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ISLAMABAD: President, Dr. Arif Alvi exchanging views with Sikandar Sultan Raja, Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan along with the Mansoor Usman Awan, Attorney General for Pakistan and four members of the Election Commissioner of Pakistan during meeting held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President, CEC agree on Feb 8 as general election date

AGP and chief election commissioner to inform SC about decision today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan is scheduled to hold its next general elections on February 8, 2024, as announced by both the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and the Presidency.

This announcement followed a consultative meeting between the president and ECP authorities in response to the instructions of the Supreme Court.

The statement released by the Presidency stated, "In response to the Supreme Court's directive, the Chief Election Com-

missioner of Pakistan, Mr Sikandar Sultan Raja, along with the Attorney General for Pakistan, Mr Mansoor Usman Awan, and four members of the Election Commission of Pakistan, met with President Dr Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr to discuss the date for the upcoming General Elections in the country. After a detailed discussion, it was unanimously agreed to hold the General Elections on February 8, 2024."

The Election Commission of Pakistan issued a press release announcing

that the general elections would take place on February 8 next year.

The ECP also made the announcement through social networking platform X, erstwhile Twitter.

"Today, the respected members of the Election Commission, led by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, met with the President of Pakistan at the Presidency to discuss the election date. It was unanimously decided that the elections will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2024," the ECP

wrote in the post. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to give the specific date for general elections by Friday after the consultation with the President.

The court instructed the Attorney General of Pakistan to arrange the meeting of ECP officials with the President on the same day.

The court said that it expected that all issues

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Process of repatriation of illegal immigrants being managed well, says caretaker CM

Mir Ali Mardan Domki assures to provide necessary resources to put Balochistan police force on modern lines

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the process of repatriation of the illegal immigrants to their countries is being managed in the bordering areas well.

He said that all necessary arrangements have been made for the respectful expulsion of the immigrants at the border.

He was speaking on occasion of his visit to the data command and control center established in the Central Police Office here on Thursday.

He was accompanied by the caretaker Provincial Minister Home, Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali, Additional Chief Secretary Home besides other concerned high ups.

The Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and other police high ups were present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister also visited the monument of police martyrs and laid floral wreath there.

The smartly turned out contingent of the Balochistan police presented salute to the Chief Minister.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the role of data command and control center is very important in prevention of the crimes.

He said that the effective mechanism has been formulated for curbing crimes in light of the information updated on the mega dashboard.

Referring the computerized registration system of FIRs in the police stations, Mr. Domki said that it would help provide early justice to the masses approaching the police station.

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PM directs Information Ministry to resolve issue of advertisement dues

Says media plays key role in development of society

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday assured the Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) of payment of advertisement dues and directed the Information Ministry to resolve the issue as soon as possible.

He was talking to a PBA delegation, which called on him. During the meeting, matters relating to the media, especially electronic media, came under discussion.

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formed the prime minister about the issue of outstanding dues on account of government advertisements.

Highlighting the importance of the media, the prime minister said that being the fourth pillar of state, the media was of utmost importance for the development of society, and the mental and intellectual training of people.

He said the protection of the rights of the media

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Governor Balochistan hopes: Gwadar shipyard to become new center of ship making of whole region soon

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that the Gwadar mega project has key status in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project and the day is not far away when Gwadar shipyard would become the center of new ships making of the whole region soon.

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QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister Prince Ahmed Ali meeting with Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Pashtoon nationalist parties give call for shutter down strike in Quetta today

Independent Report QUETTA: The Pashtoon nationalist parties have given call for observing shutter down strike in the provincial metropolis today (Friday).

The call for shutter down strike was given by the provincial President of Awami National Party (ANP), Asghar Khan Achakzai while addressing a press conference here at the Quetta Press club on Thursday.

Also present on the occasion were PkMAP's leader Nasrullah Khan Zairay and others.

The ANP provincial president alleged that we have given call for shutter down against the "forced" expulsion of the Afghan immigrants from the province, alleged mistreatment

and the policy of passport for across border movement of the people.

He said that while we have been facing the issues of extremism, terrorism and lawlessness for long, the government has taken decision of the expulsion of the Afghan nationals from the country and so from Balochistan.

He said that the government did not think about enforcing the policy of passport at the border what he called "Durand line", and now it enforced it all of sudden.

He said that there was an agreement with the Pashtoon Afghan nation that there would be no bar on the trade and across the border movement.

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ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Pakistan Broadcasters' Association called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Afghan diplomat meets Bugti over immigrants repatriation

ISLAMABAD (INP): Afghan Charge d' Affairs on Thursday called on Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti.

Afghan diplomat Sardar Ahmad Shakeeb discussed issues related to repatriation of Afghan nationals from Pakistan to Afghanistan and other matters of mutual interest.

Interior Minister said that the immigrants illegally staying in Pakistan returning to their countries. "We have issued instructions for respectful treatment with the people returning back to home," Bugti said.

"No legal action being taken against those holding Afghan citizen card," Pakistan's interior minister said. "The government will not tolerate discourteous or

appoint its representative for liaison over complaints, if any reported.

Minister informed the Afghan envoy that the

impolite treatment to the immigrants at any cost," he stressed. He said a control centre and helpline have been established in the Ministry of Interior. Bugti invited Afghan embassy to

women and children will be exempted from biometric formality at crossing points to facilitate them.

Afghanistan's Taliban government on Wednesday urged Pakistan to give un-



documented Afghans in the country more time to leave as pressure mounts at border posts swarmed by thousands of returnees fleeing.

Nawaz, Shehbaz discuss country's political situation

LAHORE (INP): Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz President Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday met with his elder brother Nawaz Sharif in Lahore to discuss the country's overall political situation and legal affairs.

Apart from political and legal affairs, the distribution of party tickets, election narrative and matters related to addressing grievances of the Pakistan People's Party and other coalition partners were discussed, the sources said.

The meeting was also attended by PML-N chief organiser Maryam Nawaz and Salman Shehbaz.

Govt increase MPS salary and incentives ahead of IMF talks

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government has increased pay and incentives of MP scales ahead of the Pak-IMF talks. Following the approval of the caretaker prime minister, the Ministry of Finance issued the notification.

According to the notification, an increase of Rs249,580 in the basic salary and incentive for MPS-I, Rs115,100 for MPS-II and Rs66,255 for MPS-III has been made.

The notification will be applicable from 1st October 2023.

IMF appreciates Pakistan's commitments to meet Q1 targets

ISLAMABAD (APP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Mission Chief, Nathan Porter here on Thursday appreciated the government's commitment to meeting the first Quarter targets and commended its efforts and measures taken in some critical areas.

During a meeting with Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue & Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamsad Akhtar, the IMF Mission Chief underscored

the importance of continuation of these efforts for staying on track for economic stability of the country.

Earlier, Dr. Shamsad Akhtar welcomed the delegation and shared progress on the Standby Arrangement (SBA), according to press statement issued by finance ministry.

The Minister briefed the Mission on fiscal measures being taken by the

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Jan thrashes negative propaganda about expulsion of illegal immigrants

Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information says repatriation of illegal immigrants a big challenge; endeavouring to ensure respectful expulsion; Over 37,000 immigrants repatriated via Chaman border

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that the interim government is ensuring expulsion of illegal immigrants from Balochistan respectfully and taking care of their self-respect and dignity.

He flayed the negative propaganda being made by certain elements about the repatriation of illegal immigrants. He said that certain elements are making false propaganda about maltreat-

ment with the immigrants repatriating to their homeland, which is unfair and baseless.

Those spreading negative propaganda about the ill-treatment with the illegal immigrants are working against the state's interest as the foreign elements are behind it, he alleged while speaking to the media persons at the holding camp established for illegal immigrants in Haji camp, west-

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QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki being briefed about law and order situation by Inspector General Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh during at CPO Office. Caretaker Provincial Home Minister Mir Zubair Ahmed Jalai and Additional Chief Secretary Home Zahid Saleem and other high ups are also present.

Ayaz Sadiq formally invites Lashkari Raisani to join PML-N

Nawabzada Lashkari says he would make decision about joining PML-N after consultation with companions

Independent Report QUETTA: The senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Sardar Ayaz Sadiq formally invited the prominent political and tribal leader and former Senator Nawabzada

PML-N during his meeting with the later as he visited the Sarawan House for the purpose on Thursday.

Also accompanied with him were the provincial leadership of PML-N Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail,

Soon after the meeting, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq addressed a joint press conference along with Lashkari Raisani.

On the occasion, Ayaz Sadiq said that he has come to see Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani and invited him to join the party on directives of the central leader of party, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Ms. Maryam Nawaz.

He said that during meeting with Lashkari Raisani, there was discussion on the issues of Balochistan and its people.

He said that PML-N leaders Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Shahbaz Sharif have long association with Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani and his family.

He said that Nawabzada Lashkari may

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Lashkari Raisani to join the PML-N.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq invited Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani for joining the

Jamal Shah Kakar, Naseemur Rehman Mulakhail, Chaudhary Naem Karim besides others.

Caretaker Chief Minister to inaugurate: Health Card Program due to be launched in Balochistan today

Independent Report QUETTA: The much-awaited Health Card Programme is scheduled to be launched in the Balochistan province today (Friday). According to the official sources, caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki would inaugurate the programme. It may be mentioned here that the Balochistan Health Card Programme had been planned by the Chief Minister Jamal Kamal Khan in year 2019. The Health department sources informed that some 2.1 million families would benefit from the Health Card facility. Under the Health Card Programme, the patients would be able to get treatment upto the cost of Rs. 1 million annually.

Anti-corruption body meeting convened

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Ahmad Irfan Aslam has convened the inaugural meeting of the taskforce on Anti-Corruption. The taskforce expressed its resolve to conduct a comprehensive review of the institutional framework of our Anti-Corruption Institutions. It was also decided that members from the Private sector will also be co-opted in the taskforce.



QUETTA: Federal Secretary for Economics Affairs Division Dr. Kazim Niaz, Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, Country Director World Bank Najy Benhassine jointly preside over meeting regarding Foreign Funded Projects in Balochistan.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the 26th Convocation ceremony of the COMSATS University.

India thrashes Sri Lanka to reach World Cup semi-finals

Sports Desk
MUMBAI: Some fiery fast bowling from India's Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj lit up their World Cup encounter with Sri Lanka and helped the unbeaten hosts secure a thumping 302-run victory on Thursday, becoming the first side to book a semi-final spot.

It was India's seventh win from 50 matches in this year's 50-over tournament, and arguably their most dominant, with Sri Lanka's batters lasting under 20 overs while chasing a 358-run target.

The defeat all but ended Sri Lanka's remaining hopes of making the knockout stages with Kusal Mendis's side suffering their fifth defeat from seven matches.

Sri Lanka's chase got

off to an awful start. Jasprit Bumrah struck with the first delivery before Siraj picked up the next three wickets to reduce them to four for three runs.

Coming into the attack next, Shami bagged a five-wicket haul to ensure that India's juggernaut rolled on. Shami finished with 5-18 while Siraj took 3-16 as Sri Lanka were bundled out for 55, their lowest total in a 50-over World Cup.

India's Virat Kohli and Shubman Gill earlier hit commanding fifties and combined in a second-wicket stand of 189 to help the hosts post 357 for eight.

After Kohli and Gill fell to left-arm quick Dilshan Madushanka in quick succession, India's number four Shreyas Iyer provided the late flourish to

the innings with a 56-ball 82.

Iyer hit three fours and six sixes in his knock before Madushanka, who finished with 5-80, dismissed the local batter to pick up his first five-wicket haul in the format.

Madushanka gave Sri Lanka a dream start by dismissing in-form India captain Rohit Sharma with the second ball of the innings after the island nation won the toss and decided to bowl on a hot and humid day at the Wankhede Stadium.

Kohli then made 88 off 94 balls while Gill scored a run-a-ball 92 to put the Sri Lanka bowlers to the sword. Gill survived a dropped catch on eight while Kohli also got an early reprieve on 10 during his knock.

HEC launches 3rd phase of 4,500 scholarships for Afghan students

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindh Thursday said the Higher Education Commission (HEC) has launched the 3rd phase of Allama Muhammad Iqbal Scholarships Programme for Afghan nationals.

He said under this new phase, 4,500 scholarships will be awarded to Afghan students over a period of three years to study in top-ranked Pakistani universities.

He was addressing as chief guest at the graduation

ceremony for 281 Afghan students who have completed their studies under Phase-II of the Programme here.

The students have graduated from 25 universities across Pakistan and received their Bachelor's and Master's degrees in various disciplines including Medicine, Engineering, Agriculture, Management and Computer Science. As many as 6000 Afghan students have been awarded scholarships so far during the first two phases of the Scholarship Project.

Vaughan sees Pakistan's chances of making it to ICC CWC semis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former England cricketer, Michael Vaughan, has weighed in on Pakistan's chances of reaching the semifinals of the ongoing 2023 Cricket World Cup and offered an unconventional strategy to boost their prospects.

The Chief Minister also paid homage to the police martyrs who embraced martyrdom in line of duty.

He assured that necessary resources would be provided to put the police force on modern lines in the province.

took to his social media platform 'X' to voice his desire for an India-Pakistan semifinal showdown in the ongoing tournament.

"India v Pakistan Semi in Kolkata anyone #CWC23," Vaughan wrote.

He also expressed his belief that the Men in Green have reentered contention for a spot in the semi-finals. "Pakistan are back in the race for the semis #Pakistan #CWC23," Vaughan wrote.

Pakistan and New Zealand would square off against each other on Saturday at the M. Chinnaswamy.



QUETTA: Former Federal Minister Zubaida Jalal meeting with Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

President, CEC..

Continued from page 1

matter. Did he approach the top court under Article 186 with advisory jurisdiction, he asked.

The chief justice inquired about the letter of the President to the ECP regarding the date of general elections. PTI's lawyer Barrister Ali Zafar read out the letter before the bench and said that it was unclear.

Addressing the PTI's counsel, the CJP said that if he meant that the President had not fulfilled his constitutional responsibility by not giving the elections' date. Whether the SC has the authority to give the date of elections under the Constitution. Should the court instruct the President, he asked. Justice Isa said suppose the President didn't announce the date, should we take contempt of court action on this count. Chief Justice Qazi Faiz said that the ECP said that it had the authority to give the date under Section 57 of the Election Act.

