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Slow pace of work & delay not tolerable at all: Caretaker CM directs to complete Quetta Development Package projects by December this year

Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki calls for taking action against contractors responsible for delay in development work; PD Rafiq Baloch informs 95 and 90 pc work on Sariab road, Sabzal and Link Badini roads completed respectively

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has directed the concerned authorities to complete all ongoing development projects under Quetta Development Package by December this year at every cost.
He asserted that delay and slow pace of work on the development projects is not tolerable and as such adding also directed to take action against those contractors responsible for delay of the development work.
The Chief Minister was chairing a meeting held

to review progress of the development projects under Quetta Development Package here on Tuesday.
The Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development, Abdul Saboor Kakar, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat, Project Director of Quetta Development Package, Muhammad Rafiq Baloch, Secretary Communication and Works, besides other concerned high ups.
During the briefing, the Project Director informed that the work is continued on the construction and expansion of different roads under the Quetta Package

including Sariab road, Samungli road, Sabzal road, and others.
He told that 95 percent work has been completed on Sariab road project. Similarly, 90 percent work has been completed on Sabzal road and Link Badini road besides 85 percent on Radio tower road and 70 percent work on the Ansohb road.
He informed that the pace of work has been expedited on the Quetta Package on special directives of the caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Domki.
Rafiq Baloch added that the projects would be

Continued on page 2

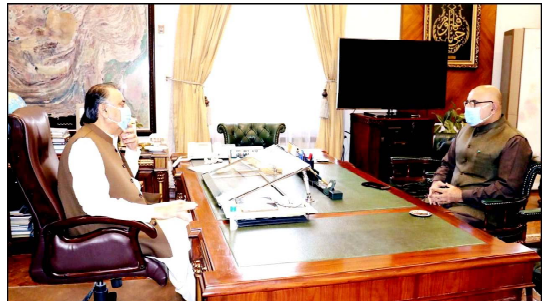


QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki being briefed about progress on Quetta Development Package

Governor Kakar calls for preparing policy to make govt hospitals exemplary institutions

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has underlined the need to prepare a comprehensive policy for making the government hospitals exemplary healthcare institutions.
He said that there is a need to take sensitivity of the congo virus and other fatal diseases serious and follow all the principles of hygiene and cleanliness in the hospitals and otherwise.
The Governor was speaking to the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai who called on him here at the Governor House on Tuesday.
The Governor expressed concern over that the lack of capacity and healthcare facilities as well as poor cleanliness situation in the hospitals operating in Quetta city.
Under the given circumstances, there is a need to

prepare a comprehensive policy to deal with the healthcare issues in the province by making the public sector hospitals exemplary health institutions.
This would surely benefit the poor patients coming from remote areas to seek healthcare facilities in the metropolis, he believed.
He also said that the present government is determined to provide health facilities to the people besides provision of other basic facilities to them at their doorstep. He appreciated the initiative of launching of Health care programme in the province and described it well-coming. The Governor also stressed the need to provide best medical care to the doctors and other health providers contracted the Congo virus in the province.
In addition to this, he called for adopting precautionary measures for prevention of different fatal diseases.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Asif Zardari says PPP ready to face any alliance in elections 2024

By Tanveer Ahmed Soomro
GHOTKI: Former president and chairman Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPP), Asif Ali Zardari has said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief was removed from PM House as he 'failed' to serve the masses.
Addressing a ceremony in Ghotki on Tuesday, he said that we did not remove the PTI chief to regain power, but he was impeached as he failed to serve the people, who voted for him.
Asif Ali Zardari said the PPP was ready to face any alliance in the general elections 2024 as it was a beauty of democracy. Con-

test always yields good results, he added.
Commenting on the repatriation of the illegal Afghans living in Pakistan, he said that PPP wants Afghan brothers, sisters and children should return to their homeland.
The former president said we have to think for the future of our next generation, adding that Islamabad cannot bear the financial crisis anymore.
Highlighting the performance of the past PPP government in Sindh, Asif Zardari said his party generated jobs for the youth in the province and carried out several development projects for the uplift of the province.

Tirah operation martyrs laid to rest with full military honours

RAWALPINDI (APP): The funeral prayers of the martyrs of Tirah intelligence-based operation (IBO) were laid to rest with full military honours in their native towns on Tuesday.
According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the Namaz-e-Janaza (funeral prayers) of Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hassan Haider (age 42 years, resident of DHA-2, Islamabad) who embraced, shahadat, in general area of Tirah Valley, Khyber District was offered today at Chaklala Garrison, Rawalpindi. The Shaheed (martyr) was buried with full military honour at Islamabad.
The Prime Minister, Defence Minister, CJCS, COAS and a large number of senior civil and military officers, soldiers, citizens and relatives of shaheed attended the Namaz-e-Janaza.
Funeral prayers of Naik Khushdil Khan (age 31 years, resident of District Lakki Marwat), Naik Rafique Khan (age 27 years, resident of District Charsadda) and Lance Naik Abdul Qadir (age 33 years, resident of District Murree) were also offered at their respective hometowns.
The country's armed forces stand resolute and committed to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the motherland at all cost.

JUI-F Chief hands over Rs 1.67 bn to Hamas leaders

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazal (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has handed over the first installment of aid amounting to Rs 1.67 billion to Hamas leaders.
According to Deputy General Secretary JUI Islamabad, Maulana Waqas Ahmad, Rehman met with Hamas leaders in Qatar and handed over Rs 1.67 billion to them.
Rehman also expressed in the meetings, that if the Islamic World allows them would also provide manpower to Palestine, he said.
The official of Hamas participated in Peshawar, Quetta, Karachi, and expressed his feelings to the people.



RAWALPINDI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Chief of the Army Staff General Asim Munir attending Namaz-e-Janaza of Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hassan Haider who embraced shahadat in Tirah valley, at Chaklala Garrison

PM hopeful of SIFC bringing in over \$60b investment to Pakistan in five years

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday expressed the hope that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) would help bring in over \$60 billion investment to Pakistan in the next five years.
"It is indeed. It could be probably more than that," the prime minister said in an interview with Arab News when asked whether the reports that the SIFC would bring in up to \$60 billion in investments in Pakistan in the next five years were realistic.
He said the SIFC would serve as a "one-window operation" to address any concerns of foreign investors.

