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ISLAMABAD: President of the Senate of the Republic of Rwanda, Dr. Kalinda Francois Xavier calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

PM for complete utilization of Balochistan's natural resources

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday stressed upon complete utilization of natural resources of the Balochistan province. He was talking to Speaker of Balochistan Assembly Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali who called on him, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister said that progress and prosperity of the people of Balochistan were among the top priorities of the Federal Government. During the meeting, they also discussed different matters related to the province.

COAS Munir, Azerbaijan top leaders vow to take military ties to new level

Army chief pays official visit to Azerbaijan, emphasises enhancing cooperation in fields of defence and training

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, who is on an official visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan, called on Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Defence Minister, 1st Deputy Minister and Chief of General Staff and Commander of Azerbaijan Air Force. According to a news release of Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the COAS' visit is aimed at enhancing military-to-military cooperation and defence collaboration between the two brotherly countries. During the meetings,

the COAS emphasized on enhancing cooperation in the fields of defence and training. He appreciated the high morale and remarkable standard of operational readiness of Azerbaijan's Armed Forces. During the meeting Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said that the friendly and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan were being successfully strengthened in various fields, including military cooperation. Appreciating the successful cooperation between Azerbaijan and Pa-

kistan in the defence industry, he emphasized the importance of conducting joint military training between the two countries. Regarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the two countries at the international level, the Azeri president reiterated that Azerbaijan always supported Pakistan on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. President Ilham expressed the confidence that the visit of COAS to his country would help in further stabilizing the cooperation between the two countries.

SC dismisses review petitions about Faizabad sit-in case verdict

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday dismissed the review petitions of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Defence Ministry about the 2017 Faizabad sit-in case after they were withdrawn by the petitioners. The court said that the Federal Government, Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), and Pakistan Electronic Media and Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) also requested to withdraw their review petitions. The three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan and Justice Athar Minallah, which heard the case, also declared the fact-finding committee as illegal in Faizabad sit-in matter and directed the attorney general to form a new inquiry commission. During the course of proceedings, Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan in-

formed the court that the government had constituted a fact finding committee on October 19, and its first meeting had already held on October 26. He said that the committee would also prepare its recommendations after inquiring into the matter. The CJP asked the attorney general that under which rules of business the fact-finding committee was formed. Everyone considered the Faizabad sit-in case verdict as a right one and the committee formed by the government was just a trick, he added. He said that the entire country was held hostage by a party. A person was imported, who after taking the country hostage returned abroad, he added. He questioned that whether the government had contacted the Canadian authorities. No one would question whether the people came from Canada and held a sit-in here, he asked.

The CJP further questioned that whether Pakistanis could go to Canada for staging sit-ins there. The other countries protected their every citizen, he said. CJP Isa remarked that it was the government's responsibility to implement the verdict in the said case. The country had faced a loss of billions of rupees but nobody bothered about that, he added. The chief justice observed that the court wanted to know that who was the mastermind of Faizabad sit-in. The court's decision of February 6, 2019 had not been implemented as yet, he said. He said the government should learn a lesson from the past and take such measures so that such incidents should not take place in the future. The court said that the fact-finding committee formed by the government was not acceptable as it was illegal and issued instructions to form a new inquiry commission.

PM invites Rwanda to open diplomatic mission for closer African ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday, conveying Pakistan's desire to enhance multi-sphere ties with the African continent, invited Rwanda to establish its diplomatic mission in Islamabad.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of the Senate of Rwanda, led by Senate President Dr. Kalinda Francois-Xavier, reiterated the desire to strengthen Pakistan's ties with Africa, particularly in trade, investment, IT (information technology), agriculture and people-to-people exchanges.

Pakistan has already opened its mission in Kigali in 2021, according to a PM Office news release.

The prime minister expressed satisfaction at the friendly and cordial relations between Pakistan and Rwanda. Emphasizing the significance of parliamentary exchanges, Prime Minister Kakar welcomed and appreciated the first-ever visit by the President of Senate of Rwanda.

He also appreciated Rwanda's remarkable economic growth achieved in recent years.

The President of the Senate of Rwanda expressed gratitude for the warm welcome accorded to his delegation. They had very useful meetings with parliamentarians, government officials and private sector during their stay in Islamabad.

Caretaker FM says: No Afghan refugee having documents will be deported

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Foreign Minister (FM) Jilil Abbas Jillani has said no Afghan citizen having documents will be deported. Self respect of Afghan citizens will be given due regard, he said this while talking to media men outside parliament house. He held misconception has arisen with reference to Afghan refugees. We should inform media in this regard. He stated there are several categories of Afghan refugees. The Afghan refugees who are holding registration cards are not being deported. Like this there are deprived sections of society who are concerned over it that they will have to face problems on their return to Afghanistan. Our attitude with them will be mild and

tender. We have asked those Afghan refugees who are having no documents to return with respect and honor. He underlined Prime Minister (PM) and cabinet had decided the respect of Afghan refugees, women and children will be taken care of and they will be taken to transit centre. They will be investigated and those having documents will be allowed to stay. In this regard we are in full contact with Afghan authorities. I had talked to Afghan foreign minister and he said a commission has been constituted for rehabilitation of Afghan refugees who are returning to Afghanistan, he said.

Chinese ambassador, Fazal discuss ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong along with his delegation Wednesday met with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and discussed ties between the two countries. According to a JUI-F Spokesperson, the delegation included Minister Counselor Zhang Nu, Zhang Duva and Wang Sita.

The matters related to bilateral relations and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) were also discussed in the meeting. The ambassador said "We want Pakistan to use China's technology in agriculture." The meeting also agreed to expand the scope of CPEC, also underscored the importance of including more projects in CPEC.

Solangi takes part in 69th Japan Self-Defence Forces Day celebrations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday took part in the celebrations of the 69th Japan Self-Defence Forces (JSDF) Day. The minister attended a reception arranged by the Embassy of Japan in Islamabad to celebrate the 69th anniversary. In the reception, military officials, caretaker ministers, parliamentarians, diplomats, and other individuals were also present. On the occasion, the minister felicitated the people and the Government of Japan, and highlighted the growing bilateral ties between Pakistan and Japan in the area of defence.

Six terrorists killed in Zhob district

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least six terrorists were killed in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in general area Sambaza of Balochistan's Zhob district, Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a press release on Wednesday. The IBO was carried out last night by the security forces on reported presence of terrorists. "During the conduct of operation, intense fire exchange took place between our troops and terrorists, resultantly six terrorists were sent to hell, while a cache of arms, ammunition and explosives has also been recovered," the ISPR said.