Whether the petitioner had challenged the amendment in Section 57 of the Election Act, he asked. PTI's lawyer Ali Zafar said that it was the responsibility of the ECP and the President to give a date for general elections. Justice Athar Minallah said that the Constitution was clear that the elections date was to be given by the President.

Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Isa questioned that did the President verbally ask the SC to take notice of the

matter. Did he approach the top court under Article 186 with advisory jurisdiction, he asked.

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Process of..

Continued from page 1

tions. He on the occasion praised the system adopted for updating the police record in accordance with the modern day requirements.

The Chief Minister also paid homage to the police martyrs who embraced martyrdom in line of duty.

He assured that necessary resources would be provided to put the police force on modern lines in the province.

Gwadar..

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at the Governor House on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor said that the country's economic system can easily be strengthened with participation of common men of society in the economic activities.

Mr. Kakar said that the number of those youngsters benefiting from higher education in Makran division is increasing at fast pace.

He said that fisheries is identity of Gwadar, and fishermen earn livelihood from the sea. Therefore, it is necessary to increase capacity of the fishermen and take practical steps for provision of modern facilities to them, adding he stressed.

He expressed the belief that the rising sun of Gwadar can steer the country and province out of economic crunch.

Pashtoon..

Continued from page 1

He alleged that unfair treatment is being meted out with the Afghan nationals under the garb of illegal foreign nationals and their documentation.

The PkMAP's Nasrullah Zairay also criticized the government for its policies towards the Afghan nationals. He said that the maltreatment of the immigrants would not be tolerated at all.

They appealed to the people and all political parties to back the protest and shutter down strike in Quetta.

IMF..

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government to improve the economic situation.

The meeting also included discussions on comprehensive reforms and measures undertaken by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and the government's strategies to address the circular debt issue. Dr. Shamsad Akhtar expressed her appreciation for the continued support and assistance of IMF and reaffirmed the government's commitment to working closely with the fund to ensure successful completion of the SBA and achieve the economic objectives.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed chairs a meeting of National Price Monitoring Committee.

PM directs..

Continued from page 1

representatives was also responsibility of the state.

PM Kakar said that through effective and coordinated communication between the government and the media, the public could stay informed about government policies and initiatives. He said the media played a key role in good governance and accountability of government performance. He expressed the hope that the media would continue to play its role in the stability of democracy through impartial reporting.

The prime minister urged the delegation to increase public awareness through the media about the importance of the economic stabilization strategy un-

der the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

He said that the recent decline in the value of the dollar, prevention of smuggling, prevention of electricity theft and other measures were benefiting the common man.

Caretaker Minister for Information Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi, Secretary Information & Broadcasting, and Principal Information Officer were also present in the meeting.

The PBA delegation included its Chairperson Shakeel Masood, Secretary General Mian Amir Mehmood, Senior Vice Chairman Mir Ibrahim Rehman and Tahir Khan.

Ayaz Sadiq..

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join the party or not, but the relationship with his and his family would sustain in future. He said that Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani spoke about the issues of Balochistan. During the meeting, he (Raisani) talked about Pakistan only and he wants to see it strong, what all we want too, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq maintained.

Later, addressing the presser, Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani said that he has been invited to join the PML-N, for he is thankful to Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and the PML-N leadership.

However, he said that he would make the decision about joining the PML-N after making consultation with his companions.

Jan thrashes negative..

Continued from page 1

ern bypass on Thursday morning. Also present on the occasion was Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Saad bin Asad.

The caretaker Minister Information said that we are endeavouring to create such an environment that the illegal immigrants may repatriate to their homeland voluntarily.

He said that it is our utmost endeavour not to create or let create such an environment that may harm the self-respect and dignity of the illegal immigrants.

However, it is firm policy of the state to repatriate all the undocumented and unregistered refugees to their respective countries, he mentioned adding that around 10,000 immi-

grants were carried to the Chaman border for repatriation.

He said that the repatriation of illegal immigrants is a big challenge for the province, however, we are doing our best to meet it accordingly.

He said that while the illegal immigrants are being deported to their homeland respectively from Balochistan, the immigrants are also being brought from Sindh and Punjab for repatriation via province.

He informed that over 37,000 immigrants have been deported to Afghanistan via Chaman border during last around three weeks.

He said that we are also in contact with the Afghan authorities over the issue of repatriation of illegal immigrants.

About detention of illegal immigrants from Quetta, Jan Achakzai said that a total of 572 illegal immigrants were detained from the provincial capital.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Quetta Saad bin Asad shared details of the detention and repatriation of the illegal immigrants from Quetta district.

The Minister Information along with Deputy Commissioner visited different parts of the Haji camp holding center for illegal immigrants, and inspected the services being extended to them.

He said that it is our endeavour to keep minimum number of immigrants at the holding centers, and as such deport them in due course after detention.

Pakistan committed to deliver rapid response on climate change: FM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani on Thursday said Pakistan was committed to delivering rapid response on climate change and meeting the global goals to reduce its devastating impact.

At a pre-COP28 (Conference of the Parties to the Convention) seminar titled 'Pakistan's roadmap for upcoming conference in Dubai', the foreign minister emphasized Pakistan's willingness to contribute to the solution to address climate change.

The seminar was

hosted by the Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change (CSCCC), with the support of the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and the United Arab Emirates Embassy in Pakistan.

The event served as a platform for government officials, experts, academia, civil society representatives, and the media to come together and strategize for Pakistan's role in the upcoming COP28, scheduled to commence next month in Dubai.

FM Jilani highlighted the pivotal role of the Glo-

bal Stocktake in achieving global course correction, which, he termed, crucial for the success of COP28.

Established under Article 14 of the Paris Agreement, the Global Stocktake is designed to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of [the Paris] Agreement and its long-term goals.

Jilani said Pakistan was set to play a constructive role in dealing with the urgency of course correction to ensure a brighter future for the children.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting

Murtaza Solangi emphasized the need to cultivate a culture of social responsibility regarding climate change, advocating for conversations to begin in various forms of media, including news, drama, film, and poetry. He announced the forthcoming introduction of a dedicated Climate Desk at PTV, designed to act as a catalyst for fostering a holistic, whole-of-society approach. Secretary of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Asif Hyder Shah outlined Pakistan's advocacy goals for COP28.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki inspecting the complaint centre during his visit to Qaidabad Police Station.

Pak clinch 47 medals, win Poomsae event of Asian Taekwondo C'ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan bagged 47 medals to win the Poomsae event of the 5th Comboxx Asian Taekwondo Championship here at the Pakistan Sports Complex on Thursday.

Pakistan grabbed 14 gold, 11 silver, and 22 bronze medals to win the Poomsae event of the Asian Taekwondo Championship. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia finished second with one gold, one silver and two bronze medals, while Nepal finished third with one gold medal. WTH (Refugee) finished fourth with one silver and Iran finished fifth with one bronze medal.

On the second day of the championship, the excellent performance of Pakistani athletes continued.

In the men's over-18 individual freestyle event, Pakistan's Ameer Hamza won the first position with 6.73 points.

Gymnasium Hall of Pakistan Sports Board.

The players of 27 teams from as many countries participated in the march past. The president of the Asian Taekwondo Union, Prof. Kyu Seok Lee, announced the start of the championship while the coach of Iran, the referee of Pakistan and the players of Great Britain & Nepal administered the oath to the players participating in the event. The players of the Pakistan Taekwondo Federation presented a magnificent display of Taekwondo in front of the audience. The guests of honour at the event included President of the Asian Taekwondo Union Prof. Kyu Seok Lee, Federal Secretary for Inter-Provincial Affairs Hanif Orakzai, Ambassador of Korea to Pakistan Park Ki-Jun.

In the women's over-18 individual freestyle, Pakistan's Zymal Naqvi scored 4.56. In the freestyle pair over 18, Pakistan's Ameer Hamza and Naila bagged the gold medal with a score of 6.76.

In the mixed team event, Pakistan's Maryam, Usman, Waheed, Abbas and Naqvi won the gold medal by scoring 6.26 points.

In men's under-50 freestyle, Ali Adnan of Saudi Arabia won the first position with a score of 7.16.

In the women's under-50 freestyle individual competition, Pakistan's Sana Sabir won the gold medal with a score of 6.23.

Earlier, the championship started in a colourful ceremony at the Liaquat

T20 tri-series featuring Pak, WI Women-A & Thailand Women emerging start today

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Women-A, West Indies Women-A and Thailand Women Emerging teams will feature in a T20 tri-series, scheduled to be played from November 3-8, 2023.

The three teams will play each other once before the top two play the final on November 8. All matches will be played at the iconic Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

This is the first multi-nation tournament in Pakistan involving women's emerging teams. The tri-series was preceded by a three-match one-day series between West Indies Women A and Pakistan Women A, which went in 2-1 in the visitors' favour.

Pakistan Women A have been forced to make one change to the squad that played the one-day series, with Kaynat Hafeez replacing the injured Tuba Hassan. Kaynat has represented Pakistan in one ODI in 2019 against England.

Rameen Shamim, who will continue to lead Pakistan Women A, was the joint wicket-taker in the recently

concluded one-day series. Rameen and off-spinner Anosha Nasir picked six wickets each in the three-match series. Pakistan's squad has six internationally capped players: Rameen, Gull Feroza, Kaynat Hafeez, Omaima Sohail, Shawaal Zulfikar and Sidra Nawaz.

West Indies Women A will be buoyed by the one-day series victory as they will continue to be captained by Rashada Williams, who was the leading run-getter in the 50-over matches. Meanwhile, this is Thailand's first-ever cricket tour of Pakistan. Following the tri-series, the side will also play two T20s against the home team, scheduled for Nov 10-11 at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. Seven players out of Thailand Women Emerging's 15-member squad have represented the senior side in T20Is. Thailand Women Emerging captain, Thipatcha Putthawong, speaking to PCB Digital, expressed her excitement at leading her side on the tour to Pakistan.

PAKISTAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (PCAA)
TENDER NOTICE

Tenders in sealed envelope are hereby invited for the following work by the undersigned from contractors having updated PEC registration in category C-8 or above in specialized code CE-10 along with NTN Certificate & Professional Tax Certificate.

Name of Work	Earnest Money	Tender Cost	Date and Time of Submission	Date and Time of Opening
CONSTRUCTION/GRADATION OF IN-LAND ROAD NETWORK AT TURBAT AIRPORT	Rs.160,000/-	Rs.1000/-	20-11-2023 1100 hrs	20-11-2023 1130 hrs

Terms & Conditions:

- The tenders can be purchased on any working day up to one day before tender opening time from the office of Divisional Engineer ES Civil Makran JIAP Karachi during office hours on payment of prescribed tender cost (non refundable) against Pay Order/Bank Challan drawn in favour of Civil Aviation Authority, Karachi.
- Tender shall be issued to the owner/proprietor of the firm having CNIC or duly authorized representative of the firm/company.
- Earnest money amounting to Rs.160,000/- in the shape of Pay Order/Bank Draft of any schedule Bank drawn in favour of Civil Aviation Authority Karachi should be submitted along with the tenders in sealed envelope. Tender supported without required earnest money would not be entertained.
- No tender will be sold by post or on the date fixed for opening of tenders. PCAA reserves all rights to accept or reject any or all the tenders for sufficient and cogent reasons which will be communicated to the bidder on request.
- The pay order/earnest money of bidders will be retained till finalization of tender.
- Warning-** Pay orders/Bank Drafts, any other financial instruments or any document submitted by Bidders, Contractors as Tender Cost Earnest Money Bid Security, Bank Guarantees and experience certificate etc. if found fake or dishonored by issuing bank/financial institution at any Pre/Post contract stage of the case, would call for blacklisting and legal action against the firm and owner of the firm as per law of the land.

Divisional Engineer ES (Civil)
Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority
Makran Division CAA Jinnah Annex, JIAP, Karachi
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PID/K#

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TENDER NOTICE

The Deputy Conservator of Forest Zhoib invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items.

TSE-232410359861 Tender Fee Rs.1000/-

S.No	Class of Object	E/Cost	Bid Security
1	Purchase and Supply of Water Grow Boxes for Chilhgoza Plantation Support at Zhoib.	2.400 M	5%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: At Least 03 Assignments of Similar Nature of Works, 2,000,000 in Previous 1 Turnover of at least 2,000,000 PKR in 1 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List, Sales Tax Certificates. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV is not 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 ineligible and non-responsive. Submission of the required Bidding document Fee in the form of green Challan. Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 5% specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR. Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 08 December, 2023 during office hours on working days. Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 08 December, 2023 till 09:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under signed at 10:00 AM. Address: Forest Office main DI Khan road, district Zhoib. Phone no: 0622412914 Email: sultanmehmood@yahoo.com

PRQ No.881/02-11-2023 DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FOREST ZHOIB

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President urges measures for economic, social mainstreaming of differently-abled persons

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday emphasising the protection of rights of the hearing-impaired persons, called for measures to ensure the economic and social mainstreaming of the differently-abled persons.

The president, in a meeting with a delegation led by President of Deaf Welfare Awareness Foundation Sheikh Muhammad Mansha, said the encouragement of the differently-abled persons was essential for their inclusion in all fields.

He also stressed the need for special measures

for education and skill-development of the hearing-impaired persons.

By utilising the information technology, such people could be facilitated for their communication as well as education, he added.

He said that the universities were giving special concession to the differently-abled persons in the tuition fee and other expenditures to facilitate their higher education.

The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) is also facilitating them for issuance of special identity

cards.

President Alvi urged the persons with disabilities to get their special identity cards as well as the disability certificates.

He urged the government, NGOs and the hearing-impaired people to collectively work for coping with the prevailing challenges.

The delegation apprised the president of the problems faced by the people with impaired hearing as well as performance of the Foundation.

First Lady Samina Alvi was also present in the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Ahmad Irfan Aslam convened the inaugural meeting of the taskforce on Anti Corruption.

BISP, World Bank affirm ongoing partnership for relief in marginalized sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and World Bank (WB) have reiterated their commitment to continue working together to strengthen the marginalized segments of society and ensure relief to the poorest of the poor.

This was expressed in a meeting between Chairperson BISP and a high-level delegation of the World Bank, held here, said a news release on Thursday.

World Bank delegation was led by Ms. Kicole Klinggen, South Asia Regional Director (Human Development), accompanied by Ms. Hnin Hnin Payne, Program Leader (Human Development), Amjad Zafar Khan, Senior Social Protection Specialist, Gul Najam Jamy, Senior Consultant, Sohail Saeed Abbasi, and Amna Khan, while Chairperson BISP, Dr Muhammad Amjad Saqib was accompanied by DG NSER Naveed Akbar and Director IC&C Rashid

Imtiaz.