"Two or three areas have already been addressed, like repatriation of dollars, which is the demand of any FDI [foreign direct investment] entity, [that] it's insured, it's legally protected," the prime minister said.
"Secondly, the bureaucratic red-tapism has also been addressed, the one-window opportunity on the platform of SIFC is primarily being designed for this purpose, that we need to cut off all these bureaucratic hurdles and rationalize the entire process of allowing and giving permission to any investment from outside within 15 days."

He said a dispute resolution mechanism had been agreed under the SIFC platform.
"It's quite encouraging and favourable, which is acceptable to all the outside parties ... The dispute resolution mechanism has been addressed."
To a question, he said the government hoped to conclude a deal by December for Saudi Arabia to buy stakes in Reko Diq, one of the world's biggest gold and copper mining projects.
"We are quite excited at the Saudi offer, and we would be very much encouraging their participation, not just in this project but otherwise also," Prime Minister Kakar said.



Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme leader Nawaz Sharif, party president Shehbaz Sharif and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui during a meeting.

PML-N, MQM announce election alliance

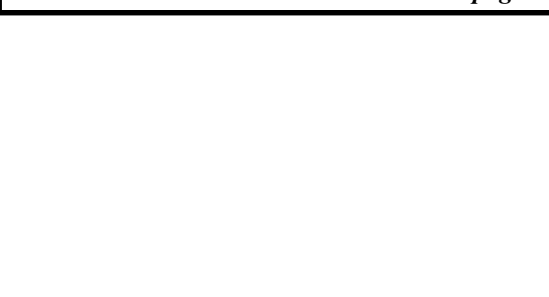
LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Khawaja Saad Rafique said on Tuesday that broader political collaboration was indispensable to steer the country out of prevailing crises.
He was talking to media along with Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM) leaders including Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Farooq Starr and Syed Mustafa Kamal, who earlier met with PML-N Quaid Mian Nawaz Sharif and President Shehbaz Sharif here at Model Town (PML-N Secretariat).
Saad Rafique announced that the PML-N and MQM had forged an electoral alliance for the upcoming polls on February 8, adding that both parties would jointly contest the upcoming general elections. Both parties have agreed to adopt a joint strategy to bring the people of Pakistan out of the current crisis and to put the country back on the path to development, he added.
He said it had been decided that the parties would hold consultations on political, economic and legal policies, adding that the doors would remain open to other political parties as well.
He said the two parties had also decided to set up a six-member committee to prepare a comprehensive charter to address the problems of Sindh province.

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Corps Commander lauds PRC's unwavering dedication and support in affected regions

Independent Report
QUETTA: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, held a significant meeting with Corps Commander Quetta Lieutenant General Asif Ghafoor. The discussions centered around acknowledging the commendable services of the Red Crescent during the recent floods in Balochistan.

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Lieutenant General Asif Ghafoor lauded the Red Crescent's unwavering dedication and support in the affected regions. *Continued on page 2*

Some 66,000 illegal immigrants so far repatriated to Afghanistan: Jan

Caretaker Minister Information asserts illegally settled refugees are burden on economy of the country and its system

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that the process of repatriation of the illegal immigrants is continued smoothly and peacefully, and some 66,000 immigrants have so far been repatriated to Afghanistan via Chaman border.
He said that the illegal foreigners are being sent to their homeland according to the international laws and principles.
The Minister Information was addressing a press conference here at the Quetta Press Club on Tuesday.

Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat were also present.
Jan Achakzai said that by the grace of Allah Almighty, one week has been completed of the repatriation of illegal immigrants from Balochistan.
He mentioned that some 25,000 illegal Afghan nationals settled in Sindh have also moved to their country voluntarily via Chaman border.
He said that while the illegal Afghan immigrants are being sent to their country smoothly, however, some elements made an attempt to exploit the situation for their nefarious designs.

The caretaker Minister Health, Dr. Ameer Muhammad Khan Jozgazi, *Continued on page 2*



QUETTA: Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai and Health Minister Ameer Muhammad Jozgazi addressing a press conference

Jamali directs IGP to ensure protection of life & property of masses

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (Retd) Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has directed the Inspector General of Police to ensure protection of life and property of the masses taking effective measures in this regard.
The Minister Home was in meeting with the Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh who called on him here on Tuesday.
During the course of

meeting, they discussed the law and order situation besides other professional matters.
Mir Zubair Jamali stressed that the people trust can be strengthened on police by resolving their problems and through provision of timely facilities to them.
He praised the professional capabilities of police for the public service.
However, the Minister exhorted the police force to perform better while serving the people with sincerity and extra passion.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh meeting with Caretaker Home Minister Captain (Retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali

Solangi says: Govt to accept decision of Senate over Motion Pictures (Amendment) Bill 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said that the government has great respect for the Senate and would accept the decision of this august house on the introduction of the Motion Pictures (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani said that he would give his opinion in this regard besides taking the Attorney General's point of view.
Earlier, on a point of order, Mian Raza Rabbani questioned the legality of introducing a bill by the caretaker minister. Citing section 230 of the Election Act 2017, he maintained that the caretaker government could not do legislation as it was only the job of the elected representatives.

He urged the chair not to allow the minister to introduce the bill and remove it from the agenda.
Earlier, speaking in the Senate during question hour, Murtaza Solangi assured the House that all questions of honorable senators would properly be responded to after getting detailed answers from the respective ministries and departments.
Deferring the bill,

Responding to a point of order raised by Mian Raza Rabbani, the minister said he had always firmly stood with the constitution, law and democracy adding that there was no possibility of change in the said principles.
He said that every bill took sufficient time in the process of preparation and the past government did the necessary work on it. The law ministry and respective legal branch had advised him to present the said bill in the House, the minister said.
Deferring the bill,

Launch of Azerbaijan Airlines in Pakistan boosts people-to-people contacts: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday lauded the recent launch of Azerbaijan's national airlines in Pakistan which would further increase people-to-people contacts between the two countries.

Addressing the ceremony of the Victory Day of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the minister said, "It is heartening to note that recently Azerbaijan's national carrier AZAL has commenced its operations between the two countries. This would definitely contribute in further bringing our people closer."

