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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairing a special session of the Apex Committee of SIFC held to foster strategic partnerships with friendly countries.

SIFC reviews existing level of collaboration, approves initiatives to be broached with friendly countries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday, appreciating the efforts of relevant ministries for identifying prospective areas of collaboration under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), directed all stakeholders for efforts to realise the envisioned long-term economic dividends.

He was chairing a special session of the Apex Committee of SIFC held here to foster strategic partnerships with friendly countries.

The meeting was attended by Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, ministers and high-level government officials, a PM Office press release said.

The apex committee reviewed the existing level of collaboration and unanimously approved various initiatives to be broached with friendly countries and directed to fast-track implementation of various projects conceived under these initiatives.

The Chief of Army Staff assured the unwavering resolve of the Pakistan Army to support economic initiatives being undertaken by the Government of Pakistan.

Meanwhile Pakistan and Kuwait will sign seven Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for investment worth \$10 billion in Pakistan through seven projects in multiple fields including environment, mining and food security. In this regard, the federal cabinet, in its meeting held on Friday approved seven MoUs to be signed during the upcoming visit of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar to Kuwait.

Consequent to the efforts by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), both countries would sign MoUs on multiple projects including the expansion of water reservoirs, mining facilities, conservation of mangrove forests in coastal areas, information technology and food security, a PM Office press release said.

CM directs civic agencies to resolve jurisdiction issues, improve city's image

Independent Report

KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar brought all the civic agencies, provincial as well as federal, to the table and directed them to resolve their jurisdiction issues and mend their ways so that the plight of the city in terms of provision of water, cleanliness, fixing of overflowing gutters, repairing of dilapidated roads, streets, footpaths and streetlights could be improved.

"Karachi is one of the largest cities of the world, but our civic agencies have left no stone unturned to deface it," he said and added that the agencies responsible for providing civic services in the city keep fighting on the jurisdiction issue and the condition of the city

keep deteriorating day by day which is intolerable," he said.

The meeting was attended by Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Secretary Finance Kazim Jatoi, Secretary Local Govt Manzoor Shaikh, Secretary Works Nawaz Sohoo, Commissioner Karachi Saleem Rajput, Secretary Transport Asad Zamin, DGs of KDA, LDA, MDA, COO water board, deputy commissioners, representatives of cantonments boards, KE, MD solid waste management, cable operators, and others. The CM said that no civic agency was working in the interest of the city and its people and under the garb of jurisdiction they keep passing on the buck when asked about their performance.

"The roads are dilapidated, walkways are under encroachment, water is theft, transport is not properly regulated, people have no water to drink, gutters are overflowing, solid waste is not working, streetlights are out of order, encroachment is a big issue," he said adding that the concerned agencies, district administration have to resolve these issues.

DC East Altaf Shaikh told the CM that his district has four subdivisions - Ferozabad, Jamsheed Quarters, Gulshan-e-Iqbal and Gulzar-e-Hijri. Almost all the subdivisions have issues with street lights, open manholes, road patching, garbage lifting, out-of-order pumping stations, and choked or broken sewerage lines.

Asif Zardari, Sindh Governor discuss political situation

KARACHI (INP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori met with Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarian (PPP) President Asif Ali Zardari at the Zardari House in Islamabad.

During the meeting, both the leaders exchanged views overall political situation in the country and various matters concerning the province of Sindh, said a press release issued by the party secretariat.

Saleem Mandviwalla, Malik Shah, Sarfraz Dhomki and others were also present during the meeting.

On Thursday, Pakistan People's Party co-chairman and former president Asif Ali Zardari claimed that PTI chief Imran Khan offered him 6 ministries during their government.

In an interview with a private news channel, Asif Zardari asserted that the government of former prime minister Imran Khan wanted "minus Zardari People Party" and send me out of the country.

Zardari contended that initiating a no-confidence motion against Imran Khan was the correct decision otherwise he would have stayed in power until 2028 through an RO election.

The former president further alleged that the PTI chief had isolated Pakistan globally and was an enemy of the country's economy.

On November 4, Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that no decision made regarding an electoral alliance between PPP and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) yet.



ISLAMABAD: Peoples Party (PPP) President, Asif Ali Zardari exchanging views with Kamran Khan Tessori, Governor Sindh during meeting held in Islamabad.

PPP dispels reports of Bilawal-Zardari rift Bilawal will be PPP's candidate for PM slot: Raja Pervaiz Ashraf

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) senior leader Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said on Friday that former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari will be the party's candidate for the prime minister slot.

In an interview with a private TV channel, Ashraf said: "Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari is a mature leader. Asif Ali Zardari wants to see Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari as the country's premier." Speaking about the level playing field, Ashraf said: "If Bilawal feels there is no level playing field, then the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) should do something."

He said, "The talks about Nawaz Sharif being the favourite seem to be part of the electoral campaign." "The ideal party should have a combination of both youth and seasoned politicians," Ashraf said.

Meanwhile the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)

on Friday dispelled the speculations of discord within the party involving Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari following the former foreign minister's departure to Dubai.

Bilawal has been actively campaigning nationwide, positioning his party as the solution to Pakistan's challenges. He has targeted the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in his campaign and urged older politicians like Nawaz Sharif to step aside and allow the new generation to lead in the upcoming Feb 8 elections.

But former president Asif Zardari in an interview on Thursday described Bilawal as "inexperienced" and "not fully seasoned" in politics.

He noted that Bilawal's call to sideline "old politicians" echoed sentiments of many from the younger generation. He also ac-

knowledged the time it takes for one to gain political acumen.

Nevertheless, the PPP dispelled the speculations of rifts within the party leadership, with Faisal Karim Kundi, the PPP central secretary information, clarifying on X, formerly Twitter, that Bilawal's trip to Dubai was planned beforehand.

Kundi maintained that Bilawal's trip to Dubai coincided with his scheduled departure after visiting Khyber Pakhtunkwa.

He dismissed the claims of discord between Bilawal and Zardari as unfounded rumors.

Former Sindh chief minister Murad Ali Shah stated that Bilawal's visit was a routine matter. PPP Information Secretary Shazia Marri highlighted Bilawal's private visit to Dubai, stating it was part of his regular travel and not prompted by any specific reason.

PM lauds Saudi Arabia for always standing with Pakistan in turbulent times

ISLAMABAD (APP): Holy Mosques and the Crown Prince expressed unconditional support for the Palestinians by convening the emergency session of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

PM Kakar, during the meeting, strongly condemned the atrocities committed against Palestinians and the massacre of the children in Gaza.

He emphasized the opening of a corridor for uninterrupted supply of humanitarian assistance to the people in Gaza.

On Islamophobia, the prime minister stressed the need to educate the young generation through documentaries on Islamic teachings, history, and culture.

