vetoed by Russia and China, and two Russian-drafted resolutions failed to get the minimum nine "yes" voted needed for adoption.

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

US extends sanctions waiver allowing Iraq to buy electricity from Iran

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

for Iranian electricity currently being held in escrow accounts in Iraq, and the waiver will allow Baghdad to maintain its energy imports without fear of U.S. penalties for violating sanctions on Iran. It will also keep in place a provision - included in the last 120-day waiver - under which portions of the electricity proceeds can be transferred to accounts in Oman and then converted to euros or other widely traded currencies for Iran to buy non-sanctioned products. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the decision-making process, said Blinken signed the waiver mainly because the administration doesn't want to cut Iraq off from a critical source of energy.

Israeli army claims seizing parliament in Gaza

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

400 employees of Biden govt call for ceasefire in Gaza

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

specific actions they want President Biden to take for de-escalation and humanitarian relief in the region. "We call on President Biden to urgently demand a ceasefire; and to call for de-escalation of the current conflict by securing the immediate release of Israeli hostages and arbitrarily detained Palestinians," the federal employees wrote in their letter. They also demanded the restoration of water, fuel, electricity and other basic services to Gaza and the passage of adequate humanitarian aid to the besieged Palestinian enclave.

Japanese helicopters train to repel invaders amid nationwide military drills

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

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

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



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the inaugural session of Margalla Dialogue 2023.

PM reaffirms govt's enduring commitment to reform efforts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday reaffirmed the government's enduring commitment to the reform efforts agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as these were aimed at stabilizing the Pakistan's economy in the long run.

IMF Mission Chief for Pakistan Nathan Porter and IMF Resident Representative for Pakistan Esther Perez Tuiz called on the prime minister and apprised him of the status of the negotiations held at the technical levels with the team of Government of Pakistan under the First Re-

view of the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA), the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister thanked the IMF team for its ongoing work with Pakistan and praised the leadership of the minister for finance and revenue, and the contribution of her team in taking the programme forward. He also appreciated the role of Governor, State Bank of Pakistan.

Caretaker minister for finance, State Bank of Pakistan governor, Federal Board of Revenue chairman, and senior government officials also attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Rector, Bahria University, Vice Admiral retired Asif Khaliq called on caretaker Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed.

We will save Pakistani people from expensive electricity, Nawaz Sharif

QUETTA (Online): PML-N Supremo Nawaz Sharif said that we built 400 small dams so that people can get water.

We gave admission to children in Danish schools that were built by Shehbaz Sharif. We want to give better educational facilities to children in Baluchistan.

While addressing to party meeting in Quetta, he said that we built the Kachi Canal for 50 billion to irrigate 1.5 million acre.

Only PML-N thought of Quetta, Gwadar, Zhob and Loralai. We had merged

Gwadar with Sindh and built Coastal Highway. We are connecting Quetta to Islamabad through Dera Ismail Khan (DI Khan). The project was to be completed in 2018 but why this project was not completed? This loss happened to the people, Baluchistan and Pakistan. With the construction of Gwadar-Quetta highway, now you can have breakfast in Gwadar and lunch in Quetta. People used to reach Quetta from Gwadar in one and a half days and we have ended their suffering.

Mayor Sukkur reviews construction work on different roads

SUKKUR (APP): Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Sheikh on Wednesday visited Station Road and reviewed construction work of the road being constructed from Quence Road to Sokha Talab and Shikarpur road.

The Mayor on the occasion said that after completion of the construction work, smooth flow of traffic could be ensured in this area. Barrister Arslan

Sheikh said that the road construction work should be completed within shortest possible time frame after the sewerage lines on the side of the road are completed.

Substandard work would not be tolerated under any circumstances, he warned and directed the relevant authorities to complete the road project as soon as possible to facilitate the citizens.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Mr. Madad Ali Sindhi giving trophy to winning team during the prize distribution ceremony of "FBISE Annual Sports" at Pakistan Sports Complex.

KU inks MoUs with SECMC, PPL to expand academia industry collaboration

KARACHI (APP): The Department of Geology of the University of Karachi signed two different memorandum of understanding with the Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company, and Pakistan Petroleum Limited to expand the academia-industry collaboration at the KU Vice Chancellor Secretariat here.

According to the MoU inked with the SECMC, the KU and Sindh

Engro Coal Mining Company agreed to initiate the academic exchange program to develop collaboration for research in educational activities under which the KU will send teacher(s) to SECMC to attend advanced state-of-the-art field training program.

Meanwhile, SECMC will send its professionals to the University of Karachi to seek solutions for complex problems.

It is better not to tease us: Saad

ISLAMABAD (Online): While reacting to statement of PPP Co-Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Khawaja Saad Rafique said in his tweet on Twitter (X) that "Bilawal Bhutto Sahib! If you have raised the question then listen to answer: My family or I never hid our face neither did the British, Ayub Khan and Yahya Khan's cajolery. In the last 80 years from Khizr Hayat Tawana to Qamar Bajwa, we have served everyone's jail.