On the occasion, Dr Saqib provided the World Bank delegation with a comprehensive overview of BISP's initiatives including Kafaalat, Taleemi Wazaif, Nashonuma, National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER) and shared insights into the achievements of the programme over the past 15 years.

Discussing the challenges faced by BISP, Dr Saqib outlined his vision for new initiatives to be adopted by the program.

Jamal Shah says: Govt plays key role for promoting country's soft image, culture at Int'l level

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for National Heritage & Culture Jamal Shah Thursday said that the interim government was playing a key role in promoting the country's soft image effectively at the international level and connecting people of various countries with their rich cultures.

"Pakistani nation is hospitable and has cultural values which we need to highlight the correct image of the country at national and international levels", Jamal Shah said while talking to a private news channel.

The federal government is ready to extend all possible support for the provinces on this matter, he added.

He further explained that our regional languages, literature, culture and art defined the identity of a nation and the government had been taking measures to promote them to create a knowledgeable, educated and well-informed society that could enjoy peace and prosperity.

He urged poets, drama and film writers to highlight Pakistan's rich culture for not only educating the future generation but also promoting tourism at the global level.

Replying to a question, he said we will increase our efforts to make and preserve the heritage sites in the state to attract more tourists, including improving the infrastructure and drama theatres.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Health, Dr. Nadeem Jan sharing details during his visit to the construction of Poly Clinic hospital expansion project.

Dr Nadeem inspects Polyclinic expansion project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan on Thursday inspected the Federal Government Polyclinic (FGPH) hospital's expansion project.

The minister was briefed by the concerned authorities about the project.

Dr. Nadeem Jan reviewed the construction work of Polyclinic G-11/3 expansion project-II.

The expansion project consists of 300 beds. This project will be completed in three years.

However, the minister directed to complete the project in two years.

He said that slowness and delay in construction work will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

He said that such public welfare projects should be completed on time.

The construction of the hospital will not only

benefit the citizens of Islamabad and surrounding areas rather, the people of Azad Jammu Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan will also be able to benefit.

He said that the hospital will provide facilities for diseases such as diabetes, blood pressure, maternity care, allergies, bone and joint problems, chest and heart diseases, and skin issues.

The minister said that we are making progress in the short-term mission of reforms. Progress in the health sector is not possible without reforms, he added.

He pointed out that along with the growth of the population, diseases are also increasing, and resources are limited to tackle them. In this context, a revolutionary project has been initiated to reduce the burden on large hospitals, he added.

Motorway Police foil terror plot, seize 30 bore pistols, bomb

ISLAMABAD (APP): In an operation near Sahiwal on the national highway, Motorway police officers foiled a terror plot by seizing 30 bore pistols, one bomb, and other suspicious items from a suspected motorcyclist.

According to Motorway Police PRO, a motorcyclist was signaled to stop while on patrol, but instead of stopping he sped away. After a brief chase, the police apprehended the suspect and recovered weapons and other items. The suspect was handed over to the local police for further investigation.

PPP chief felicitates newly elected PBA office bearers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Thursday extended congratulations to all newly elected office-bearers of the Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) on their success.

He felicitated the newly elected PBA President Shakeel Masood, General Secretary Mian Amir Mehmood, Senior Vice Chairman Mir Ibrahim Rehman, Vice Chairman Ahmed Zuberi, Joint Secretary Athar Qazi and Finance Secretary Gulam Nabi Morai and expressed best wishes, said a press release issued here.

"I hope the newly elected office-bearers of PBA will play their full role in promoting freedom of expression and freedom of press in the country."

NIH issues advisory on seasonal Influenza

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Center for Disease Control (CDC), National Institute of Health (NIH) Islamabad on Thursday issued an advisory on prevention and control of seasonal Influenza (seasonal flu).

According to NIH, flu cases usually increase in Pakistan from December to February as temperature falls during the winter season.

The NIH said that the objective of this advisory is to alert and facilitate the health authorities and other stakeholders to ensure timely preventive and control measures.

These measures including preparedness to deal with increased

workload expected in the outpatient and in-patient departments during next few months.

According to the advisory seasonal influenza viruses may present with mild symptoms but may progress to severe illness, particularly in high-risk individuals. Patients with chronic diseases such as asthma, diabetes, cardiac and lung diseases, pregnant women, elderly people and children under five years are at higher risk of developing severe or complicated disease.

Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent infection and severe outcomes caused by influenza viruses, particularly in high-risk groups.

PTI chairman not being slow poisoned: Faisal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dr Faisal Sultan, personal physician of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman, on Thursday categorically dismissed rumours of any slow poisoning to the PTI chairman following his medical examination in Adaila Jail.

Talking to the media after meeting the PTI chief in Adaila Jail with his legal team, Dr Sultan said the PTI chairman was not being slow poisoned.

"I have not observed any symptoms of slow poisoning to the PTI chief, who appears to be in good health and fit, and is even carrying out regular exercise in jail," he added.

Court summons all accused in Rental Power reference

ISLAMABAD (APP): An Accountability Court on Thursday again summoned all the accused, including former prime minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on December 14, in the Rental Power reference filed by the National Accountability Bureau.

AC Judge Muhammad Bashir, who heard the case, asked that why the defence lawyers were not giving arguments over acquittal pleas of their clients.

PID organizes prayer ceremony for deceased mother of JS Shafqat

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Press Information Department (PID) Islamabad organized a prayer ceremony for the deceased mother of Shafqat Abbas, Joint Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting here on Thursday.

Senior officers and employees of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting as well as journalists attended the prayer ceremony in great numbers.

Sanjrani presides over meeting to assess IPC progress

ISLAMABAD (APP): The meeting was attended by Secretary Senate, Mohammad Qasim Samad Khan, Secretary General IPC, Sitara Ayaz, Executive Director PIPS, Muhammad Anwar and Director General Coordination Senate, Mir Shae Mazar Baloch.

This decision to elect a new President marks a significant step forward in IPC's journey to further enhance its role in the global parliamentary community.

The upcoming election will ensure the continued dedication and leadership of IPC in facilitating international parliamentary cooperation and diplomacy.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate and Founding President of the International Parliamentarians Congress (IPC), Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani here on Thursday presided over a meeting to assess the progress and developments of IPC.

During the meeting, attended by IPC and Senate officials, thorough and detailed deliberations took place.

The deliberations culminated in a decision to proceed with the election of the President of IPC. The official election schedule is set to be announced in December 2023.



ISLAMABAD: Leader of the House in the Senate, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar exchanging views with Ambassador of United States, Mr. Donald Blome at Parliament House.

Wasi assigned additional charge of SAPM on Youth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister of State for Tourism Wasi Shah has also been appointed as Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Youth Affairs keeping in his excellent performance in tourism ministry.

On the directives of Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq, the minister had been assigned additional charge of Special Assistant to PM for Youth Affairs, said a

news release issued here on Thursday.

Wasi Shah is also responsible for the affairs of the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC). Wasi Shah is the most popular poet of the youth.

Not only in Pakistan but in the entire Urdu world, he is considered as a poet who is the heartbeat of young hearts.

Safe City I'abad integrates with Sindh Excise Dept to issue e-challans

ISLAMABAD (APP): Safe City Islamabad has recently integrated with the Sindh Excise and Taxation Department, facilitating the issuance of e-challans.

A spokesperson of Islamabad police confirmed this integration through the Safe City E-Challan system. The integration comes in response to the discovery of numerous vehicles with Sindh number plates violating traffic laws within the federal capital. This posed a challenge as their data was previously inaccessible within the Safe City E-Challan system,

hindering the issuance of e-challan tickets.

The collaboration with the Sindh Excise and Taxation Department will significantly streamline the process of issuing e-challan tickets for traffic law violators. Stringent measures have also been implemented to address persistent traffic law offenders and individuals who default on their e-challans. To this end, the Islamabad Capital Police has enforced strict actions, including the suspension of driving licenses for those who default on their e-challans.

Police arrest two suspects involved in murder case

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police Sumbal police station, in conjunction with the Homicide unit police teams, successfully apprehended two individuals linked to a heinous murder case, police said.

The incident unfolded on October 31 when the Sumbal police station received an application from a distressed citizen, reporting a tragic incident.

According to the applicant, the accused, identified as Deen Muhammad (husband) and Noor Hassan (father-in-law), allegedly set fire to his daughter, Nazia Bibi, leading to her untimely demise upon arrival at the hospital.

In response to the grievous crime, the Sumbal police team promptly registered FIR no. 412/23 and established a specialized investigation team.

PTCL Group, Pink Ribbon collaborate for breast cancer awareness campaign

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading telecom and ICT services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone

dedicated to educating and raising awareness about breast cancer. The campaign, multifaceted in its approach, exemplified the

cancer, emphasizing its dedication to the cause and support for those impacted by this disease, said a news release issued. The Group kick-started the campaign by converting the official company logos to pink on all digital platforms.

This was followed by an internal awareness messaging campaign to educate employees about early detection and breast cancer prevention, accompanied by an awareness session in collaboration with Pink Ribbon. The session featured a panel discussion with Dr. Erum Najeeb, General Surgeon, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Dr. Asma Mahfooz from PTCL's Health Team.



4G) in collaboration with Pink Ribbon Pakistan has led a month-long campaign Group's commitment to empowering individuals in their fight against breast



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets his teacher Nisar Ahmad.

Guidance from Quran essential for Islamic financing: Dr Saqib

ISLAMABAD (APP): Benazir Nashonuma programme for its efforts to care for pregnant, lactating mothers, and infants, addressing issues of stunting and malnutrition. Dr Amjad Saqib said there was no scarcity of resources in the world, and the issue lies in the unequal distribution of these resources. He highlighted the correlation between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined by the United Nations and the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah, emphasizing that it is the religious duty of individuals and societies to work towards achieving these goals.

He said that interest is prohibited in Islam and that Islamic Financing encompasses everything except interest-based loans. Providing interest-free loans is in line with Islamic values and Sunnah, underscoring that it is not a burden on the dignity of the recipients but a means to empower them. Dr Muhammad Amjad Saqib's visionary perspective on Islamic financing demonstrates a commitment to advancing economic systems rooted.

He commended the

Dr Saqib made these remarks during his address at the 3-day International conference on "Advancing Islamic Finance" - Principles, Practices, and Regulatory Framework for Sustainable Growth.

The conference was organized by Allama Iqbal Open University (AIQU), Centre for Excellence in Islamic Finance (CEIF) and Institute of Management Sciences (IMC) Peshawar.

Dr Amjad Saqib noted that BISP was providing financial assistance to 9.3 million deserving families through the Benazir Kafaalat programme. Additionally, children from these needy families are receiving education under the Benazir Taleemi Wazaif initiative.



ISLAMABAD: Opposition Leader Senator Dr. Shehzad Waseem speaking during Senate session.

Islamabad police initiate deportation of illegal foreign residents

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: In a decisive move, Islamabad police authorities have commenced the deportation process of illegal residents and moved at least 64 Afghan nationals last day to the Torkham border crossing for deportation.

Working in conjunction, the Islamabad Police, district administration, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), and prison authorities have collaborated to hand over these individuals for necessary actions.

Under the vigilant supervision of Islamabad Police, individuals designated for deportation have been escorted back to their respective home countries. This initiative comes as a result of the expiration of the allotted time for illegal resident individuals.

Islamabad police officials said a team of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and the capital police on other day transported the prisoners in two

buses from Adiala jail to the border under strict security measures. The remaining prisoners will be shifted to the border in different phases. Shalimar police has also arrested over two dozen Afghan refugees and the process of their identity verification was underway. Simultaneously, awareness messages are being disseminated to raise awareness among illegal foreign residents. Authorities have emphasized the consequences of providing shelter or employment to such individuals, reiterating that legal action will be taken against any parties involved in such activities.

It has been emphasized that adhering to Pakistani laws remains the sole option for foreign residents in Pakistan. Authorities have urged the public to report any illegal foreign residents or related activities through the 15 or ICT 15 app, emphasizing the importance of collective efforts in maintaining law and order within the country.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Friday November 03, 2023

No respite

Today, Nov 2, is observed worldwide as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists. It is a day when attention turns to the extreme pressures and injustices journalists face in the line of duty. The context in which it will be observed this year in Pakistan is quite grim.

On the eve of the occasion, Absar Alam, former chief of the country's electronic media regulator, made a damning statement before the Supreme Court alleging that a senior ISI officer, as well as his subordinates, attempted to control and coerce the media through Pemra during Mr Alam's tenure. The tactics employed included reducing the visibility of TV channels that refused to toe the state's line and seeking penalties against TV commentators who were critical of the state. There are many in the industry who will attest to the fact that the climate of repression that prevailed during retired Lt-Gen Faiz Hameed's time at ISI's helm was one of the worst experienced by Pakistani media. The former spy chief gained notoriety for pressuring Pakistani media in ways never seen or heard before, including with direct threats. His methods were unusually brutish. At one point, he vowed to 'destroy' this publication and made good on that threat by blocking Dawn's circulation and advertisements.

Access to Dawn's sister television channel, DawnNews, was repeatedly disrupted in connivance with cable operators across the country. Other news outlets, such as Geo News, faced persecution in very similar ways.

The financial consequences for ordinary journalists working in these organisations were immense and painful to bear. Unfortunately, Gen Hameed's tactics seem to have found enduring favour under the present regime as well. All of the Pakistani media's challenges can obviously not be attributed to one individual or institution. The government's lack of commitment to journalists' protection deserves equal blame. Though Pakistan became the first country to enact laws for the protection of journalists under the PTI, the Freedom Network noted this week that it has failed to mitigate the prevalence of crimes against journalists despite doing so. Eleven journalists have been slain since the law was passed, while journalists continue to face kidnapping, physical assault and harassment through legal cases. The data available shows that no place in the country is safe for journalists anymore — not even the federal capital. Everywhere, journalists are being targeted for their work with impunity. No murder or disappearance seems to be adequately investigated, and the perpetrators are, therefore, never brought to book. This culture of impunity is what allows the cycle of violence to repeat itself. It is unlikely to stop till the federal and provincial governments provide more means and resources to the various bodies set up to look after journalists' rights and protect them from violence. They must act now.