He said more than 50,000 tourists from Pakistan had visited Azerbaijan in the year 2022 which showed a tremendous potential not only in the economic realm but also in the domain of people-to-people contacts.

Solangi said the people of Pakistan and Azerbaijan shared common historical, cultural and religious affinities. "The brotherly ties go far beyond our existence as modern independent nation states."

"The multifaceted relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have been expanding and deepening in recent years," he said while highlighting the increased economic cooperation

and people-to-people contacts between the two countries that further cemented the bilateral relations.

During the last year, he said the bilateral trade between Pakistan and Azerbaijan had increased and was expected to multiply in the near future.

"Azerbaijan has emerged as a hub for connectivity projects being the central part of North-South and East-West transport corridors including the creation of the Trans-Caspian International Route and the opening of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway communication system," he remarked.

He said, "Azerbaijan is also the initiator of major energy projects. These are comprehensive connectivity corridors that would significantly contribute to the development of the entire region."

The minister expressed the hope that the bilateral relations would grow and strengthen further in the years to come. On behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan, the minister also felicitated the Government and the people of Azerbaijan on their Victory Day.

On the historic day, he said, Azerbaijan succeeded in liberating its territories that had been under Armenian occupation for more than 30 years.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Ministers Amanullah Kakrani, Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani and Advocate General Muhammad Asif Reki meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Mushaal reiterates Pakistan's support to legitimate rights of Kashmiri, Palestinian people

JEDDAH (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick Tuesday said that Pakistan remained committed to supporting the legitimate freedom struggle of the Kashmiris and call for immediate resolution of Kashmir dispute as per the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Simultaneously Pakistan also strongly condemned the Israeli crimes against humanity and against innocent Palestinians children, women and men, she said this while addressing an international conference on 'Women in Islam: Status and Empow-

erment' jointly organized by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Mushaal Mullick further demanded an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, an end to blockade, full access to the international humanitarian organisations, medicine, food and water supplies to the beleaguered people.

The SAPM is leading the Pakistan delegation at the conference and she is being accompanied by the Chairperson National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) Nilofar Bakhtiar and the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the OIC, Ambassador Fawad Sher.

The three-day conference being held on November 6-8 is aimed at holding broad-based discussions on the role of women in an Islamic society.

It focuses on the rights and responsibilities of women in Islam.

In addition to Islamic scholars and official delegations from the OIC Member States, a large number of female heads of State, Ministers, and representatives from various international and regional organizations are participating.

The SAPM in her address, called upon the leadership of OIC to take practical steps to save her incarcerated husband Yasin Malik's life and all the oppressed Kashmiris and Pal-

estinians.

She explaining her viewpoint said that her family was at the forefront of Kashmir's struggle for the right to self-determination against Indian Occupation.

"India has gifted our family with enormous titles, I am practically a half widow, my husband locked in a death cell of Tihar jail is a half father and our 11 year old daughter is a half orphan. We have not seen him since 9 years," she added.

Mushaal further said that India had left them homeless, besides they witnessed various incidents of sexual harassment, tortures,

arrests, attacks and threats, even her daughter was not spared, she was sexually harassed and body searched when she visited her jailed father in central jail when she was in her tender age of two years.

The SAPM said that Kashmiri people were paying high price for their right to freedom struggle as they were being held hostage, locked up, kidnapped by a tyrant occupation force that was committing genocide through body bags and meticulously manipulating demographic changes in blatant violations of Geneva Conventions, international law and UNSC resolutions.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Fahadov cutting the cake along with others on the occasion of the Victory Day of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Incredible Maxwell takes Australia to improbable win, World Cup semis

Sports Desk
MUMBAI: Glenn Maxwell fought through cramps to smash an unbeaten 201 off 128 balls, single-handedly guiding Australia to an improbable three-wicket win over Afghanistan in a World Cup match on Tuesday and sealing the team's spot in the semi-finals.

The victory has taken Australia to 12 points. They became the third team to reach the semi-finals with India and South Africa having already booked their spots.

Afghanistan's loss has also kept hopes of Pakistan qualifying for the semi-final alive.

Afghanistan appeared set for a famous victory against five-time champions Australia at the floodlit Wankhede Stadium, reducing them to 91 for seven wickets after setting them a victory target of 292.

But the Afghans then watched in disbelief as Maxwell launched an extraordinary counter-attack.

With captain Pat Cummins for company, Maxwell took Australia past Afghanistan's total of 291 for five wickets with 19 balls to spare.

The right-handed batsman suffered cramps after going past his fourth hundred in the 50-over format but laboured on, cutting down on running between the wickets to manage the pain and relying more on big hits.

In total, Maxwell hit 21 fours and 10 sixes during his knock — many of them on one leg and the last six brought up the victory and also brought up his double century.

Cummins remained unbeaten on 12 from 68 balls but more importantly added 202 for the unbroken eighth wicket partnership.

Afghanistan held numerous meetings on the ground but were unable to find a way to dislodge Maxwell, who was dropped on 33 by Mujeeb Rahman off Noor Ahmad's bowling.

Maxwell was also ad-

judged out leg before wicket in the same over against Noor but the batsman managed to successfully overturn the umpire's decision on appeal.

Afghanistan seamers Naveenul Haq and Azmatullah Omarzai had struck early blows with the ball to reduce Australia to 49-4 after opening batsman Ibrahim Zadran's maiden World Cup hundred helped Afghanistan post a competitive total.

With Steve Smith missing from the side due to a bout of vertigo, Australia did not seem to have the batting depth to chase down the target and Rashid Khan's two quick strikes seemed to have all but sealed the match in Afghanistan's favour.

Zadran anchored the Afghan innings earlier with an unbeaten 129 from 143 balls after the South Asian side won the toss and elected to bat.

The 21-year-old Zadran's fifth hundred in the 50-overs format was studded with eight fours and three sixes.

Some 66,000 illegal immigrants...

Continued from page 1

He also said that some elements are making baseless propaganda that the process of repatriation would come to an end after the interim set up in the country.

He said that the interim government would leave with the road map for next elected government regarding repatriation in future.

He said that the process of repatriation of immigrants would not be stopped at any cost, and if anyone crossed limit, one would be dealt with iron hands, adding he asserted.