Naval Chief discusses naval collaboration with leadership of RSAF

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf who is on official visit to Saudi Arabia called on the top leadership of Royal Saudi Armed Forces on Wednesday. The Naval Chief during his meetings with Chief of the General Staff of Saudi Armed Forces, Gen Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili at Ministry of Defence and Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces Vice Admiral Fahd Bin Abdullah al-Ghohaily at Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) Headquarters discussed matters of bilateral naval collaboration and regional maritime security, said a press issued here. Admiral Naveed Ashraf underscored the contribution of Pakistan Navy towards regional maritime peace and stability through its initiative of Regional Maritime Security Patrols (RMSP) and participation in Combined Maritime Force. The Commander RSNF appreciated Pakistan Navy's role in support of collaborative maritime security in the region and acknowledged the significance of strong bilateral defence collaboration.



RIYADH: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanges views with Chief of the General Staff of Saudi Armed Forces, General Fayyadh Bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili during meeting held at Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) Headquarters in Riyadh

Interior Minister says: No political party named for unrest in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dismissing any specific political party's involvement in the recent turmoil in Balochistan, Caretaker Minister for Interior, Senator Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, clarified his stance on the matter in the Senate on Wednesday. This statement came in response to a query raised by Senator Muhammad Qasim, who had expressed objections to Bugti's earlier remarks. The Minister underscored that he had not directly implicated any political party, including the BNP-M, in the unrest. He further emphasized that the BNP-M was a political ally in both federal and provincial governments, urging them to address the issue of missing persons during their tenures, rather than politicizing it at present and making protest over it. Highlighting the complexity of the situation, Senator Bugti drew attention to the presence of death squads affiliated with various militant groups, responsible for the targeted killings of innocent civilians, including individuals from diverse backgrounds such as Punjabis, teachers, doctors, and professors in Balochistan. He specifically named organizations such as the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), Baloch Liberation Front (BLF), Majeed Brigade, United Baloch Army (UBA), Baloch Republican Army (BRA), Acho Group, and Lashkar-e-Balochistan as entities contributing to the unrest in the region. Citing a report from a leading newspaper, the Minister pointed to the acknowledgment by the BLA of its involvement in various killings across the country, underscoring the gravity of the situation in the province. He said that BNP-M has not been linked with any such group.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Mutaza Solangi, Lt Gen Sarfraz Ahmed, HI(M), Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Mr. WADA Mitsuhiko along with other dignitaries cutting cake as the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Mr. WADA Mitsuhiko and Mrs. WADA Naoko hosted a reception to celebrate the 69th anniversary of the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) Day. Defense Attaché, Colonel ABE Kazuo represented the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) at the Embassy.

140,322 undocumented foreigners voluntarily left Pakistan on govt's call

ISLAMABAD (APP): The ministry of interior on Wednesday shared a total number of returnees who volunteered and opted to go back to countries of origin with in the one month amnesty time period. According to the data shared by ministry's representative, 140,322 undocumented foreigners voluntarily left Pakistan so far. Meanwhile, Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Bugti wrote a message on social media platform that the government bid a farewell to 64 Afghan nationals first day after the deadline as they embarked on their journey home. He wrote that the action was an expression of Pakistan's determination to repatriate any foreigner who did not have the necessary documents. According to the ministry's handout, from November 1, the process of arrest and subsequent deportation of illegal aliens had begun, however, the voluntary return of illegally staying aliens would also

continue and be encouraged. All returnees and deportees would be treated with dignity and respect and all necessary facilities including food and medical aid would be provided to them in the holding centers, it added. The minister had already issued directives to the concerned officials and agencies to be respectful with detainees and undocumented immigrants while detaining them. He warned of strict action against officials found involved in manhandling the immigrants including Afghan national while transporting them to the holding centers. The ministry has also set up a helpline for complaints regarding the eviction of illegally staying foreigners. Foreign nationals can lodge any complaint regarding evacuation on these telephone numbers as well as people can also report information about illegal aliens at these numbers 051-111367226 and 051-9211685.

25 killed during skirmishes between warring tribes in Kurram

PESHAWAR (APP): At least 25 people were killed during skirmishes between warring tribes over land dispute in Kurram tribal districts so far. According to an official statement here issued by a spokesman of Home Department KP, the rival tribes now agreed to vacate the bunkers and trenches in affected areas of Kurram district where the situation started towards improvement due to efforts of Khyber Government and law enforcement agencies. Several peace jirgas were held during last week attended by the area elders and representatives of the Government and law enforcement agencies that brought significant improvement in the area. The government was trying to open all roads in one of two days so that delivery of medicines, food and other necessary commodities could be ensured.



ISLAMABAD: Workers are demolishing the illegally contracted houses at Afghan Basti I-12 as govt announce warning for people living in Pakistan illegally to leave the country as security forces on Wednesday rounded up, detained and deported dozens of Afghans who were living in the country illegally, after a government-set deadline for them to leave



Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Cricket drama

Much has happened off the field in the last few days and much is expected in the coming days, but at least on the pitch, Pakistan showed no ill effects in the match against Bangladesh yesterday. After four successive World Cup defeats, the cobwebs were finally dusted off — even as pressure mounted on other fronts, including in the form of some distasteful manoeuvres by the Pakistan Cricket Board. A convincing seven-wicket victory over Bangladesh in Kolkata has kept alive Pakistan's faint hopes of reaching the semi-finals. And yet, while the team turned a corner, it would be unrealistic not to expect it to be affected by the events back home. Pakistan cricket has been nothing short of a circus, with information and disinformation spreading like wildfire, thanks to a plethora of live transmissions. Given the team's earlier losses in the contest, criticism had been fierce. The PCB decided to act — issuing a statement to clarify that it had merely supported captain Babar Azam and chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq, enabling them to pick the team of their choice. It was the sort of statement which exposed the Zaka Ashraf-led cricket board as averse to taking any responsibility. Public sentiment seems to matter a great deal to Mr Ashraf, who is nearing the end of his term as interim management committee chief. Whether or not he remains PCB chief, depends on the result of the election his committee has to hold. A good run for Pakistan at the World Cup would have tipped the scales in his favour. Instead, the team's performances have given rise to claims of a rift between the chairman and captain, with former skipper Rashid Latif alleging that Mr Ashraf was not taking Babar's calls. An attempt to refute that went horribly wrong, with Mr Ashraf forwarding a screenshot of a conversation between Babar and PCB chief operating officer Salman Naseer, which was leaked on a private news channel. It raised questions about consent. These incidents are made particularly cringe-worthy by the fact that the entire drama played out in front of the cricketing world during the sport's most high-profile event. They raise serious questions about the PCB leadership. An issue over central contracts, which saw players unpaid for five months due to disagreements, was resolved only a few days ago. The PCB also acted on reports from certain quarters claiming favouritism in team selection, with an alleged link uncovered between Inzamam and an agency representing most of the players. On the eve of the Bangladesh match, Inzamam resigned from his position but vowed to return if cleared of wrongdoing in an investigation initiated by the PCB. There is a time for everything, but this was certainly not the time for domestic theatre in the midst of the World Cup.