**Ali Tauqeer Sheikh**

Pakistan has been less than successful in accessing international climate finance, and even less in implementing the approved projects in a timely or effective manner. Most projects at the national and provincial levels face inordinate delays, underspendings, cost overruns, extensions, repurposing, or even cancellations. Absorptive capacity is not just the ability to spend, but also to use the new knowledge generated by the projects to enhance our capability to systematically respond to climate and sustainable development challenges.

We have habitually moved from one project to another, and one policy document to another without always reflecting on the value of our experience, new learning, assimilating and

applying it to build our human and institutional competencies. In reality, each project can serve as a building block for subsequent interventions based on new knowledge, research, and practice. This is how our absorptive capacity is enhanced and evidence-based policies are simultaneously strengthened.

It can be argued that instead of seeking new projects and finances in an ad hoc manner, it will be far more useful to systematically build upon earlier project interventions, commitments, and the recommendations of technical studies. Completing the incomplete loops will strengthen our absorptive capacity and climate resilience, and also bring greater accountability and transparency.

Here are three incomplete loops that, if completed, can provide opportunities to build up the absorptive capacity for managing climate risks.

Transition of clean development mechanisms to the Paris Agreement: If Pakistan registers eligible CDM projects under the Article 6.4 mechanism, the Certified Emission Reduc-

tions can be used to fulfil its obligations under the Nationally Determined Contributions. It is a narrowing window in the Paris Agreement that will close on Dec 31. In addition to the CERs needed for NDC implementation, this transition is necessary to revive international investors' confidence in Pakistan.

It is worth mentioning that the Paris Agreement has introduced a Sustainable Mitigation Mechanism with the dual aim of contributing to greenhouse gas mitigation and promoting sustainable development. The SMM has a stronger political mandate than CDMs to ensure that development impacts are real, measurable and long-term. Pakistan is already receiving carbon credit income through 18 approved CDMs. It has 76 approved projects of which 36 are registered under the Kyoto Protocol, expected to offset 3.79 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year. Since most CDM projects in Pakistan are in the energy sector, there is headroom to recast them for other financing options.

Preparing for Nationally Appropriate Mitiga-

tion Actions: Pakistan has only secured three projects since the NAMA facility became operational a decade ago. They focus on a transition to energy-efficient lighting and decarbonising textile manufacturing. These projects have set a track to adopt an ambitious but systematic approach, particularly since the facility is mostly funded by Pakistan's major trading partners including the UK and Germany.

We have a shared interest with them in increasing trade and reducing emissions in energy, particularly in the manufacturing, construction and transportation sectors — the highest sources of Pakistan's carbon emissions, according to our national carbon inventory. Conceived and developed in partnership with the private sector, additional NAMA projects can help us reduce production costs to become competitive.

Gearing up for emissions trading: A carbon gold rush has attracted 'carbon cowboys' who are scouting the country to lock private landholders, provincial governments, and private-sector

entities into long-term concessions. Voluntary carbon markets (VCM), unless managed and regulated judiciously, offer attractive possibilities for fortune hunters. Perhaps the most credible exercise in Pakistan was under a Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) project that began almost a decade ago with a readiness grant by the World Bank.

Sindh has signed a secretive long-term concession on the Indus delta mangroves. At least four wind power plant projects are advancing in Jhimpir, Thatta and Jamshoro, totalling about 300MW and collectively promising emission reduction by 454,137 tonnes CO₂e/year, ironically without a national registry where the emissions reduced could be recorded. KP has, likewise, started developing its own VCM projects pipeline and a provincial VCM framework. All this, while the country awaits a formal policy on carbon trading, carbon taxes, setting up a domestic ETS, or a national reg-

istry and a robust MRV system.

Pakistan definitely needs a national framework for voluntary carbon markets and a roadmap for its regulatory market aligned with the Paris Agreement, both duly approved by the cabinet.

In the context of climate change, we will need to build up our absorptive capacity by completing the incomplete loops of action. Absorptive capacity is a dynamic concept as it relates to the rate at which we can learn and use scientific, technological, or other knowledge, generated by projects and partnerships.

It can best be harnessed by strengthening our ability to assimilate new knowledge. Each project offers an opportunity to enhance absorptive capacity. It will help absorb and assimilate new ideas and innovations needed for climate resilience and adaptation. This is possible if we can treat each project as seed money for transformational change. -- Courtesy Dawn

Creating a leader**Kamila Hyat**

The time has come when once again people across the nation are engaged in the process of trying to decide who they will vote for. The front-runners, including Nawaz Sharif and Imran Khan, both face cases but most believe that Nawaz will be able to contest the election one way or the other. After all, there are many hands that control what happens as far as the electoral process of Pakistan goes.

More important than the candidates themselves is the question of the people. Do they have any choice on whom to vote for? Is it to be the same people over and over again? Certainly other parties which had hoped to make some kind of mark have not really succeeded. In the first place, they have not joined hands and stayed in their

separate coterie taking out tiny protests over the Israeli atrocities in Gaza and other matters. On such a small scale, these protests have no meaning. We ask why this has happened in other countries and could happen in India partly since vaguely the same ideology cannot come together.

There are youth-led movements, parties, workers and trade unions which could join in as a whole, perhaps drawing in the new Reimagining Pakistan group to put together something new to offer people. But the task is a hard one and the unwillingness to combine forces is not encouraging.

We also have the problem of people's insecurity about political matters and how they see them. The failure to educate people about politics correctly and as objectively as possible means many are confused about concepts such as secularism, atheism, feminism or even matters such as presidential rule and the role of the Senate in the electoral process. This makes it harder for them to decide and many vote on the basis of the MNA or MPA they feel favours them. In many cases MNAs are ap-

proached for work such as placing water taps in an alley, although this should be the work of local governments.

The lack of local governments is an extreme failure of the state and means that instead public representatives who should be dealing with policy, have to reach a point where they are pumping out water after rains and making sure this becomes a photo-op that everyone can see. Shehbaz Sharif is perhaps the master of such photo-ops.

The next question we come to is why we have not produced leaders. The answer is fairly simple. We have knocked aside trade unions, student unions, and other grounds from which politicians once arose. Without these nurseries, we cannot expect leaders to take over matters and move ahead with the people. We also need far stronger links between politicians and their constituents. Again, local bodies play the key part in this. But MNAs too can visit their constituencies at least once a week and see what the real problems of the people living there are.

But all of us know that this is not the way politics

in the next election will be run. The results that appear are often hidden in darkness and it is difficult to say who will be chosen and brought to the top. Of course, we can guess and for now the lead seems to lie with Nawaz Sharif who we can only guess has made up with the persons he once attacked and spoke out against. For the moment his chief enemy is Imran Khan. The PTI is indeed a potentially powerful force notably in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but with so many of its activists behind bars and no real leaders to take people out, added to what is the very possible absence of Imran Khan. It is hard to see the party making a return.

We will therefore go back to paths we have travelled in the past. After all, the PML-N is familiar to many paths, in many different ways. We have watched it develop and grow over the years and we have seen the Sharif brothers play their role in Punjab and in the centre. It is thought that Nawaz Sharif may have mellowed over the years, but his daughter Mariam is certainly on a fiery path.

The sad thing is that

political ideologies and agendas do not really decide much. Instead it is the campaigns and the amount of money spent on them which does this as well as events such as the actual counting of votes and the division of constituencies. This is sad in many ways, but it is our reality. It is a reality we must look at for now. We also ask how the country will change if the leadership remains the same. This is a good question. But there is still strength in some aspects of Pakistan. A leadership has to be found which can build on these pieces of strength and bring them together to create an arch of one kind or the other.

The task is a difficult one, but the challenges have to be undertaken. In the first place, we need a sound economic team and also a sound political, social and environmental setup. There are plenty in the country who can fill the role. The question is whether they will be brought to the top spots and allowed to follow the policies that they would of their own wishes opt for so that we can move forward and overcome many issues which face us, ranging from disappeared people to vanishing trees. -- Courtesy TheNews

Reforming at gunpoint**Khurram Husain**

This could be a case study in how not to do things. Common sense tells us that when problems are left to fester for long, they can grow in scale and complexity. Having postponed inevitable adjustments for long periods of time, a moment arrives when the necessary adjustment has to be undertaken in panic, in a short period of time, without the luxury of staggering out its impact, or embedding it within a larger package of reform measures.

This is exactly what has happened with the recent gas price hikes. It is hard to tell whether the hikes applied so far are enough to arrest the growth of the circular debt in the gas sector.

My hunch is no, it is not, and more hikes may need to be applied in the future. But even without that, what has happened in the gas sector is almost a case study in how not to do things.

It has been known since at least the early 1990s that Pakistan's domestic gas supplies would peak somewhere close to the year 2010. By the early 2000s, these were no longer projections, but empirical facts that were coming into view, about the moment when domestic gas supplies would enter their period of decline. That is why the Musharraf regime mobilised to commence LNG imports, arranging a full package involving a long-term contract and a regasification terminal.

We all know what happened with that: the

court assumed corruption was involved, halted the deal, and Pakistan had to wait another decade before another LNG import deal could be signed and activated. The second one was also made the subject of frivolous corruption allegations, but thankfully (for the country) those allegations did not halt LNG imports.

From when they started, in 2015, imports of LNG have grown nearly tenfold, and at the present rates of growth, imported LNG will soon surpass domestic gas in the system. And with this growth comes pricing pressure.

Pakistan's gas reserves went into decline around 2010. The crippling shortages in the years leading up to the commencement of LNG imports are remembered by all those who lived through them. From that point onwards, it was known and clear to all that gas pricing would have to change in Pakistan. For decades, we had been lying to ourselves with our gas pricing.

By pricing it at nearly throwaway values, we had been telling ourselves that gas is abundant and cheap, whereas in reality it was scarce and precious. Having squandered this vital resource, we have been faced with the unpleasant prospect of repricing gas for well over a decade now. But that wasn't done.

There was more than a decade in which to make crucial decisions about natural gas. These included pricing, and in addition, allocations. Who will get how much gas at what price? There were at least five major stakeholders in this decision: fertiliser, power generation, textiles, vehicular CNG and domestic consumers. There was a decade and a half in which to get a new pricing regime in place, and allow that pricing regime to reallocate gas among the

various stakeholders.

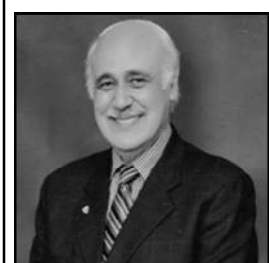
None of that was done. What happened, instead, was that fresh supplies via imported LNG were arranged and the vehicular CNG stakeholders were thrown overboard, mainly because they lacked the organised clout that the other industry stakeholders had. For a while, this worked. Then in 2022 the PTI government undertook crucial pricing reform, bringing in what was called the Weighted Average Cost of Gas (WACOG).

The past two years have seen relentless price shocks administered to the economy. There was the withdrawal of the fuel subsidies, the power tariff hikes, the devaluations, the interest rate hikes, and now the gas price increases. It is not yet clear whether these shocks have now ended or more are yet to come.

What is clear, however, is that running an economy in constant crisis and firefighting mode means the reform agenda becomes subsumed under the required adjustments.

What ought to have been a reform moment, a time to take stock and devise a package of policies to steer the economy towards a more sustainable direction, has become little more than a moment to swallow one bitter pill after another in an effort to get prices right after a decade of avoiding crucial decisions.

Reforms are not firefighting measures. These relentless price shocks are not setting the economy on the right path. All they are doing is stabilising the ship, and hopefully those steering the show can see how difficult that task is. The real reforms come later. But for that moment to arrive, the country cannot be under an interim government. -- Courtesy Dawn

'Death's dominion'**F.S. Aijazuddin**

Anyone hoping to understand Pakistan's politics needs to believe implicitly in miracles. He must admit that resurrections can occur and could happen again, and that a sea of adversity was parted once and would divide itself again. The return of Mian Nawaz Sharif to Paktan on Oct 21 is nothing short of miraculous. Every legal obstruction is being removed from his path, hinting at neo-divine intervention.

To his PML-N followers, Nawaz Sharif is akin to a modern Moses promising to lead them into a Promised Land, with his brother Aaron by his side. A Jewish rabbi identified the differences between the two brothers as: "Aaron comforted the people. He spoke soothingly. He was the calm in the wake of the storm. Moses, by contrast, was the thunder within it." Those with a penchant for parallels will notice how neatly these cloaks fit the brothers — Nawaz, a man with a mission, if only to clear his name; Shabbaz the ambitious surrogate, the conciliator prepared to make peace even with a pharaoh.

Both will need to navigate a course carefully through the foreseeable turmoil leading up to the next elections and, more critically, the predictable mayhem that will follow the declaration of results, whenever.

Before previous elections, the PML-N team studied Theodore White's analysis of the US presi-

dential elections: The Making of the President 1960 (1961), and its sequels on the 1964, 1968 and 1972 jousts. From them, the PML-N culled a strategy of focusing on marginal constituencies. Safe seats were already in the bag. It was the undecided who needed PML-N's help to make up their minds for them.

Today, one is not aware of a similar tactical plan developed by any of the political parties. They are relying on the broad blunderbuss approach to the more specific precision of the rifle.

The elections of December 1970 have been touted as the high-water mark of 'free and fair' polls. After its waters had subsided, though, the resultant bedlam led to vivisection of a single Pakistan and the emergence of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Mujibur Rahman as elected supremos in its residual West and East.

At the time, a victorious Indira Gandhi resisted the temptation to absorb East Paktan into a larger Akhand Bharat. She had enough Muslims within India to contend with.

Fifty years later, the Indians and Bangladeshis have collaborated again, this time on a newly released film Mujib: The Making of a Nation, an Indian-Bangladeshi co-production directed by Shyam Benegal. It has been sponsored by Mujib's daughter, the current PM Sheikh Hasina.

Like Gurinder Chadha's eminently watchable Viceroy's House (2017) — a cine-drama recounting the events of 1947 — Benegal's biopic is unlikely to be shown in Pakistan. Neither Bangladesh, nor Pakistan, nor India have fully exorcised the demons in their common past.

The crowd that greeted Mujibur Rahman when he stood with Bhutto in Shalimar Gardens, Lahore, during the Islamic

Summit of 1974, is in its dotage. It can hardly remember Bhutto, leave alone Mujib.

In 1995, a post-apartheid South Africa taught the world the cathartic benefit of forgiveness. Its Truth and Reconciliation Commission enabled black, white and coloured South Africans "to come to terms with their past on a morally accepted basis".