The Minister Information maintained that the government knows well as how to establish its writ, and if anyone has misunderstanding about it, one should not have this.

He said that we know that the opponents of Pakistan are pained over improvement in country's economy and peaceful circumstances. That's why they have chosen the odious way of terrorism in the country, he added.

Jan Achakzai mentioned that the immigrants

are being provided fool-proof security even in the present tough circumstances.

He on the occasion asked the Afghan deputy Foreign Minister to take care of the diplomatic norms, and avoid to make baseless allegations on behalf of others.

He made it clear that the illegally settled refugees are burden on economy of the country and its system.

He said that the illegal immigrants are involved in heinous crimes including terrorism in the country. He asked the Afghan authorities to make arrangements to take their inhabitants to their country at the earliest.

Referring the recent incidents of terrorism, the Minister Information said that the nation including people of Balochistan value the great sacrifices of the brave Pak armed forces a lot, and they are standing by the Army Chief and their forces. He also said that the nation recognizes well the terrorists and they would be taken to task.

Caretaker CM...

Continued from page 1

completed and duly inaugurated by the end of December 2023.

While briefing the meeting, Commissioner Quetta informed that Islamic Ideological Council has been written about the matters of mosques to be affected during the expansion of roads.

However, he said that the matter would be settled with religious leaders once the opinion of IIC arrives about the mosques.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister directed to the concerned high ups to complete the ongoing development projects under Quetta Package at the earliest.

He also directed to take stern action against those contractors who are responsible for delay in the development projects.

Moreover, Mr. Domki also directed to make the owners of private hospitals and plazas in the congested areas bound to ensure parking in their outlets.



GILGIT: Students of different Schools and Colleges hold placards during a pro-Palestinian rally organized by the Private Education Network Gilgit-Baltistan.

Abu Dhabi T10 return as Season 7 begin on 28 Nov

Sports Desk
ABU DHABI: Cricket's fastest tournament, Abu Dhabi T10 is set to return for an exciting 7th edition on November 28th, 2023, and this time, cricket lovers will be in for a treat as the defending Champions Deccan Gladiators will open the season against the runners-up from the last season, New York Strikers in the first match of the competition. Gladiators had won the prestigious title last season after a thrilling finale, and have garnered a strong squad once again this season, in hopes of retaining their title. Meanwhile, the Strikers, who made their debut in the last edition, will look to get off to a strong start as well to build on the momentum.

Apart from Deccan Gladiators and New York Strikers, Northern Warriors, Morrisville Samp Army, Delhi Bulls, Team Abu Dhabi, and Chennai Braves will compete in the 12-day tournament as they look to get their hands on the prestigious Abu Dhabi T10 trophy.

Four teams will play four home games, while the other four games will have three home games. All the teams will get three days off during the league. The top four teams from the round-robin stage will qualify for the playoffs.

On 8th December 2023, the top two teams will play the first Qualifier 1, while the teams finishing in the 3rd and 4th position, will play in the Eliminator match. The winner of both the games will compete in the Qualifier 2 on the same day. The thrilling Final will be played on Saturday, 9th December 2023.

eter Wajahatullah Wasti has been appointed as the head of the junior selection committee, the cricket governing body said.

Both the new appointees are members of the existing selection committee. On October 30, Inzamam stepped down from the post of chief selector amid the World Cup 2023 after allegations surfaced that he was a partner in a company that manages players.

"People speak without research. Questions were raised on me so I decided that it was better I resign," Inzamam said in a statement.



QUETTA: A delegation of Breaking Barriers Women led by Sadaf Ajmal meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Corps Commander lauds PRCS's...

Continued from page 1

Pakistan Red Crescent Society, in collaboration with the Pakistan Army, has provided significant services in the flood-affected areas of Balochistan. Chairman PRCS, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, expressed these sentiments during a meeting with Quetta Commander Lieutenant General Asif Ghafoor.

Highlighting the ongoing initiatives of the PRCS Chairman underscored the efficient execution of relief efforts for flood-affected households. With a notable track record, the PRCS has already extended humanitarian assistance to over 2.8 million families affected by the 2022 Monsoon floods, with continuous efforts to reach more. He said Balochistan has always been a priority, and PRCS alongside the Pakistan Army, has provided significant services in the flood-affected areas of Balochistan.

PRCS has provided essential non-food items, food supplies, medical facilities, and financial aid to the affected households. Chairman Laghari emphasized the crucial role of the National Society in times of natural disasters, reaffirming its commitment to serving the affected regions in the coming days.

Sardar Shahid Ahmed detailed the initiatives undertaken by the PRCS, stating that 9,798 households have received domestic necessities, and ration distribution is ongoing for 3,400 households. Cash assis-

PML-N unveils 33-member manifesto committee for Party's vision

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has established a Manifesto Committee, comprising 33 members, to help define the Party's vision and objectives.

As per a notification by Ahsan Iqbal, the Committee's members were publicly disclosed following the endorsement of PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif.

Comprising members from all four provinces of Pakistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and representatives of minority communities within the Party, this inclusive committee is led by Senator Irfan Siddiqui, a notable figure in the PML-N.

The Manifesto Committee boasts distinguished members, including Ahsan Iqbal, Pervaiz Rasheed, Saad Rafiq, Senator Azam Nazir Tarar and Khuram Dastgir, all contributing their valuable experience and expertise to the team.

Additional committee members, such as Rana Ehsan Afzal, Rao Ajmal, Riyazul Haque, Senator Mosadik Malik and Barister Zafarullah, are actively participating in shaping the PML-N's future vision and policy goals.

Deputy Conservator of Forest Zhub

CORRIGENDUM

The N.I.T uploaded on BPPRA website bearing TSE No. 232410359861 dated 2nd November 2023 and published in daily Jang newspaper Quetta with PRQ No. 881. The Bid Security May be read as 2% of the total estimated cost. Rest of the conditions and procedures will be remained same.

