

# Independent

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

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

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

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

nation. Pakistan would continue playing its role over the issue till its resolution, he reassured.

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

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

To a question, he reiterated that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was a constitutional body that would give a specific date for holding of the general elections in the country.

He said the delimitation process was a constitutional requirement and the previous parliament had done legislation over the is-

Continued on page 2



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

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

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

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

labourers staying there. Although police personnel present in the police station retaliated, but four labourers were hit by the intense fire.

Besides four labourers, a police cop guarding them was also killed.

Meanwhile, the bodies of all five deceased were shifted to the Teaching hos-

Continued on page 2

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

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that two holding centres have been established in Quetta for the illegal immigrants sending back to their homeland.

In an official statement issued here on Tuesday, the Minister Information said that holding centres have been established at Haji camp and PCSIR building on ending of the deadline for repatriation of illegal immigrants.

Jan Achakzai said that all necessary facilities have been provided at both of the holding centres for the immigrants. The Haji camp holding camp has the capacity of 300 beds while PCSIR camp has the capacity of 500 beds, the Minister maintained.

He also informed that NADRA is going to install system for the biometric of illegal immigrants to be repatriated to their respective countries.



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

## SC bars accountability courts to decide NAB references

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

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

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

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



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

### Muhammad Ali says

## Decision to increase gas tariff taken in national interest

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

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

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

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

## Governor slams Turbat incident; vows not to sabotage peace

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

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

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

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

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

### Independent Report

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

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

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

The Chief Minister

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

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

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

The Chief Minister directed to make foolproof security arrangements

alongside profiling of the labourers.

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

He on the occasion said that the shortage of manpower in the police and Levies would be fulfilled in Turbat. However, he directed to deploy the personnel available from different districts of the province in Turbat till completion of the process of new recruitments. Moreover, the Chief Minister directed to hold meeting of the investigation team consisting of the Police, Levies, CTD and other agencies.

## Blome meets FM Jilani

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

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

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

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

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

The Senate chairman emphasized the universal nature of the issue. "The cruelty and brutality going on in Palestine is not related to any religion; it is cruelty to humanity," he said, according to a News release issued by the Senate Secretariat. Sadiq Sanjrani also stressed the importance of the Kashmir issue, stating, "The occupied Kashmir issue is a core issue of Pakistan," and

called for its resolution in line with the UN resolutions. He advocated for the right to self-determination for Kashmiris.

He urged the United Nations to adopt a common plan of action for immediate solutions to the two problems. He expressed the belief that negotiations were the solution to the problems and urged the UN to facilitate talks for resolving the issues. In a show of Pakistan's commitment to international cooperation and diplomacy, he noted, "Wherever there is a problem of humanity in the world, Pakistan definitely raises its voice." The Senate chairman advocated for peace and harmony through parliamentary diplomacy. He stressed the importance of collective efforts in removing obstacles to development and promoting regional peace, stating, "We have to step up collective efforts to remove obstacles and promote regional peace and harmony using parliamentary diplomacy."

## Interior Minister announces crackdown on illegal foreigners from tomorrow

Orders official to be respectful with undocumented immigrants

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti announced on Tuesday that the provincial and federal authorities will begin a major crackdown on "unregistered migrants" in phases starting from November 2. He also said that the government will decide the border of deportation for these migrants. In an interview with PTV news channel, Bugti said that authorities will strictly begin tracking and arresting foreigners staying in the country without registration or documents from November 2. He added that migrants will be sent to temporary centers where they will be provided with basic needs such as medical care and accommodation. "All basic facilities will be provided at these centers to illegal foreign nationals," he reassured.

Bugti further clarified that the expulsion of illegal foreign nationals will be carried out in phases, and people with no travel documents will be deported in the first phase. He stated that all provincial governments would play an active part in the operation against illegal foreigners, adding that committees have been formed at the divisional and district levels. The minister said that the government will decide the border of deportation for "undocumented migrants," adding that any migrants in Pakistan illegally should go back to their countries voluntarily to avoid mass arrest and forced deportation. In response to a query, Bugti said that Pakistan has generously hosted the world's largest protracted refugee population for over three decades, in line with Islamic values of hospitality and generosity.



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

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

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Captain (Retd) Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has strongly condemned the killing of four labourers and a police cop in the Turbat firing incident. In an official statement issued here on Tuesday, the Minister Home stated that the Turbat incident is being thoroughly investigated from all angles and as such those involved in it would be awarded exemplary punishment.

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

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

غیر قانونی طور پر مقیم غیر ملکیوں کیلئے  
رضاکارانہ طور پر اپنے وطن واپس لوٹنے کی

# مہلت ختم ہو چکی ہے

آج یکم نومبر 2023 سے

قانون نافذ کرنے والے اداروں کی جانب سے

حال، پاکستان میں غیر قانونی مقیم غیر ملکیوں کے خلاف قانونی کارروائی کے تحت ان کی باعزت واپسی کا فوری انتظام

کوئٹہ میں پانچ سو نوک اور دیگر ضروری سہولیات سے آراستہ 2 ہولڈنگ سنٹر کا قیام  
جہاں تازگیں، مٹن کوکے کے ایسا پینے نلگ واپس بھیجا جائے گا

**یاد رکھیں!**

- غیر قانونی مقیم غیر ملکیوں کو بنا رہائش یا ملازمت دینے اور ان سے فریب دینے والے ادارے کے خلاف بھی سخت قانونی کارروائی کی جائے گی
- مقامی چوڑائی پر غیر ملکیوں کی شناختی میں اپنا کردار ادا کریں
- اگر آپ کیس پاس یا کوئی غیر قانونی فریگی ہے تو ان کی شناختی ذریعہ طور پر انتظامیہ سے کریں
- اگر آپ کے پاس کوئی غیر قانونی فریگی کے خلاف کوئی کارروائی ہو رہی ہے تو انتظامیہ سے عملی اقدام کر کے ہاشمہ رضوی سے رابطہ کریں

بارڈر ٹرانزٹ پوائنٹس پر ون ڈا کوٹنٹ پالیسی اپنائی جائے گی

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

## Pakistan down Bangladesh to stay alive at World Cup

KOLKATA (AFP/APP): Shaheen Shah Afridi grabbed three wickets while opener Fakhar Zaman and Abdullah Shafique cracked half-centuries as Pakistan stormed to a seven-wicket victory over Bangladesh on Tuesday to stay afloat in the race for a World Cup semi-final place. Shaheen's 3-23 helped Pakistan dismiss Bangladesh for just 204 in 45.1 overs before Zaman's 74-ball 81 and Shafique's 69-ball 68 guided Pakistan over the line for the loss of three wickets with 105 balls to spare. The victory revived Pakistan's outside hopes of reaching the semi-finals with six points from seven matches.

They still need to win against New Zealand (November 4 in Bengaluru) and England (Kolkata on November 11) and also hope other results go their way if they are to stay in the tournament. In contrast, Bangladesh became the first side to crash out of the 10-team event with just one win from seven games. "We are trying to win our next two matches and let's see where we stand. We will take a lot of confidence into those matches," said Pakistan skipper Babar Azam who singled out Zaman for special praise. "We know when Fakhar plays the way he can for 20-30 overs it is a different ball game. So we

let him play his natural game and it is good to see." Needing to improve their net run-rate, Zaman and Shafique cruised to 128 by the 22nd over. Shafique hit nine boundaries and two sixes as he made his third half century in addition to a hundred in the tournament. He fell leg-before to spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz while Azam holed out to the same bowler for nine. Zaman, who recovered from a knee injury to replace Imam-ul-Haq in one of three changes for Pakistan, smashed seven sixes and three boundaries, his 16th ODI fifty, but first after 11 innings. He holed out to Miraz

in the 28th over but Mohammad Rizwan (26) and Ifkhar Ahmed (17) remained undefeated to complete the modest chase. Miraz finished with 3-60, the only bright spot in Bangladesh's bowling. "Two more matches hopefully we can bounce back. The fans supported us and are behind us whether we are doing well or not," said Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan. "We have to give something back to them so they can smile."

Shaheen's 100th wicket - Earlier, Shaheen and fellow fast bowlers Mohammad Wasim (3-31) and Haris Rauf (2-36) ripped through Bangladesh. The pace trio were too hot to handle as Bangladesh struggled on a dry and slow Eden Gardens pitch. Bangladesh, who won the toss and batted, only passed the 200-mark thanks to a solid 70-ball 56 from Mahmudullah, 45 by Liton Das and Shakib's 64-ball 43.



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



QUETTA: Mir Behram Lehri and Mir Behram Baloch presenting RTI shield to Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai

## Over 16k women, children screened for malaria; one fourth diagnosed with the parasitic disease

By Rafiullah Mandokhail ZHOB: In order to ensure the prevention, timely diagnosis and treatment of malaria, the Malaria Control Program held the monthly surveillance meeting here in Zhob. The meeting was presided over by District Health Officer Dr Muzaffar Shah. District Coordinator Malaria Control Program Dr Ubaid Hariphah and stakeholders attended the meeting. During the meeting, different initiatives taken by the Malaria Control Program were reviewed and the participants expressed satisfaction over the hectic efforts to control the vector-borne disease in the district. Talking on the occasion, DHO Dr Muzaffar Shah said that malaria is caused by a parasite of the Plasmodium species, which is transmitted to humans

through the bites of an infected female Anopheles mosquito. Balochistan in general, while Zhob in particular has a diverse climate. Zhob falls in the monsoon range and seasonal rains, which can create ideal breeding conditions for mosquitoes. Timely diagnosis and treatment of malaria cases are crucial in preventing the spread of the disease,' he emphasized. The health official said, the tireless efforts of the teams bear fruit, as they are leaving no stone unturned. The teams not only screen the patients, but also provide them with free medicines in the remote parts of the district. He added. District Coordinator Dr Ubaid Hariphah said on the occasion that screening camps have been set up in different far-off areas by

Balochistan Rural Support Program (BRSP) Malaria Control Program in collaboration with the Indus Hospital and Health Network (IHNN). Forty-eight BCC sessions have been held, where free screening of sixteen thousand people including women and children has been conducted during September, out of them four thousand one hundred and sixty people have been diagnosed with falciparum and vivax malaria. 'Mass screening of eighteen hundred people has also been done in different areas, out of the total number, over three hundred people have been found infected with the parasitic disease malaria. All the infected patients have been treated and given free medicines,' he maintained. The official said, BRSP and IHNN in 21 districts of Balochistan including Zhob have provided modern resources and facilities to 26 government health centers and 44 private laboratories for diagnosis, screening, treatment and prevention of malaria, where thousands of poor people benefit from the programme.