In 1945-46, the vengeful Allies gave the world the Nuremberg trials. Their purpose went beyond conviction of Nazi-attainted defendants. It was "to offer a history lesson to the defeated Germans, and delegitimise the traditional German elite".

As no war is one-sided, "the judges were aware that both the Allies and the Axis had planned or committed acts of aggression". They wrote "the verdict carefully to avoid discrediting either the Allied governments or the tribunal". The verdict declared the plotting and waging of an aggressive war "the supreme international crime" because it contained "within itself the accumulated evil of the whole".

Will Israel, after it has obliterated the last particle of Palestine, submit itself to international accountability? Unlike the Jews who survived World War II to savour the cold revenge of the Nuremberg trials, the Palestinians have only the ghosts of their dead to draw upon to indict Israel.

Poets like Dylan Thomas sing what victims can only stutter: "Though they be mad and dead as nails, / Heads of the characters hammer through daisies, / Break in the sun till the sun breaks down, / And death shall have no dominion."

Death continues to exercise dominion — now over Palestine, where harvests are drip-fed with the blood of Abraham. -- Courtesy Dawn

Naqvi imposes ban on cleaning of schools by students across Punjab

Independent Report
LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi conducted a comprehensive inspection at the Government Junior Model High School Model Town. The conditions observed were deeply concerning; several classrooms lacked furniture, forcing students to study on the bare floor. The washrooms were unclean and devoid of water, and the electric water coolers were malfunctioning. Broken furniture, damaged whiteboards, dilapidated doors and windows without glass and grilles

further contributed to the dismal state of the classrooms. Similarly, there was only one sweeper available for a student population of 750. In addition to these issues, sports activities were suspended, classrooms exhibited peeling paint and cobwebs, lighting was inadequate, and some fans were inoperable. Both the computer and science labs were found to be non-functional and in poor condition, respectively. The CM went to every classroom, engaging with the students to understand their concerns.

The students voiced grievances about the absence of clean drinking water, insufficient water in washrooms, broken furniture, and damaged whiteboards. They also highlighted issues such as dim lighting, non-functional fans, the absence of sports activities, and the necessity to purchase textbooks from the market. The chief minister also interacted with nursery class children, expressing his commitment to providing them with essential educational facilities and instructing for their prompt provision.

The CM expressed dissatisfaction upon witnessing the deplorable conditions and summoned Education Minister Mansoor Qadir, secretary schools, secretary C&W and the CEO district education authority to the school to rectify these issues. Acknowledging the gravity of the situation, CM Naqvi took stringent action and prohibited students from undertaking the responsibility of cleaning schools across Punjab, directing the secretary school education department to issue a notification for strict compliance today.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with participants of 7th International Health Professions Education Conference at University of Lahore.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali inaugurates main campus site of the University of Technology adjacent to motorway near Rashkai Interchange in Nowshera.

World cannot remain indifferent to the plight of Palestinians: Governor

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that all human beings are connected to one another. The world can not remain indifferent to the plight of Palestinians. The way innocent men, women and innocent children are being martyred in Gaza by bombing at refugee camps, hospitals, and civilian population is not only sad but shameful. The international community should play a role in stopping the oppression of innocent Palestinians.

He expressed these views while speaking as a special guest at the Health Professions Education Conference at University of Lahore today. In the conference, the Caretaker provincial Health Minister, Prof. Dr. Javed Akram and vice chancellors of medical universities and foreign delegates were present. Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that knowledge of new technology and modern trends in the field of medicine is very important. He said that the government is trying to promote technology in universities according to modern requirements. The Punjab Governor said that the young generation is the valuable asset of the country and the nation. He emphasized that the teachers in the medical colleges should focus on making them best doctors as well as good human beings.

PEC presides meeting to review LG by-polls preparations

Independent Report
LAHORE: Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh Ejaz Anwar Chauhan held a meeting at the office of Deputy Commissioner Karachi South on Thursday to review arrangements and preparations for local body by-elections scheduled on November 5. The meeting was attended by DC South Capt @ Altaf Hussain Sario, Assistant

Commissioners, Police Officials and other relevant participants. Chauhan directed the officials to ensure the implementation of the security plan, installation of CCTV cameras at sensitive polling stations, and a transportation plan for the deployment of officials during the election. He also discussed other important agendas related to the by-elections.

Smog may cause throat, lungs, respiratory system complications: Minister

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Dr. Jamal Nasir has warned that smog can lead to diseases of throat, lungs, and respiratory system, and urged the public to take preventive measures. He advised citizens to wear masks to protect themselves from smog and also recommended frequent hand, face, and eye washing to mitigate its harmful effects. In case of a scratchy throat, he suggested gargling with lukewarm water.

The Punjab government has taken action to combat smog by making it mandatory to spray water near construction sites and development projects. Furthermore, farmers have been encouraged to refrain from burning crop residues and dispose of them in an environmentally friendly manner. The Punjab government has requested the prime minister to engage with the Indian government on the issue, highlighting its impact on both sides of the border.



KARACHI: Police officers detain immigrants, who fail to provide legal documents, during a search operation against illegal immigrants at a neighborhood of Karachi.

First phase of Raiwind Tablighi Ijtimas begins

Independent Report
LAHORE (APP): The first phase of the annual congregation, 'Raiwind Tablighi Ijtimas' started on Thursday, amid tight security arrangements.

The Ijtimas 2023 will continue from Nov 2 to November 5. According to Ijtimas administration, districts and areas participating in the first phase are Kark, Bannu, Lucky Marwat, Dir, Bajaur, Timargarah, Chitral, Rawalpindi, Jhelum, Attock, Tala Gang, Chakwal, Sargodha, Khushab, Bhakkar, Mianwali, all districts of Kashmir and all districts of Sindh province, except for Karachi.

Around five lakh people are likely to participate in the first phase.

The arrival of delegates from abroad has already started. Around 200,000 people so far have reached the venue. It may be mentioned here that data of citizens residing in nearby houses, hotels, guesthouses, bus stops and railway stations has been collected through geofencing, biometric verification and Hotel Eye app.

Sarfaraz Ali says: KP to provide cheap electricity to far-flung localities

Independent Report
PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to KP Caretaker CM on Energy, Dr Sarfaraz Ali Shah has said that 172 megawatts of cheap electricity produced by the under-construction Gabral-Kalam and Gorkin-Mataltan Hydro Power Projects would be provided to the residents of the far-flung and un electrified localities of district Swat.

He expressed these views while talking to the media during his visit to both power projects on Thursday. Dr Sarfaraz Ali Shah reviewed the ongoing work on both projects.

He was told that on completion these projects will produce 172 megawatt electricity.

The advisor inspected various sections of the hydropower projects and issued some necessary directives to the concerned authorities.

PUC appeals to observe 'Children's Martyrs Day of Palestine' nationwide

Independent Report
LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Ulama Council (PUC) on Thursday appealed for the observance of 'Children's Martyrs Day of Palestine' throughout the country on Friday, underscoring the importance of addressing the Palestinian issue through the establishment of a free and independent state. Addressing a press conference at Jamia Manzoor-ul-Islamia, PUC Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, clarified to the United Nations that the issue of

Palestine would not be resolved through ceasefire and aid but rather through the establishment of a self-determined Palestinian state. He said in a notable meeting with the Palestinian ambassador, Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir affirmed Pakistan's commitment to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Palestinian people, emphasizing that the government, armed forces, and the general populace of Pakistan were resolute in their support for the Palestinian people.

He commended the Saudi government's initiative to establish official funds for aiding the Palestinian population, reflecting the strong stance of Saudi Arabia in supporting their Palestinian brethren. He urged Pakistan to follow suit and establish special funds at the government level to assist the Palestinian people. Ashrafi who is also the Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Pakistani Diaspora in the Middle East and Islamic Countries.



LAHORE: Students wearing facemasks arrive at a school in Provincial Capital, following Punjab's government announcement to use facemasks in schools due to severe smoggy conditions.

Governor lays foundation stone of APS Martyrs University of Technology

Independent Report
PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali on Thursday visited Nowshera and laid foundation stone of APS Martyrs University of Technology Nowshera.

The foundation stone laying ceremony among others was attended by Caretaker minister for Industries, Amir Abdullah, Vice Chancellor, Dr Zafar Khan, Vice Chancellor Swabi University, Dr Nasir Jamal and Rector Pak Austria University, Dr. Muhammad Mujahid.

Addressing the ceremony, the governor said that he was pleased to inaugurate the varsity that would prove to be milestone in educating youth in new emerging fields of technologies. He said that location of university in proximity to Rashakai Industrial Zone would provide students ample chances to experience working of various types of technologies practically. Ghulam Ali also directed to complete the project at the earliest and said that the design should be modern and meet the requirements of contemporary education system.

He also directed to submit details of the design and said that it should be constructed in a way to meet future demands.



HYDERABAD: Jeay Sindh Mahaz (JSM) Chairman, Riaz Chandio addresses to media persons during press conference, at Qasimabad in Hyderabad.

KP Minister pledges financial support to Mental and General Hospital

Independent Report
MANSEHRA (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Transport, Communications, and Construction, Ahmad Jan Khan Thursday has pledged to contribute 50,000 rupees from his monthly salary to the Mental and General Hospital in Daddar, Mansehra.

This financial support is aimed at enhancing the hospital's services and providing better healthcare to the public. The minister expressed these views during his visit to the Mental and General Hospital in Mansehra, where he inaugurated several essential facilities. These facilities included a solar system, a labor room, a dental clinic, and a new X-ray machine, all funded by the hospital management committee.

In addition to his commitment to healthcare, Minister Ahmad Jan Khan emphasized the importance of promoting tourism in the picturesque Swarn Valley. He highlighted the potential benefits, including increased employment opportunities for residents and positive economic growth for the region. To facilitate tourism development, he stressed the need for improved road infrastructure and proposed the construction of the Naran to Mansehra Road.

ATC grants post-arrest bail to Abid Boxer

Independent Report
LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Thursday granted post-arrest bail to former police inspector Abid Hussain, also known as Abid Boxer, in a case of alleged extortion and attacking a police team. The court directed the former inspector to furnish surety bonds of Rs 100,000 for availing the relief of bail.

CM says strategies being devised to overcome street crime, dacoit culture

Independent Report
KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (R) Maqbool Baqar Thursday said that the government was putting all its efforts into overcoming the menace of street crime in Karachi and the dacoits in the Riverine area.

"A foolproof strategy is being devised and I am sure that the innovative and trusted mechanism will succeed us in the culmination of dacoit culture from the remaining parts of the province," he concluded. This he said while addressing the participants of the National Defence University 25th Security Workshop led by NDU head Major General Raza Azaid. The participants include current and former members of provincial assemblies, senators, senior civil and military officers, academicians, as well as representatives of civil society.

Provincial caretaker ministers, Chief Secretary Dr Fakhre Alam, IG Police Rifat Mukhtar and provincial secretaries attended the program. The CM said that the purpose of such trips, was to acquaint participants with the realities of the area they were visiting, exchange ideas with respect to security challenges and build synergistic alliances that allow us to find solutions to shared problems. "We are a country of over 200 million people, and by 2025 we will have 100 million people in the middle class, thus, making Pakistan's middle class the 10th largest in the world," he said and added that one of the major challenges for any government was to create opportunities and to particularly provide our youth with avenues for fulfillment and self-actualization. Justice Baqar said that keeping in view the nexus between security and development, the federal and the Sindh governments were utilising significant resources towards improving access to education and healthcare, improving connectivity and ensuring the provision of basic amenities particularly for the inhabitants of cosmopolitan cities like Karachi in order.



KARACHI: Leaders and members of Jamat-e-Islami (JI Women Wing) are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, held at Nazimabad Five Star roundabout in Karachi.

Brother in law shoots Basharat Dogar

Independent Report
BUREWALA (APP): Well-known political and social personality Basharat Ali Dogar was allegedly shot dead by his brother-in-law over financial matters in the limits of Sheikh Fazal police station on Thursday.

All 25 towns of Karachi should be on same page to work for the city: Mayor

Independent Report
KARACHI (APP): Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that development work is going on in all the seven districts of Karachi and all the 25 towns of Karachi should be on the same page and work for the city. Wahab made the remarks while addressing the foundation stone laying ceremony for the construction of the Paver Block Road in Sachal Goth on Thursday.

Police sources said that the accused managed to escape from the scene after shooting his brother in law. According to the details, Sardar Basharat Ali Dogar, a well-known political and social figure resident of Chak no 104/E-B was present at his house when his brother-in-law Muhammad Irfan alias Buta Dogar came with his nephews Waqas and Fawad and opened fire indiscriminately and allegedly killed him, police said.

"Every member of the PPP has promised that we will fulfill the promises made to the people," he said. Wahab said that the residents of Sachal Goth will benefit from the construction of one and a half kilometer two-way road in the town at a cost of 300 million rupees.

Gang busted, looted goods worth Rs 1m recovered

Independent Report
MULTAN (APP): Police claimed to have arrested a gang involved in robbery, cattle, transformer theft and other crimes and looted goods worth Rs one million were recovered.

According to a spokesperson for the police, SHO City police station Jalal Pur Pir Wala Abdul Rahman Gill along with his team have raided and busted four members Rafiq alias Killo gang including ring leader Muhammad Rafiq, Abdul Rahman, Imtiaz and Muhammad Riaz.

Task Force launches operation against Qaswa, illegal housing scheme

Independent Report
RAWALPINDI (APP): The Task Force, on the special directives of Divisional Intelligence Committee, here on Thursday launched an operation against Qaswa, illegal housing scheme in Moza Thoha, Khalsa, Tehsil Kalar Syedan and took action in accordance with the law against the rules violators. The Task Force conducted an operation

and demolished the site office, boundary walls, main entrance, roads and other infrastructures. On the directives of the Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaqat Ali Chatta, the Director General RDA, the Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi and City Police Officer Rawalpindi are supervising the operation against illegal housing societies.

Brunei Darussalam can take benefit from Pakistan's investor-friendly policies: Sanjrani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, said on Thursday that Pakistan's investor-friendly policies make it an attractive prospect for potential investments from Brunei Darussalam in various sectors such as energy, agriculture, and education.

The chairman expressed these views during a meeting with the High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam who

paid a courtesy call to the Chairman of the Senate, as stated in a news release.

During the meeting, both sides called for further strengthening existing relations, particularly in the areas of trade, business, investment, and the economic sector.