PRQ No.910/07-11-2023
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Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Not required

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
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Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules-2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 5,000,000 in Previous 3 Turn over of at least 6,000,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List, Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV is permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security in case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and non-responsive. Must unconditionally agree with all the instructions, terms & conditions specified in the bidding documents & contract agreement. Must agree to serve the Contract within the stipulated time period

Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure
Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk. Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk. Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 23 November, 2023 till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System Address: Block # 09, Room # 1, Press Building, Civil Secretariat, Zhargoon Road Quetta
Phone no: 0819201881 Email: govt.press1970@gmail.com

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Speakers say: BRI is hope for positive change, peace, prosperity

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a powerful force for hope and unity despite all the challenges and conflicts that disrupt peace and stability worldwide, said speakers.

The recent Webinar on the Third Belt and Road Forum, themed "Together for Common Development and Shared Prosperity," hosted by Friends of BRI Forum and the Centre for BRI and China Studies at the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS).

The event brought together prominent voices from diverse regions. Dr. Farhat Asif, President of IPDS, in opening remarks, underscored the global impact of BRI, with Pakistan serving as a key beneficiary through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The webinar was also attended by a large number of participants from different parts of the world. The webinar provided a platform for thought leaders to explore the potential of the BRI in shaping a more peaceful and prosperous future for all. Dr. Wang Li, Senior Professor at China's School of Law, highlighted the BRI's commitment to prosperity and the common good as intrinsic values.

Ulf Sandmark, Chairman of BRI Sweden, emphasized the BRI's role not only in economic development but also in promoting global unity by resolving conflicts, such as the situation in Gaza.

Ambassador Igor V. Khalevinskiy, Chairman of the Association of Russian Diplomats, Russia, commended the BRI for its remarkable global impact by

facilitating development and prosperity.

Prof. Zhou Rong, Senior Fellow at the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies of Renmin University China, stressed the importance of collaborative projects like the BRI in a world marred by conflicts, where China is making significant progress and changing lives. Dr. Kurt Grötsch, Founding President of Catedra China and Ambassador of Minzu University Spain, highlighted the need to focus on the environmental and green impacts of the BRI as it continues to progress. Dr. Katarina Zakic, Head of the Regional Center for Belt and Road Studies, IPE, Serbia, discussed the positive effects of the BRI on Serbia-China political relations, trade, and Chinese investments in various sectors.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar exchanging views with Maulana Tahir Ashrafi, Special Representative of the Prime Minister for Religious Harmony and Pakistan Diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries during meeting held in Islamabad.

PM stresses urgent role by int'l community to stop Gaza genocide

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday stressed the need for the international community to play an urgent role in stopping Israel's aggression against Palestinians.

He expressed these views in a meeting with the Special Representative of the Prime Minister for Religious Harmony and Paki-

stan diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries, Maulana Tahir Ashrafi here at the PM House.

PM Kakar and Maulana Ashrafi strongly condemned Israel's ongoing genocide of the Palestinians in Gaza.

The meeting welcomed the presence of the Special Representative of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to be held in Jeddah on the dete-

riorating situation of Palestine.

Maulana Ashrafi paid tributes to the interim government's steps to promote inter-faith harmony.

The prime minister on the occasion lauded Maulana Tahir Ashrafi for his efforts for the welfare of Pakistanis residing in the Middle East and other Islamic countries.

Dr. Amjad emphasizes proactive measures to monitor stipend payments

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib has called upon BISP employees to monitor BISP stipend's payments closely to ensure transparency.

While addressing a gathering of dedicated BISP staff at Jamia Masjid Asad Fareed in Faisalabad on Tuesday, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib said that humanity lies in addressing the problems and sufferings of the needy and poor.

According to a news release, Chairperson BISP urged for close liaison between BISP and Point of Sale (POS) agents of partner banks to ensure that complaints of deductions are addressed properly and timely.

Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib said that serving needy women, widows, orphans, and children is like

worship.

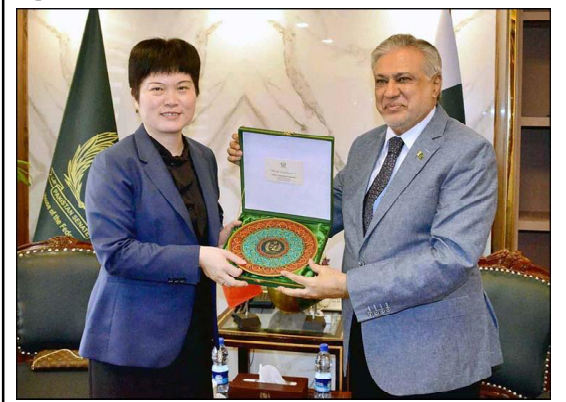
He said that the name of BISP signifies its commitment to provide additional support to needy families. A responsible state must collect taxes from the elite class and allocate these funds to empower the underprivileged and invest in essential developmental projects. He encouraged BISP employees to go above and beyond by utilizing their resources to provide essential facilities to these vulnerable individuals, such as clean water and shelter for those waiting in long queues.

Later, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib also visited BISP's local office in Faisalabad.

Talking to BISP staff, he said that maintaining a clean and congenial atmosphere in offices is an embodiment of faith, as cleanliness is considered half of faith in Islam.

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ISLAMABAD: Leader of the house in the Senate, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar presenting souvenir to Charge d'Affairs, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Ms. Pang Chunxue, at Parliament House.

Delegation of foreign teachers and students visit Safe City Islamabad

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: According to the details, on special directives of the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the SSP safe city welcomed the Delegation of foreign teachers and students, a public relations officer said.

He said that the del-

egation was also appreciated of the functionality and benefits of the Safe City cameras in the city. The modern cameras of Safe City are playing a crucial role in ensuring the safety of the city and preventing crimes and safeguarding the lives and property of citizens. 42% of crimes are re-



egation visits the command and control center, the data hub unit, modern technology-equipped cameras, and the Police operations center hall. They were fully briefed about the procedures and benefits.

Furthermore, the delegation was informed that Safe City Islamabad is playing a significant role in various departments through modern techniques, including the Police Operations Center, Emergency Control Center, Data Hub Unit, Dispatch Control Center, E-Challan System, and the "Pucar-15" helpline.

DC Islamabad conducts crackdown against use of illicit polythene bags

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a crackdown on the illegal use of polythene bags, the Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon on Tuesday directed the Assistant Commissioner Industrial Area Awaiz Irshad Bhatti to inspect various areas of the Sub-Division.