He said the translation of these documentaries into different languages and their broadcast across the world, could help project the true essence of Islam.

The prime minister highlighted that recently, the Custodian of the Two



ISLAMABAD: Imam-e-Kabab H.E Professor Dr. Sheikh Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Imam-e-Kaaba's visit matter of honour for people of Pakistan: COAS

RAWALPINDI (APP): Imam-e-Kaaba Sheikh Saleh bin Abdullah bin Muhammad Humaid called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir here at the General Headquarters on Friday.

The Army Chief on the occasion said, "Visit of H. E. Imam-e-Kaaba to Pakistan is a matter of honour for the people of Pakistan."

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest were discussed, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The Army Chief welcomed the dignitary and highlighted that the Muslims from all across the world had boundless reverence for Harmain Shraifain and profound respect for their custodian.

Imam-e-Kaaba said, "Islam is a religion of peace & brotherhood and there is no space for misconstrued interpretations of Islam."

Education Ministry to promote reading culture in Pakistan

KARACHI (APP): Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training endeavors to promote Reading Culture in Pakistan, said Hameed Khan Niazi Deputy Secretary (Admin).

Talking to APP, Mr Niazi stated that the Federal Ministry for Education and Professional Training (FE&PT) is all set to hold a three-day National Level Conference on reading and literacy, titled "Today's Readers, Tomorrow's Learners," along with Book and Foundational Learning Festival.

These events are set to take place in Islamabad on the 25th, 26th, and 27th of November.

Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Mr. Madad Ali Sindh has aimed that the three days events would be full of learning and knowledge for the books lovers.

Secretary for Federal Education and Professional Training Mr. Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry expected that the events would not only foster a reading culture and enhancing foundational literacy skills but also provide an opportunity to engage with renowned educationists in enlightening discussions.

Mr. Niazi who also lead Directorate General Basic Education Community Schools (BECS) termed the events a unique opportunity where renowned educationists will lead insightful discussions on key challenges and advancements in the field of literacy and foundational learning.

He further expressed that leading education providers will deliver short 'Lightning Talks,' addressing innovative solutions to specific areas of foundational learning.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti chairing National Action Plan Coordination Committee Meeting.



HYDERABAD: Ameer Jamat-e-Islami Karachi Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman laid "GAZA MARCH" while Large number of JI workers hold banners, placards and Palestinian Flags during march

DSP Umair Tariq sent jail on judicial remand in Orangi Town heist case

KARACHI (INP): In the high-profile Orangi Town robbery case, the court sent the prime suspect, an under-training Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Umair Tariq Bajari, to jail on judicial remand on Friday.

According to the details, the prime suspect DSP along with three police officers named in the FIR was presented before Karachi's city court.

After hearing the argument from both sides, the magistrate sent DSP Umair Tariq to jail on judicial remand, while the other three police officers were handed

over to the police for two days of physical remand. It is pertinent to mention here that an under-training DSP Umair Tariq Bajari and two Shaheen Force officials have been booked in Karachi's Orangi Town dacoity case.

The cops were declared guilty in a high-level police probe.

DSP Umair Tariq Bajari, Khurram and Farman along with 20 others were booked in the Orangi Town heist case under charges of dacoity and kidnapping on the complaint of Shakir Khan, the affected man.



ISLAMABAD: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori meeting with Imam-e-Kabab H.E Professor Dr. Sheikh Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid

190 million pounds scam, Chairman PTI ordered to appear in court on Monday

ISLAMABAD (Online): Accountability Court has ordered Chairman PTI to appear in court in 190 million pounds scam on Monday.

Accountability Court has issued the written order to extend the physical remand of former Prime Minister (PM) and Chairman PTI in 190 million pound scam.

Judge Muhammad Bashir has issued written order comprises of 5-page.

According to order, Deputy Prosecutor General NAB Sardar Muzaffar Abbasi has applied for physical remand for another 10 days.

NAB told that Ali Zafar Advocate appeared in NAB office on November 23 on request and provided the relevant record to NAB.

He has also provided the record of March 24, 2021 Agreement.

According to order of the Court, NAB authorities said that National Treasury has to conduct an investigation regarding the money transferred and further remand is required to complete the investigation and bring the case to final conclusion.

Lawyers opposed further remand and presented 2 letters. 1 letter dated November 6, 2019 is related to East Bank.

Lawyers said that Chairman PTI has no concern with transfer of money.

According to order of Accountability Court, Lawyers said that Chairman PTI has also no concern with 240 Kanals of land.

Chairman PTI has built 2 cancer hospitals and 3rd one is being built in Karachi. NAB authorities said that remand is necessary to examine records provided by Ali Zafar.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Final electoral rolls: significant step towards Feb 8 polls

With the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) concluded hearings on objections to the new delimitation of constituencies, the printing of final electoral rolls has begun. No doubt it is a significant step towards the February 8 general election.

During a meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, it was announced that the final report on redrawn constituencies will be published on Nov 30, as planned. All told, the ECP received 1,403 representations challenging the delimitation of national and provincial assembly constituencies. An analysis by Pattan highlighted that challenges to the preliminary delimitation were filed from 124 of the country's 143 districts.

In Punjab, the battleground province in elections to grab political power, the preliminary delimitation was challenged from every district except for one. Some 80 per cent of the examined petitions claimed gerrymandering by the delimitation committees. Almost every petitioner alleged non-compliance with principles outlined in Section 20 of the Elections Act 2017.

In Thursday's meeting, the ECP stressed that it was ready to hold general elections on Feb 8 and directed the acquisition of army services to ensure voters' security. The Election Commission emphasised that if the police force was found insufficient, timely alternative arrangements should be ensured and the services of the Pakistan Army should also be availed to ensure a secure and peaceful voting process.

The meeting, which reviewed the overall election preparations, saw participation from four ECP members, its secretary, the provincial election commissioner of Punjab and other officers. The provincial election commissioners of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan joined the meeting via a video link. The participants were informed that the Election Commission had completed hearings on all objections to the initial delimitation. Consequently, the list of final constituencies will be published on Nov 30. Additionally, the printing and distribution of final electoral rolls are underway at Nadra and their timely delivery will be ensured.

The ECP has also finalized a code of conduct for the elections in consultation with political parties and it will be formally notified in the next few days. The commission was told that the training plan for district returning officers, returning officers, and polling staff was ready and that timely training of the related election officials would be ensured.

Similarly, necessary arrangements for printing ballot papers and purchasing election material have been completed, his clearly means that the Election Commission is ready to hold the elections in the country.

Collective crimes



By Nikhat Sattar

Two unrelated and very different events, one far away from us and the other in our own country KP, to be specific have given us cause to lament. Perhaps it is time to take notice.