Press Secretary to the President (Rtd); Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC

Whenever our nation grapples with economic and financial challenges exacerbated by the incompetence, inefficiency, and incapacity of our ruling class, the most vulnerable among us bear the heaviest burden. The individuals who already struggle to secure even two meals a day, who cannot fathom the luxury of a single cup of tea, and who lack the means to send their children to school, are advised to subsist on half a roti instead of a full one, to savor half a cup of tea in place of the comforting warmth of a full cup. While the ruling class, seemingly impervious to the suffering of their fellow countrymen, continues to live in opulent villas abroad, traverse the skies in private jets, and occupy custom-designed offices adorned with luxuries beyond imagination. In recent times, the very individuals responsible for our nation's financial management, particularly the former PDM finance minister and later the incumbent caretaker finance minister have issued statements to transfer the burden of their inefficiency, incapacity, and incompetence onto retirees, who have already dedicated over four decades of their lives in service to the government and the public. This audacious proposition asserts that the weight of pensions has become intolerable for the government and suggested that the only viable solution lies in the formulation of a policy that would, in essence, strip pensioners of their hard-earned entitlements — the pensions they diligently accrued during their years of dedicated service. What is truly disconcerting is that these statements emanate from none other than the self-pro-

claimed economic wizard, Mr. Ishaq Dar, a man whose wealth has grown to such astonishing proportions that he himself may not possess an accurate account of it. If even a fraction of the wealth amassed by individuals like him could be repatriated to our country, it could potentially transform our economic and financial landscape, paving the way for a brighter and more prosperous future. This callous narrative reveals a shocking lack of compassion and an outrageously irrational approach. It implies that the government's solution is to either slash pensions, impose a time limit on disbursements, freeze adjustments for inflation, or even strip surviving spouses of their rightful pension benefits after a pensioner's passing. In this grim scenario, it seems that if these measures fail to miraculously fix the government's financial outlook, the next steps could entail extreme and unthinkable actions. The government might instruct the defense forces to auction their weapons, insist on our soldiers to stop wearing their uniforms, close down our diplomatic missions abroad, halt government operations, extinguish traffic lights to save electricity, cease fuel purchases for vehicles to cut fuel costs, shut down power and gas production, and ground planes. In the eyes of our ruling class, the answer to our financial and economic hardship is to strip away the very means of survival from the salaried, working, and middle-class citizens, and now even the pensioners. Pensioners, in their post-retirement years, often find themselves in the twilight of life. Many have already experienced the erosion of their physical and mental faculties. Despite these personal challenges, they continue to grapple with daunting burdens. They strive to keep the home fires burning, endeavor to fulfill their commitments, such as educating their children, supporting their daughters' marriages, and securing a peaceful place to reside. Additionally, they must navigate the financial maze, endeavoring to meet essential needs while coping with the weight of utility bills that have grown burdensome. Yet, what keeps them up at night are not their personal struggles, but the distressing and insensitive remarks of government ministers, amplified by the media. These comments label them as a strain on the national economy and a drain on the government's treasury. In their wildest dreams, these retirees might never have anticipated that, after dedicating four decades of their prime years in service to the government, they would be met with anything other than gratitude. Instead, they now face the heart-wrenching reality of being labeled as burdens on the system, with proposals that threaten to strip them of their only means to make ends meet. It's become abundantly clear that the path to financial and economic improvement does not hinge on the cruel act of depriving citizens of their right to a dignified life. Instead, it lies in a concerted effort to enhance our systems and invest in vital areas. We should channel resources into education and research and development, promoting innovation and nurturing creativity. We need to create an environment where people can fully unlock their potential. The solution lies in expanding our exports, enticing foreign investment, fostering entrepreneurial ventures, establishing industrial hubs, enhancing the efficiency and productivity of our businesses, and elevating the quality and demand for our products and services, improving the quality and quantity of our products and services. By adding value

to our offerings and creating our own brands, we can tap into new markets and boost our competitive edge. Facilitating easy access to loans for startups will nurture fresh business niches, invigorating our entrepreneurial spirit. Indeed, the path to financial and economic prosperity also involves a shift in our national focus. Instead of positioning ourselves solely as a security state, we should adopt a stance that seeks peace and cooperation with every nation worldwide. By doing so, we can redirect resources towards building a modern agricultural sector, establishing thriving industrial zones, and enhancing the security and safety of travel to attract global tourism. Additionally, the creation of a pension fund and investment in saving schemes can not only generate reasonable profits but also serve the nation's broader financial needs. Furthermore, emulating successful models like France, where pension reforms raised the retirement age and adjusted qualification criteria, can help manage pension costs effectively. Gradual increases in retirement age, changes in contribution rates for employees and employers, and the implementation of partial pensions or delayed benefits for those choosing to work beyond the standard retirement age can all contribute to a sustainable pension system. Encouraging government employees to participate in voluntary retirement savings plans and streamlining the consolidation of multiple pension plans into a more efficient system will further reduce administrative burdens and enhance fund management. These insensitive statements disregard the specific provisions of the Civil Services Act of 1973. According to Section 13 of this act, a civil servant's retirement from service occurs after completing

twenty years of service, thus qualifying for pension and other retirement benefits. Furthermore, Section 19 outlines the entitlements upon retirement, including the right to receive a prescribed pension or gratuity. In the unfortunate event of a civil servant's passing, whether before or after retirement, their family is entitled to receive a pension, gratuity, or both. These legal provisions are in place to safeguard the welfare and financial security of civil servants who have dedicated their careers to public service. Any attempt to deviate from these established rights would not only be legally questionable but also ethically unjust. Caring governments prioritize the welfare of not only their retired employees but the entire population, providing unemployment allowances for those temporarily out of work. For instance, in France, every unemployed individual is entitled to receive a consistent amount, such as Euro 900, until they secure gainful employment. Countries like England and France have well-structured pension systems encompassing several key benefits, including the main pension benefit, calculated based on an employee's salary and years of service. Supplementary pensions are provided by employers, varying according to job titles and years of service. Reversion pensions support surviving spouses, usually amounting to 50% of the deceased spouse's pension. In cases of disability, invalidity pensions are provided to government employees unable to work. Additionally, governments offer a range of social welfare programs and allowances, such as Pension Credit, Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Winter Fuel Payment, free healthcare services, vision care, dental treatment, travel cost assistance, disability sup-