The Assistant Commissioner Industrial Area, along with his team, inspected the shops and stalls in G-9 sector and found one person using polythene bags.

The person was arrested and fined, while two kilograms of polythene

bags were seized. Other violators were issued warnings in accordance with the law.

The Assistant Commissioner has also instructed the shopkeepers and stall owners to comply with the notified rates and display price lists prominently.

The Deputy Commissioner also warned that any person found using polythene bags will be dealt strictly.

He has also appealed to the public to cooperate with the authorities in their efforts to make Islamabad a clean and green city.



ISLAMABAD: A skilled woman is busy in making his art during the annual Lok Mela 2023 at Lok Versa in Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture, Jamal Shah inaugurating "Star Moon Road," a spectacular group exhibition featuring diverse and imaginative works by Chinese contemporary artists at PNCA.

Over 500 countrywide 'primary health center's upgradation starts: Nadeem

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health, Dr. Nadeem Jan Tuesday disclosed that the government has planned to strengthen primary and secondary level health facilities and introducing a project to provide "uniform health services packages for citizen" where over 500 countrywide primary health center (PHC) hospitals' upgradation has started.

In an interview with a private news channel, he said that the renovated emergency room, intensive care units and other state-of-art health facilities for patient in various hospitals will be inaugurated in January 2024.

The hospital is being upgraded to provide state-of-the-art, high quality care to the patients, especially the underprivileged, he added.

The main purpose of

upgrading these community centers is to ensure that the public receives basic health care at their doorstep, he said, adding, community awareness drives for patients to avail quality services will also be part of this project.

He said we are trying our best to come up with a universal health insurance scheme after consultations with the provinces, adding, present government was improving the quality of public healthcare services with latest technologies.

He said this will restore public confidence on the public health facilities, adding, strengthening the Universal Health Coverage is our top agenda.

Replying a question, he said that with upgradation of primary health care system we will strengthened and overcome the burden of patients on the major hospitals.

To another question about outbreak of Congo Virus in Balochistan, the minister said that government is taking preventive measures on war-footings and transporting the serious patients to Karachi via Air Ambulances and patients with mild symptoms through road.

He said strict implementation of SOPs would be ensured at all levels to control the spread of Congo Virus, adding that the health department's monitoring mechanism was also being made effective to continuously review the situation not just in Balochistan but other provinces.

Minister emphasized the need to raise public awareness to clean surroundings and particularly among individuals involved in the buying and selling of livestock, and to implement precautionary measures to combat the virus.

Mushaal Malik urges UN, HR bodies to take notice of killing spree in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick Tuesday urged the United Nations and the international human rights organizations to take notice of the fresh killing spree and other atrocities by Indian troops in Kashmir valley.

Talking to Kashmir Media Service, SAPM said that the killing of innocent youth by Indian troops had proved that the occupied territory had been converted into a slaughterhouse where Kashmiris were being ruthlessly killed.

She also paid glowing tributes to the Hurriyat leaders and activists for their sacrifices for the freedom of Kashmir, adding, these people are suffering the hardships of imprisonment away from their families and many of them are suffering from fatal diseases while they do not have access to medical fa-

ilities.

Mushaal said the international community should fulfill its responsibility in alleviating the suffering of the Kashmiri people and assisting them in realizing their fundamental right to self-determination. Pakistan is exposing India at international forums to refrain India from State sponsored terrorism particularly in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, she added.

Replying a question, she asked young population on both sides of LoC to raise awareness through social media platforms at the international level regarding treatment of minorities in India and the involvement of Indian forces in state-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir.

The great powers have a responsibility to play their role in putting pressure on India to resolve the issue of Kashmir for regional peace and stability, she mentioned.

KIIR organises webinar on historical atrocities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) on Tuesday organized an informative webinar on the historical atrocity known as the Jammu Massacre of 1947.

This significant event was held to observe Jammu Martyrs Day and aimed to shed light on the tragic events of the past and their implications on the present, said a press release.

Webinar Topic: Jammu Martyrs Day - Remembering the Massacre of Jammu Muslims: Indian Onslaught on Demography Then and Now was moderated by Chairman KIIR Altaf Hussain Wani.

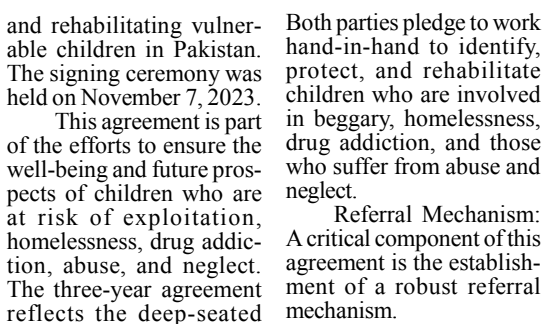
Prominent speakers, including Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, former prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), called for the creation of a comprehensive database encompassing individuals from the state of Jammu and Kashmir, immigrants living in Pakistan, Kashmiris residing abroad, and people from Gilgit Baltistan.

CPI, CPB sign landmark three-year agreement

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: The Child Protection Institute - Islamabad (CPI) and the Child Protection Bureau-Punjab (CPB) are proud to announce the signing of a significant Letter of Agreement, solidifying their commitment to safeguarding

dedication of both organizations to collaborate effectively and comprehensively on the protection, rescue, and rehabilitation of these children.

Key highlights of the Letter of Agreement include: Coordinated Efforts:



and rehabilitating vulnerable children in Pakistan. The signing ceremony was held on November 7, 2023.

This agreement is part of the efforts to ensure the well-being and future prospects of children who are at risk of exploitation, homelessness, drug addiction, abuse, and neglect.

The three-year agreement reflects the deep-seated

Both parties pledge to work hand-in-hand to identify, protect, and rehabilitate children who are involved in beggary, homelessness, drug addiction, and those who suffer from abuse and neglect.

Referral Mechanism: A critical component of this agreement is the establishment of a robust referral mechanism.

Health advocates urge to strengthen GHWs on tobacco products

ISLAMABAD (APP): The public health advocates have issued a compelling plea for an immediate expansion of Graphic Health Warnings (GHW) on tobacco products within the country. In a statement issued by the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), these activists have conveyed profound apprehension regarding the devastating impact of tobacco consumption on public health, particularly among children. They contend that fortified GHWs can assume a pivotal role in diminishing tobacco usage and averting associated health hazards.