## Asian Taekwondo Open C'ship kicks off from today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Combaxx 5th Asian Taekwondo Open Championship for Senior Poomsae and Kyurogi is all set to commence at the Pakistan Sports Complex on November 1. This prestigious event, organized by the Pakistan Taekwondo Federation (PTF), will run until November 5, featuring the participation of 27 countries vying for the coveted top honors. A remarkable 27 countries, in addition to 26 regional and provisional teams, have registered to compete in this mega event, underscoring the global significance of this championship. The PTF had the privilege of hosting four Asian Taekwondo Union Courses from October 27 to 31, held at Hamidi and Rodham Halls. This event marks a historic moment for Pakistan, as it welcomes the first-ever participation of Prof. Kyu Seok Lee, President of the Asian Taekwondo Union (ATU), in the country's taekwondo

history. The opening ceremony is scheduled for November 2, with the grand closing ceremony set to take place on November 5. Top taekwondo athletes from around the world will showcase their skills in the senior category competitions of Kyurogi and Poomsae at the Liaquat Gymnasium. It's worth mentioning that the PTF also successfully organized the 4th Asian Open in Pakistan last year, contributing to the promotion of a positive image of Pakistan through sports. The participation of 27 countries, including Afghanistan, Bahrain, Brazil, Egypt, Germany, Great Britain, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Montenegro, Nepal, Netherlands, Oman, Palestine, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Türkiye, UAE, Uzbekistan, and The Humanitarian Foundation (IHF), promises to make this extravaganza a spectacular showcase of taekwondo excellence and global unity.



QUETTA: Employees of Balochistan Development Authority (BDA) are holding protest demonstration for regularization, outside Provincial Office in Quetta.

## PM assures to take up Lahore smog issue at diplomatic level with India

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday assured the Punjab government of taking up the issue of the smog in Lahore mainly caused by the burning of crops with India at the diplomatic level. The prime minister, who chaired the meeting of Punjab cabinet, was told by Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Raza Naqvi that the main reason for the spread of smog in Lahore was the burning of residues of crops in Indian Punjab. The meeting was briefed about the steps taken by the caretaker Punjab government in health, communication, education and other sectors. It was told that innovative projects like biogas generation were underway in the province for the development of the energy sector. The prime minister directed the authorities con-

cerned to frame a policy for posting and transfers of local police officers across the country to ensure impartial and fair delivery of justice. The participants were briefed on the situation of law enforcement on the inter-provincial borders. The prime minister appreciated the efforts of the Punjab government for the successful operations of the law enforcement agencies in the Kacha area. The cabinet members were apprised of the progress on projects like Southern part of Lahore Ring Road (SL-3), Gujranwala-Lahore-Sialkot Motorway and the newly constructed bridge at Shahdara. The prime minister appreciated the Punjab government for its efforts to improve the communication system, especially for initiatives such as the construction of eco-friendly plastic road in Lahore. He also lauded the provincial government for

building educational institutions for the special children. The meeting was told that the provincial government had so far paid back the inherited debt of Rs 629 billion and had allocated additional funds of Rs 76 billion for agriculture sector. The cabinet meeting was also briefed about the development initiatives in the villages and the initiatives for the promotion of cultural tourism. Besides the steps taken by the Punjab government in the health sector, the prime minister was briefed regarding the policy of issuing NOC in three days to double the number of nurses in Punjab and provide them with job opportunities abroad. Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Raza Naqvi, members of Punjab caretaker cabinet and senior officers of Punjab government attended the meeting.

## Meeting held regarding preparation of general election in Kalat

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Kalat Hafiz Mohammad Qasim Kakar on Tuesday chaired meeting in connection with the preparations for the general election. Additional Deputy Commissioner Siraj Baloch, SP Kalat Babar Mushtaq, FC Kalat Major Mansoor, Assistant Commissioner Kalat Sagar Kumar, Assistant Commissioner Manguchar Barkat Baloch, APS Deputy Com-

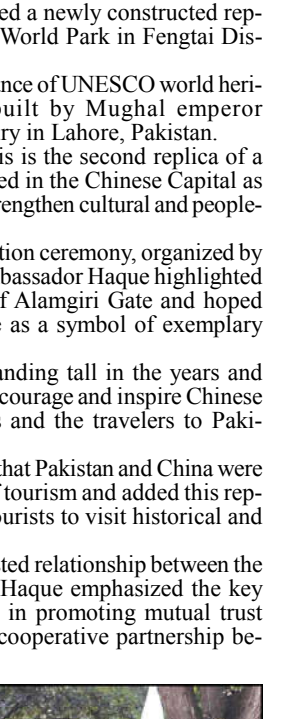
missioner Ali Zehri, PS to SP Haji Naseem Shahwani attended the meeting. Preparations for fair and transparent elections and security arrangements at polling stations and other matters were discussed in the meeting. Deputy Commissioner Hafiz Mohammad Qasim Kakar said that all available would be used to conduct transparent and peaceful elections. He also lauded the provincial government for

## DC Ziarat urges teachers to play role for equipping best education to students

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Ziarat Muhammad Ramzan Palal on Tuesday paid a surprise visit to Government Boys High School Mine Depot and also inspected its classrooms and asked questions from the students. While speaking to the students and teachers, he said that we wanted to see every child in school, the teachers should fulfill their duties responsibly and equip the future architects with the best education. The DC said that the teachers would play a role for the establishment of an educated society, educated nations are ruling the world saying that practical steps would be taken to provide quality education to students in schools. Progress is not possible without getting education. If we want to progress, we have to go ahead in education, he mentioned.

## Replica of Alamgiri Gate unveiled at World Park, Beijing

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque on Tuesday unveiled a newly constructed replica of the Alamgiri Gate at World Park in Fengtai District, Beijing. The Alamgiri Gate - entrance of UNESCO world heritage Lahore Fort - was built by Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in the 17th century in Lahore, Pakistan. In the recent months, this is the second replica of a Pakistani monument, unveiled in the Chinese Capital as part of the efforts to further strengthen cultural and people-to-people ties. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, organized by the Embassy of Pakistan, Ambassador Haque highlighted the historical significance of Alamgiri Gate and hoped that the replica would serve as a symbol of exemplary China-Pakistan friendship. "This replica will be standing tall in the years and decades from now on, and encourage and inspire Chinese friends, brothers and sisters and the travelers to Pakistan," he added. Ambassador Haque said that Pakistan and China were celebrating 2023 as a year of tourism and added this replica would attract Chinese tourists to visit historical and cultural sites in Pakistan. Highlighting the time-tested relationship between the two countries, Ambassador Haque emphasized the key role of cultural cooperation in promoting mutual trust and strengthening strategic cooperative partnership between China and Pakistan.



BEIJING: Ambassador of Pakistan to China Moin ul Haque inaugurating the newly constructed Replica of Alamgiri Gate at World Park, Beijing, China.

## Pakistan persistently...

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pue while the Constitution mandated the procedure to be executed. The prime minister assured that the interim set-up was ready to assist the ECP in the process, adding it was the fundamental mandate of the ECP to give a date but the caretaker government could not dictate it in this regard. About participation of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf in the upcoming elections, he said neither the ECP had placed any restrictions on PTI nor there was any move to dismantle it as a political party. Moreover, it was also the domain of the ECP to allocate election symbols, he added. He further clarified that the caretaker set-up would not resort to any illegal and unconstitutional acts. The caretaker prime minister further elaborated that it was the government's policy that all the big and small registered political parties had the equal rights and opportunities to contest the upcoming polls. He said that they did not see any hindrance to the political activities in the country. Those who were raising apprehensions over provision of level playing field also have the freedom to make such claims, he added. To a query regarding the repatriation of the illegal migrants, the prime minister said they had categorized the illegal aliens into three groups. There were around 1.7 million registered refugees over whom the government was fulfilling its international obligations, but there were foreigners

who, without any documentation, had been living in Pakistan for years and doing business, he said, adding they had not been visible their system. He said that there was no perpetual ban on these foreigners, as they could return after completing their valid and legal travel documents and visas. They could come to Pakistan for education or business purposes and the government would facilitate them. While the third category fell in the Identity theft and over whom they had devised a mechanism to remove them from the database, he added. The prime minister emphasized that the government was focusing on the regulated movement. Responding to another question, he said that among these foreigners who had any self-claims over businesses and properties, they could approach the relevant legal forums and institutions as the government's policy was not meant for usurpation of their assets. The relevant forums and courts were fully functional as these would eventually decide their claims, he added. The prime minister, to a question of mediapersons, replied that Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was a statutory body to whom full support was provided by the previous parliament through legislation. Its decisions could not be challenged or undone, he added. He said the negotiations with the International Monetary Fund were going on smoothly and they were confident that further negotiations for the second

tranche would be held during IMF team visit to Pakistan in the month of November. The prime minister said that due to the government's measures of crackdown on smuggling and illicit currency trade, positive impacts had been caused on inflation with tangible reduction in the US dollar and petroleum products rates. The US dollar was now trading at around Rs 278 instead Rs 330 which also helped reduced the country's circular debt, he added. Due to crackdown on illegal smuggling, especially under Afghan transit trade, the local industry had been encouraged which was now returning to productivity, he said, adding that economic indicators were showing positive trend. He also stressed upon projecting the history and culture of Pakistan to the outer world to boost tourism sector in the country and lauded the provincial government for taking important initiatives to attract religious tourism and vice versa. Tourism had immense role in the economic development of the country, he said and asked other provinces which had historical sites to focus on this area. The prime minister also lauded Mayo hospital administration for revamping and improving their existing structure which was a precedent for them as such measures proved very cost-effective. He also reassured the support of the caretaker federal government to the provincial governments, in its limited time, to realize such projects.

## DC Kachhi chairs meeting to return illegal migrants as completion of deadline

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Kachhi Juma Dad Khan Mandukhel chaired meeting regarding illegal immigrants to return their home after completion of deadline till October 31. In the meeting, a detailed discussion was held regarding the return of illegally staying foreigners and their methods to ensure the implementation of the orders about the evacuation of foreigners by the government. Assistant Commissioner Dhadar, Assistant Commissioner Bhag, Assistant Commissioner Muchh, Assistant Commissioner Suni Major Risaldar, SHOs, representatives of law enforcement agencies and other relevant officers participated in the meeting. Addressing the meet-

ing, Deputy Commissioner Kachhi Captain Retired Juma Dad Khan Mandukhel said that we have to ensure the implementation of all the instructions of the government saying that in this regard, after the last date given by the government for the voluntary repatriation of foreigners to their country, steps should be taken under a concrete strategy to send them back to their country. The Deputy Commissioner said that to identify the foreigners residing illegally in Kachhi district, prepare a final report by examining their identity cards and other necessary documents in order to provide awareness about them to the higher authorities to ensure their return process.