He said that during the civil dictatorship of late Bhutto, my father died. During Zia regime, I had to go to jail 3 times. Musharraf fought against dictatorship and suffered in jail. He suffered physical violence. He lost his mother's life.

Farah Goggi has no connection with PTI: Zulfi

LONDON (ONLINE): PTI leader Zulfi Bukhari has said Farah Goggi has no relevance with PTI and if she has committed corruption then she should be awarded stern punishment.

He said this while talking on "democracy in crisis" at London.

He said chairman PTI had realized about wrong choice of Usman Buzdar. Removing him later was not appropriate. He held some close people to chairman PTI were included in those who framed cases against me. One among those who got instituted cases against me became approver and second fled the country.

He underlined the entire PTI had condemned May 9 incidents. We strongly condemned attack on Jinnah House.

Violation of basic rights exposes India's facade of largest democracy: APHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has said that violation of Kashmiris' fundamental human rights exposed the India's facade of so-called largest democracy as it has converted the entire Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) into the world's largest open air jail.

According to Kashmir Media Service (KMS), APHC leaders including Ghulam Muhammad Khan Sopori, Abdul Ahad, Advocate Arshad Iqbal, Muhammad Saleem Zargar, Sibte Shabbir Qummi and Maulana Musaab Nadvi in their statements issued in Srinagar said, "Death of India's fake democracy is daily witnessed in the killing fields of Kashmir where Modi-led Hindutva government is increasing number

of its occupation troops on daily basis to suppress the freedom movement."

However, they added that the Kashmiris were determined to spearhead their liberation cause against all odds.

Crushing with brute force the Kashmiris' right to self-determination has proved that India is a sham democracy, the leaders said and pointed out, "Deployment of around one million Indian soldiers in IOJK was a proof that India is fighting a lost war." They said, "India's status in the territory is just of a usurper because Kashmiris have not accepted its occupation from the day one while New Delhi has converted the territory into the world's largest jail and besieged the oppressed people."

Elections crucial for democratic continuity and stability: NA Speaker

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf stated on Wednesday that elections are pivotal for the continuity and stability of democracy and for strengthening democratic norms. He emphasized that elections provide people with an opportunity to choose their true representatives. On November 16, 1988, the Pakistani nation chose the Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) in general elections, and Mohtarama Shaheed Benazir Bhutto was elected as the first

woman Prime Minister of Pakistan, he added. He underscored, "PPP believes in the power granted by the people and always respects the people's choice."

Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf also said that Shaheed Mohtarama Benazir Bhutto made unmatched sacrifices for the continuity of the democratic process in Pakistan. He highlighted that the supremacy of the constitution and the rule of law are also essential for inculcating democratic norms in any society.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State Owned Enterprises, in Islamabad.

GCU organized anti-drugs awareness seminar

HYDERABAD (APP): Government College University (GCU) organized a seminar titled "Anti-Drug Awareness" to educate the students about drugs abuse, the harmful effects under auspices of Anti drug and tobacco committee, the other day.

Speakers while addressing said that majority of population was based on youth who were facing so many problems including increasing trend of consuming narcotics however collective efforts were needed to eliminate the menace.

Committee convener Dr Makhdoom Roshan Siddiqui, members Dr Sheeba and Dr Adnan Malik also spoke on the occasion.

Assistant Commissioner Larkana visits CMC Children Hospital

LARKANA (APP): On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Larkana, Assistant Commissioner Muhammad Arslan Chaudhry along with, Medical Superintendent CMC Hospital Dr. Mubasher Kolachi and Head of Child Life Foundation Abdullah Chaudio, on Wednesday paid a visit to the emergency department of CMC Children Hospital to review arrangements made for patients suffering from various diseases.

During the visit, he enquired about the problems of patients and directed the MS of CMC Hospital to ensure the provision of proper healthcare facilities in all wards of the Hospital.

On the occasion, he took notice of the shortage of Medicines in the hospitals and poor cleanliness and security issues.

He directed the concerned authorities to resolve the basic problems of the patients and warned the negligent officials of stern and legal action against them.

He also visited various sections of the Children's Hospital including the Emergency Department, Medical store, Wards, and X-ray room.

Medical Superintendent, CMC Hospital Larkana, senior doctors, RMOs and others were present on the occasion.

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Motorcyclist killed in hit and run accident

KARACHI (INP): A motorcyclist was killed in a hit-and-run accident near Korangi Godam Chowrangi on Wednesday.

The deceased, 49-year-old Imran Ahmed Siddiqui, was a graphic designer at a private TV channel and the father of two children.

Siddiqui was riding for home from work when he was struck by a high-speed 22-wheeler trailer. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver of the trailer fled the scene of the accident. Police have seized the trailer and are investigating the incident.

This is the latest in a string of fatal traffic accidents in Karachi.



HYDERABAD: Members of Solangi Community are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of Baldia Police, at Hyderabad press club.