Malik Imran Ahmed, the Country Head of the

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK), has emphasized the urgency for Pakistan to take immediate measures to augment the size and visibility of GHWs on tobacco products. The prevailing health warning, currently set at 60%, frequently goes unnoticed by consumers, including vulnerable children, owing to its diminutive dimensions and discreet placement. It's worth noting that Pakistan's neighbouring countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, the Maldives, and Myanmar have adopted significantly larger GHWs.

Imran has recommended increasing the GHW size to encompass a minimum of 85% of the

primary display areas of cigarette packs and other tobacco products. This decisive action would guarantee that the warnings become conspicuous and easily discernible for all consumers, with particular consideration to children, serving as a continuous reminder of the perils associated with tobacco consumption.

Dr. Khalil Ahmed Dogar, the Program Manager at SPARC, underscored that tobacco consumption poses a substantial threat to the health and well-being of Pakistani children. Studies have convincingly demonstrated that Graphic Health Warnings when meticulously crafted,



ISLAMABAD: Prize winners of sports day pose for group photo with chief guest Director Colleges Irfan Ullah Principal Prof Aliya durani held on Tuesday.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
Wednesday November 08, 2023

One-party state?

Bangladesh has witnessed remarkable economic success over the years, with a thriving garment industry and significant poverty reduction. But beneath this veneer of prosperity lies a troubling trend of political consolidation. The recent crackdown on opposition figures and leaders, including the arrest of nearly 8,000 individuals associated with the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, raises serious concerns about the state of democracy in the country. These arrests, which have come in the lead-up to a general election scheduled for January, reflect a disturbing pattern of political victimisation.

Four-time Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed appears to have embraced a more autocratic approach over time, steadily abandoning democratic principles during her combined total of 19 years in office. Her government has effectively taken control of key institutions, including the police, military, and judiciary, by appointing loyalists and suppressing dissent. The consequences for those who do not align with the government's agenda have been severe, with opposition leaders, artists, journalists, and activists all facing persecution. One of the most concerning aspects of this crackdown is the widespread use of politically motivated court cases. Thousands of opposition members are entangled in legal battles, with charges that lack substantial evidence. The situation has escalated to the point where Bangladesh is on the verge of becoming a one-party state.

Opposition leaders say that their movement seeks to restore multiparty democracy, but they face obstacles such as the incarceration of former premier Khaleda Zia and the exile of her son.

The international community has expressed concerns over these developments, with the US imposing sanctions on senior police figures for human rights violations. However, the government's grip on power remains strong, and its ability to suppress dissent appears unchecked. As Bangladesh approaches a pivotal election, the world is watching closely. The international community, democratic nations, and organisations must monitor the situation and apply diplomatic pressure. The people of Bangladesh deserve a free and fair election without fear of political victimisation.



Arifa Noor

The election has been announced, once again. Between the Supreme Court and the general pressure from the press and political parties, the ECP has given a date. Unsurprisingly, the date is not for the last week of January, as the ECP had earlier said, but Feb 8.

But then, the ECP had also given a day for elections in Punjab during the summer, without following up. This perhaps is the reason doubts will remain about what February will bring, even though the chief justice has told us not to worry. It is a case of doohd ka jala (once bitten...) and all that.

But then, it would be unfair to only blame the election commissioner.

The point is that the announcement of the elec-

tion date alone cannot soothe frayed nerves, including of those watching from abroad. Without or within, there are other factors which have a greater chance of impacting the eventual date of elections than the ECP and the dates it gives.

One, of course, is Nawaz Sharif's return. That the PML-N was able to organise a grand welcome for him, showcasing the popularity of the party quid in Punjab and beyond, makes elections more of a reality. For, that one event has done more to revive the party's fortunes than any statement by anyone else.

Second, as people within the party themselves point out, he is the PML-N's trump card; they can't afford to waste him, as they would, if elections were delayed. Now that he is back and a certain momentum has built up, it would be best if it ended with an election.

The second, of course, pertains to the economic situation; and some would say is the more important aspect. With the financial crisis and a nine-month Stand-by Arrangement

Fog of election

(SBA), to be followed by a longer programme, there is a view that an extended caretaker set-up (without a clear mandated term) may not be all that acceptable to the world and IFIs.

After all, there are messages enough from all friendly countries — publicly and otherwise — about the need for stability, political and economic. (It sometimes appears as if the rest of the world has an illogical belief in the relationship between politics and economics.)

The belief that the election might be necessary for international assistance is growing stronger since the lack of updates on investment coming from the Gulf. At the moment, it seems the IMF funding is all we can count on. Perhaps it is not entirely a coincidence that the election date was announced as negotiations with IMF for the second tranche of the SBA were being focused on.

There are other, smaller, signs of an election around the corner for those of us watching such developments in fine detail. The renewed arrests of PTI and erstwhile PTI people reveal a certain nervousness

which would only be there if elections are to be held.

First came the arrest of Kamran Bangash and Asad Qaiser from the PTI in KP, which is still being gently handled compared to Punjab. Then, oddly enough, Fawad Chaudhry who had already renounced the party was arrested.

Other than the loving mother of the complainant who may believe her son has been robbed of money by Chaudhry, for the rest his arrest was simply due to his reluctance to associate closely with the Istehkam-i-Pakistan Party (IPP).

These fresh arrests coupled with reports of journalists being let go of as well as the silence on the part of some very loud people on social media also seems to suggest new efforts are being made to smoothen the rough path that leads to election. Why else would all these energies and resources be wasted on picking up people and invading homes? Or on accusing those in hiding of new 'sins'?

But, and there is always a 'but', the path hasn't been smoothened out sufficiently. And not

just because even six months of heavy-handedness is feared to have dismantled the PTI entirely. Or because the people continue to want an election so they can vote against the PDM as much as they want to vote for the PTI.

More than this, there is the lack of clarity on what else is to follow other than ensuring the PTI doesn't win. Take, for instance, Punjab. If the plan is to ensure the PTI's defeat, and a 'decent' victory for PML-N (without giving it the kind of sweep that took place in 2013, say many people), who or which party will be allowed to bag the rest of the seats?