**TENDER NOTICE**

The Superintendent Govt. Dairy Farm, Quetta invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. **Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Rs. 1000/- TSE-232410359511**

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Animal Food & Medicine (Total Item(s) Count: 2)	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 2,000,000 in Previous 3. Turn over of at least 1,200,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years. Presence in Active Tax Payer List. Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV is permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security in case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and non-responsive. Submission of the required Bidding document Fee. **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from [www.bppra.gov.pk](http://www.bppra.gov.pk) **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at [www.bppra.gov.pk](http://www.bppra.gov.pk) **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by **14 November, 2023** till 01:00 PM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 02:00 PM on EPPS System **Address:** Office of the Superintendent Govt. Dairy Farm Livestock and Dairy Development Department Brewery Road, Quetta Phone no: 0333780445 Email: [suggovdairyfarm@gmail.com](mailto:suggovdairyfarm@gmail.com)

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# Entire Pakistani nation stands united on Palestine issue: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said that the entire Pakistani nation stood united on the issue of Palestine. "There is no division on this (Palestine) issue. From Senator Mushtaq Ahmed to Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, we all are united. Let me reiterate here that the winding up speech will be made by the foreign minister or any other minister assigned by the prime minister," he said while taking part in the debate on Palestine issue in the Senate.

The minister said the Upper House of Parliament, with its honourable members including Senator Raza Rabbani who had drafted the landmark 18th Constitutional Amendment, had raised its voice in favour of Palestine and its people. Since the establishment of Pakistan, its every head of state and government – from Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali

Jinnah to the incumbent Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar – had expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people, he added. Solangi recalled that at the age of 22, he was for the first time arrested for standing up and collecting donations for Palestinian brethren after the massacre of Palestinian women and children in Lebanon by Israel. The minister said the Pakistani nation had unshakable faith that the struggle and voice of the

Palestinian people could never be suppressed. He said PM Kakar had telephoned Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to express solidarity with the people of Palestine. He said the speech of Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Munir Akram, had perturbed the Zionists. Pakistan had always raised its voice for the right of self-determination of the people of Palestine and would continue to do so, he vowed.



Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan addressing the Seminar regarding the World Stroke Day.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Asia Pacific Network Information Center (APNIC) Danish A Lakhani and Director General of APNIC called on Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House in Federal Capital.

## Sanjrani says: Connectivity, an indispensable element for modern economies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Tuesday highlighted that connectivity was an indispensable element for modern economies, playing a vital role in socio-economic development and the empowerment of communities. He said this during a meeting with Chairman of the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) Foundation, Danish A. Lakhani, and Director General of APNIC, Paul Wilson.

The discussion revolved around critical issues pertaining to internet development and connectivity in Pakistan and the broader Asia Pacific region. The meeting served as a platform for meaningful dialogue on the role that internet connectivity play in today's world, emphasizing the need to extend this essential service to remote areas of Pakistan, particularly in Balochistan. Sadiq Sanjrani underscored the significance of IT infrastructure development as a fundamental driver for the nation's progress, stating that it was crucial to equip the youth with IT-related skills to foster innovation and economic growth. He commended the tireless efforts of APNIC in strengthening connectivity in Pakistan, recognizing the organization's commitment to bridging the digital divide. The chairman high-

lighted that Pakistan was currently in the process of rolling out 5G Spectrum, expressing hope that this significant advancement would contribute significantly towards generating the much-needed economic activity in Pakistan. Danish A. Lakhani and Paul Wilson expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to engage in such a constructive dialogue. They affirmed APNIC's commitment to furthering internet development and connectivity in the Asia Pacific region and assured the chairman that APNIC would remain dedicated to working alongside the Government of Pakistan to achieve the objectives.

## Health Minister says: 90% of strokes can be avoided through preventive measures

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Tuesday said that 90 percent of strokes can be avoided by taking preventive measures. He was addressing the event held in connection with World Stroke Day at the Ministry of National Health Services in collaboration with the World Stroke Society. The minister said, "We should ensure coordinated measures to promote public awareness." He added the Ministry of Health will ensure all necessary steps in this regard. The minister said measures will be taken at primary and secondary levels for prevention of stroke.

Paramedical staff and doctors will also be trained in various hospitals to combat stroke disease. The Minister said, "We are implementing a reform agenda in the health sector during the short tenure of the incumbent government." He said practical steps are being taken to strengthen the primary health care system. He said 460 primary health centers will be revamped across the country with WHO support and no expense from government exchequer would be used. The Minister said the government was promoting the referral mechanism to reduce the burden on big hospitals.

## Court extends bail of Bushra Bibi in Toshakhana, 190 million pounds cases

ISLAMABAD (Online): Accountability Court (AC) Islamabad has extended bail of Bushra Bibi wife of chairman PTI till November 15 in Toshakhana and 190 million pound case. The bail petition of Bushra Bibi in Toshakhana and 190 million pound scandal came up for hearing before Judge Muhammad Bashir of AC Islamabad Tuesday. NAB prosecutor stated before court Bushra

Bibi has filed petition for third time in the court while previous two bail pleas of Bushra Bibi were wrapped up. NAB had said arrest of Bushra Bibi is not wanted. She has filed bail plea twice on one ground. The counsel for Bushra Bibi requested the court Bushra Bibi should at least be issued notice beforehand. NAB investigation officer filed his reply in the court.

## Centers of Excellence to be established at National Skills University, PITHM: Madad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindh on Tuesday announced the establishment of Centers of Excellence at National Skills University and Pakistan Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management (PITHM) with the support of Finland. The minister was speaking with the Ambassador of Finland to Pakistan Hannu Ripatti, along with a delegation, in a meeting held here. Madad Ali Sindh welcomed the delegation and said that the exchange of expertise and knowledge regarding Vocational and Technical Training between the two countries can upgrade existing institutions in Pakistan. The minister and the ambassador agreed in principle to establish a center of excellence at National Skills University which will focus on the Hotel and Restaurant Industry in addition to Construction, IT, Teachers Training and Engineering Studies with the help of the Turku Municipality of Finland. Similarly, a centre of excellence will be established at the Pakistan Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management in collaboration with the Turku Municipality of Finland. The minister said that in the field of Non-Formal Education, National Skills University (NSU), Islamabad is providing Technical Skills to the Pakistani youth, which can be enhanced to be a Skill Learning Centre for current and aspiring Pakistani youth to work abroad.

The Ambassador of Finland to Pakistan, Hannu Ripatti informed the minister about the ongoing collaboration between the government of Finland and Pakistan and stated that they are already providing vocational training at NUTECH and NUST. The ambassador told the minister that two Finnish universities are already providing technical and human expertise to these institutions. He informed the minister that approximately 500 people were already under training. He informed the minister that with the help of the government of Finland NUTECH has already expanded its one-year diploma course to 3-year course in the field of hotel and restaurant management.

## IHC seeks answer regarding appointment of judge in cipher case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday sought the answer from Ministry of Law and Justice regarding the appointment of special judge Abul Hasnat Muhammad Zulqarnain in the cipher case against the PTI Chairman. The court summoned a joint secretary the ministry on November 2, to reply on the matter. A two-judge bench, comprising Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir, heard the intra-court

appeal of PTI Chairman against the jail trial and appointment of special judge in the cipher case. Petitioner's lawyer Salman Akram Raja said the law minister had no powers to ask an anti-terrorism court judge for trial in the cipher case. Only the chief justice of high court can grant powers to any additional session judge, he said. He said that they had also raised these points before the single bench. The court adjourned the further hearing of the case till next Thursday.

## Dengue patients surpass 2000 in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (Online): Dengue patients have surpassed 2000 in Islamabad amid the reports that 22 new cases were reported in federal capital on Tuesday. According to DHO dengue patients include 66 percent male and 34 percent female. Total dengue patients stand at 2237 in federal capital. In rural areas of Islamabad 10 percent dengue cases were reported while the number of dengue cases in urban areas of Islamabad has reached mark of 816. According to DHO, dengue cases stand at 1421 in rural areas of Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Pakistan H.E. Nawaf Saeed Al-Malikiy called on Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori.

## 22 outlaws including 5 professional beggars held; drugs, weapons recovered

ISLAMABAD (INP): Islamabad Capital Police apprehended 22 outlaws including five professional beggars from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered liquor, drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a public relations officer said. He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city. Following these directions, the Aabpara police team arrested two accused

namely Abdul Ul Rehman and recovered 1070 gram hashish from their possession. Secretariat police team arrested an accused named Dani Ahil and recovered six wine bottles from his possession. Kohsar police arrested an accused named Mehmoed Masih and recovered one 12 bore gun from his possession. Likewise, the Karachi company police team arrested two accused named Farooq and Sulman and recovered one 30 bore pistol and one dagger from their possession. Sumbal police arrested an accused named Waseem Khan and recovered one 30 bore pistol from his possession.

## Anti-polio drive underway in three provinces

ISLAMABAD (INP): A special anti-polio vaccination drive is underway in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. The campaign was launched on Monday. In Sindh, two point five million children up to five years will be administered with Polio drops, according to officials. In Balochistan, about seven hundred eighty thousand children up to the age of five year will be administered anti-polio vaccine drops. Meanwhile, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, more than one point two million children up to five years of age will be administered anti polio vaccine drops.

## Statements of witnesses could not be recorded in cipher case

ISLAMABAD (Online): The statements of witnesses could not be recorded in cipher case and Special Court established under official secret act adjourned the hearing till next Tuesday. The case came up for hearing in special court led by judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain in Adiala jail Tuesday. During the hearing of the case FIA team presented 10 more witnesses. Chairman PTI and Shah Mehmood Qureshi were taken to court room.

## 11 absconders involved in heinous crime held

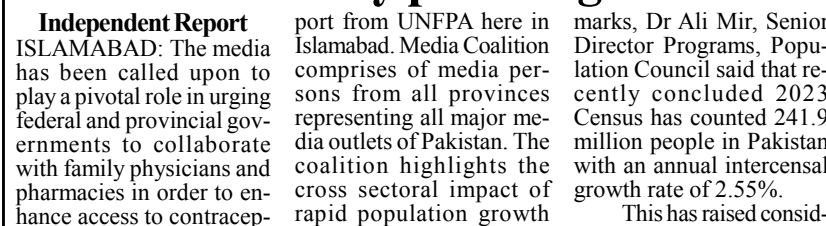
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police have arrested 11 absconders involved in heinous crime during the last 48 hours, a public relations officer said. He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, special tasks were assigned to all seniors' police officials to ensure the arrest of proclaimed offenders and absconders involved in heinous crimes.