Truth and justice tend to lose their meaning when fabulously rich countries and their extremely wealthy rulers are unwilling and unable to provide food, water and medicines to thousands of battered people, the majority of them children. As a genocide in real time is being carried out by a rogue state targeting a small strip of land that has been deprived of human living conditions for decades, and which is constantly bombarded with ammunition provided by the world's 'best democracies and custodians of human rights', nearly two billion Muslims remain voiceless.

There is no end in sight to the sufferings of the Palestinians, except painful death, or a crippled life. The world's leaders look on.

Of course, one can try and find some peace in the thought of the Day of Judgement, when all criminals will be brought before their victims and given just punishment. If one can do so, one might pray that those who remained silent or looked away when they could have done something would also be considered abettors and facilitators of these horrendous deeds.

As these words are being written, one is very conscious of the fact that the Palestinian cause is neither in favour of Muslims nor against Jews or Christians. It is a tragedy

wrought upon the people of a land through the connivance of the West and some Arab states. Their land was usurped and constantly encroached upon by Jews sent from Europe until they were restricted to a narrow strip and blocked from support from others. It just so happens that the majority of Palestinians are Muslims who have not merely been forsaken, but deliberately left to fend off Israeli settlers and the terrible Israeli military that has learnt much from their avowed enemy, Hitler.

The Muslim world, in general, is besotted with navel gazing and their rulers are busy amassing wealth and in displays of pomp. It is no wonder then, that of the 57 Muslim countries that have formed a toothless organisation, only one had the gumption to expel the Israeli ambassador in protest against the bestiality of the Israeli military. Bolivia, a non-Muslim country, has also cut ties, as has South Africa and a few others. As these words are written, Israel has bombarded heavily populated refugee camps while Palestinians are trying to find bodies in the rubble that Gaza has become. Thousands of Palestinians have lost their lives in this mass-scale slaughter while the wheels of the world continue to churn out the usual rhetoric. This holocaust is presided over by none other than the US.

The other event, which has caused much concern, is the coerced affidavit that was signed by a young teacher who had to swear that Darwin's theory of evolution, that he was teaching, was false and that he believed women are inferior to men. As he signed this ludicrous declaration (otherwise he would have had to suffer dire consequences along with his loved ones), he was flanked by many self-declared custodians of faith. They are merely another incarnation of the men who have over the centuries denied, denounced and hounded men of science and those who would have dared to attempt to question common beliefs.

This piece is not about whether or not Darwin's theory is against Islamic belief. Many renowned Islamic scholars have suggested that the theory does not deny in any way statements in the Quran that explain how the first human being came into existence. What is most reprehensible is that a religion that is critical of how the clergy in earlier faiths concentrated power in the hands of a few, has been misused to threaten and force a person to deny his opinions. The Islamic way of dealing with organisations that some believe are religiously wrong would be to have calm, scholarly and compassionate discussions.

Let us keep Darwin's contentious theory aside. Which Quranic injunction did these 'men of religion' refer to when they had the young man vouch for male superiority? The one about having two male witnesses to a financial deal or the one to bring another woman to court in case the first one forgets? Both can be argued on the basis of the need of the time and the socioeconomic conditions in the seventh versus the 21st century. No wonder, then, that the Muslim world has been unable to produce women and men of knowledge, wisdom and understanding in significant numbers, who are able to express differences of opinions and beliefs without confronting hatred and bigotry.

By Khalid Bhatti

As Israel's war against Gaza enters its second month, public opinion is gradually turning against the war, devastation and genocide of Palestinians. The solidarity movement with Palestine is growing by every passing day.

Public opinion is also turning against pro-Israel governments in the West. The pressure is mounting on the Biden Administration in the US and the UK government to withdraw their blanket support to Israeli war crimes in Gaza.

Millions of people have so far shown solidarity with Palestine. And millions have come out on the streets from London to Washington and from Jakarta to Mexico City; big demonstrations are taking place in American and European cities.

From Europe and the Middle East to Asia, football fans have shown solidarity with Palestinians during football matches. Jam-packed stadiums across the world call for an immediate ceasefire and an end to war. These people have shown their anger against war, killings and destruction.

Three massive demonstrations have taken place in London so far with millions of people in attendance. Hundreds of thousands of protesters took to the streets of Washington a few weeks ago to oppose the pro-Israel policy of the Biden Administration. The UK and the US are the epicenters of these solidarity demonstrations.

Young people including sections of the middle class are participating in these demonstrations in big numbers. It is the first time that many young people have witnessed such horrific scenes coming out of Gaza.

Public opinion

For the first time, they are watching the destruction caused by the Israeli aggression. They are watching the bodies of children being slaughtered by Israel's airstrikes and the desperate parents running from pillar to post, carrying their injured children. Hospitals, schools, churches, mosques and homes are being destroyed in Gaza, and innocent people are being killed. The besieged civilian population is facing food shortages, and many people are starving.

The situation has radicalized sections of the youth and the working class. Many young people and workers are saying that they will not support the Democratic Party of US President Joe Biden in the next presidential elections in 2024; it is important to mention that young voters played a key role in the victory of President Biden in 2020. But now they are turning their backs on the Democrats.

The same political trend is also emerging among young people in Britain. The leadership of the Labour Party is blindly following the Tory government's policy on the Israel war on Gaza. Many young people have been disillusioned by the Labour Party leadership and might opt for the Green Party in the next elections.

The pro-Palestine protests around the world are the biggest anti-war demonstrations since the 2003 Iraq war. While millions are calling for an immediate ceasefire in Palestine, governments in the US, Britain and Germany are supporting Israel which continues to commit atrocities in Gaza and the West Bank. Western governments are still playing

the role of apologists for Israel.

However, there is no denying that the ruling class and governments are feeling the pressure. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was forced to sack Suella Braverman for making derogatory remarks against pro-Palestine protesters. The opposition to the position taken by US President Biden is also growing. Many officials of the Biden Administration have expressed their opposition to the blanket support provided to Israel. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has written a letter to the concerned officials of the State Department in an effort to pacify the growing opposition within the Biden Administration.

There is a reason for this anger and growing opposition. People around the world are watching on their TV screens or on their mobile phones through social media that Israel is committing war crimes. Israel has destroyed thousands of homes in Gaza and made 1.6 million people homeless. For more than a month, Israel has continued with its relentless bombardment. Its ground forces with tanks are also moving inside Gaza, leaving no space safe for people.

Israel's attacks have left not a single hospital fully operational. No medicines, electricity, fuel and other necessities of life are available in Gaza. First, Israel bombed hospitals and now ground troops are causing more destruction in these hospitals. It is surprising to see that while Israel is committing war crimes with impunity, the US, the UK and other Western countries are still supporting it in the name of 'the right to self-defence'. —Courtney The News

Commerce News

Business leaders call for Pak, Kazakhstan FTA to increase bilateral trade up to \$1b

ISLAMABAD (APP): The local business leaders and traders on Friday called for the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to take bilateral trade between Pakistan and Kazakhstan up to the level of \$1 billion.