port, free bus passes, and special considerations for those with disabilities, including free passports. Pensioners, many of whom are at an advanced age, have shouldered responsibilities and contributed their skills and dedication to the nation. They are owed respect, dignity, and honor, not derogatory labels like "burden" or "parasites." The pensions they receive are not handouts but were part of a solemn job agreement signed even before their entry into government service. When government employees embark on their careers, they willingly accept substantially lower salaries compared to their private sector counterparts, fully aware that these reduced wages are offset by the promise of pension and retirement benefits in the future. It's a mutually agreed-upon arrangement that provides financial security in exchange for their commitment and dedication. If the government is intent on shifting the burden of its own shortcomings to retired civil servants, it should commence this effort with fresh entrants. The onus is on the government to be transparent, fully disclosing the terms and conditions of employment. It should offer every candidate the opportunity to sign a job contract with a comprehensive understanding of the contract's provisions, including pension and retirement benefits. This approach should be consistent and applied uniformly to all state employees, including the judiciary, parliaments, and armed forces. No exceptions. We can be certain that without the assurance of pension and retirement benefits, no sane individual would willingly choose government service. It is high time we acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our civil servants and afford them the respect and security they have earned and deserve.

Commerce News

SBP & CDC launched RAST payments facility for mutual funds

ISLAMABAD (APP): news release. Central Depository Company (CDC) has collaborated with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to allow investors to purchase mutual funds units using SBP's RAST Payment Gateway. CDC has developed a framework where it acts as an "Aggregator" and issues a Raast Payment ID, enabling investors to digitally transfer funds, using Raast, to the respective Asset Management Company (AMC) for the purchase of mutual fund units said a news release. The facility was launched in an event at CDC House with Saleem Ullah, Deputy Governor SBP as the Chief Guest. While officiating the event, Deputy Governor SBP, Saleem Ullah expressed his heartfelt appreciation for CDC's unwavering efforts and initiatives for digitalization and customer facilitation. He emphasized that the core objective of all digitalization efforts is to improve customer convenience and satisfaction.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik chairing a meeting of All Pakistan Solvent Extractors Association at Ministry of NFS&R.

SECP to establish online dashboard 'ESG Sustain'

ISLAMABAD (APP): He pointed out that Pakistan is one of the 10 most climate-vulnerable countries in the world and has experienced the most devastating impacts of climate change in the form of catastrophic floods last year that affected 33 million people with a loss of approx. PKR 3.3 trillion. Akif said, "One of the main ingredients for achieving long-term value for stakeholders is inclusivity. To address this area, not only has the SECP mandated female representation on companies' boards, but we are also actively striving towards creating conducive work environments by encouraging companies to implement gender diversity policies. The Chairman Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Akif Saeed has said the SECP has been actively striving to inculcate a regulatory environment that considers the environmental impact, encourages corporate social responsibilities and stimulates good governance practices. He was speaking at the 2nd Pakistan Climate Conference organized by the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI). Akif talked about recent developments in the ESG framework in Pakistan and SECP's vision of its governance framework, said a press release issued here on Wednesday.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif in a meeting with Parliamentary delegation of Rwanda.

Rwanda delegation explores bilateral cooperation opportunities in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): said a press release. During the visit, the delegation met with key Pakistani officials and organizations to discuss potential areas of collaboration. Notable engagements included meetings with the Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Dr. Umar Saif, a visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI), and discussions with the Secretary General of the International Parliamentarians Congress (IPC), Sitara Ayaz. In the meeting with the Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Dr. Kalinda emphasized the importance of Pakistan establishing a presence in Rwanda and exploring investment opportunities, particularly in the IT sector. Minister Dr. Umar Saif highlighted Pakistan's robust IT market, with millions of cellular users and significant cellphone manufacturing capabilities. He also mentioned plans to export cell phones to African countries, fostering growth in the sector. The Ambassador of Rwanda stressed the necessity of creating a comprehensive framework for cooperation, including cross-ministerial collaboration. Dr. Kalinda implied the signing of MoUs in the fields of Defense and Health with Pakistan, with negotiations underway for agreements in other sectors and desired to sign MoUs with Pakistan also in the IT Sector. The delegation's visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries was marked by discussions on enhancing bilateral trade and cooperation.

Shell signs agreement to sell majority shareholding

ISLAMABAD (APP): Shell Petroleum Company Limited, a subsidiary of Shell plc (Shell), has agreed to sell its 77.42% majority interest in Shell Pakistan Limited (SPL) to Wafi Energy LLC. The sale is part of Shell's strategy to high-grade its mobility network and was first announced on Capital Markets Day in June 2023, said a news release. The sale is expected to be completed by Q4 2024, subject to regulatory approvals. Upon completion, the Shell brand will remain in Pakistan.

Any kind of seeds not allowed to import; rules & regulation is our priority: Dr Kausar

ISLAMABAD (APP): regarding Soybean (Glycine max), it is our vision to solve livestock and poultry problems on a priority basis. He expressed these views while presiding over the meeting of the All Pakistan Solvent Extractors Association regarding reducing the price of chickens and importing soybeans. Secretary, Minister of National Food Security & Research Captain @ Muhammad Mahmood and Chairman PARC Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali were also present. Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik said that complete work should be done on soybeans before importing them, it is necessary to check which seeds have more economic benefits in the same season. He said that it is better to grow something for the sake of domestic and national interest on the land where nothing can grow. Secretary Ministry of National Food Security & Research Captain (ret), Muhammad Mahmood advised to form a committee comprising of Chairman Pakistan Agriculture Research Center, the Director General of the Department of Plant Protection and the Director General Federal Seeds Certification and Registration.