## Involving Private Sector, CMWs can be a game changer in improving access of family planning services

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: The media has been called upon to play a pivotal role in urging federal and provincial governments to collaborate with family physicians and pharmacies in order to enhance access to contraceptives and family planning services. Involvement of Community Midwives (CMWs) was also emphasized in providing family planning services which can be a significant step towards helping impoverished rural women, who face higher unmet needs for family planning and accessibility challenges. This was discussed during the Media Coalition Meeting organized by the Population Council with the support from UNFPA here in Islamabad. Media Coalition comprises of media persons from all provinces representing all major media outlets of Pakistan. The coalition highlights the cross sectoral impact of rapid population growth marks, Dr Ali Mir, Senior Director Programs, Population Council said that recently concluded 2023 Census has counted 241.9 million people in Pakistan with an annual intercensal growth rate of 2.55%. This has raised considerable concerns regarding continuing high rates of population growth and slow progress in bringing any change in the last five years.



ISLAMABAD: Workers are busy in final preparation of different pavilions before the starting of the annual Folk Mela 2023, which will be start from 3rd November at Lok Versa in Federal Capital.



Media Coalition Meeting Utilizing the Untapped Potential of Private Sector and CMWs for Improving Access to Family Planning Services. The meeting was held to discuss the role of the private sector and community midwives in providing family planning services to rural women.

## NA Speaker, Rwanda Senate President agree to cement parliamentary connections

ISLAMABAD (INP): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf has said that Africa is a land of endless opportunities and Pakistan, through its Look Africa Policy, is determined to enhance its collaboration with the "Continent of the Future" including Rwanda. He was talking to a high-level delegation of Rwanda led by President of the Senate of the Republic of Rwanda Dr. Francois Xavier Kalinda, in Islamabad on Tuesday. The Speaker National Assembly said this collaboration holds significant promise due to the region's economic potential, abundant natural resources, enticing investment opportunities. He emphasized the longstanding history of co-operation and camaraderie

between Pakistan and Rwanda, reaffirming the enduring friendly relations between the two nations. Acknowledging the strong parliamentary connections, the Speaker National Assembly praised the existence of Pak-Rwanda Friendship Groups in the parliaments of both the countries. He also stressed the importance of regular high-level parliamentary delegation exchanges between the two sides. Raja Pervaiz Ashraf also mentioned Pakistan's active participation in the 145th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly held in Kigali this month. On this occasion, the President of the Rwanda Senate expressed deep gratitude for the warm reception to his delegation.



ISLAMABAD: Children are playing with tyres at Golra area instead of going to school as according to a research Pakistan has the world's second-highest number of out-of-school children, summing up to 23 million children between the ages of five to sixteen years who are not attending.

## Capital Police ensuring foolproof security arrangements

ISLAMABAD (INP): Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police is using all available resources to ensure the peace and tranquility within the federal capital, a public relations officer said. He said that the Islamabad Capital Police ensured data registration, identification documents and effective search of citizens entering the high security zone on a regular basis. Action against 678 vehicles and 537 motorcycleists over traffic rules violations on various checkpoints of high security zone was also taken. During the last week, the Islamabad Capital Police removed tinted glasses and improper number plates from 665 vehicles, impounded 13 vehicles without papers and issued challan tickets to 537 motorcycleists for not wearing helmets and over-speed violations. Strict directions have been issued to police officers and officials performing their duties at high security zone checkpoints.

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## Global impotence

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

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

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

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

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

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



Arifa Noor

There is a conflict going on in the Middle East, which continues to occupy centre stage in global politics. Every headline and news story, every discussion is about it.

Even in an insular society such as ours where we continue to be consumed by questions about elections, whether they will happen or not, or whether or not Nawaz Sharif will be prime minister, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict crops up inevitably. It has penetrated even the naval gazing which passes for political discussions in Pakistan.

Why haven't you written about the war, I have been asked many times in these past weeks. Because I don't feel equipped enough, is the embarrassed admission — rarely made publicly. Jour-

nalists, after all, should have mastery over a wide range of subjects — mastery enough to churn out a thousand words of wisdom. Perhaps, if I keep at this business of op-ed writing, in another decade or so, I may just get there.

But I digress. Over the weeks, I have found it increasingly difficult to read the Western publications which have been part of the morning routine for long. Frankly, the coverage was too biased or didn't cater to my bias.

It was this gap which was addressed by the polarising social media; it provided a different view. A view perhaps that I was searching for. But while looking for the voices of Palestinians or Gazans, there were also images, unfiltered, and uneditorialised, which were riveting.

It is hard to remember the last time a conflict, even in the Middle East, played out in such detail on social media; and there have been many in recent times. Yemen is an example; it passed perhaps unnoticed here, except for a few headlines. For obvious reasons,

Palestine resonates more globally including in Pakistan. This time around, though, the coverage or attention it has garnered through social media appears unprecedented.

The visuals of destroyed buildings, the rescues as people are pulled out from beneath the rubble, men, women and children mourning their killed loved ones dominate timelines. The moment a journalist learns of his family being killed in a bombing or doctors holding a press conference in the middle of bodies or a child screaming in fear are being shared on platform after platform.

And the impact this will have on Muslim societies, the world over, may be worth keeping an eye on. This includes not just Muslim-majority countries but also those settled in the West. The huge protests in many Western cities are simply one indication of this, as are the small stories about Muslims being attacked or Jewish people being taken hostage.

But as a journalist, what is more thought-provoking is the use of social media by a side which feels

its voice or version of the story is not heard or represented well enough in the powerful mainstream media. Or should it be the mainstream media of the powerful? However, now social media, with all its limitations, allows the voices, the stories and the images to be amplified.

And perhaps this is one reason, in recent weeks, people have spoken of the polarisation on social media as well as the incorrect information being spread by all sides. Words which are so familiar to someone who is constantly grappling with similar issues in Pakistan.

While these critiques are not incorrect, the larger point is that polarisation is perhaps inevitable when the dominant narrative (regardless of its accuracy or fairness) is challenged. For the real challenge comes from those who are not yet part of the system and hence don't play by its rules. Those rules may vary from society to society and press to press but they exist. However, they exist for those within the tent. And what is difficult for those inside to understand is that those outside have no rea-

son to follow those rules.

It is perhaps important here to remember earlier examples when the dominant account was challenged, due to new technologies. The printing press was the first such example. It led to not just the first bible but also Martin Luther, who questioned the church.

At the same time, say historians, it provided a voice to all those who had been silenced earlier, including the more radical and fringe groups. Exactly when it became clear that Luther was not just a radical, fringe writer is something researchers would know more about.

The reaction back then was also to censor but it proved impossible to reverse the clock; apparently however hard one tries to burn all the copies of an unsuitable book, an odd copy here or there tends to survive. And because it has been censored, it's a book people are interested in reading and there is also a bookseller who is willing to take a risk because he wants to make a profit.

There are more recent examples, which journalists of today are more familiar

with. Consider the impact CNN and then Al Jazeera had on the world in terms of politics and reporting. Television in general was derided in the beginning as a medium which would force politicians to make hasty decisions and this is more or less what the CNN effect was described as.

Al Jazeera perhaps took the world closer to what social media is doing now, in terms of ending the long-established rule of how information flew from the West to the rest of the world.

Social media has taken this further. And as in the past, it is matched by an effort to control the challenge; 'shadowbanning' is a word being used frequently these days.

How far these efforts to control the spread of information will succeed is hard to tell. But it will eventually fail, if history is any guide. The polarisation, however can be curbed to an extent if some of the voices are engaged with and brought into the tent, so to speak. But this is not easy to achieve, when the instinctive reaction is to simply silence. -- Courtesy Dawn

## The implications of depopulating Gaza

Mosharraf Zaidi

In December 1987 after two decades of humiliation, oppression, and continued life under occupation, Palestinians began a series of protests that ended up becoming what is today referred to as the first Intifada.

Within a month of the start of the protests, the Israeli government at the time sought to deal with the protests through firing live ammunition on protestors — but this caused a major backlash in the United States and at the UN, and so a new method was devised: breaking the hands of Palestinians. Why? The New York Times explains, in a story by David Shipler, published on January 26, 1988. "In response to complaints from the Reagan Administration and the United Nations Security Council about use of lethal force, Israel's Defense Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, announced a policy last week of 'might, power and beatings' to cow the Arabs. Troops were reportedly sent into homes to break the hands of Arab youths so they could not throw stones."

If that defence minister's name, 'Yitzhak Rabin', seems familiar, it is because it should. Rabin was awarded the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize for his role in the historic Oslo Peace Accords that were signed in September 1993 between himself, as the prime minister of Israel, and Yasser Arafat, as the leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO). Rabin was assassinated in November 1995 by a right wing, Islamophobic, pro-legal settlements Israeli terrorist named Yigal Amir.

The people that run Israel today are of the same ideological fraternity as Yigal Amir. Here is a description of Israel's Minister of National Security, Itamar Ben-Gvir, by Ruth Margalit from the February 20, 2023 edition of the New Yorker magazine:

"Ben-Gvir, who entered parliament in 2021, leads a far-right party called Jewish Power. His role model and ideological wellspring has long been Meir Kahane, a Brooklyn rabbi who moved to Israel in 1971 and, during a single term in the Knesset, tested the moral limits of the country... To Kahane, Arabs were 'dogs' who 'must

sit quietly or get the hell out'. His party, Kach (Thus), was finally barred from parliament in 1988. Jewish Power is an ideological offshoot of Kach; Ben-Gvir served as a Kach youth leader and has called Kahane a 'saint'. Ben-Gvir, who is forty-six, has been convicted on at least eight charges, including supporting a terrorist organization and incitement to racism."

In exactly three decades, the Palestinian-Israeli peace journey, for which the Oslo Accord seemed like such a major moment has turned into an unmitigated and unrelenting nightmare. Israelis live in constant fear of Hezbollah rocket attack, all kinds of terrorist threats, and now the bloody reality of the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel.

The people of Gaza (and the West Bank) live through an unrelenting and ceaseless expansion of occupation that has literally continued non-stop from 1993 to today. But the nightmare unleashed upon the Palestinians since October 8 has no parallel in recent memory, anywhere. Israel is solely responsible for the carnage of innocent Palestinian

carcasses and placenta, strewn across the debris of flattened apartment buildings and homes and restaurants and schools and hospitals in Gaza. But without the October 7 attacks by Hamas, the current genocide or ethnic cleansing or pogrom or whatever you want to call what is happening in Gaza, may not have happened — or now, not like this.