'Let power of intellect overrule military might to save humanity from wars,' President tells world

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday said with wars and conflicts resulting in the massacre of innocent people, the world needed a unified approach to saving humanity from the violence of the powerful.

"Power of intellect should be the world order taking precedence over the violent forces which quash the spirit of humanity and justice," he said at the Annual Margalla Dialogue 2023.

The event themed "Evolving world environment: Charting the course of our future" gathered diplomats, thinkers, and intellectuals from various countries.

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

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

He pointed out that using the right of veto against the cessation of war questioned the ethical standards of the countries concerned.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He highlighted the need for a global focus on conflict resolution, the economy, and climate change.

Earlier, President Dr Arif Alvi and the guests in attendance observed a one-minute silence for the innocent people of Palestine who faced the barbaric acts of Israel.



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

DC for successful anti polio drive

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sukkur, Fayyaz Hussain Mahesar on Wednesday chaired a meeting regarding the polio campaign to make it a successful drive in the district.

The meeting was attended by the District Health Officer, representatives from UNICEF, Rotary, WHO, and other concerned officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the deputy commissioner said steps should be taken to make the polio campaign successful saying that we all have to play a positive role in the polio campaign.

He said from polio workers to area in-charge monitoring officers, the goal is one and that is the elimination of polio from the country.

Consultative workshop on domestic workers rights held in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD (APP): In a collaborative effort to protect the rights of domestic workers, the Labor Department of Sindh and the International Labour Organization (ILO) held a consultative workshop on Wednesday.

The workshop brought together representatives from the cottage industry, labor organizations, government officials, civil society, and legal experts to discuss and propose comprehensive legislation for domestic workers.

Participants emphasized the urgent need for comprehensive legislation that addresses issues of fair employment, worker rights, eradication of domestic violence, and awareness campaigns to educate employers about their respective rights and obligations.

They urged the Sindh government to prioritize the enactment of this legislation in 2023 to ensure the social

safety and well-being of domestic workers.

The workshop highlighted the alarmingly high proportion of women and children among domestic workers, emphasizing the need for targeted measures to protect their health and safety.

Participants commended the Sindh government's 2014 labor policy, which established a minimum age limit of 14 years for domestic work and outlined specific provisions for child workers under the age of 18. They acknowledged similar legislation enacted in Punjab in 2019 and later on at the federal level to address the plight of domestic workers and now needed in Sindh.

Identifying illiteracy and poverty as the primary factors driving individuals into domestic work, participants expressed concern about the low wages and lack of leave entitlements often faced by these workers.

Five outlaws held, arms, other item recovered

KARACHI (INP): The police arrested five outlaws including robbers and a gambler, recovered arms and other items from their possession during separate actions in different areas of the metropolis on Wednesday.

According to details, during a police encounter near Nipa Chowrangi, two robbers were injured and held with weapons. The injured robbers were shifted to hospital.

The police on a tip-off conducted raid in Gulshan-e-Mehmar and arrested two accused involved in smuggling of non-custom paid cigarettes.

An accused running gambling den was arrested with gambling material and stake money during a crackdown in Lyari Chakiwara.

IGHDS to observe World Toilet Day on Nov 19

SUKKUR (APP): The Inter Global Human Development Society (IGHDS), Health Department, Education Department, and PPHI jointly commemorated World Toilet Day to be observed on November 19.

The United Nations has designated November 19 as World Toilet Day, urging changes in both behavior and policy on issues ranging from enhancing water management to ending open-air defecation. The basic purpose of observing this day is to raise awareness for accessing proper sanitation and advocate for safe toilets, and forging effective partnerships for the purpose.



KARACHI: 3rd day of IMO Workshop under Integrated Technical Cooperation Program for Implementation of Hong Kong Convention at Avari Towers.

SFA takes action on dairy shops, imposes fine

HYDERABAD (APP): A team from Sindh Food Authority (SFA) along with Assistant Commissioner Ahsan Morai on Wednesday conducted raids on Dairy shops in Tando Jam.

This action was taken on the direction of Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhar Hussain.

On this occasion, Deputy Director Sindh Food Authority Hyderabad Fida Hussain Khoso was also accompanied by the team.

The Sindh Food Authority team visited several Dairies and Hotels. Fines were also imposed on milk shops for finding detergent in milk.

The team imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on Al Falah Dairy, 20,000 rupees on Soomro Milk Shop and Rs 700,000 on Alishan Foods additionally a fine of Rs

50,000 was imposed on Khan Broast and the kitchen was temporarily closed.

Similarly, the fine was also imposed on Khan Broast for not having a license from the Sindh Food Authority.

The Sindh Food Authority team along with the assistant commissioner also inspected the Hotels. During the inspection, tea leaves were found to be standard at these shops.

Director General of Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhar Hussain has said that adulteration in food items will not be tolerated and the people associated with this business should not only get a license from Sindh Food Authority but also strictly adhere to the rules of hygiene otherwise action will be taken against the violators under Sindh Food Authority Act.