SM Tanveer chairs 15th PPPA session

Independent Report LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer chaired the 15th session of the Executive Committee of Punjab Public Private Partnership Authority (PPPA) here Wednesday. The primary agenda consisted of a comprehensive review encompassing 15 key points. During the meeting, the committee approved the initiation of three pivotal projects i.e. establishment of five underground parking facilities in the vicinity of the walled city area, Thokar Niaz Baig to Mohlanwal Canal Road sewerage initiative and the waste recycling project. In addition to the project greenlight, the committee took a significant stride by authorizing the allocation of funds through the Project Development Fund (PDF), marking a pivotal step in advancing these initiatives. Further strategic moves were made as the committee sanctioned the initiation of a commercial bank account and approved the procurement of new vehicles, aligning seamlessly with the Authority's overarching goals.



CEO of E-Commerce Enablers Saqib Azhar and Sardarzada Usama Khan' Tareen meeting with Federal Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti.

CPI inflation recorded at 26.9 in October

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation increased to 26.9 percent during the month of October 2023 as compared to the same month of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Wednesday. The inflation had increased to 31.4 percent during last month (September) whereas it was recorded at 26.6 percent during October, 2022, according to the PBS data. On the other hand, the rural CPI increased to 28.9% on a year-on-year basis in October 2023 as compared to an increase of 33.9% in the previous month and 29.5% in October 2022. On a month-on-month basis, it increased to 1.1% in October 2023 as compared to an increase of 2.5% in the previous month and an increase of 5.0% in October 2022. The urban CPI inflation increased to 25.5% on a year-on-year

Brutal killing of innocent Palestinian citizens is actually genocide of humanity: Baligh

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended the inauguration ceremony of "Tabeer" Project at LUMS University National Incubation Center Lahore as Chief Guest.
Speaking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the brutal killing of innocent Palestinian citizens is

actually a genocide of humanity. He said that the martyrdom of Palestinians by the bombing at the civilian settlements and hospitals in Gaza strip is painful. Governor Punjab said that the international community must come together to end the brutality and tranny and play a role in stopping the massacre of innocent citizens, women and small children in Gaza strip.

Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the purpose of "Tabeer Project" is to hone the entrepreneurial skills of students. He said that the incubation center in the university is an excellent initiative, adding that it will boost the on going efforts to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic prosperity in the province. He said that



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali inaugurating Department of Seerat-un-Nabi (SAWW) Studies in Peshawar University. Vice Chancellor Dr. Idrees and Ulama are also present.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with participants of an inaugural ceremony of "Tabeer" project at LUMS University National Incubation Center.

Governor inaugurates Dept of Seerat-un-Nabi (SAW) Studies

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali on Wednesday visited the University of Peshawar and inaugurated Department of Seerat-un-Nabi (SAW) Studies.
Former Provincial Ministers, Syed Zahir Ali Shah and Moulana Amanullah Haqqani, Sheikh-ul-Hadees, Moulana Muhammad Idrees, Sheikh-ul-Hadees, Moulana Mufti Ghulamur-Rehman, Mufti Shahabuddin-Din Popalzai, Dean Islamic Studies, Dr.

Muhammad Salim, faculty members and students were also present on the occasion.
Speaking as the chief guest, the Governor said Seerat-un-Nabi (SAW) is the best way of life for all of us and we should follow the life of the holy Prophet (PBUH) to achieve success in the world and life hereafter.
He said the factors that have created rift in society can be overcome by following the principles preached by the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

Naqvi chairs marathon meeting to take stock of smog situation

Independent Report
LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presided over a marathon meeting stretching for many hours at CM office with regard to take stock of the smog situation. The government and specialists mulled over various steps to be taken for the eradication of smog.
The environment specialists relating to smog apprised during the meeting that it will make no difference by granting leave in schools and closing down a transport.
CM chaired a meeting

in which smog emergency has been enforced across Punjab and wearing a mask has been declared mandatory for male and female students in all government and private schools for one month.
CM while addressing the participants in the meeting said that mask wearing has been declared compulsory for the health of male and female students. We also appeal to the general public to use mask while going out of their houses.
CM directed the

AJK PM emphasizes equal importance of ministries

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has stated that all departments and ministers are of equal importance.
During a meeting with a public delegation in the federal metropolis on Wednesday, the Prime Minister emphasized that there is no difference in the weightage and status of all ministries and portfolios. He underlined that the most crucial factor is the hard work and dedication of those in leadership positions, as per a press release.
He further mentioned that it is high time for the youth to focus on IT instead of wasting their

time on unproductive activities. The Prime Minister pointed out that idleness can lead to anxiety and chaos in society.
He indicated that he has given special instructions to the Minister for IT to utilize all available resources to attract educated youth towards IT and skill development. He also stressed the need to prioritize agriculture and livestock. The Prime Minister assured that his government will allocate all available resources to public welfare projects. He mentioned that the government is planning to launch a significant welfare project worth 5 billion rupees for widows.

DC chairs meeting on Smog Control in Jhang

JHANG (APP): Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Khurram Niazi chaired a meeting here on Wednesday to review steps for controlling smog in the district. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Agriculture, Health, and Environment Protection departments, as well as other concerned stakeholders. During the meeting, officers of the Environment Protection department briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the concrete steps that are being taken to control smog.
Deputy Commissioner Niazi emphasized the need for strict implementation of smog control measures and zero tolerance for violations.

KP Caretaker Minister boosts industrial growth in Mohmand District

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Dr. Aamir Abdullah, the Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce, Technical Education, and Newly Merged Districts Affairs in Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, embarked on a one-day visit to the Merged District of Mohmand. During his visit, he inaugurated the operations of two newly established industrial units and laid the foundation stone for another.
The industrial zone in this district, developed

under the Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC), witnessed the formal inauguration of two oil units that became operational within a remarkably short period of one month. Additionally, the foundation stone was laid for a new flour unit. These projects have attracted a total investment of 1.2 billion rupees and are expected to create employment opportunities for 1,100 individuals.

NH&MP launches awareness drive for smog, fog

MULTAN (APP): National Highways and Motorway Police (NH&MP) M4 has launched an awareness campaign about smog/fog.
According to details, a seminar was also held in collaboration with a private company to create awareness about smog/fog in Beat No. 22. DSP Zargham Atta, Admin Officer Muhammad Kamran, Inspector Gul Hameed Khan, Inspector Gulzar Hussain, civil society members, drivers and lawyers were in attendance.