After the FTA, there is huge potential to take bilateral trade to \$1 billion on both sides, in which the role of the business community is vital, President Federation Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Irfan Iqbal Sheikh told APP here.

He said that the joint trade potential of Pakistan and Kazakhstan was very important in regional trade as Kazakhstan was the largest economy in Central Asian Republics.

Irfan said that Pakistan and Kazakhstan were geographically significant in the region. Both countries want to work on regional economic integration using their geo-strategic position, he said.

He said that at the end of 2022, mutual trade between Pakistan and Kazakhstan was \$195 million, which was much less than its potential.

President FPCCI expressed the hope that the business communities of Pakistan and Kazakhstan will play a significant role in increasing bilateral trade in the near future.

He said that recently direct flights have been started between the two

major cities of Lahore and Almaty, which will benefit the business communities of both sides.

Meanwhile, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtavari said that Pakistan and Kazakhstan are major two countries in the region whose bilateral trade volume is much less than its potential.

He said that Central Asia is very important in the global trade and energy resources with which Pakistan has centuries-old trade relations.

Ahsan Bakhtavari said that the growth of trade between Pakistan and Kazakhstan depends on the businessmen of both countries, whose relations are very important.



PESHAWAR: A delegation of Kohat Chamber of Commerce and Industry meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

Drop in iron products prices welcomed

LAHORE (APP): The construction industry and traders on Friday expressed gratitude for the governments' measures for reducing prices of iron products. According to the details, prices of iron products in the markets of the city decreased by Rs5,000 to Rs10,00 per ton. Besides, branded rod, selling at Rs2,60,000 per ton, has decreased by Rs.10,000. The business community and consumers associated with the construction industry rejoiced at the cheaper price of iron. Pakistan Iron & Steel Merchants

Association sources told APP that the drop in iron prices is a great incentive for the construction sector, saying projects worth billions of rupees had started in the country, which would generate economic activities worth billions and create hundreds of thousands of new employment opportunities. Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Kashif Anwar, rejoicing at the drop in iron prices, said that the construction industry in Pakistan covers a wide range of projects that presents numerous opportunities.

Nawaz to address SCCI today

LAHORE (APP): PML-N leader Mian Nawaz Sharif will visit Sialkot tomorrow for a one-day visit, party official sources told APP.

Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz have returned from Murree and reached Jati Umra here Friday. Nawaz Sharif will leave tomorrow for a one-day visit to Sialkot. The PML-N supreme will visit the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) tomorrow at 11 am and address the office bearers. He will also meet party leaders at Khawaja Asif's residence in the afternoon.



RIYADH: SAPM, Jawad Sohrab Malik signs Letter of Intent (LOI) with H.E. Ali Jabbar Almahan, CEO FNRCO Group.

Pak, Sweden hold bilateral political consultations on trade, investment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Sweden held their 17th round of Bilateral Political Consultations in Stockholm on Friday and reviewed the entire range of bilateral relations, including political, economic, trade, investment and education.

Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe), Ambassador Shaqat Ali Khan, led the Pakistan delegation, while the Sweden side was co-lead by Director General and Head of Global Department Dag Juhlin-Dannfelt and Acting Head of Department for

Asia and the Pacific Oscar Schlyte of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The two sides expressed confidence in the trajectory of bilateral cooperation noting that next year, Pakistan and Sweden would celebrate 75 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

They also agreed to promote bilateral dialogue and mutually beneficial cooperation and engagement.

The Additional Foreign Secretary congratulated Sweden on

successfully completing the term of EU Presidency this year and expressed Pakistan's desire to further enhance cooperation in renewable energy, sustainable technologies, waste management, information communication technology, and rehabilitation and development.

He welcomed more Swedish companies to take advantage of the business-friendly environment in Pakistan, the Foreign Office said in a statement issued here.

Progress on jobs for Pakistanis in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (Online): More progress has been made on the issue of jobs for Pakistanis in Saudi Arabia and now the technical skills training and test will be held in Pakistan, and immediate visa will be given upon passing.

Saudi Arabia has agreed to set up a network of training centers in Pakistan for 23 professional skills, under which the number of advanced technical skill centers in Pakistan will be increased from 26 to 123.

New training centers will be opened in the small and big cities of the four provinces in collaboration with NEOTECH, by increasing the number of training centers, 6 lakh skilled workers will be able to complete training in their country every year.

The Saudi work visa will be subject to the training course and the test will be conditioned with the standard of Saudi testing company, "Takamol". "Takamol" team will also visit Pakistan in December.

Happy seeder machines help prevent smog

MULTAN (APP): The Punjab government was providing Happy Seeder Machines to farmers at subsidized prices that are helpful in preventing smog.

In a statement, the Agriculture spokesman said on Friday the Punjab government was enforcing a set of guidelines for the prevention of smog and happy seeder machines were one of them.

The machine not only mix paddy crop remains in the soil enriching its fertility but also completes sowing for the next crop. Thus, it saves farmers from the botheration of burning crop remains.

Mian Zahid says: Pak population growth higher than total population of many developed nations

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said on Thursday that the number of children born in Pakistan per year was more than the total population of many developed countries.

Talking to businessmen on Friday, he said that the country's economy and resources cannot bear the burden of an increase in population of six million people per year.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the population growth rate in Pakistan was the highest in the world. In contrast, the growth rate was lower than that of African countries, which shows the deterioration of the situation.

He said that apart from Afghanistan, only Pakistan has the honor that polio disease has not been eradicated here. Much of the population lacks clean drinking water, jaundice and tuberculosis were common, and one in four adults has diabetes.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that nearly two and a half million children in Pakistan were deprived of schooling, and a few percent of those who have access to schools were forced to seek substandard education.

Colonization of industrial estates top priority of govt: SM Tanveer

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Minister for Industries SM Tanveer said that colonization of industrial estates was the first and foremost priority of the government.

He said this while presiding over the meeting of Punjab Small Industries Corporation's Board here on Friday.

The board discussed PSIC Employees Welfare Scheme, medical policy, PSIC Hajj Policy and approved other administrative and financial matters.

The board approved the sale of plots in Small Industrial Estates of Jhelum and Taxila, and the PSIC Voluntary Fund Rules 2023. The board also approved the revised PC-I and the renovation work of the Business Facilitation

Center of the PSIC house. In the meeting, it was also approved to increase the honorarium of the members of the PSIC Board from Rs 15000 to 25000. The board directed to send the committee to again review the PSIC Transport Policy.

Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer while addressing the meeting directed that all the matters and affairs of PSIC should be conducted according to the rules, adding that the process of auction of plots in Jhelum and Taxila should be completed in a transparent manner.