Since the discourse on Hamas is so emphatic among Western audiences — whatever its motivation, it is a designated terrorist group — we are compelled to ignore or neglect the roots of its behaviours and actions. This then leaves us with a more pressing question. Where did Hamas — a terrorist group — come from?

To answer this, we have to return to the beginning of the 1987 Palestinian protests that were dealt with by Yitzhak Rabin and the Israeli government through "might, power and beatings". In December 1987, there was no Hamas. There was the PLO, which was then known to Israeli and Western audiences as, you guessed it, a 'terrorist' organization. Rabin and the

Israelis beat the PLO into submission after the first Intifada. One of the conditions of the Oslo Accords of 1993 was for the PLO to renounce 'terrorism' which it did. Hamas is the fatherless child of the decapitation of the legitimacy of Palestinian resistance. Indeed, the first time the acronym Hamas (Harkat al Muqawwama al Islamiyyah) appears is January 1988, the exact same time as the New York Times report on Rabin's 'might, power and beatings' approach to dealing with the first Intifada.

Leaderships of countries across the Muslim world are now left with an impossible set of concurrent circumstances. They must appease the raging angst and frustration of their populations with respect to Gaza; they must somehow continue to engage in wider policies of de-risking and normalization within their regions; and they must try to govern mostly young and desperately underserved populations without a dismantling of whatever semblance of order exists in their respective countries. From Morocco to

Indonesia and from Kazakhstan to the Maldives — the ripples and ramifications of the depopulation of Gaza will be generational, even if a wider military conflagration or escalation in the Middle East is somehow avoided.

Elites in Muslim societies know this all too well — and their instinct, quite rightly, is to want to maintain order close to home, rather than become entangled with a losing proposition in Gaza, so far away. This will create societal and political pressures so profound that many orders will be tested severely. The only orders that will survive are those that are able to enact the kind of reforms and transformations they need at home — that materially improve the lives of their people.

Pakistani military and civilian leaders need to ask themselves if they realistically see themselves as being able to enact such changes or reforms. The rage of the people is real — and though Gaza is and will remain the ignition point, the fuel is much closer to home. -- Courtesy TheNews

## A racist liberalism



Dr Niaz Murtaza

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

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

This order had the potential to give a just world after 1945. But it has slowly lost its appeal. Illiberal ideologies such as fundamentalism and populism are now firing the imagination globally given its failure to fulfil its promise. While the acts of autocratic states have undercut it too, a bigger cause has been its hypocritical and racist use by its Western author states

such as the US. On issue after issue, they have conjured up excuses for why these tenets can't be applied when white Western states fight other races — on immigration, trade, global governance or in actual wars.

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

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

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

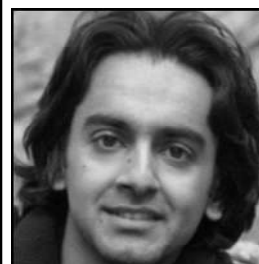
Nowhere is this done

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

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

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

## All hail the king



Syed Saadat

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

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

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

Ironically, the incumbent executive director was appointed for three years instead of four, apparently to bring the appointment in line with the election cycle in Pakistan, which now seems an exercise in futility as the outgoing government made the

appointment for the next four years as well. Who said that the retirement age is 60 years in Pakistan? Apparently, with the right connections, one can keep on serving indefinitely.

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

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

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

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

Hence, we need a law to do away with the discretion of the prime minister in all such appointments, especially in the matter of foreign postings, as the office has repeat-

edly failed to uphold merit in the face of manipulation.

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

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

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

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

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

## Caretaker PM gets briefing on SL-3 Lahore Ring Road

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

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

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

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq

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

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

construction work on different development projects.

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

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



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

## Punjab ready for deportation of illegal foreigners: Mohsin

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

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

Mohsin Naqvi has said that preparations have been completed to send back the illegally residing immigrants from the province. He said that instructions have been issued to the chief secretary and inspector general (IG) in view of the October 31 deadline given to the illegally residing foreigners.

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

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

The Chief Minister also called upon unregistered Afghans to voluntarily depart from Punjab, as all necessary steps have been taken to facilitate the repatriation of illegal Afghan citizens.

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

He reiterated that the illegally residing foreigners should leave the country by themselves, otherwise,

the government completed arrangements for their repatriation starting from November 1.

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

To ensure a smooth transition, camps have been established in various districts across the province for the temporary holding of these individuals.

The caretaker federal government decided to immediately deport illegal immigrants after their arrests and special instructions have been given to the local administrations and police forces of all provinces.

Pakistan pulled up socks for deportation of illegal immigrants and decided direct deportation after their arrests.

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

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar lauded the efforts led by Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi for the welfare of the province's residents. He emphasized the exceptional pace and high quality of Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi's initiatives, surpassing those of other provinces. The performance of the Punjab government, undoubtedly, sets a benchmark for other provincial administrations.

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

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

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



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

## Minister attends oath taking ceremony of PCE

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: The oath taking ceremony of the General Council of Pakistan Chamber of Education was held in a private hotel in Lahore on Tuesday. Provincial Minister Ibrahim Hasan Murad said that he welcomes the school leaders from all over Punjab to Lahore. He hoped that the new members will serve the education sector sincerely.

Ibrahim Hasan Murad said that the new members will definitely maintain the atmosphere of trust in the private and public sector. He emphasized that we all have to discourage the Rata system, but the responsibility of the new generation is now on the teachers to enlighten them with education and also to make them a good citizen. The provincial minister further said that if the private sector is removed from the education system,

oath to the members of Executive Council and congratulated and expressed best wishes for the future. Addressing the ceremony on this occasion, Provincial Minister Ibrahim Hasan Murad said that he welcomes the school leaders from all over Punjab to Lahore. He hoped that the new members will serve the education sector sincerely.

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KARACHI: Members of Jamiat Ittehad-e-Ulema are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at Karachi press club.

## Strict implementation of single document policy commences to repatriate illegal immigrants

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel, the Caretaker Minister of Information and Public Relations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has announced a comprehensive strategy to address the issue of illegal foreign residents within the province. In a press conference held at the Home Department in Peshawar, Minister Kakakhel highlighted the government's commitment to managing this situation effectively. Under this plan, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Government is committed to facilitating the voluntary departure of illegal foreigners. Those who willingly leave Pakistan will receive facilitation and easy access to the border. Simultaneously, individuals who do not depart voluntarily will be relocated to designated processing zones and subsequently deported,

commencing from today (November 1). Over 82,000 illegal residents have already voluntarily left the country, with an impressive figure of 11,000 individuals returning to their respective nations just yesterday. Additionally, 52,000 illegal residents have been identified and mapped in various districts across the province he said.

The Caretaker Minister Information has said that to oversee this significant operation, a Central Control Room has been established within the Home Department, employing integrated procedures to monitor and coordinate efforts. This Control Room serves as a crucial liaison between provinces, districts, and government departments, ensuring that illegal residents are repatriated in an orderly manner. He expressed these views during a press conference at Home Department.

## Two camps established in Attock for Afghan refugees

ATTOCK (Online): The provincial government has established two repatriation camps in Attock where as deadline for illegal immigrants to leave the country sets in. These camps were established in Government College of Technology Attock and Degree College Hazro where the illegal and undocumented immigrants would be kept before reinterpretation or deportation. Regional Police Officer Rawalpindi Syed Khurram Ali along with Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaquat Ali Chattha visited these temporary camps on Tuesday. Deputy commissioner Rao Atif Raza along with SP Investigation Javeria Muhammad Jamil separately briefed them about the boarding, lodging and security arrangements at these camps. On this occasion, RPO Syed Khurram Ali checked the security arrangements of the campus and issued appropriate orders to the concerned officers in this regard.

## 4th International Nautical Competition starts at PNA

KARACHI (INP): The 4th PN International Nautical Competition commenced at Pakistan Naval Academy (PNA), Karachi on Tuesday.

The competition is being held from October 31 to November 9. Pakistan Naval Academy Commandant Commodore Muhammad Khalid graced the occasion as chief guest. This year, the event will witness highest level of participation wherein teams from Azerbaijan, China, Indonesia, Italy, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Turkiye and host team from PNA will contest for the coveted trophy. The competition comprises

swimming, lifesaving skills and seamanship contests which is aimed to preserve the age old professional skills of a sailor and promoting healthy competition amongst the seafarers of various countries.

The Pakistan Navy has been hosting International Nautical Competition (INC) biennially since 2015. The purpose of the competition is to promote goodwill among friendly countries. This event also provides a unique opportunity to develop the characteristics of good sportsmanship that builds resilience, perseverance, teamwork, honour, character, kindness and above all respect.

## Students approach SHC against reconduct of MDCAT

KARACHI (INP): Medical students have approached the Sindh High Court (SHC) against the reconduct of MDCAT.

"It is not possible to retake the test in a fortnight," students said. "We have prepared for the exam with hard work and dedication throughout the year. Why are all aspirants being punished due to the mistake of some elements?" they added.

"Whoever leaked the paper should be investigated, and those involved in leaking the paper should be punished severely," they demanded.



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

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

LAHORE (Online): Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Prof. Dr. Javed Akram participated as a special guest in awareness seminar about breast cancer and dengue at Fatima Jinnah Medical University. On this occasion Vice Chancellor Fatima Jinnah Medical University Prof. Dr. Khalid Masood Gondal, Prof. Majeed Chaudhry, Principal Prof. Dr. Noreen Akmal, Founder of Breast Fellowship Program Prof. Dr. Ayesha Shaukat, Prof. Andial Khanum, Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kamran Khalid, Prof. Balqis Shabbir, a large number of faculty members and female students participated. He also led an

awareness walk on the occasion.

In his address to the participants of the awareness seminar, the caretaker provincial health minister Prof. Dr. Javed Akram said that it is very important to spread awareness about breast cancer in the society. The burden of breast cancer has shifted from West to East. Pakistan is witnessing an alarming increase in the rate of genetic diseases. Mother's milk is of fundamental importance for the development of a child. We also need to review the guidelines for dengue treatment. One hundred and thirty seven countries in the world are facing dengue.

## May 9: Lahore police summon Asad Umer

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

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

The JIT was constituted by Punjab government following the May 9 violence.

Meanwhile, an anti-terrorism court on Saturday extended the judicial remand of PTI leader and former Punjab



KARACHI: Commandant Pakistan Naval Academy, Commodore Muhammad Khalid addressing the participants of 4th PN International Nautical Competition 2023.

## NAB summons KP ex-health minister in goods procurement case

PESHAWAR (INP): Former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) health minister Taimur Khan Jhagra has been summoned to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Peshawar office Tuesday.

The NAB has started investigations into the alleged irregularities in the procurement of goods during the coronavirus pandemic in KP when Taimur Khan Jhagra was the health minister.