Sadiq Sanjrani, congratulated High Commissioner PG Kamal Bashah PG Ahmed on his appointment and extended his heartfelt best wishes for his role in strengthening

ties between the two countries.

The meeting was marked by a strong sense of optimism and hope for an enhancement in diplomatic ties between Pakistan and Brunei Darussalam.

Sanjrani, expressed his confidence that this appointment would contribute to the strengthening of relations between the two nations.

During the comprehensive discussion,

the two sides delved into the prevailing regional situation and addressed issues of mutual interest.

Pakistan and Brunei Darussalam's strong bilateral relations, deeply rooted in shared religious values and cooperation, were also highlighted.

Both dignitaries emphasized the need to further bolster these relations, particularly in areas of trade, business, investment, and the economic sector.



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Tauqeer Hussain Shah, the Executive Director (designate) World Bank called on the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar at the Ministry of Finance to bid fare-well upon the end of his assignment in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Group of AJK Businessmen from UK led by Raja Naveed Akhtar Goga and Chairman District Council Mirpur during meeting held at Parliament House in Islamabad.

WAPDA signs Rs705m agreement for consultancy services of Naulong Dam

ISLAMABAD (INP): Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) on Thursday signed an agreement valuing Rs. 705 million for consultancy services of Naulong Dam project of a joint venture comprised of two firms - Dolsar of Turkey and Mott MacDonald of Pakistan.

The agreement was signed by General Manager (Projects) South Muhammad Masood Ahmed Soomro and International Director Coordinator of Dolsar Cem Aker on behalf of WAPDA and the joint venture respectively. The consultancy contract relates to review and update the detailed design, prepare procurement documents, and update the

safeguard documents of the project, said a statement issued. As per the contract, these tasks will be completed in 28 months. The Asian Development Bank was providing financial assistance for consultancy services of Naulong Dam Project.

The ceremony was attended by Member (Water) WAPDA Javed Akhtar Latif, Chief Engineer and Project Director Naulong Dam Project Muhammad Yousaf Magasi, WAPDA officers and representatives of the consulting firms.

Naulong Dam Project was proposed to be constructed on Mula River in Balochistan, about 30 Km from Gandava and 24 Km from Jhal Magasi.

10 million employed in cottage industry need to be protected: Irfan

Independent Report
KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has emphasized that the government policies should protect, emancipate and enable cottage industry in Pakistan as it employs 10

million people in the country - bridging a massive employment gap left out by other sectors and industries. It is pertinent to note that FPCCI's Standing Committee on Cottage Industry organized a high-profile meeting on the burning issues of cottage industry, which was well-attended and well-represented from across Sindh province. Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh explained



that, as matter of fact, there are many developed and quickly developing economies in the world who built their socio-economic transformation; import substitution capacities and GDP per Capita growth on

the basis of a large number of diverse cottage industries. China, India, Bangladesh and Brazil are some of the glaring examples of the power of the cottage industry, he added. Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh informed that the World Bank research shows that MSMEs generate 50 percent of all employment in the world; and, they are involved in 90 percent of all economic activities - one way or the other.

MoIT directs PTA to issue policy directive aimed at ensuring smartphone accessibility

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoIT) has directed the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to issue a comprehensive policy directive aimed at ensuring smartphone accessibility for the general population.

Dr. Umar Saif, the Caretaker Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunication, issued directives during a high-level meeting attended by key representatives from the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), cellular

operators, as well as members of the investment and banking sectors. The primary objective of this initiative is to provide accessibility and convenience to smartphones for the general public. This comprehensive approach is seen as a significant leap forward in enhancing smartphone accessibility, particularly for underprivileged communities. Dr Umar Saif expressed hope that this initiative will not only empower marginalized communities but also lead to increased smartphone usage.

Pakistan's total liquid foreign reserves reach at \$ 12.57 bln

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan stood at US\$ 12,576.6 million while the central bank held the reserves of \$ 7,507.8 million.

The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that SBP's reserves increased by US\$ 14 million to US\$ 7,507.8 million during the week ended on October 27, 2023.

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks stood at \$ 5,068.8 million, it added.

Total liquid foreign reserves held by the country, in the previous week ending on October 20, 2023, were US\$ 12,655.6 million. Among them foreign reserves held by the central bank were \$ 7,494.2 million while net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were \$ 5,161.4 million.

Rupee sheds Rs 1.95 against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Thursday witnessed a Rs 1.95 depreciation against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 283.42 against the previous day's closing of Rs 281.47.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 282.25 and Rs 285 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs2.36 to close at Rs300.43 against the last day's closing of Rs 298.07, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen increased by 02 paisa and closed at Rs 1.88; whereas an increase of 74 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 344.74, as compared to the last closing of Rs 343.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 21 paisa each to close at Rs 77.16 and Rs 75.55 respectively.

PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 314 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 314.12 points, a positive change of 0.60 percent, closing at 52,656.76 points against 52,342.64 points the previous day.

A total of 475,085,837 shares valuing Rs 14,578 billion were traded during the day as compared to 526,463,387 shares valuing Rs16,512 billion the previous day.

As many as 354 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 194 of them recorded gains and 135 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 25 companies remained unchanged.

Dr Shamshad for reforms in global financial institutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance, Revenue, & Economic Affairs Dr Shamshad Akhtar has called for reforms in global financial institutions to address the needs of developing countries, especially those most impacted by climate events.

She was addressing the UNESCAP Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction, and

Financing for Development in Bangkok, a press release here said on Tuesday. Dr Shamshad urged the multilateral development banks (MDBs) to suspend debt servicing for the countries impacted by climate change events, and the International Monetary Fund to restore the enhanced access limits established during the pandemic.

Vietnamese envoy for mechanism to resolve trade disputes in advance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Vietnamese Ambassador in Pakistan Nguyen Tien Phong on Thursday said mutual trade between Pakistan and Vietnam would reach \$1 billion during the fiscal year 2023-24. He said the bilateral trade could be increased further, but there was the need for a mechanism to resolve disputes in advance. Mutual trade disputes should be resolved within a certain period of time, Ambassador Phong said while addressing a workshop on "Improving capacity to handle trade disputes, removing bottlenecks, expanding opportunities for Vietnam-Pakistan economic, trade and investment cooperation", organized here by the Embassy of Vietnam in Islamabad.

He said that the two countries could take advantage of the Vietnam-European Union Free Trade Agreement and Pakistan-European Union (GSP- Plus), which were very important for increasing bilateral trade. The Vietnamese envoy said that in the year 2021, the mutual trade between the two countries was \$790 million and \$940 million in 2022, and was expected to reach \$1 billion in the ongoing financial year. He said that there was a need for a dynamic partnership between the two countries which would resolve trade disputes in advance by emphasizing only on mutual benefit and make quick decisions. The public and private sector institutions of both countries needed to come closer and the role of chambers and business associations along with the media was very important for creating awareness.

Prof Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan while chairing deans committee said that more than 330,000 UAF students would visit farmers' fields in six divisions of the Punjab as the drive would be started to disseminate experts' recommendations to increase per acre productivity. He said that Pro-Vice Chancellor/Dean Faculty of Agriculture Prof Dr Sarwar Khan would be convener while Principal Officer Public Relations.

Dr. Umar urges Saudia to facilitate Pakistani IT companies in travel, visas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar on Thursday urged the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki to facilitate Pakistani IT professionals and business persons in travel and issuing of visas.

The minister expressed these views during a meeting with the ambassador who called on him. Matters of mutual interest and related to IT and Telecommunication

were also discussed, said a news release.

The two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in the IT and telecom sectors between the two countries.

Dr. Umar Saif said that the Government of Pakistan wanted to boost relations with Saudi Arabia in the IT and telecom sectors.

Saudi Arabia is a very attractive market for Pakistani IT companies, he added.

He said as Pakistani IT companies scale up their presence and businesses in

Saudi Arabia, it's important to facilitate their travel and issuance of visas.

The minister said that there was great potential for IT and Telecom professionals in Pakistan and the environment for investment in the country was conducive, urging the Saudi tech companies to invest in Pakistan.

Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki said that Saudi Arabia will fully cooperate with Pakistan in the IT sector and Telecom.

UAF to launch wheat campaign from Nov 7

FAISALABAD (APP): University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) in collaboration with Punjab Agriculture (Extension) Department will launch eight-day wheat campaign from November 07 to November 14, 2023.

UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan while chairing deans committee said that more than 330,000 UAF students would visit farmers' fields in six divisions of the Punjab as the drive would be started to disseminate experts' recommendations to increase per acre productivity. He said that Pro-Vice Chancellor/Dean Faculty of Agriculture Prof Dr Sarwar Khan would be convener while Principal Officer Public Relations.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT & Telecom Dr. Umar Saif meeting with Ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Pakistan H.E. Nawaf Said Al-Malki at his office.

Kausar for removing obstacles to complete agri-development projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Food Security and Research Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik on Thursday called for removing all the obstacles in agricultural development projects on priority basis to complete them within the given time frame to harvest their full potential.

The minister chaired a meeting, in which he was briefed in detailed regarding the measures taken to increase the national average production of wheat, rice, and sugarcane to achieve sustainable agriculture growth and economic development.

Chairman Pakistan Agriculture Research Council Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Project Director wheat Dr Muhammad Yaqub, Project Director Rice Dr Ashiq Rabbani and Dr

Sagheer Ahmed, National Coordinator also presented in the meeting. It was told that the Prime Ministerial Agriculture Emergency Program was launched in 2019 with a cost of

Rs 15,789 billion, adding that the share of the federal government was at Rs 3,750 billion, the provincial governments Rs 7.56 billion, while Rs 4.47 billion was the farmer's share. The minister was informed that 4 million tons of sugarcane production capacity had been increased, which had a financial benefit of Rs 400 billion, whereas the production capacity of wheat had increased from 28 to 32 maunds per acre, adding that the wheat enhancement project was initiated with a cost of Rs 30,455.353 million.



QUETTA: A delegation of Anjuman-e-Tajiran led by its President Abdul Raheem Kakar meeting with Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Mobilink Bank witnesses a 38% growth in lending to MSMEs

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Bank exhibited significant growth in the first three quarters of 2023, as evidenced by the Q3 financial statements. This milestone highlights the Bank's dedication to supporting Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs), supported by substantial deposit growth and improvements on multiple indicators. Mobilink Bank's Q3 2023 growth trajectory exemplifies its commitment to embracing a holistic approach that goes beyond profitability, focusing on providing innovative, value-driven solutions tailored to foster economic well-being and prosperity for all while addressing the evolving needs of its borrowers.

part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and online services across seven countries. As part of its digital operator strategy, VEON is transforming people's lives by creating opportunities for increased digital inclusion and by driving economic growth across countries that are home to more than 8% of the world's population. Mobilink Bank's total revenue surged by 64% in Q3 2023, demonstrating its strong customer attraction and retention capabilities. During this period, the Bank's Profit Before Tax (PBT) experienced a growth of 299% compared to 2022, solidifying its standing as a leading digital microfinance institution.

The Bank's deposits experienced a 16% increase from FY 2022, reaching PKR 75 billion. The core banking deposits grew by 12% compared to the previous year, reaching PKR 23 billion, while JazzCash segment deposits powered by Mobilink bank increased by 19%, reaching PKR 52 billion in Q3 2023.

Mobilink Bank is dedicated to promoting MSME financing across Pakistan. Over PKR 11 billion, 22% of its Gross Loan Portfolio (GLP), is extended to 69,470+ female customers nationwide, championing gender equality and stimulating economic activity. Additionally, the Bank disbursed PKR 26 billion in loans to MSMEs, with a significant growth of 38% from 2022.

Appraising the Bank's strong



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik chairing briefing regarding Productivity Enhancement of Wheat, Sugarcane & Rice at Ministry of NFSR.



ISLAMABAD: Vietnamese Ambassador to Pakistan Nguyen Tien Phong addressing during a seminar titled "Improve Capacity to handle trade disputes, removing bottle necks, expanding opportunities for Vietnam- Pakistan economic cooperation, trade and investment" at a local hotel.

PBF celebrates approval of RMB for trade with China

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) has welcomed the approval of the Chinese Yuan (RMB) for trade with Chinese companies. The historic move was announced by the finance division and State Bank of Pakistan, is expected to simplify cross-border transactions and reduce currency conversion costs for Pakistani exporters.

was a "significant development" that would boost bilateral trade ties.

Talking to APP here on Thursday, PBF Chairman Atif Ikram Sheikh said that the move would provide more choices for Pakistani exporters and make it easier for them to do business with Chinese companies. Sheikh also expressed his gratitude to the Finance Minister and the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan for their efforts in making this possible.

Sheikh also expressed his gratitude to the Finance Minister and the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan for their efforts in making this possible.

The PBF, a leading trade body in Pakistan, said that the approval of RMB for trade with China

Red hands raised in Congress as US seeks more funds for wars

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: As US secretaries of state and defence began to brief the Senate Appropriations Committee on Tuesday on the Biden administration's request for more money to fund the wars in Israel and Ukraine, a line of anti-war protesters got up and raised red-stained hands in the air. They shouted: "Ceasefire Now, Protect the Children of Gaza and Stop Funding Genocide" before they were removed from the room.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin testified to the Senate Appropriations Committee on the Biden administration's request for an additional \$106 billion,

which includes \$14.3 billion for Israel, \$9 billion for humanitarian relief—including for Israel and Gaza. A press release sent to various media outlets said the protesters were from an organisation called CODEPINK. The organisation said multiple members, including 29-year US Army veteran and former diplomat Col. Ann Wright and peace activist David Barrows, were arrested for their actions. CODEPINK said the red-painted hands of the silent audience members were meant to symbolise blood.

The protesters also said they attended the hearing to denounce the Biden administration's support for "genocide" against Palestinians in Gaza.

Secretary Blinken did not respond to the protesters, but when he was asked later about the possibility of a ceasefire, he said that would only help Hamas regroup. A pause, however, for humanitarian reasons can be considered, he added.

Also on Tuesday, a prominent Jewish intellectual and New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman wrote in his column, "Israel, it's time to consider a ceasefire".

Similar sentiments were echoed by thousands of Jewish peace activists across the US who called for immediate ceasefire and justice for Palestinians. Rabbi Alissa Wise, a rabbinical council member with Jewish Voice for Peace,



WASHINGTON: US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin testifies as protesters calling for a ceasefire in Gaza raise their hands, painted in red, during a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing with Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Austin.