Investors would be given all possible facilities to set up new factories in the industrial estates, he added. Secretary Industries

Governor awarded honorary degree of PhD to the Ambassador of UAE

Appreciates role of UAE Ambassador in strengthening the cultural and trade relations between two countries

LAHORE (Online): Governor Punjab/Chancellor Muhammad Balighur Rehman today awarded an honorary degree of PhD to the Ambassador of UAE, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al Zaabi at the special convocation of the Institute of Art and Culture at Governor House Lahore today. The ambassador of UAE was awarded an honorary degree in recognition of his valuable services in the promotion of bilateral relations, especially in the field of trade between Pakistan and UAE. Governor Punjab congratulated the ambassador of UAE on receiving the honorary degree of Ph.D. Vice Chancellor Institute of Art and Culture, Faisal Janjua, Pro Vice Chancellor Ijaz A. Qureshi, Member Senate Institute of Art and Culture, Imran Masood, Pakistan's first woman astronaut Namira Saleem, a large number of teachers and students were present in the ceremony. The Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rehman while addressing the ceremony said that he felt honoured to award the honorary

degree of doctorate to the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al Zaabi. The Governor of Punjab appreciated the role of the UAE Ambassador in strengthening the cultural and trade relations between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates and people-to-people contacts between the two countries. He said that there should be exchange programmes involving degrees or short visits of students between educational institutions of Pakistan and UAE.



LAHORE: Namira Salim, First Pakistani Astronaut being presented a shield by the Institute of Art and Culture (IAC) in the presence of Mr. Baleegh ur Rahman Governor Punjab, H.E. Dr. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al Zaabi, Ambassador of the UAE to Pakistan and Mr. Muhammad Faisal Janjua, Chancellor of IAC.

Naqvi for maintaining hope to ensure future generation's prosperity

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has expressed unwavering optimism about the future of Pakistan, dismissing pessimism and affirming the nation's upward trajectory. Addressing the participants of the Air War College Institute course at Al Hamra Hall here on Friday, he emphasized the importance of maintaining hope for the prosperity of future generations. He urged collective efforts, stating that if individuals foster hope, it would resonate positively with their children, shaping a brighter future for Pakistan. Reflecting on the past 10 months of the caretaker setup in Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi highlighted a resolute decision to tackle the circular debt of wheat, which had surpassed 600 billion rupees. The success, he emphasized, was a result of effective teamwork and passion, turning even challenging tasks into achievable goals. The CM reported substantial achievements in

CM directs civic agencies to resolve jurisdiction issues, improve city's image

KARACHI (APP): The meeting was attended by Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Secretary Finance Kazim Jatoi, Secretary Local Govt Manzoor Shaikh, Secretary Works Nawaz Sohoo, Commissioner Karachi Saleem Rajput, Secretary Transport Asad Zamin, DGs of KDA, LDA, MDA, COO water board, deputy commissioners, representatives of cantonment boards, KE, MD solid waste management, cable operators, and others. The CM said that no civic agency was working in the interest of the city and its people and under the garb of jurisdiction they keep passing on the buck when asked about their performance. "The roads are dilapidated, walkways are under encroachment, water is theft, transport is not properly regulated, people have no water to drink. Karachi is one of the largest cities of the world, but our civic agencies have left no stone unturned to deface it," he said and added that the agencies responsible for providing civic services in the city keep fighting on the jurisdiction issue and the condition of the city keep deteriorating day by day which is intolerable," he said.

Minister stresses awareness about family planning in rural areas

LAHORE (6AM Report): Punjab Minister for Population Welfare Dr. Jamal Nasir emphasized the necessity of raising awareness about family planning among the rural population and ensuring easy access to necessary facilities. He addressed the closing session of the 24th annual conference organized by the Population Association of Pakistan as the chief guest on Friday. Dr. Nasir stressed the importance of gaining support from religious scholars to dispel misconceptions about population planning, highlighting a consensus among them regarding the need for appropriate intervals between children to enhance the health of both mother and child. Expressing concern about Pakistan's rapidly growing population, the minister cited the alarming implications on poverty, unemployment, and social issues resulting from the imbalance of population and resources. He pointed out the challenges posed by climate change and population growth, noting the adverse effects on agriculture, forests, biodiversity, and food cultivation in the country. Dr. Nasir warned that failure to control population growth would lead to severe impacts on food production, water scarcity, and overall environmental sustainability. Highlighting the need for collective efforts from all societal stakeholders, the minister emphasized the importance of implementing effective population management policies and programs.

Caretaker Minister calls on Imam-e-Kaaba, discuss matters of mutual interest

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce, Technical Education and Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Dr. Aamer Abdullah, called on Imam-e-Kaaba Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid in Islamabad, who is on a four-day visit to Pakistan and discussed matters of mutual interest with him said a press release issued here on Friday. On this occasion, the Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, His Excellency, Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmed Al-Malkiy was also present. During the meeting, the caretaker minister welcomed Imam-e-Kaaba on his arrival to Pakistan on behalf of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa especially the tribal areas, and said that the people here have more respectful feelings for Imam Kaaba due to special association with Holy Harmain Shareefain. He termed Imam Kaaba's visit to Pakistan as a blessing and thanked him for his arrival and requested him to offer a special prayer for the unity of Muslim Ummah and the removal of divisions among them. On this occasion, Imam-e-Kaaba expressed that the main cause of problems and difficulties being faced by the Muslim Ummah.



LAHORE: Activists of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at Lahore press club

Reign of smog: Lahore ranks first in air pollution again

LAHORE (APP): On Friday, Lahore once again has been ranked first in terms of air pollution in the world. The Meteorological Department sources told APP that an average Air Quality Index (AQI) on Friday was recorded at 356 in the provincial capital. DHA Phase-VIII was recorded at 457, Lahore American School 356,

CTD apprehends suspect with weapons

MIRPURKHAH (APP): The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Police apprehended a suspect with weapons in a proactive intelligence-based operation on Friday in Mirpurkhas district. According to a press release, the operation was conducted in response to threats from banned terrorist organizations indicating plans to target the police.

International News

Guns fall silent as cease-fire in Gaza comes into effect on Israel-Hamas war

GAZA STRIP, Palestinian Territories (AFP/APP): A four-day truce in the Israel-Hamas war took effect on Friday, with hostages set to be released in exchange for prisoners in the first major reprieve in seven weeks of war that have claimed thousands of lives. Starting from 7:00 am (0500 GMT), the pause was set to silence guns and stop bombings in a conflict that erupted after Hamas's murderous raids into Israel on October 7. Later on Friday, 13 hostages held in Gaza are expected to be freed, followed by an undefined number of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails, according to Qatari mediators. Over the four days, at least 50 hostages are expected to be released, leaving an estimated 190 in the hands of Palestinian militant groups. Meanwhile, 150 Palestinians prisoners are expected to be released. For Gaza's two million-plus residents, the deal spells a respite from weeks of sustained Israeli bombardment. The territory's Hamas government says the war has so far killed about 15,000 people and displaced countless more.