## ANF recovers narcotics in Lahore, Sargodha

RAWALPINDI (INP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in two intelligence-based operations conducted simultaneously in Sargodha and Lahore managed to recover over 109 kg drugs and arrested two accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that in an operation conducted near Salam Motorway Interchange, Sargodha, ANF recovered 48 kg hashish from a car.

He said that an accused was signaled to stop the car near Kala Shah Kaku Motorway Toll Plaza, but he managed to flee. ANF team chased the accused and caught him near Salam Interchange.

## Punjab governor urges PM to increase HEC funding for universities

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman met Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar at Governor House here in Lahore on Tuesday. Matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting. On this occasion, the prime minister expressed satisfaction over

the ongoing development projects in Punjab. Meanwhile, the governor highlighted less annual funding of Higher Education Commission for the universities in Punjab. He requested the prime minister for help in improvement of financial matters and enhancement of universities' funding.

## KP Caretaker Minister reviews technical education and industry Training

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Technical Education, Industry, Commerce and Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Dr. Aamir Abdullah on Tuesday, visited Government College of Technology (GCT) Peshawar, and reviewed the curricular activities and practical training of technical education, imparting there.

On this occasion, the caretaker minister briefed regarding various departmental activities of degree courses and practical training being provided in the college.

During the briefing, the caretaker minister directed that the institution

should take steps to get the International Standardization Organization (ISO) certification so that to recognize its high quality at the global level while in this regard, he instructed to fulfill all the process formalities for getting this accreditation within one month time.

The caretaker minister also directed to link the college library with the HEC digital library for the students of the college to make use of the HEC digital facility for academic and research activities.

On this occasion, he emphasized the importance of effective coordination between technical training institutions and industries and directed that the college.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Convener, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui along with others exchanges views with German Ambassador Alfred Grannas during meeting held at MQM-P Bahadurabad Markaz in Karachi.

## Afghan family in Jhelum approaches IHC against eviction notice

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

IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the petition of the Afghan national.

"According to the notification of the Government of Pakistan, only the illegal Afghan nationals have been asked to go back," the petitioner's lawyer said.

"The petitioner and his wife have Afghan Citizen cards. Their three children are minors and

studying in school," he added. Meanwhile, lawyers and activists have said the scale of the crackdown is unprecedented, appealing for more time for Afghans—some of whom have lived for decades in the country—to be given more time to pack up with dignity. "The Pakistani government is using threats, abuse, and detention to coerce Afghan asylum seekers without legal status to return to Afghanistan or face deportation," Human Rights Watch said on Tuesday.

"The situation in Afghanistan remains dangerous for many who fled, and deportation will expose them to significant security risks.

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

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

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

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

Highlighting the main features, he gave a briefing on the National Programme

for the Improvement of Waterways in Pakistan, Phase II, Command Area Expansion Program in Rainy Areas and Water Conservation in Rainy Areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on behalf of the Federal Water Management Cell.

Director General Federal Water Management and National Project Coordinator Mohammad Asif Kakar were also present on the occasion.

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

The federal government has Rs 61.624 billion rupees (32 per cent), all provinces except Sindh along with Azad

Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan have 76.227 billion rupees (39 per cent), while farmers have a share of 56.214 billion rupees (29 per cent).

He said Projects will reduce losses from transportation and field application, reduce salinity in water, equity in water distribution, reduce water conflicts, theft and litigation, encourage farmers, reduce poverty by creating employment opportunities, and increase crop production.

The federal minister said that by developing the land and water resources with modern irrigation methods, the productivity of the crop will be increased, while bringing out the capabilities of the farmers in the rain-field areas.

Later, a detailed briefing was given to the Federal Minister for



Caretaker Minister for Privatisation, Fawad Hasan Fawad holds a stakeholder meeting for privatisation of HBFC in Islamabad.

## US, China, UK top 3 destinations of Pakistani exports during July-Sep

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first three months of the current financial year 2023-24, followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK). Total exports to the US during July-September 2023 were recorded at US \$1376.125 million against the exports of US \$1658.815 million during July-September 2022, showing a decline of 17.04 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$633.374 million against the exports of US \$501.000 million last year, showing an increase of 26.42 percent. UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported

products worth US \$518.948 million during the months under review against the exports of US \$519.948 million, SBP data revealed. Among other countries, Pakistani exports to UAE stood at US \$472.166 million against US \$369.904 million last year, showing an increase of 27.64 percent while the exports to Germany were recorded at US \$364.446 million against US \$456.895 million last year, data said. During the months under review, the exports to Holland were recorded at \$331.860 million against \$382.241 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$299.151 million against \$308.317 million. Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$366.935 million against the exports of US \$325.940 million while the exports to



PESHAWAR: People are buying Jaggery known as (Gurr).

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where three ships namely, MSC Esthi, Haj Mohamad, Victoria Kosan and Nordic Basel scheduled to load/offload Containers, Cement and Chemicals, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal and Engro Terminal respectively on Monday.

Meanwhile three more ships, MSC Jemima, Hoanh Son Planet and Hafnia Prestige with Containers, Canola and Gas oil also arrived at outer anchorage of the port

during the same day. A total of eight ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them, two ships, Indian Goodwill and MSC Esthileft the port on Tuesday morning, while three more ships, Victoria Kosan and Nordic Basel and Al-Danah are expected to sail on same day afternoon.

Cargo throughput of 129,691 tonnes, comprising 108,560 tonnes imports cargo and 21,131 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 2,229 Containers (985 TEUs Imports and 1,244

TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are 14 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships, MSC Jemima, Chemroute Atlanta and Khairpur & three more ships, MSC Tianping, Maersk Atlanta and Kenzen carrying Containers, Chemicals, Mogas and Coal are expected to take berths at QICT, EVTL, FOTCO and PIBT respectively on Tuesday, and gas carrier 'Milha Ras Laffan' is due to arrive at Port Qasim on Wednesday.



LAHORE: Farmers are busy in harvesting the wheat crop at field in the outskirts area of the Provincial Capital.



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

## ECC approves gas price revision

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet here on Tuesday approved revision of the natural gas sale pricing for different categories of consumers for the fiscal year 2023-24, with effective from November 1st, 2023. The Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamsad Akhtar presided over the ECC meeting, which among others was attended by the Minister for Privatization, Fawad Hassan Fawad; Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Sami Saeed; Minister for Power & Petroleum, Muhammad Ali; federal secretaries, and other senior government officials of the relevant ministries.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): In response to the increasing demands of the financial market in general and Islamic financial institutions in particular for introducing new instruments, the Finance Division moved a summary for the Cabinet for amendment in the existing Government of Pakistan Market Treasury Bills 1998 and Government of Pakistan Ijara Sukuk Rules 2008. In a landmark decision, the Federal Cabinet has granted its approval to the summary presented by the Ministry of Finance, leading to substantial amendments to the subject legal instruments, said a press

release issued here. These amendments aim to enhance efficiency and provide flexibility for issuing, registering, trading and transferring Government Securities through any institution. The implementation of these rules will not only make participation in Government securities auctions/issuance simpler but will also expand the investor base.

It is also expected that these amendments will help in reducing the cost of borrowing as greater diversification will significantly enhance the subscription in government securities.



ISLAMABAD: caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik chairing briefing regarding national program for Improvement of Watercourses in Pakistan Phase-II, National Program for Enhancing the Command Area in Barani Areas of Pakistan & Water Conservation in Barani Areas of K.P here at NFS&R.

## ICCI slams massive hike in gas prices and terms it a big blow to industry

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the economy of Pakistan is still struggling for recovery and it is high time that the government should focus on providing affordable energy tariffs for business and industry to revive the economy. However, instead of promoting ease of doing business, the electricity and gas tariffs have been increased manifold in Pakistan causing massive hike in cost of doing business and making our exports more uncompetitive in the international market.

He said that the government is passing on the burden of poor performance and financial losses of the electricity and gas companies to the end consumers by increasing their tariffs, which is not a right approach. He stressed that instead of increasing power tariffs, the government should focus on addressing the inefficiencies of electricity and gas companies and plug their leakages to make them efficient. President ICCI said that already the unjustified hike in the prices of electricity had forced people to come to the streets in August.

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## Pakistan's internet vision shines at regional governance conference

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

Notable speakers included the CEO Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) Foundation, Sylvia Cadena; who shared the Foundation's particular focus on Pakistan for projects in the social sector; and the Director General of APNIC, Paul Wilson

among others. On the occasion, Caretaker Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Dr. Umar Saif, shared his insights and vision for the future of Internet governance. He appreciated the efforts of PTA and other stakeholders such as APNIC for contributions in this domain. The Federal IT Minister emphasized the urgency of addressing the challenges related to the Internet Governance. He underscored the importance of overcoming these challenges to enable businesses to flourish. He also highlighted the potential of 5G and the Internet of Things (IoT) in Pakistan, stressing the need to evolve the internet architecture to align with the demands of the contemporary era and enable Pakistanis to

become first-class internet users. Chairman PTA, Major General @ Hafeez Ur Rehman, in his address, said, "We are committed to resolving Internet Governance issues through collaborative efforts with stakeholders in Pakistan. PTA is actively partnering with various organizations, including APNIC, ISOC, and ICANN, to enhance capacity building, establish IXPs, facilitate the transition to IPv6, and foster community engagement."

Furthermore, Chairman PTA highlighted PTA's active involvement in addressing issues related to the .pk domain and its pursuit of inaugurating an Urdu version of the domain (.dot Pakistan) so that the Pakistani community can have domains in local languages.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Power and Petroleum, Muhammad Ali exchanging views with Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of China to Pakistan during meeting held in Islamabad.

## Pak-Japan Business Forum holds 15th AGM, annual dinner

KARACHI (INP): The Pakistan-Japan Business Forum (PJBF) Tuesday held its 15th Annual General Meeting (AGM) chaired by its Patron-in-Chief, Ambassador of Japan Mitsubishi Wada.

The newly-appointed PJBF Chairman Murtaza Mandviwalla, his predecessor Kalim Farooqui, supported by Senior Vice Chairman Itaru Nakamura and Vice Chairman Feroz Alam Shah shared the details of this year's performance report, while the financial report was presented by Finance Director Hanif Sattar.

The Pakistan-Japan Business Forum is a leading bilateral business forum with 20 directors on its board having business interests in Japan, 10 of whom are Japanese nationals residing in Pakistan and spearheading

Japanese conglomerates here.