Punjab still in grip of dengue; 214 new cases reported

LAHORE (APP): Punjab is still in the grip of dengue fever, with 214 new cases reported on Wednesday.
According to the latest data from the Health department, a total of 9,512 confirmed dengue cases were reported across 36 districts in Punjab this year.
Leading the unfortunate tally is Lahore, reporting a staggering 4,032 cases, followed closely by Rawalpindi with 2,287, Multan with 968, Faisalabad with 431 and

Gujranwala with 780 cases. The situation is still continuing, with Lahore reporting an additional 124 new dengue cases, Rawalpindi with 25, Multan with 16, Gujranwala with 24, Faisalabad with 04 while Narowal reported 04 cases in the last 24 hours. Sahawal reported 03 cases of dengue virus whereas Sheikhupura, Chakwal and Sialkot each recorded 02 new cases of dengue in the same time frame. Kasur, Attock, Sargodha.

International News

Desperate Israel erases 50 lives in Jabalia camp strike

Monitoring Desk
GAZA STRIP: Palestinian fighters offered stiff resistance to invading forces, but the relentless Israeli bombing of the besieged enclave claimed at least 50 lives in the Jabalia refugee camp, on Tuesday.
This takes the total number of those killed in Israel's brutal bombing campaign to 8,525, including 3,542 children, according to the latest count by the health ministry.
The director of Gaza's Indonesian Hospital told Al Jazeera that more than 50 Palestinians were killed and 150 wounded in Israeli air strikes on a densely populated area of the Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza.
AFP video footage from the scene showed at least 47 bodies recovered from the rubble after the strike hit several houses in the densely crowded camp.
Dozens of onlookers could be seen standing on the edges of two vast crater as people searched for survivors.
Ragheb Aqal, a Jabalia resident, described the strikes as "an earthquake" which shook the entire refugee camp.
"I went and saw the destruction... homes buried under the rubble and body parts and martyrs and wounded in huge numbers," the 41-year-old told AFP.
"There's no exaggerating when they talk about hundreds of martyrs and wounded. People were still 'transporting the remains of children, women and elderly' he added.
The Jabalia camp is Gaza's largest refugee camp.
According to the United Nations agency for Palestinian Refugees, the densely populated camp is situated in the north of the besieged enclave and covers an area of 1.4 square km. There are approximately 116,000 registered refugees in the camp.
The camp also housed three UN-run schools, which had subsequently been converted into shelters for hundreds of displaced families.

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Palestinian fighters offered stiff resistance to invading forces, but the relentless Israeli bombing of the besieged enclave claimed at least 50 lives in the Jabalia refugee camp.

Seoul believes North Korea sent Russia over a million artillery shells

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: South Korea's top spy agency believes North Korea sent more than a million artillery shells to Russia since August to help fuel Russian President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine, according to a lawmaker who attended a closed-door briefing Wednesday with intelligence officials.
North Korea and Russia have been actively boosting the visibility of their partnership in the face of separate, deepening confrontations with the United States. Their diplomacy — highlighted by a summit between North Korean leader

Kim Jong Un and Putin in September — has triggered concerns about an arms arrangement in which North Korea supplies Russia with badly needed munitions in exchange for advanced Russian technologies that would strengthen Kim's nuclear-armed military.
Both Pyongyang and Moscow have denied U.S. and South Korean claims that the North has been transferring arms supplies to Russia.
According to lawmaker Yoo Sang-bum, the South Korean National Intelligence Service believes the North shipped more than a million artillery shells to Russia

through ships and other transport means since early August to help boost Russia's warfighting capabilities in Ukraine. Those shells would roughly amount to two months' worth of supplies for the Russians, Yoo said. The agency believes North Korea has been operating its munitions factories at full capacity to meet Russian munition demands and has also been mobilizing residents to increase production, Yoo said. There are also signs that North Korea dispatched weapons experts to Russia in October to counsel Russian officials on how to use the exported North Korean weapons.

Police shoot at unarmed, veiled woman in Paris

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: French police on Tuesday shot and seriously wounded an unarmed woman at a train station in Paris during morning rush hour.
The incident came with the country on its maximum alert for potential attacks but with the police also under scrutiny over recent fatal shootings of suspects.
Witnesses said the 38-year-old woman, who was wearing a hijab, recited "Allahu akbar" and said "you will all die," a police source said, adding that "police fired because they feared for their safety."
After passengers on a suburban train travelling from the eastern suburbs to Paris alerted police, agents managed to "isolate" the woman at the Bibliotheque Francois Mitterrand station on the capital's south bank which was evacuated, the source said.
They ordered her to sit on the ground and stop moving, Paris police chief Laurent Nuñez told reporters.

2 killed in Russian attacks in eastern Ukraine that also damage Kherson city center

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: A Russian attack on Kherson in eastern Ukraine on Wednesday killed one person and caused serious damage in the city's center, the region's governor said, and a Russian drone strike killed another civilian in the frequently targeted city of Nikopol.
The attack on Kherson, which Russian forces seized early in the war but then abandoned a year ago, also wounded two people. Despite the with-

drawal, Russian attacks from the other side of the Dniester River persist.
"Again an apocalyptic scene," regional Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin said on the Telegram messaging app. "Broken glass, torn window frames, ruined homes. People with trembling voices telling about what they have been through."
In Nikopol, which is on the opposite bank of the Dniester from the Russian-held Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant.

Blinken to visit South Korea; North Korea, Russia on agenda

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will visit South Korea on Nov 8 and 9 to discuss North Korea and alliance issues with Foreign Minister Park Jin, South Korea's foreign ministry said on Wednesday.
Park and Blinken will also discuss economic security, cooperation on industrial technology and regional issues of mutual interest, the ministry said. The visit marks the first by a US secretary of state in two and a half years.

Germany's Scholz says his country, EU to help boost West Africa security

Monitoring Desk
ACCRA: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Tuesday said his country and the European Union as a whole were committed to boosting security in West Africa, and could provide training and equipment to support operations against a jihadist insurgency spreading through the region.
Speaking in Ghana on the last leg of his third trip to sub-Saharan Africa, Scholz said a recent string of coups in West African nations had stalled cooperation between countries and could play into the hands of militants.
West Africa is grappling with an insurgency that took root in Mali in 2012 and has since spread across the Sahel region south of the Sahara, killing thousands and displacing over six million.
Militants with links to al Qaeda and Islamic State have also encroached south towards the Gulf of Guinea, staging attacks in the north of coastal countries such as Benin, Ghana and Togo.
Military takeovers in Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Niger and Gabon since 2020 have only added instability. Scholz stressed the importance of restoring "democratic order" and said Ghana was a "beacon of hope" for the region and a close partner for Germany.
He noted that Germany was ready to support cross-border cooperation and that an upcoming EU mission to the Gulf of Guinea could provide training and equipment.