The exact number of casualties is impossible to independently confirm, but it is clear that for many Palestinian and Israeli families, the pause in violence has already come too late. The living here are the ones who are dead," Fida Zayed, a Gazan whose 20-year-old son Uday was killed in a recent air strike, told AFP. "The last thing he said to me was that he was waiting for the truce on Friday," she told AFP. "He asked me to prepare him a feast of rice and chicken." "I hope me and my children die here so we don't have to mourn each other." Qatari officials said the "first batch" of 13 hostages released would be women and children from the same families. Teams of Israeli trauma experts and medics await them—along with specially trained soldiers who, according to guidelines, will promise to keep them safe and will carry a child's favourite food item, be it pizza or chicken schnitzel. An Egyptian security source told AFP that Israeli security officials, International Red Cross-Red Crescent staff and an Egyptian team would deploy to Rafah, on the Egypt-Gaza border, to receive the hostages, who will then be flown to Israel.

Biden thanks Mexico for arrest of accused fentanyl trafficker

WASHINGTON (AFP/APP): President Joe Biden thanked Mexican authorities on Thursday for the arrest of an accused trafficker of weapons and fentanyl, the synthetic drug behind a wave of US deaths. Nestor Isidro Perez Salas, alias "El Nini," was captured Wednesday afternoon in Mexico's northwest Sinaloa state. His arrest came less than a week after Biden and Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador met in San Francisco and pledged to coordinate more closely on fighting drug trafficking, especially that of fentanyl.

After Corona, new epidemic hits China's many citizens, facing breathing difficulty

BEIJING (Online): In China, another deadly virus similar to Corona has caused a number of citizens to fall ill, suffering from breathing difficulties and symptoms similar to Corona. According to a foreign news agency, the disease with symptoms like corona and influenza is spreading rapidly in China, on which the government issued a red alert and asked for data from schools and hospitals. Disease is spreading so fast that the World Health Organization has also requested records from the Chinese government, while the United Nations has also urged to provide information about the disease. On the other hand, World Health Organization (WHO) has expressed concern over the increase in undiagnosed pneumonia cases among Chinese children, while the United Nations said that no new disease has yet emerged but needs to be investigated. Meanwhile, China has responded to the WHO that these cases have been spreading since May this year due to the prevention of Covid, as well as known pathogens such as Mycoplasma pneumoniae, which is a common bacterial infection and mostly affects children. Chinese government also said it is aware of the spread of the disease and has asked the public to take precautions during long waits in crowded places and hospitals, but these are not the same restrictions as Covid.



Violence erupts in Dublin after school knife attack

DUBLIN (AFP/APP): Protesters on Thursday fought running battles with police, torched vehicles and looted shops in Dublin, after three young children were injured in a knife attack outside a school. Police in riot gear stood guard on the streets in the Irish capital as crowds taunted them with chants and set off fireworks. Near O'Connell Bridge, over the River Liffey, flames rose from a torched car and bus, while crowds broke into stores and looted goods on one of the city's main shopping streets. The unrest—the worst in Dublin in years—came after a five-year-old girl sustained serious injuries in a suspected stabbing in Parnell Square East, north central Dublin. Two other children and two adults—a woman and the suspected perpetrator of the attack—were taken to hospital after the incident shortly after 1:30 pm (1330 GMT). Police chief Drew Harris blamed the unrest on a "complete lunatic faction driven by far-right ideology", e warned against "misinformation" as rumours spread on social media about the suspected attacker's nationality. One protester told AFP that "Irish people are being attacked by these scum." Ireland has been facing a chronic housing crisis, with the government estimating that there is a deficit of hundreds of thousands of homes for the general population. But widespread dissatisfaction has fed into a backlash against asylum seekers and refugees, and far-right figures have promoted anti-immigration sentiment at rallies and on social media with claims that "Ireland is full".



Flames rise from the car and a bus, set alight at the junction of Bachelors Walk and the O'Connell Bridge, in Dublin

Afghanistan permanently shuts down its embassy in India

NEW DELHI (APP): The Afghan embassy has announced its permanent closure in Indian capital New Delhi and as of now there are no diplomats from the Afghan Republic in Delhi, reported Indian news agency ANI. Releasing an official statement on the closure of its diplomatic mission in New Delhi, the Afghan embassy said, "Effective from November 23, 2023, owing to persistent challenges from the Indian government. The decision follows the embassy's earlier cessation of operations on September 30, a move made in the hope that the Indian government stance will favourably change to let the mission operate normally." The embassy said it was "cognizant" that some may attempt to characterize this move as an internal conflict, allegedly involving diplomats who switched allegiance to the Taliban, adding "that this decision is a result of broader changes in policy and interests." "To the Afghan citizens in India, the embassy extends its sincere gratitude for their understanding and support throughout our mission's tenure," it added. Despite "limitations in resources and power", the Afghan embassy said it has worked "tirelessly for their betterment and in the absence of a legitimate government in Kabul". Over the past two years and three months, the Afghan community in India has witnessed a significant decline, with Afghan refugees, students, and traders leaving the country, the embassy noted in its statement, adding that the number has nearly halved since August 2021, with very limited new visas being issued during this period. "We assure the Afghan community that the mission operated with transparency, accountability, and a commitment to fair treatment based on the goodwill and interests of Afghanistan considering historic ties and bilateral relations with India," it added. "Unfortunately, efforts have been made to tarnish our image and hinder diplomatic efforts in order to justify the presence and work of Taliban-appointed and affiliated diplomats.

Tourism promotion campaign Visit Laos Year 2024 officially launched

VIENTIANE (Xinhua/APP): The Visit Laos Year 2024 tourism promotion campaign kicked off in Lao capital Vientiane on Thursday, expected to create a vibrant atmosphere for economic stimulation. Speaking at the opening ceremony, Lao Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone said the government views Visit Laos Year as a crucial and meaningful event, especially after the tourism industry was severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's program takes the theme "A Paradise of Culture, Nature and History" with the mascot of an elephant holding a khaen, a Lao traditional musical instrument, as a symbol of good luck and prosperity. Sonexay urged concerted efforts nationwide "in hosting Visit Laos Year by assisting and providing services to visitors from around the world with warm smiles and open hearts." "This is an opportunity to showcase Laos' rich culture and traditions to the world, to create a memorable experience for visitors, and encourage them to revisit Laos in the future," he added. Also speaking at the ceremony, Lao Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism Suanesavanh Vignaket, who is also deputy head of the national committee responsible for Visit Laos Year 2024, said another goal of Visit Laos Year 2024 is to create a vibrant atmosphere for economic stimulation, both directly and indirectly, across all sectors. According to her, Visit Laos Year 2024 will feature 79 major events and activities, including 14 at the national level and 65 at the provincial level. "Visit Laos Year 2024 is one of the most important events in Laos. Apart from promoting tourism, it aims to conserve the country's arts, culture and traditions as well as inform visitors about Laos' long history and the sustainable use of its natural resources," Suanesavanh added.