The PJBF board also has observer members, Consul-General of Japan in Karachi Odagiri Toshio and Japanese External Trade Organization (JETRO) Country Head Kazunori Yamaguchi. The PJBF members comprise business icons from diversified fields of trade and industry sectors such as automotive, pharmaceutical, information technology, textile, engineering, fisheries, petrochemicals, and steel, among others. Keeping with its tradition, the AGM of PJBF was followed by dinner and entertainment program attended by notable dignitaries, which besides the PJBF members, included several members of the diplomatic community based in Karachi.



ABBOTTABAD: A large numbers of vehicle are in queue to refill CNG tanks as the CNG Station closure across the province, due to halting of gas supply to CNG stations in city, at Mall road main KKH in Abbottabad.

## Economy yielding positive results due to stabilization measures: Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): The economic indicators of first quarter of the current fiscal year (2023-24) show Pakistan's economy had set the growth momentum and was yielding positive results owing to government's stabilization measures, the finance ministry said in its recent report released here on Tuesday.

"Hard earned gains on the fiscal and external accounts have started to translate into a pick-up in economic activity," said Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Dr. Shamsad Akhtar in foreword of the monthly Economic Update and Outlook for October 2023.

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

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

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

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

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

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

During Q1 FY2024, the strong revenue performance led to a primary surplus of Rs 41.7bn (0.4% of GDP) against the target of Rs 87bn under the IMF Standby agreement (SBA). FBR revenues clocked in at Rs 2,042bn compared to the target of Rs 1,978bn during Q1, with a strong 37% y/y increase in direct taxes.

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

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: The Gaza Strip has become a graveyard for thousands of children, the United Nations said on Tuesday, as it feared the prospect of more dying of dehydration. Israel has heavily bombed Gaza since Hamas fighters stormed across the border on October 7. The health ministry in the Gaza Strip said the strikes have killed more than 8,500 people, mainly civilians. The UN children's agency Unicef said there was a risk that the number of child deaths directly from bombardment could become

eclipsed. "Our gravest fears about the reported numbers of children killed becoming dozens, then hundreds, and ultimately thousands were realised in just a fortnight," Unicef spokesman James Elder said in a statement. "The numbers are appalling; reportedly more than 3,450 children killed; staggeringly this rises significantly every day." "Gaza has become a graveyard for thousands of children. It's a living hell for everyone else." He said the more than one million children living in the Gaza Strip were also suffering from a lack of clean water.

"Gaza's water production capacity is a mere five per cent of its usual daily output. Child deaths — particularly infants — to dehydration are a growing threat," he said. Unicef is calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, with all access crossings into Gaza opened for safe, sustained and unimpeded access to humanitarian aid, including water, food, medical supplies, and fuel. "And if there is no ceasefire, no water, no medicine, and no release of abducted children? Then we hurtle towards even greater horrors afflicting innocent children," said Elder.



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

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

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

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

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

The Xiangshan Forum brought together defense officials from dozens of countries and organizations. China, which recently sacked its defense minister, was represented by Zhang Youxia, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission. Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu used the forum to highlight Russia's deepening ties

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

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



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

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

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: U.N. investigators on Tuesday urged Russia to acknowledge responsibility for a missile strike on a Ukrainian village that killed 59 civilians, conduct a transparent investigation into what happened, provide reparations for victims and hold those responsible to account. The strike on a cafe in the village of Hroza on Oct. 5 was one of the deadliest strikes since the Kremlin's forces launched a full-scale invasion 20 months ago. Whole families perished while attending a wake for a local soldier who died fighting Russian troops. The blast killed 36 women, 22 men and an 8-year-old boy. Numerous bodies were found torn to pieces, and it took nearly a week to identify all the dead. The U.N. Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine said in a report published Tuesday it "has reasonable grounds to believe" that a Russian Iskander missile — a short-

range precision-guided ballistic weapon — probably caused the blast in Hroza. The extensive damage and weapon debris at the scene led investigators to that conclusion, the report said. It said that Russia "either failed to undertake all feasible measures to verify that the intended target was a military objective rather than civilians or civilian objects, or deliberately targeted civilians or a civilian object." Either of those explanations amounts to a violation of international humanitarian law, the report said. The incident "serves as a stark reminder of the human cost of the war in Ukraine and underscores the necessity of holding perpetrators accountable," Danielle Bell, head of the U.N. mission in Ukraine, said in a statement. The Kremlin did not directly address the strike in Hroza at the time, but continued to insist that it aims only at legitimate military targets in Ukraine.

## Two killed in anti-government protest in Bangladesh

**Monitoring Desk**  
DHAKA: Two people were killed and dozens injured in clashes in Bangladesh on Tuesday between anti-government protesters and police on the first day of a three-day protest to push for the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) called for the blockade of roads for three days in response to clashes between party supporters and police on Sunday in which one policeman was killed and more than 100 people were injured. The party has been calling on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign to allow elections scheduled for January to be held under a neutral caretaker government. Her government has rejected the demand. A police official in the central district of Kishoreganj, where the clashes took place, said two protesters were killed and dozens of people, including 15 policemen, were injured.

## Dutch court sentences Russian businessman to 18 months for busting sanctions targeting Moscow

**Monitoring Desk**  
THE HAGUE: A Dutch court convicted a Russian businessman Tuesday of exporting computer chips and other electronic products to the Russian arms and defense industry in violation of European Union sanctions and sentenced him to 18 months in jail. The EU has slapped Moscow with a series of wide-ranging sanctions since its illegal invasion of Ukraine last year sparked a war now in its 20th month. Rotterdam District Court said in a statement that the man turned sanctions evasion into a "revenue model." The man, whose identity was not released in line with Dutch court rules, exported "dual-use" products that can have both civil and military applications to

companies linked to the arms industry in Russia for a period of more than seven months. The court ruled that he faked invoices for the exports and sent them to Russia via a company in the Maldives. Calling him an "essential link" in the scheme, the court said he "knowingly and deliberately circumvented" EU sanctions. "He has seriously damaged the intended purpose of the sanctions, which is to cut off critical technology for Russia that could contribute to the technological improvement of Russia's defense and security sector," the court said. The defendant's company was fined 200,000 euros (\$212,000) for its role in the scheme.

## Israeli tanks pull back after encountering resistance

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA: Israeli forces on Monday attacked Gaza's main northern city, coming from two sides, as part of a major ground offensive initiated three days earlier. Inside Gaza, the Israeli ground forces fought deadly battles with Hamas fighters. As the Israeli military reported striking over 600 targets with the death toll on the Palestinian side soaring to 8,306, residents of Gaza and the Hamas-run government's media office said Israeli tanks had pulled back towards the fortified fence around the besieged enclave. The Hamas armed wing said intense mortar fire had pushed the tanks back and fellow Islamic Jihad said its fighters were battling Israeli forces there.

## Spain offers drones, reinforcement to help Senegal tackle migration crisis

**Monitoring Desk**  
DAKAR: Spain has delivered six new multicopter drones to Senegal and plans to reinforce its deployed security personnel to help the West African nation tackle a migration crisis, Spain's acting Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska said. Grande-Marlaska is in Senegal where he met his Senegalese counterpart, Sidiki Kaba, as the number of would-be migrants from West Africa, especially Senegal, to reach Spain's Canary Islands this year is near a record high. Grande-Marlaska said

the drones delivered to the Senegal Police are designed to detect vessel departures so that they could be intercepted. He added that Spain had also deployed a civil guard aircraft to help patrol the coasts of Senegal and Mauritania, in addition to 38 troops equipped with four boats, a helicopter and 13 all-terrain vehicles that carry out joint patrol missions with Senegalese forces. The journey from Senegal to Spain's Canary Islands is one of the deadliest but numerous accidents have failed to deter people from attempting the voyage.

## Kremlin keeps Putin's ambitions on presidential election shrouded

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: The Kremlin, asked about President Vladimir Putin's political ambitions, said on Tuesday that the campaign for next year's presidential election in Russia had not yet begun and that there could be a varying number of candidates in the contest. Putin, in power as either president or prime minister since 1999, is widely expected to seek and win another six-year term next year at a time when his country is locked.



Queen Camilla, King Charles III, President of Kenya, William Ruto, and First Lady of Kenya Rachel Ruto pose for a photograph in front of the Mugomo Tree in Uhuru Gardens, Nairobi, on day one of the State Visit to Kenya.

## A record 6.9 million people have been displaced in Congo's growing conflict, the U.N. says

**Monitoring Desk**  
GOMA: A record 6.9 million people have been displaced by conflict across Congo, the United Nations migration agency said, making it one of the world's largest displacement and humanitarian crises. The decades-long conflict has been the primary reason for displacement, the International Organization for Migration said Monday in a report based on data from Congo's 26 provinces. At least 80% of the displaced people live in

eastern Congo's provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tanganyika, which have long been over-run by dozens of armed groups seeking a share of the region's gold and other resources. Some groups reportedly have been backed by Congo's neighbors. Some groups are trying to protect their communities. "The most recent escalation of the conflict has uprooted more people in less time like rarely seen before," said IOM's chief of mission in Congo.

## 3 astronauts return to Earth after 6-month stay on China's space station

**Monitoring Desk**  
TAIPEI: Three Chinese astronauts returned to Earth on Tuesday morning after six months aboard China's orbiting space station. Jing Haipeng, Zhu Yangzhu and Gui Haichao emerged in good health from the return capsule near the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center on the edge of the Gobi Desert, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The station's new three-person crew arrived to the Tiangong station last week.

## India opposition accuses govt of trying to hack lawmakers' iPhones

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: Indian opposition leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government of trying to hack into senior opposition politicians' mobile phones, after they reported receiving warning messages from Apple (AAPL.O). Some of the lawmakers shared screenshots on social media of a notification quoting the iPhone manufacturer as saying: "Apple believes you are being targeted by state-sponsored attackers who are trying to remotely compromise the iPhone associated with your Apple ID." "Hack us all you

want," Gandhi told a news conference in New Delhi, in reference to Modi. "But we (the opposition) will not stop questioning you." Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw expressed concern at the lawmakers' statements and said the government had asked Apple to join its investigation into the matter. The company said it did not attribute the threat notifications to "any specific state-sponsored attacker." Jairam Ramesh, spokesperson for Gandhi's Congress party, called Apple's clarification a "long-winded non-denial" of a security breach.

## Paid ad-free Facebook, Instagram for EU users

**Monitoring Desk**  
BRUSSELS: Facebook and Instagram users in Europe will be able to buy subscriptions to use the social networks without being tracked for targeted advertising from next month, Meta announced on Monday, to comply with tougher EU rules. Tech titans now face a growing European Union legal arsenal, which was designed to curb how they do business online and demands better privacy protection for users. Europe has hit Meta with huge fines over privacy and how it uses European users' data.