White House will develop an anti-Islamophobia strategy but faces skepticism from Muslim Americans

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden's administration is preparing to announce that it will develop a national strategy to combat Islamophobia, according to people briefed on the matter, as it faces skepticism from many in the Muslim American community for its staunch support of Israel's military assault on Hamas in Gaza.
The White House announcement had originally been expected to come last week when Biden held a meeting with Muslim leaders, but was delayed, three people said. Two of them said the delay was due in part to concerns from the Muslim American community that the administration lacked credibility on the issue given its robust support for Israel's military, whose strikes against Hamas militants have also killed thousands of civilians in Gaza. The people spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the White House



ASTANA: French President Emmanuel Macron meeting with Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, in Kazakhstan.

4 former Hong Kong student leaders jailed over their praise of a knife attack on a police officer

Monitoring Desk
HONG KONG: Four former student leaders from the University of Hong Kong were sentenced to two years in prison on Monday for inciting people to wound others through their praise of a man who stabbed a police officer before killing himself in 2021.
Kinson Cheung, Charles Kwok, Chris Todorovski and Anthony Yung are being held responsible for their roles in passing a motion in the students union council. The motion expressed "deep sadness" and appreciated the "sacrifice" of the man who took his own life. The resolution came against the backdrop of widespread public anger against the police, who were condemned as being heavily-handed in quelling the 2019 pro-democracy protests.
Handing down the sentences, Judge Adriana Noelle Tse Ching said the words they used were likely to incite hatred against the police.
The charge the four were facing was a serious offense and a lenient sentence would send "the wrong message" to society, she said.
Leung Kin-fai stabbed a police officer with a knife before turning the weapon on himself on July 1, 2021, the anniversary of the former British colony's handover to Chinese rule in 1997.

PM for mechanism to encourage financial self-reliance in society

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday, while appreciating outcomes of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), directed the relevant authorities to chalk out a mechanism for promoting economic self-sufficiency in the society.

He said that BISP was yielding good results but Pakistan's durable future was linked with the financially self-reliant citizens.

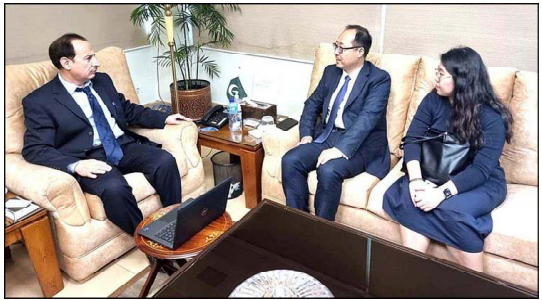
The prime minister chaired a meeting regarding BISP. The meeting was given a briefing over the performance of BISP and the future strategy.

The meeting was attended by BISP Chairperson Amjad Saqib, Secretary Ministry of Poverty Alleviation Yusuf Khan and other senior officials, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

About 60 million members of 10 million families were being benefited from BISP whose total annual budget this year was Rs 471 billion, it was told.

The prime minister praised the financial assistance extended to the deserving families and observed that with the provision of technical training to the BISP beneficiaries, in accordance with the requirements of the market, would enable them to become financially self-sufficient.

He said that BISP was a good programme whose database could be used for providing targeted subsidies, and urged the big business entities and well-to-do elements in the society to become partners in BISP under corporate social responsibility.



ISLAMABAD: The Chief Executive Officer of U.P.H. Biopharma, Lue FENG called on Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan.

Wafaqi Mohtasib team visits CDA Central Directorate to address citizens complaints

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Wafaqi Mohtasib inspection team visited the Central Directorate of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) on Wednesday to ascertain the status of its service delivery arrangements and suggest remedial measures.

The team, comprising Senior Advisor Ahmad Farooq, Deputy Advisor Pervez Haleem and Senior Investigation Officer Adnan Ahmad, met CDA Chairman Capt (Rtd) Anwar Ul Haq and other executives to discuss public complaints about the traffic mess caused by the expansion work being carried out by Authority on the Park Road and Islamabad Expressway, depleted condition of roads and streets, defective sewerage system, delayed payments to contractors, substandard construction of infrastructure and delay in payment of pension and retirement benefits to its workers.



Wafaqi Mohtasib Inspection Team is attending to the complaint of a customer during their inspection visit to CDA.

Masood Khan thanks Atlantic Council for hosting timely conference on Resilience and Reform in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (PR): Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States Masood Khan thank the Atlantic Council for hosting this timely conference on Resilience and Reform in Pakistan and choosing the most appropriate themes to discuss solutions for elevating Pakistan's economy and polity to optimal levels.

I pay tribute to Mr. Fred Kempe for his outstanding leadership of the Atlantic Council. His immense convening power is the envy of the town's thought leaders; and this was manifested by the enormously successful Distinguished Leadership Awards and Global Citizens Awards organized by the Council in Washington and New York this year. We are grateful to the Atlantic Council, for supporting The Pakistan Initiative that gives a voice to Pakistan in D.C. and is now becoming a clearing-house for understanding Pakistan-US relations.

And, thank you Uzair Younus for the very important work you are doing and your able and astute stewardship of the Initiative.

My special thanks and tribute to Principal Deputy

Assistant Secretary of State Elizabeth Horst for keeping the engines of US-Pakistan relations running all the time. She is a force of nature and a force multiplier for our ties. Thank you!

Let's look at the global picture first.

Pakistan has a destiny. Our geography, our people and our ideals determine that destiny. We have a mission to fulfill and the resolve to go the distance. The wars of the past 40 years, though necessary at that time for peace and security, have left their scars and distracted Pakistan from its chosen path of economic progress. The dark shadows of that period are receding. One of our tasks is to redress this ill-deserved reputational damage done to us and burnish our brand, not by words but by actions.

We have outlived many doom and gloom forecasts; and so would we, this time. Our growth ran into headwinds but this year we did not default, kept our economy afloat and brought currency rates and inflation down. Remittances increased, from the US re-



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador-designate of Jordan, Dr Maen A.M. Khreasat, Ambassador-designate of Holy See, Archbishop Germano Penemote Apostolic Nuncio, Ambassador-designate of Czech Republic, Mr Ladislav Steinhubel, the High Commissioner-designate of Brunei Darussalam, Colonel (r) Pengiran Haji Kamal Bashah bin Pengiran Haji Ahmad, and the Ambassador-designate of Qatar to Pakistan, Ali Mubarak A.E. Al-Khater, presenting their diplomatic credentials to President Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President denounces use of brutal force against innocent Palestinians

World must act urgently to stop Israel's war crimes in Gaza: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday denounced use of brutal force against innocent Palestinians, and called for the lifting of the siege and opening of a humanitarian corridor for Palestinians. He said that Pakistan was seriously concerned at the incessant Israeli aggression against civilians, which had killed thousands of people including women, children, and the elderly.