PM outlines interim govt's key steps as 'legacy of good governance and reformative approach'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday said with its good governance and reformative approach, the interim government would leave a legacy on the domestic front.

In an interactive session titled 'Breakfast with the Prime Minister' organized by Jang Group of Publications, PM Kakar said the caretaker government had to its credit for tackling tough challenges in areas including economy, privatization, and connectivity.

The prime minister spoke about his vision about the prospects for a better Pakistan, terming "skilled human capital as the answer to several challenges".

He said Pakistan, being an important regional member of the Economic Cooperation Organization, boasted a strategic location at the confluence of central and south Asia besides its rich natural resources. The 240 million population with a huge youth bulge under the age of 25 adds value to human capital, he added. He, however, pointed out that it was utmost crucial to provide skill sets to youth through targeted training programmes and warned that non-utilization of their energy could lead to detrimental consequences.

Kakar said one of the priorities of the caretaker government was to focus on a programme, which would train one million nurses in one decade. Also, the government was exploring partnerships with international conglomerates including Siemens, Germany for the development of skills in different areas. The prime minister said the government was fast-tracking the privatization of State Owned Enterprises and related entities, with Pakistan International Airlines on priority in the list. In this regard, he said, some tangible results were expected to be achieved by mid-January. PM Kakar dismissed the notion that people leaving the country to move abroad was a sign of any failure. "Brain drain can become a brain asset [in future] and this is a sanguine and positive way to perceive it... Pakistan is a civilization of diversified creative potential which makes it 'rich' in a true sense," he said. On attracting foreign investment, he said the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was providing an opportunity for ease of business, adding that the country expected good news in weeks about foreign investment of billions of dollars in areas of agriculture, information technology and mining.



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



ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam along with a delegation of industrialists meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan

First lady seeks support to raise awareness on breast cancer, mental health, rights of disabled persons

ISLAMABAD (APP): Begum Samina Alvi, wife of the president of Pakistan on Friday emphasized the need for collective efforts in raising awareness about breast cancer, mental health and well-being, as well as advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities to enable them becoming productive part of the society.

"These topics should be openly discussed throughout the year, whether it is breast cancer, rights of differently abled person or mental health," she said while speaking at an awareness seminar on breast cancer organized by the Rotary Club here.

"In this regard, we will need the support of not only the government but also the society as a whole," she said adding that there was need to work for increasing the existing facilities in Pakistan.

The first lady said that a five-minute self-examination every month could help detect breast cancer at an early stage, thus saving thousands of the lives of women in the country.

She said that 44,000 deaths due to breast cancer in Pakistan was an alarming situation that needed raising constant awareness about early diagnosis of the disease.

Vaccinating every child against polio our mission: Mayor

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Mayor Mirpurkhas Municipal Corporation, Abdul Rauf Ghori on Friday said that their mission was to save children from permanent disability by giving them two drops of vaccine in the ongoing polio eradication campaign.

According to the Municipal Corporation office, the Mayor expressed these views while addressing the inauguration ceremony of polio campaign, by administering anti-polio drops to a girl in the primary health center at Makhan Samo.

He said that the polio campaign was a national cause in which all the Union Councils representatives should participate and cooperate in all possible ways so that the polio campaign could be made successful and no child could be deprived of polio vaccination.

Sami urges civil servants to adopt rapidly evolving global landscape

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed Friday emphasizing the importance of good governance urged the civil servants to quickly adopt the evolving landscape to address confronted challenges effectively.

Addressing the Certificate Award Ceremony of the 38th Mid-Career Management Course at the National Institute of Management (NIM) here, he shared his insights on governance and drew attention to the rapidly evolving global landscape.

He underscored the challenges and opportunities presented by globalization, technological advancements, and the shifting paradigms of economic integration, urging civil servants to adapt and excel in this dynamic environment.

In his thought-provoking address, the minister commended the institute for its dedication to enhancing the skills of civil servants.

He lauded NIM management for organizing a programme that bridged critical gaps in the training landscape, emphasizing its relevance in elevating participants from BPS 18 to 19 and highlighting the importance of refreshing knowledge and upgrading skills at the later stages of one's career.

Sami Saeed emphasized the invaluable opportunity for peer interaction, stressing the importance of networking, exchanging ideas, and fostering friendships across diverse professional backgrounds.

He particularly appreciated the growing gender balance within civil services, acknowledging the positive shift towards increased female representation.

Interior Minister welcomes Imam Kaaba at his residence

ISLAMABAD (APP): Imam Kaaba Dr Saleh bin Abdullah bin Hameed Friday visited Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti on his special invitation at his residence.

Interior Minister organized breakfast in honour of Imam Kaaba.

Interior Minister warmly welcomed to Imam Kaaba and said, "The Imam Kaaba's visit to his home is a blessing for him and his entire family."

He said, "The people of Pakistan love the land of Hijaz immensely and the servants have immense devotion to the Haram Sharif." The minister said, "Pak-Saudi relations encompass shared faith, history and people-to-people ties and Pakistan highly values brotherly relations with Saudi Arabia."

Imam-e-Kaaba urges Muslims to avoid declaring others infidels over petty differences

ISLAMABAD (INP): Imam-e-Kaaba Dr Saleh Bin Abdullah Bin Hameed Faisal delivered a Friday sermon at Islamabad's Faisal Mosque amid strict security arrangements, urged Muslims not to declare other Muslims infidels over petty differences.

He urged worshippers to strive for self-improvement for the betterment of the hereafter.

Imam-e-Kaaba emphasized importance of promoting love, brotherhood, and equality within the communities drawing on the metaphor of Muslims as a unified body.

Saudi ambassador to Pakistan was also among attendance as hundreds of thousands of worshippers offer Friday prayer in capital.

Imam Kaaba's call to adhere strictly to the philosophy of piety resonated throughout the sermon, emphasizing the need for a steadfast commitment to spiritual principles.

Imam Kaaba Saleh bin Abdullah bin Hameed, standing on Pakistani soil, gave a strong message to Israel that international forces should protect the sanctity of human lives and stop crimes in Gaza.

"Muslims are being massacred in the name of human rights in Gaza. Massacre of innocent people in Gaza is the blackest visit in human history," he said.

"May Allah punish the wrongdoers with the most severe punishment," the Imam said.