Saudi Arabia tells US it still wants 'normalisation' with Israel, but links talks to 'ceasefire'

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Saudi Arabia has reassured the Biden administration that it's still interested in pursuing a potential agreement to normalise relations with Israel after the crisis in Gaza ends, the White House said.

The visiting Saudi Defence Minister Khalid bin Salman met White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan on Monday and their talks focused on the crisis in Gaza as sides affirmed the urgent need to increase humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians, the White House said.

"Without getting into specifics — we came away from those discussions confident that we have a path to get back towards

normalisation and that there is an interest on the Saudi side to pursue that," US National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby told reporters in Washington on Tuesday evening.

The Saudi defence minister, however, said in a tweet that he stressed to Mr Sullivan the need for an immediate 'ceasefire' in Gaza, protection of civilians, allowing humanitarian aid and resuming the peace process. Mr Kirby acknowledged that the Gaza situation makes it harder to discuss long-term peace plans but said "we are still committed to it, and it is clear to us that the Saudis are still committed to it."

The White House said that the Saudis also

"emphasised the importance of working towards a sustainable peace between Israelis and Palestinians, building on the work that was already underway between Saudi Arabia and the United States over recent months."

The recent talks between the United States and Saudi Arabia have revolved around the ongoing crisis and the pursuit of potential normalisation of relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel.

The later part of the talks is based on the 2020 Abraham Accords, which marked a historic diplomatic breakthrough, normalising relations between Israel and several Arab nations, including the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco.

Iran, Turkiye call for 'regional conference' to avert spread of unrest

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Turkiye and Iran on Wednesday called for a regional conference aimed at averting the spread of unrest into the Middle East.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan met counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian a day after Iran's top diplomat met Hamas leaders in Qatar.

Fidan said Turkiye was pushing for an immediate ceasefire because "it is not difficult to predict that this spiral of violence will grow" without a permanent solution to the Israel-Palestine issue.

"We do not want the human tragedy in Gaza to turn into a war that affects

the region's countries," Fidan said.

The Iranian foreign minister "shared with us that there are strong indications that other armed elements in the region may intervene in the conflict if conditions do not change", Fidan said.

"A ceasefire and peace have become more essential," Amir-Abdollahian said a peace conference involving "Muslim and Arab" countries should be held "as soon as possible".

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged Muslim countries to halt trade with Israel, including oil exports, in response to its bombardment of Gaza.



A man reacts as Palestinians search for casualties a day after Israeli strikes on houses in Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip.

Bolivia cuts ties with Israel over Gaza crisis

Monitoring Desk
LA PAZ: Bolivia said on Tuesday it was severing diplomatic ties with Israel over its "disproportionate" attacks in Gaza, as two other Latin American countries recalled their ambassadors over the mounting humanitarian crisis.

Bolivia "has decided to cut diplomatic relations with the State of Israel, in repudiation and condemnation of the aggressive and disproportionate Israeli military offensive being carried out in the Gaza Strip," deputy foreign minister Freddy Mamani told a press conference.

Minister of the Presidency Maria Nela Prada also announced the country was sending humanitarian aid to Gaza.

"We demand an end to the attacks" in the Gaza Strip "which have so far caused thousands of civilian deaths and the forced displacement of Palestinians," she said at the same press conference.

The government of leftist Luis Arce is the first in Latin America to cut ties with Israel since Oc-

tober 7. Israel responded on Wednesday by slamming Bolivia's move as "a surrender to terrorism." "By taking this step," Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Lior Haiat said in a statement.

Bolivia only announced it was restoring ties with Israel in 2019, a decade after they were cut over previous attacks on the Gaza Strip.

Hamas hailed Bolivia's decision on Tuesday, saying it "holds it in high esteem" while urging Arab countries who have normalised their relations with Israel to do the same.

The leaders of both Colombia and Chile also spoke out on Tuesday against the Israeli offensive on Gazans. "I have decided to recall our ambassador to Israel (Margarita Manjarrez) for consultation. If Israel does not stop the massacre of the Palestinian people, we cannot be there," Colombian President Gustavo Petro wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

Latin America ramps up condemnations of Israel's attack on Gaza

Monitoring Desk
BUENOS AIRES: Some of Latin America's largest countries came out on Wednesday to condemn Israel's attacks on a densely populated refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, widening the diplomatic rift between the region and the Middle Eastern country.

Argentina, home to Latin America's largest Jewish community, Peru and Mexico lambasted the Israeli attacks, which the Gaza government in the Hamas-controlled territory said had killed nearly 200 people.

U.N. human rights officials have said the strikes could constitute war crimes.

The criticisms come a day after Bolivia cut diplomatic ties with Israel over its bombardment and siege

of Gaza and mounting civilian casualties, while Colombia and Chile recalled their ambassadors to the country.

"Peru condemns, and will continue to condemn, violence from wherever it comes from," the South American nation's foreign ministry said in a statement.

Mexican diplomat Alicia Buenostro, speaking at a U.N. emergency special session on Gaza, called for the "occupying power" of Israel to cease its claim to the Palestinian territories, arguing for a two-state solution.

"This needs to stop," she said, adding that Mexico would increase its aid to Palestinian refugees. "The humanitarian situation in Gaza is more alarming by the day."

Putin signs bill revoking Russia's ratification of a global nuclear test ban treaty

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin on Thursday signed a bill revoking Russia's ratification of a global nuclear test ban, a move that Moscow said was needed to establish parity with the United States.

Putin has said that rescinding the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, also known as the CTBT, would "mirror" the stand taken by the U.S., which has signed but not ratified the nuclear test ban.

Both houses of the Russian parliament voted last month to revoke Moscow's ratification of the bill.

The CTBT, adopted in 1996, bans all nuclear explosions anywhere in the world, but the treaty was never fully implemented. In addition to the U.S., it has yet to be ratified by China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, Israel, Iran and Egypt.

Jailed former Malaysian PM Najib in hospital with COVID-19

Monitoring Desk
KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's jailed former prime minister Najib Razak has been admitted to a hospital after testing positive for COVID-19, his spokesperson said on Thursday.

Najib, 70, is in stable condition and is undergoing quarantine and treatment at the hospital, his aide, Muhamad Mukhlis Maghribi, said. Najib was taken to hospital on Tuesday from prison after complaining of fever, he said. The former premier is serving a 12-year jail sentence for corruption linked to state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

US and Malaysian investigators estimate some \$4.5 billion was stolen from 1MDB - co-founded by Najib during his first year as prime minister in 2009.

Over 400 evacuated to Egypt from Gaza

Monitoring Desk
ISMAILIA: Seventy-six wounded Palestinians and 335 foreigners entered Egypt from the Gaza Strip on Wednesday in first such crossing since the Oct 7 Hamas raid that triggered an ongoing episode of hostilities by Israeli forces in the besieged enclave.

A day after an Israeli air strike killed about 50 people and wounded 150 others in Jabalia, another blast shook Gaza's largest refugee camp on Wednesday.

Ambulances transported the 76 wounded Palestinians into Egypt

and six buses took 335 foreign passport holders who were stuck in Gaza since Israel placed a "total siege" on the Palestinian territory after Hamas's raid early last month, an Egyptian official at the Rafah crossing said.

The Egyptian authorities had said they would allow 90 wounded Palestinians and around 545 foreigners and dual nationals to cross on Wednesday.

"The Rafah terminal will open again on Thursday to allow the passage of more foreigners and dual citizens," a security source said.

United States troubled by imminent attack on North Darfur

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States is troubled by reports of an imminent attack on El Fasher, North Darfur, and is calling on the warring parties in Sudan to immediately cease further attacks, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Thursday.

"The United States calls on the warring parties to immediately cease further attacks in and around El Fasher to uphold their obligations under international humanitarian law concerning civilians," Blinken said in a statement released by the State Department.



Brazil's president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva looks on during a press conference at the Planalto Palace in Brasilia, Brazil.

2 more killed as Russian artillery keeps on battering southern Ukraine's Kherson region

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russian shelling killed an 81-year-old woman in the yard of her home and a 60-year-old man in southern Ukraine's Kherson region Thursday, local authorities said. The deaths were the latest civilian casualties in Moscow's recent ramped-up bombardment of the front-line area.

Kherson is a strategic military region located on the Dnieper River near the mouth of the Black Sea. Unconfirmed reports say attacking Ukrainian troops

have gained a foothold on the Russian-held side of the river during Kyiv's monthslong counteroffensive. The two civilians died when Russian artillery targeted Kherson region villages, according to Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin. Four others were injured in the strikes, which also damaged residential and public buildings, authorities said.

On Wednesday, one person died in Russian shelling that caused extensive damage in the Kherson region's capital city of the same name.

India probes opposition phone tap allegations

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India's cyber security unit is investigating allegations by opposition politicians of attempted phone tapping after they reported receiving Apple iPhone warnings of "state-sponsored attackers", media reported on Thursday.

India's Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has opened a probe into the complaints, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

Storm Ciaran triggers weather alert in northwestern Europe

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: Much of northwestern Europe went on high alert Wednesday as a storm dubbed Ciaran threatened to bring gale-force winds and extreme rainfall to the region.

Three French departments—Finistere, Cotes-d'Armor and Manche—will be placed on red storm alert, the highest level, at midnight (2300 GMT), national weather agency Meteo-France said.

Meteorologists warned that the Ile-de-France region, which includes the capital Paris, could have violent wind gusts.

The SNCF rail net-

work said it would halt service on several of its suburban commuter lines around the capital, including the popular RER A train that serves western suburbs.

Two French regions will also be placed on maximum flood alert, it added.

Vast stretches along the French coast, from the Gironde region to the northern Hauts de France, will be on the lower category orange alert.

In Pas-de-Calais, authorities said they would open two gymnasiums and several shelters for migrants who converge on the region, hoping to make it to Britain by boat.

Turkey detains alleged drug kingpin in organised crime bust

Monitoring Desk
ISTANBUL: Turkey said on Thursday it had captured Hakan Ayik, a fugitive wanted in Australia for drug smuggling, among 36 others involved in an international armed organised crime organisation also pursued by U.S. and New Zealand authorities.

Turkish Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said the detentions in Istanbul targeted the organisation that was allegedly involved in drug trafficking, manslaughter, armed looting and money laundering globally.

Sheikh Mohamed orders treatment of 1,000 Palestinian children at UAE hospitals

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates said on Thursday it planned to treat 1,000 Palestinian children from Gaza, without saying how they would leave the Israeli-besieged enclave for the Gulf state.

Israel has tightened its blockade and bombarded Gaza for nearly four weeks in retaliation for the Oct 7 attack by Hamas that Israeli authorities say killed 1,400.

The Gaza health ministry says 8,796 Palestinian, including 3,648 children, have been killed in Israeli strikes since Oct 7.

Gaza's border with Egypt—the only exit point apart from the closed border crossings with Israel—has largely been shut since Oct 7, although several

hundred foreign nationals and a small number of injured Palestinians, to be treated in Egyptian hospitals, have crossed into Egypt since Wednesday.

Qatar brokered that deal to allow some people to leave Gaza, and a diplomatic source has said some 7,500 foreign passport holders would leave Gaza over the course of about two weeks. UAE state news agency WAM reported President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan had directed hospitals to treat 1,000 Palestinian children "accompanied by their families" from Gaza. It was not immediately clear whether those children and their families would be able to leave Gaza under the deal brokered by Qatar, which involved Israel and the United States.

Philippines accuses China of intruding into its waters

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: The Philippine foreign ministry on Thursday accused China of intruding into its waters after an incident involving the two countries' military vessels at a disputed shoal in the South China Sea earlier this week.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said the Chinese military ship "illegally entered" waters near the Scarborough Shoal "has no legal basis and only serves to raise tensions" in the disputed waterway.

"It is China that is intruding into Philippine waters," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

The Philippines and China both lay claim to the Scarborough Shoal but sovereignty has never been established and it remains

effectively under Beijing's control since it seized it from Manila in 2012.

The DFA said the shoal, which it calls "Bajo de Masinloc" is within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone and the country has sovereign rights and jurisdiction over it.

"The Philippines has consistently demanded that Chinese vessels in Bajo de Masinloc leave the area immediately," the foreign ministry said.

The shoal, located 200km (124 miles) off the Philippines, was part of an arbitration claim filed by Manila at an international tribunal.

The court ruled in 2016 that Beijing's claim to 90% of the South China Sea had no basis under international law, but China has refused to recognise the ruling.

Three generations of Mexican family go missing in Acapulco hurricane

Monitoring Desk
ACAPULCO: For the past week, 22-year-old Maria del Rosario Saravia has waited for news of her mother, two brothers and young son since she lost contact with them the night Oct 2, a Category 5 hurricane, devastated the Mexican coastal resort of Acapulco.

Saravia has been camped out on the Paseo del Pescador on Acapulco Bay desperately seeking news of her family after they were lost in the record-breaking storm that killed nearly 50 people and shattered livelihoods last Wednesday morning.

"We'll be here until we have found our relatives," she said, scanning the horizon for signs of her mother Maria Hilaria Delgado, 55, her four-year-old boy Luis Alberto Lopez and brothers Luis Sebastian Herrera, 9, and Alejandro Marcelino Herrera, 31.

Saravia is one of dozens of people trying to locate loved ones since Oct slammed into Acapulco, severing communications and leaving the city of nearly 900,000 people incommunicado.

Authorities have been gradually restoring power and phone service, but food, water and cash are still

scarce and thousands of police and soldiers have been deployed to help recovery efforts in the biggest city of the southern state of Guerrero.

Saravia said she last heard from her mother at 11.40 p.m. local time on Tuesday, shortly before Oct 2 swept into Acapulco, capsizing boats on the city's iconic waterfront, and ripping roofs and sidings off homes, hotels and other businesses.

Her mother, younger brother and son had been with her father, a fisherman and sailor, on his boat when the storm hit, sinking the vessel, she related.

"He said he had them, but the pressure of the water and force of the wind took them away from him," she added.

Her elder brother, a boat captain, was on a separate vessel of which there has been no sign since the hurricane, she said. The missing relatives went to the boats because they had orders from their bosses to look after them, Saravia said.

"It's a horrible feeling not knowing where they are," she added mournfully. "We haven't had any support from any authority either, from the government, nothing."



A Venezuelan migrant thanks God as he walks through the Rio Grande river in an attempt to seek asylum into the U.S., as seen from Piedras Negras, Mexico.