He gave these remarks during a presentation of diplomatic credentials ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Those who presented

credentials to the president include Ambassador-designate of Jordan, Dr Maen A.M. Khreasat, Ambassador-designate of Holy See, Archbishop Germano Penemote Apostolic Nuncio, Ambassador-designate of Czech Republic, Ladislav Steinhubel, the High Commissioner-designate of Brunei Darussalam, Colonel (r) Pengiran Haji Kamal Bashah bin Pengiran Haji Ahmad, and the Ambassador-designate of Qatar to Pakistan, Ali Mubarak

A.E. Al-Khater. Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday strongly condemned the rising Israeli hostilities and aggression against civilians in Gaza.

"Yesterday's air raid on Jabalia camp, where hundreds of lives were lost, including women and children, was a stark reminder of ongoing Israeli brutalities and war crimes in Gaza," he posted on social media platform, X.

Senate adopts resolution seeking end to Israeli hostilities in Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate of Pakistan at its emergency session on the Gaza genocide on Wednesday strongly condemned the Israeli crimes against humanity and State terrorism being perpetrated against the innocent children, women, and men of Palestine living in the occupied strip of Gaza, the World's biggest open prison.

The resolution moved by the leader of the House in the Senate Mohammad Ishaq Dar said, "Since the Holocaust of the 2nd World War, no State has committed such mass killings, carnage and war crimes with such an unprecedented barbarity and brutality."

High-powered delegation of Türkiye calls on Madad

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-powered delegation led by the Ambassador of Republic of Türkiye to Pakistan Mehmet Paçacı Wednesday called on the Caretaker Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi. The minister welcomed the delegation and said that the two countries had cultural, linguistic and people to people love for each other, said a news release issued here. Madad Ali discussed exchange of expertise and knowledge regarding vocational and technical training and said that the two countries could benefit from the experience of each other.

Lawyers defenders of democracy, human rights, Constitution

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Wednesday that lawyers were defenders of democracy, human rights and the Constitution.

This he said in a congratulatory message to newly elected office bearers of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA).

The minister congratulated the newly elected SCBA President Shahzad Shaukat, Secretary Ali Imran Syed and other newly elected office bearers.

The minister lauded the historic role of lawyers in promoting the rule of law, the supremacy of the Constitution and democratic traditions. Murtaza Solangi opined that lawyers act as the bridge between the bar and the bench and it was not possible to establish a developed society without justice. The minister expressed the hope that newly elected office bearers of SCBA will continue to play their key role for the supremacy of the Constitution and the rule of law.

PIO vows to resolve problems faced by regional newspapers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Wednesday that PIO would resolve the issues faced by the regional newspapers on priority.

He expressed the resolve regarding resolution of the issues of regional papers during a meeting with a delegation of Rawalpindi Islamabad Union of Journalists (RIUJ).

The delegation led by RIUJ President Syed Qaiser Abbas Shah congratulated Dr Tariq Mehmood Khan on assuming the charge of PIO.

The delegation also included Malik Rasheed,

Pak embassy joins Tehran charity bazaar for Palestinian aid

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Embassy in Tehran on Wednesday participated in a three-day charity bazaar organized by the Diplomatic Ladies Association of Iranian foreign ministry to generate funds for the suffering people of Palestine.

The opening ceremony was attended by the spouses of the heads of the different organizations and diplomatic missions accredited to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The spouse of Iran's foreign minister visited the Pakistani stall and praised Pakistani handicrafts and cuisine as she also tasted the traditional food.

The Pakistani Lok music was also played at the interval which was enjoyed by the audience.

Lok Mela to serve as fund raising platform to support oppressed Palestinians: Jamal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture Jamal Shah announced on Wednesday that the upcoming Folk Heritage Festival, Lok Mela, would not only showcase Pakistan's rich cultural diversity but also serve as a platform for collecting donations to support the oppressed Palestinian people who were facing the severe Israeli aggression.

During a press conference, Jamal Shah unveiled a comprehensive plan designed to kick start various cultural activities aimed at

Indian troops martyred 17 Kashmiris in October

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indian troops in their continued acts of state terrorism martyred 17 Kashmiris including a woman and a child during the last month of October in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the data issued by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service, today, of those martyred, 11 were killed in fake encounters and custody by Indian troops and police in different districts of the territory.



ISLAMABAD: EDG/PIO Dr. Tariq Mahmood Khan in a Group Photo with a delegation of Rawalpindi/Islamabad Union of Journalists (RIUJ) at PID Headquarters.

Sanjrani refers issue of protesting university teachers to Committee

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chairman of the Senate, Sadiq Sanjrani, has taken action on the matter of university teachers protesting outside the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and referred it to the standing committee.

This decision comes after a point from Senator Saadia Abbasi, who highlighted the grievances of the protesting teachers, including their demands for a proper service structure and fair promotion policy.

Senator Abbasi lamented the lack of concrete action despite previous directives to the HEC regarding the matter from the National Assembly and its relevant Standing Committee. Consequently, she appealed to the Chairman to refer the issue to the relevant senate standing committee for a more thorough examination.

Chairman Sanjrani duly acknowledged the gravity of the situation and accepted the proposal for further consideration of the matter in Senate Standing Committee of Federal Education and Professional Training.

It was also approved to summon the President of the All Public Universities BPS Teachers Association (APUBTA) in the meeting of relevant standing committee.

ICCPO visits Security Division, orders to enhanced security measures

ISLAMABAD (APP): According to the details, the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan conducted a visit to the Diplomatic Enclave to assess security arrangements and issue directives for enhancing security measures, a public relation officer said.

He said that, during the visit, the CPO Security Division, SP Diplomatic Enclave, NLC, and CDA officials were also present.

The ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan interacted with officers and officials of the Islamabad Capital Police entrusted with the security of the diplomatic enclave. He issued directives to senior officers for the enhancement of security measures at the embassies.

Emphasizing the need for effective monitoring on both internal and external routes of the diplomatic enclave, the ICCPO stressed the importance of ensuring effective surveillance through the Safe City centralized camera systems.

The Islamabad Capital Police remains steadfast in its commitment to maintaining a peaceful environment and ensuring the protection of the lives and property of the citizens within the federal capital.

Citizens are urged to cooperate with the police and report any suspicious activities or items to the relevant authorities by dialing helpline "Pukar 15".