Imam-e-Kaaba Sheikh Saleh bin Humaid arrived in Islamabad on Wednesday for a six-day visit with the primary objective of strengthening the enduring and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. He will be leading the Friday prayer at the iconic Faisal Mosque.



PESHAWAR: Brig. (Retd.) Muzaffar Ali Ranjha, Chairman, PMIC's is getting site visit briefing on PSDP project titled "Peshawar Northern Bypass" from the NHA officers and Contractor.

SFA, IRC join hands for spreading awareness on food safety

Independent Report KARACHI: Sindh Food Authority (SFA) and International Rescue Committee (IRC), Friday, joined hands to disseminate awareness about safe, healthy, hygienic and nutritious Food in five selected districts of the province.

Both organizations will work together in the Ghotki, Kandhkot, Sukkur, Khairpur and Noushero Feroz districts of Sindh to create mass awareness regarding the significance of food safety, hygiene and nutrition.

The decision was taken in a meeting of Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhar Hussain with IRC consultants Dr. Fayaz Ahmed, Ihtasham Akram and Uzma Latif, said a statement issued here.

Agha Fakhar Hussain, on the occasion, briefed the IRC delegation about the functions, roles and responsibilities of Sindh Food Authority and progress in the authority's different interventions.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Peoples Party (PPP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa called on Faryal Talpur, President Peoples Party (PPP) Women Wing

Sukkur ATC sends suspects on physical remand in Mahar murder case

SUKKUR (INP): The anti-Terrorism Court on Tuesday extended the remand of the suspects in senior journalist Jan Mohammad Mahar's murder case.

Umeed Ali, Aaqil and Ghulam Sarwar were arrested by the police four days earlier during an operation in the katcha area. The accused were arrested by police for facilitating the killers in Jan Mohammad Mahar case.

After the initial hearing, the ATC handed over the suspects to the police on a four-day physical remand.

Senior journalist and Sukkur bureau chief of a local television network had been murdered by unidentified assailants on August 13.

The attackers on a motorcycle had opened fire at Mahar inside his vehicle after he left his office at 9:00 am in Sukkur.

Sindh police recently claimed to have arrested three suspects nominated in the murder case of Jan Mohammad Mahar.

SSP Irfan Ali Samo told the media that three suspects wanted in the murder case were arrested in an operation in the katcha area.

The arrested persons were identified as Sher Muhammad Shaikh, Muhammad Ramzan Shaikh and Bashir Memon. The police officer said that the suspects were handed over to the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD).

Vehicle carrying stolen raw material confiscated by PSM staffers

KARACHI (INP): A vehicle carrying stolen raw materials including iron and copper was confiscated and driver held by staff members of Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) on Friday.

According to details, a driver after stealing expensive raw materials and scrap including iron, copper and other items from the state-owned steel mill was allegedly transporting them to different go-downs.

However, the PSM staff members confiscated the stolen raw material laden vehicle from the PSM premises.

The accused driver admitted that expensive items of the PSM were being stolen and transported to different go-downs. "First, the stolen items are being dumped in Pipri, Marri Goth and other areas and later, they were sold to other go-downs."

Journalist Sultan Zai passes away

HYDERABAD (APP): Journalist Sultan Zai, who was associated with a television news channel, passed away here on Friday after fighting with his liver ailment for 2 years.

He was 50 years old. His Namaz-e-Janaza was held in Latifabad unit 8. Zai was a member of the Hyderabad Press Club.

Member Board of Revenue Sindh visits Sub-Registrar Office Hyderabad

Independent Report

HYDERABAD: The Member Board of Revenue Sindh Muhammad Abbas Baloch Friday visited the Sub-Registrar Office Hyderabad on directives of the caretaker provincial minister for Revenue and Industry, to ascertain various complaints for their immediate resolution.

During his visit, the President of the Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries (HCSTSI) Muhammad Farooq Sheikhan and other representatives apprised him of complaints specifically related to the Registrar Office of the Revenue

Department. He was informed that the Sub-Registrar Office holds numerous cases concerning property rights and other matters, on which Muhammad Abbas Baloch assured complainants that their problems would be resolved without delay and all possible steps would be taken and in this context he himself will visit Hyderabad every week to ensure effective steps are taken to redress the grievances. Substantial efforts are underway to digitize the revenue department, after which public complaints will end to a large extent, he clarified.



HYDERABAD: Members of Progressive Students Collective are holding protest demonstration for restoration of student unions, at Hyderabad press club

Health experts warn of increasing COPD risk due to rising Air Quality Index

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan's health experts here on Friday have warned that the rising Air Quality Index in major cities of Sindh and Punjab have increased the risk of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases (COPD), causing airflow blockage and breathing-related problems. The cities are now being counted as among the most polluted cities in the world and authorities are forced to impose lockdowns, they said.

They were addressing an awareness seminar organized by Ojha Institute of Chest Diseases (OICD) in connection with World COPD Day at Professional Development Center Hall 2 of Dow International Medical College. The chief guest of the seminar was Prof. Iftikhar Ahmed, Director Ojha Institute of Chest Diseases and Dean Department of Medicine, Dow University, while other speakers included Lt. Col. Dr. Mehmood Malik, Lt. Col. Dr. Shumaila and Prof. Faisal Fayyaz Zubairi.

Professor Iftikhar Ahmed said that the smog and smoke particles in the air in Sindh, including Punjab, had put human lives at risk. Evidently, we are among the most polluted cities in terms of air quality index. The main reasons for this includes vehicular smoke, garbage

burning and industrial pollution. We as doctors and health experts should teach and educate our society to avoid these things. Today, we are facing a situation like Corona (Covid 19) due to environmental pollution. Schools and colleges are being closed, people are confined to their homes, businesses are at a standstill, the economy is collapsing, if we do not take timely measures, we may face a dire situation. Our public Representatives should also think about this, he added.

Professor Faisal Fayyaz Zubairi said that there were two main causes of diseases like COPD which included cigarette

smoke and air pollution. We should take steps to stop smoking but also what is new is air pollution which increases the risk of getting this disease. What we have to do is to minimize environmental pollution, such as vehicle exhaust being a major cause. There should be some system at the government level to limit the number of fuel-powered vehicles and promote the electronic vehicle industry. Increase the number of electric vehicles, which will help reduce air pollution. Use of mask is necessary to avoid pollution, wear mask and avoid going where there is a lot of smoke. These are all pre-

cautionary measures that we as a nation should take, he expressed.

Other experts said that, around 4.5 million adults within the country are suffering from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease COPD. The disease is increasing rapidly worldwide and resulting in deaths. Main reason behind COPD in man is tobacco smoking while women were affected by smoke out of the wood and animal dung, they uses in their kitchen. The disease rate in the catch up, women was 49 percent against percent against 61 percent in men. Majority of the affected people remained of COPD in them.



LARKANA: Activists of Jamaat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at Jamia Islamia in Larkana