Battles rage in Gaza as Israeli strikes on refugee camp kills more than 195 people

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: More foreigners prepared to leave the besieged Gaza Strip on Thursday as the Palestinian authorities said at least 195 Palestinians died in Israeli attacks on the Jabalia refugee camp, strikes that Israel claimed killed Hamas commanders. The Gaza health ministry said at least 8,796 Palestinians in the narrow coastal enclave, including 3,648 children, have been killed by Israeli strikes since October 7.

At least 320 foreign citizens on an initial list of 500, as well as dozens of severely injured Gazans, crossed into Egypt on

Wednesday under a deal between Israel, Egypt and Hamas. Passport holders from Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Finland, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, the United Kingdom and the United States were evacuated.

Gaza officials said the Rafah border crossing would reopen on Thursday so more foreigners could exit. A diplomatic source said some 7,500 foreign passport holders would leave Gaza over about two weeks.

Explosions were heard in the early hours of Thursday around the al-Quds hospital in densely populated

Gaza City, the Palestinian Red Crescent said. Israeli authorities had previously warned the hospital to evacuate immediately, which UN officials said was impossible without endangering patients.

Gaza's media office said on Thursday that at least 195 Palestinians were killed in the two Israeli attacks on Jabalia, with 120 missing. At least 777 people were wounded, it said in a statement.

Palestinians on Wednesday sifted through rubble in a desperate hunt for trapped victims. "It is a massacre," said one witness.

UN human rights officials said strikes on the camp could be a war crime.

"Given the high number of civilian casualties and the scale of destruction following Israeli air strikes on Jabalia refugee camp, we have serious concerns that these are disproportionate attacks that could amount to war crimes," the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights wrote on social media site X.

The Israeli military announced the death of another soldier in Gaza fighting, bringing to 17 the number killed since ground operations were expanded on Friday.



KARACHI: Pakistan Navy Special Service Group and Qatari Naval Special Forces demonstrating Counter Piracy Operation during Joint Naval Exercise MUHARIB AL-BAHR VI, held in Karachi.



KARACHI: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Chief, Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman along with others leaders joints hand with each other to express solidarity on stage during the Al-Aqsa Palestine Conference against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, held at Shahrah-e-Quaideen road in Karachi

Relief to common man gov't's top priority: Sami Saeed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC) on Thursday reviewed the prices of essential commodities and expressed satisfaction over the stabilization of prices of essential items.

The committee directed the quarters concerned to be vigilant and keep eye on food prices to provide relief to the common man, a news release said.

The meeting, chaired by the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed, was attended by Secretary Planning Ministry Awaiz

Manzur Sumra, Chief Statistician from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), Chief Economist of Pakistan, representatives from all provinces, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Ministry of Food Security & Industries, and other relevant stakeholders.

During the meeting, the PBS officials presented a detailed briefing and shared price and inflation data, while representatives from Punjab, KP, Sindh, and Balochistan apprised the forum on the current production and supply of wheat, sugar and other essential commodities which according to them remained satisfactory.

The minister emphasized zero tolerance against hoarders and profiteers, directing the provincial governments to engage their respective commissioners, deputy commissioners and magistrates to check malpractices including hoarding.

During the meeting, the PBS informed the meeting about its Decision Support Initiative in the shape of an online monitoring mechanism across the country.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of minimizing the price differential between wholesale and retail prices of essential items.

Discipline key part of students' character-building alongside education: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday termed the role of teachers significant in the reformation of society said their specific focus on the character-building of students could lead to the progress of the nation.

PM Kakar said besides education, training of discipline among the youth was of prime significance in shaping their character. Experienced teachers can play a vital role in mentoring the

youth, he added.

The prime minister expressed these views in a meeting with his former teacher Nisar Ahmed, whom he warmly received here at the Prime Minister's House. He mentioned that Quaid-e-Azam in his golden principles also laid emphasis on discipline in addition to unity and faith.

"Only a disciplined and organized nation can contribute to the development of itself and the world," he said.

No discrimination in status of AJK ministries as all enjoy equal significance: AJK PM

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that all departments and ministers were of equal importance.

Talking to a public delegation that called on him at Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis late Wednesday, the PM said that there was no size of all of the ministries vis-a-vis portfolios since all ministries enjoy the same size and status but it was the hard work and devotion of the people at the helm of affairs that matters the most, he emphasised.

He said that it was high time that the youth

should focus on IT instead of wasting time on useless activities. The Prime Minister said that idleness fosters anxiety and chaos in society. The PM said that he had issued special instructions to the minister for IT to use all available resources to attract the educated youth towards IT and skill development. He said that there was a dire need to focus on agriculture and livestock. He said that his government would use all its resources on public welfare projects. He said that the government was going to launch a great welfare project worth 5 billion rupees for widows, orphans, disabled and divorced women.

President advises youth to play productive role in exponential growth of Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday called upon the youth and fresh graduates who were about to enter their professional lives, to play their productive role in the country's exponential growth. He said the country at this stage, badly needed the exponential growth rather than linear growth as it was already far behind the region in many sectors including education.

Addressing the 26th Convocation ceremony of the COMSATS University here, the president believed that if the students in their professional lives, ensure justice in the society, contribute productively in the country's development, and learn to share their resources with the poor, the country would see new heights of prosperity and development.

Today, he said Artificial Intelligence or Computer Science was the second leg of every profession. "The world is running very fast so we must have to run with same pace as the world do." Otherwise, he said the country would lag further behind the region and the world.

The president said the world was growing exponentially, however Pakistan's growth pace was

relatively slower in the region. He said 9% of total intermediate students manage to get admissions in the higher education while in the region, the ratio was over 25%. The universities should increase enrollments of the students to achieve exponential growth in the country, he added. He maintained lack of timely decision was one of the major reason behind slow growth.

We lacked vision for example, he said, adding we could not foresee the electricity requirement before time and when the time came, we took emergency decision to install power plants that cost much higher.

He said 9% of total intermediate students manage to get admissions in the higher education while in the region, the ratio was over 25%. The universities should increase enrollments of the students to achieve exponential growth in the country, he added. He maintained lack of timely decision was one of the major reason behind slow growth.

We lacked vision for example, he said, adding we could not foresee the electricity requirement before time and when the time came, we took emergency decision to install power plants that cost much higher.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Central Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Sardar Shahid Ahmed Leghari meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki.

Domki pays surprise visit to Quaidabad Police Station

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Domki paid surprise visit to the Quaidabad Police Station here on Thursday.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by the Provincial Minister Home, Captain (Retd) Zubair Jamali besides other concerned high ups.

He checked the roznamcha and record room of the police station.

The SSP Operation, Jawad Tariq briefed the Chief Minister about the working of police stations and law and order situation.

The Chief Minister on the occasion directed the police high ups to provide maximum relief and easiness to the general public approaching the police for their complaints.

He also directed them to maintain the environment of trust between police and public.



QUETTA: Afghan families gather at Afghan Consulate to register themselves for returning to their homeland, in Quetta.

Pakistani Diaspora's role in progress of country, an irrefutable reality: Raja

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf on Thursday said that Pakistani Diaspora around the world had always played pivotal and substantiated role for progress and development of country.

He expressed these views during meeting with the delegation of Pakistani Diaspora under leadership of Mayor of the London Borough of Hounslow Councillor Afzal Kiani, said a press release issued here.

He also said that ensuring participation of Pakistani Diaspora in development and progress of country had been principle stance of Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

"The proactive role played by Pakistani Diaspora in Pakistani development and progress of the country is an undeniable reality," he added.

While underscoring the significance of high-

lighting positive image of Pakistan across the world, he said, "Pakistani Diaspora must be committed to ensure highlighting positive image of country."

The speaker also emphasized the need to encourage and enhance the positive and proactive role offered by Pakistani Diaspora for their inclusion in progress of every socio-economic segment of country.

Further, Raja Pervez said that Pakistan people had always proven their talent and potential in diverse fields.

He stressed to resolve challenges faced by Pakistani Diaspora on priority.

"Highlighting positive image of Pakistan is the prime responsibility of Pakistani media and media can play positive image of country as Pakistan is enriched in every aspect", he added.

NADRA contradicts false propaganda

ISLAMABAD (INP): NADRA has released an official statement addressing the recent video circulating on social media featuring a NADRA mobile registration van (MRV).

According to the NADRA spokesperson, MRVs are deployed to provide vital services to citizens residing in remote areas, often in response to requests from local communities and social and political figures.

The video in question is approximately four months old, capturing an MRV parked in a building near Khyber Chowk in the Baldia Town area of Karachi, dated July 20, 2023.

FIA arrested fake Ministers from Mardan

PESHAWAR (APP): FIA Mardan and anti-corruption in a joint operation, arrested two fake ministers famous for making fake ID Cards for Afghans.

According to details given by the official of the FIA Mardan, Muhammad Shafiq and his son Modaat Ali were arrested from Mardan Kachri Chowk, involved in fake documents scams, and have a connection with the international Mafia.

The FIA official said, the arrested accused used to make fake ID cards, Pakistani identity cards, Afghanistan Taskara, Pakistan domicile, and other documents and have a connection with the international mafia. For making such documents they charged huge amounts of money, FIA officials said.

Both suspects were arrested red-handedly by the authorities during the joint operation, FIA officials said.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf in a meeting with Mayor of the London Borough of Hounslow Councillor Afzal Kiyani.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq visits Sarawan House, meets Lashkari Rasiani

Independent Report
QUETTA: The senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Sardar Ayaz Sadiq visited the Sarawan House here on Thursday. During the visit, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq met the prominent political and tribal personality and former Senator, Nawabzada Lashkari Rasiani.

Also accompanied with Ayaz Sadiq were the provincial president of PML-N, Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail, Jamal Shah Kakar, Chaduhary Naem Karim and others.

During the meeting, they discussed about the political situation of the country and province.

Later, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also had one-to-one meeting with Nawabzada Lashkari Rasiani.

Needless to mention here is that the senior PML-N leader arrived in Quetta on Wednesday to meet the political leaders and obviously to invite them to join the party.

Many political leaders and former parliamentarians had also met Sardar Ayaz Sadiq the other day.

Dashti directs to accelerate works of ongoing projects

QUETTA (APP): Provincial Secretary Communications and Works (C&W) Kamber Dashti on Thursday directed that works of ongoing development projects should be speeded up to provide better connectivity to people of Quetta city, as the densely populated city was in dire need of wide roads and flyovers.

Dashti was reviewing the ongoing development projects in Quetta city including Gahi Khan Chowk

Flyover, Customs Chowk Flyover, Raisani Road to Sabzal Road and Sardar Munir Ahmad Mengal Road.

Chief Engineer Design Dr. Sajjad Baloch gave a detailed briefing regarding the progress on ongoing projects.

Dashti said that the development projects of Quetta city have been stalled due to various reasons, but due to strict monitoring, the projects were now in the final stage of completion.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Health Ameer Muhammad Khan Jozgazi inaugurates Cardiac Ward at Civil Hospital.

Pak-Qatar Navy Special Forces bilateral exercise ends

KARACHI (INP): The 6th edition of bilateral exercise MUHARIB-AL-BAHR Pakistan Navy Special Service Group (SSG(N) and Qatari Naval Special Forces (QNSF) concluded at Karachi.

The exercise is conducted annually alternatively at Pakistan and Qatar. The two-week exercise comprised of various operations such as Frogman Ops, coordinated Maritime Interdiction Operations, Ship Visit- Board-Search and Seizure (SVBSS) Procedures, Sniper Weapon Firing, Day and Night Counter Terrorism Training, Close Quarter Combat (CQC) at Ship in a Box Mockup.

Lasbela police arrests bike lifter, recover stolen m/c

LASBELA (APP): In-charge CIA Lasbela, Muhammad Amin Lassi, with his team on Thursday carried out an operation and arrested a bike lifter along with the stolen motorcycle.

The operation was done on the special instructions of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Lasbela Captain (retd) Naveed Alam. The motorcyclist was stopped at the check post who was coming from Karachi at the RCD Road Vayaro Othal.

FO says: Repatriation of illegal foreigners to continue without any reconsideration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Thursday, calling the policy on repatriation of illegal foreigners consistent with domestic laws and international norms, reiterated that the process would continue in an orderly and phased manner without any reconsideration.

"The policy is very clear... Individuals who are illegals, who do not possess legal documents, who have overstayed their visas will be repatriated. So, there is, at this point, no reconsideration of the policy," Foreign Office Spokesperson Murtaza Zahra Baloch said in her weekly press briefing a day after the policy came into effect over the expiry of the October 31 deadline.

She explained that the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan (IFRP) applied to all foreigners residing illegally in Pakistan, irrespective of their nationality and country of origin. However, it was not applicable to individuals enjoying refugee status.

Asked about the number of countries whose nationals were being repatriated, the spokesperson said it could be approximately a dozen, or maybe slightly fewer.

She said the government was in contact with those countries and the lists provided by such countries were under discussion between the two sides.

She said the government was also engaged with a number of countries, including the United States, with respect to Afghan individuals who were to be resettled in third countries.

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QUETTA: Members of Baloch Yakjethi Committee are holding protest rally for recovery of missing persons as soon as possible, at Quetta press club.

Solangi for collective efforts to protect planet earth from negative impacts of climate change

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Thursday called for collective revolutionary measures to avoid the damages caused climate change.

Delivering his speech at the "Pre COP28: Paris to Dubai" seminar here the minister said that the future of the coming generations must be secured.

The minister urged the international community to play its role in the countries being badly affected by climate change.

The planet, he added faced the dangers of climate change and the government, or any department alone could not solve this problem.

"We need a strategic vision to tackle the challenge of climate change," Murtaza Solangi maintained. The whole society has to realize about climate change issue, Murtaza Solangi said adding:

"We are facing many social problems to deal with climate change".

Solangi said without bringing about change in society, the dangers of climate change could not be addressed. Parents, teachers, film, television drama writers, poets, elders in the society must discuss the harms of climate change and there was a need to change the whole culture system.

He also said that media must play its role in highlighting climate change

issue. For combating climate change, every body will have to actively participate in plantation campaigns as climate change was a threat to the human existence. He said that Pakistan was one of the most affected countries by climate change although it had very small role in causing climate change. The minister said that the present generation had a responsibility to take urgent steps to protect the planet from the negative impacts of climate change for the sake for future generations.

"Do we want to be known in human history as the generation that was so selfish and self-centered that we want to deplete and destroy planet earth.