## Israeli air strike kills 50 at Gaza refugee camp, hospital chief tells Al Jazeera

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA: Israel said its forces fought Hamas gunmen inside the militants' vast tunnel network beneath Gaza as a hospital director said more than 50 Palestinians were killed in an Israeli air strike on a refugee camp in the besieged enclave. As the battle inside the tiny Hamas-ruled Palestinian territory intensified, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dismissed international calls for a halt to the fighting. But UN and other aid officials warned that a public health catastrophe was engulfing civilians in Gaza, with hospitals struggling to cope with mounting casualties and food, medicine,

drinking water and fuel running short. The director of Gaza's Indonesian Hospital told Al Jazeera that more than 50 Palestinians were killed and 150 wounded in Israeli air strikes on a densely populated area of the Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military. The tunnels under the cramped enclave are a prime objective for Israel as it expands a four-day-old ground offensive — after three weeks of aerial bombardment — into Gaza from the north to hit Hamas in retaliation for the Islamist group's deadly surprise attack into southern Israel on Oct. 7.

## Italy drafts plan for direct election of prime minister

**Monitoring Desk**  
ROME: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and top ministers backed a constitutional reform proposal introducing the direct election of the prime minister, in an effort to end the country's chronic political instability. Meloni made constitutional reform a key policy plank of her right-wing coalition after winning power in September last year. Italy has had almost 70 governments since World War Two, more than twice the number in Britain and Germany. Repeated attempts to produce a more robust system, the last in 2016, have always floundered amid myriad, competing visions. Government officials said that under the pro-

posed reform coalitions will have to put forward premier candidates at the election, in a bid to enhance stability by forging a stronger bond between the government and voters. The government also intends to change the electoral law to ensure that elections produce workable majorities, avoiding the kind of hung parliaments that emerged from ballots in 2013 and 2018, two sources with knowledge of the matter said. "We have taken a big step towards the 'reform of reforms', which will give stability to the country and restore centrality to the popular vote," Reforms Minister Maria Elisabetta Alberti Casellati said in a statement.

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

**Monitoring Desk**  
SYDNEY: Two people have been killed and dozens of homes destroyed in bushfires raging across Australia's northern Queensland state, as firefighters travel from across the country and from New Zealand to try and contain the out-of-control blazes. Residents have been told to evacuate from two massive bushfires in the southeast portion of Queensland, even as dozens of fires continue to burn across the state where at least 45 homes have been destroyed and two people killed since last week. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese called the fires "devastating" in a visit to the state on Tuesday and said the federal government would provide extra support to deal with what it estimates will be at least 42,000 claims for assistance as a result of the destruction. "These are heart-breaking scenes when

people lose their houses," Albanese said from the town of Bundaberg, near one of the large fires. "This is a difficult period and it's going to be a difficult summer. Firefighters from the neighbouring state of Victoria and New Zealand were on their way to help, Albanese added. The early start to fire season comes as Australia recorded its driest September on record and the weather bureau forecast months of hot weather and below average rainfall ahead. More than 7,500 hectares (18,500 acres) are burning out of control in the neighbouring state of New South Wales, only 40 kms (25 miles) from one of the Queensland fires. Firefighters said a 100 hectare (247 acre) blaze near Ulan, roughly 200 kms (125 miles) northwest of Sydney, was "impinging" on a facility where explosives were stored and warned those nearby to leave.

## UN peacekeepers have departed a rebel stronghold in northern Mali early as violence increases

**Monitoring Desk**  
BAMAKO: United Nations peacekeepers on Tuesday withdrew from a rebel stronghold in northern Mali weeks earlier than planned because of insecurity, leaving the town in the hands of ethnic Tuareg separatists. The U.N. peacekeeping mission known as MINUSMA has now departed eight of its 13 bases after Mali's junta earlier this year ordered the 15,000-strong mission to leave the West African country, claiming it had failed in its mission in trying to contain an Islamic extremist insurgency. "The conditions for the departure of all these bases were extremely difficult and trying, for a variety of reasons — all completely beyond the mission's control — including the deterioration of the security situation and the resulting multiple threats to peacekeepers," MINUSMA said in a statement confirming the latest departure. About 850 U.N. peacekeepers had been based in Kidal along with 150 other mission personnel. An employee with MINUSMA told The Associated Press that the peacekeepers left Kidal in convoys after Mali's mili-

tary junta refused to authorize flights to repatriate U.N. equipment and civilian personnel. The employee, who spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to speak to journalists, said the former MINUSMA base and the town's airport were now under rebel control. "I see residents of the town returning to the base to take away scrap metal and other objects left behind by the peacekeepers," a resident of Kidal, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals, told the AP. Mali's junta, which overthrew the democratically elected president in 2021, has sought to distance the country from international partners. Former colonizer France, another partner in the fight against extremists, pulled out its military forces in 2022. The U.N. peacekeeping operation became one of the most dangerous in the world, with more than 300 MINUSMA members killed since operations began in 2013. Violence is again spiking between ethnic Tuareg rebels and Mali's military, prompting the U.N. to move up its departure once planned for mid-November.



An anti-war protester is taken away by police during a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing on President Biden's \$106 billion national security supplemental funding request to support Israel and Ukraine, as well as bolster border security, with testimony by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, on Capitol Hill in Washington, U.S.

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

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

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

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

This, he said, would lead to the enhancement of China's economic and political influence in the world. PM Kakar said during his visit to China, he was "utterly and completely mes-

merized" by the impressive journey of progress made by China. "This impression would transform me as the biggest ambassador of Pakistan-China friendship," he said. Asked to describe China in three words, he said, "Dignified, huge, and self-confident". Of the Pak-China ties, he termed them as "closest, most valuable and most desired as valued deeply by both sides".

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The military courts established under Pakistan Army Act 1952 can hear the cases of common civilians. On May 9, 2023, certain specific elements targeted the significant military and civilian installations of national interests and security for their nefarious designs and that under pre-planned conspiracy all over the country. It was planned and conspired to harm the country's very interests and nothing else. According to the official secret Act of Pakistan Army Act's article (12) (D), the hearing of only those common civilians would be done in the military courts, who are practically found involved in the attacks on the military installations or other military affairs or in subversive activities. The misunderstanding created regarding Army Act and military judicial system by the Advocate Inamur Rehman Colonel (Retd) and other critics like him has caused resentment among the masses. These elements are presenting fabricated facts and maligning the military courts with the beshal military courts. As a result, it caused fear that the basic human rights may not be violated. However, such statements are mockery and far from reality and have no legal base.



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

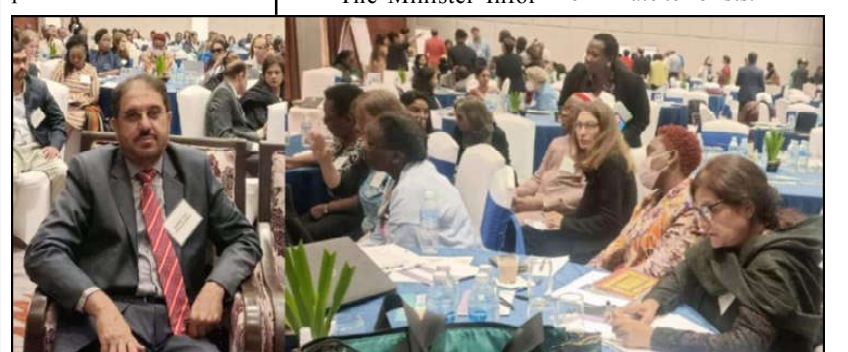
## Attack on PS Turbat: SP Baloch transferred; Mandokhail posted new SP

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Superintendent of Police, Turbat Muhammad Baloch has been transferred and directed to report in the Central Police Office (CPO) Quetta with immediate effect. According to an official notification issued here on Tuesday, SP Sariah Quetta, Zia Mandokhail has been transferred and posted as SP Turbat. The Minister Infor-

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

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has strongly condemned the incident of terrorism took place in Turbat on Tuesday. In an official statement issued here soon after the Turbat incident, Jan Achakzai said that the innocent and armless labourers have been targeted in Turbat once again. He said a police cop has also been martyred in the incident. The Minister Infor-

mation regretfully pointed out that the people who are engaged in labour are targeted. He said that it is meanness and cowardly act to target the armless citizens. He noted with concern that the labourers were also martyred in similar acts of terrorism in the recent past. He asserted that stern action would be taken against the terrorists. He also said that there's no room of such incidents and this is to eliminate terrorists.



Caretaker Provincial Minister for PHE and Population Welfare Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Khan Jaffar attending a workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal.

## Turbat incident injured worker shifted to Quetta for treatments by plane

QUETTA (APP): On special directive of Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki, the injured worker Mudassar was sent to Quetta for further treatment by a special plane after providing first aid at Turbat Hospital. Caretaker Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki also directed to Health Department to provide the best medical facilities to the workers injured in the incident of firing. Local administration shifted the four bodies of workers to their native town to Muzaffar Garh after completion of medico legal formalities, on directive of Balochistan CM.

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

QUETTA (APP): Agha Ahmad Gul @, and the Faculty of Research of BTTN, while the Faculty of Research of the Center for International Strategic Studies, Sindh (CISSS) and members of Rabta Forum International (RFI) virtually joined from Karachi. Col Maqbool started his presentation by shedding light on the importance of Gwadar. He said that Gwadar has enormous potential from all angles and dimensions for any kind of business activity, whether known or emerging, with ever-developing technologies. Being a deep-sea port and having a significant geostrategic location, Gwadar will be a gateway and hub for world businesses and trade, catering to all types of international commercial activities. Given the deteriorating economic situation of Pakistan, Col Afridi stated that Gwadar and CPEC are the only projects that can bail out the country from the present economic crunch.

He has authored several articles and as Gwadar Builders and Developers Association (GBDA) Chairman, he actively works on Gwadar's development and serves on Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) committees. The Caretaker Minister of Health, Balochistan, Dr. Ameer Jogezaei, attended the lecture at BTTN, where he was accompanied by the head of BTTN, Brig

## Bugti says: Pak attaches great importance to friendly ties with Britain

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Bugti on Tuesday said that Pakistan attached great importance to friendly relations with Great Britain. The ministers and British High Commissioner, Jane Marriott agreed to promote relations in various fields in a meeting held here. Bugti said conducting peaceful, transparent and fair elections was the priority of caretaker government. The ministry would provide all possible support to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in conducting the elections, he added.



LANDIKOTAL: A large number of unregistered Afghan refugees are willingly enroute their home land with their necessities after the government of Pakistan decided in the apex committee meeting to return all those Afghans who are living in Pakistan unlawfully, at Torkham Border in Landikotal.