If the PML-N is limited to around 70 seats, what happens to the rest of the National Assembly seats from Punjab? Will they go to the IPP or independent candidates or a rump PTI? How easy will it be to manage this?

On the other hand, if the PML-N is to be allowed a sweep, then what will prevent a new conflagration? What will happen in KP, where the JUI-F experiment in the shape of the earlier caretaker set-up

was a disaster? For none of the other parties appear to be in a position to offer any challenge to the PTI.

It is also worth pointing out that the numbers game is not always easy to manage — Musharraf at the height of his power was not able to manage a simple majority. A breakaway faction of PPP-Patriots had to be carved out for the government to be established after the 2002 election.

Closer to home, during the 2018 election, the earlier plan, from all accounts, was to encourage the Grand Democratic Alliance at the expense of the PPP in Sindh. But somewhere and at some point, this plan (and GDA) was ditched and the PPP allowed to return with even bigger numbers than before. At the same time, the Pak Sarzameen Party was also damped, faster than Angelina Jolie dumped Brad Pitt.

This time around, the plans are far less clear, and the economy even less so. And I ran out of space before even referring to the people. We are far from the curtain call. -- Courtesy Dawn

Sanaa Alimia

I refuse to pull on heartstrings. To write about the boy who cried when he said goodbye to his schoolmates. Or the father who wipes away his and children's tears as they turn away from the only place they've ever really called home.

I refuse to provide evidence of their economic contributions. Of the labourers who built roads, schools, and buildings across Pakistan. Shopkeepers. Traders. Artists. Of the farmers who planted new crops that flourish in the country's agricultural breadbaskets.

My purpose is not to soften hearts or instil paternalist sentiments toward a perfect victim. Well-meaning people have written these stories before. Today it feels as if we've made no difference.

Seeing the humanity of another person should not be a question of whether they are relatable, or not. Deserving or not. Useful or not. Human and political rights are rights universal. Intrinsic. They are inherent to all human beings. No ifs, no buts. And all states have

responsibilities to all of the populations within their territories, which includes citizens and non-citizens.

As I write, the government of Pakistan's decision to expel Afghan refugees means tens of thousands of Afghans are being thrown out of their homes and communities to cross borders into a homeland they already left or have never been to. Lawyers, civil society organizations, and activists are documenting human rights abuses and the creation of detention centres to round up, hold, and deport Afghans. Inevitably and woefully Pakistani Pashtuns are being dragged into the mix.

These scenes are shameful. Their depravity, however, cannot be understood through morality and human stories alone, devastating as these are. Rather they must be understood as markers of multiple political failures of Pakistan and other actors.

The current caretaker government is, of course, to blame. Their only job is to usher in elections. Instead, they're implementing an ill-conceived, inhumane, monumental population transfer, without any kind of popular mandate. Vision-

less, they act as lackeys of powerful forces, without a thought to the lives they're upending and the long-term implications for peace in the region.

Pakistanis also seem to have forgotten that Afghans are in Pakistan in the first place because of Pakistan's well-documented interference in Afghanistan. For over 40 years, Afghanistan has faced wars and military occupation. As stated in a global petition against the deportation of Afghans by Pakistan by the Afghan Reparations Collective — a group of experts, scholars and concerned observers — to blame are the repeated failings of Afghan elites, but also, more crucially, the disastrous meddling of global superpowers — the Soviet Union, the US and its Nato allies — and regional neighbours, Pakistan and Iran. These wars "have denied the Afghan people their right to live and thrive in their own country with dignity and as self-determined people."

Deporting Afghans: Pakistanis themselves are racialised and deported in their thousands from 'Fortress Europe' and elsewhere. There, Afghans, Pa-

kistanis, and others are often together in death, regularly drowning while attempting to cross the Mediterranean.

However, deportation is a 'way of life' for Afghans across both the Global North and the Global South.

In the 2010s, EU states made aid to Afghanistan conditional on accepting Afghan deportees. A slight pause happened when the Taliban captured Kabul in 2021, but this seems to be over. Germany sent 650 Afghans back in the first half 2023. The UK has told over 1,000 Afghans who fled the Taliban in 2021 with British support that they will be made homeless — this hostile environment is meant to 'encourage' (read: coerce) Afghans into 'self-repatriating' to Afghanistan. Meanwhile, the UK, Germany, Canada, and the US never really bothered to fully evacuate thousands of 'in transit' Afghans in Pakistan in the first place.

Turkey is also deporting thousands of Afghans. Iran too, whilst also allege killing and torturing some along the way.

The treatment of Afghans in Pakistan today,

then, is not isolated.

However, Pakistan's mistreatment of Afghans, which has been an important dimension of their experience of exile, is rarely discussed as a form of historical structural discrimination. Afghans are subject to severe forms of racial profiling in Pakistan, which is also in keeping with the Pakistan elite and state's discrimination against many of its own citizens residing in, or originating from regions bordering Afghanistan, most notably Pashtuns.

Whilst many commentators rightly note that Pakistan is not a signatory to the UN refugee conventions and the country doesn't have a refugee and asylum framework, this is only part of the problem. Pakistan's citizenship laws do allow anyone born in Pakistan after 1951 is eligible for citizenship, which suggests thousands, if not millions, of Afghans should already be citizens. But, for varying reasons, there is limited political will for equal treatment.

When the government made its deportation announcements, it claimed it only wanted to

deport 'undocumented' Afghans. But since then, the interim interior minister said there would be several stages of expulsions, first targeting 'illegal immigrants', followed by POR and ACC Afghans. Reports are showing that Afghans across all legal statuses and ethnicities — as well as some Pakistani Pashtuns — are being expelled. It doesn't have to be this way.

There is still time for the government to change track. There is still time for us, in and outside of Pakistan, to stand in solidarity with Afghans, as a matter of their rights and our obligation, not as charity or humanitarianism. From the genocide in Gaza to the borders of Afghanistan and Pakistan, international law and humanitarianism principles are being flouted. Pakistani citizens are rightly up in arms about the former.

Our responses to the latter situation, however, are muted. Yet we must remember that the freedoms and dignity of all oppressed peoples are interconnected. -- Courtesy TheNews

Pakistan's shame

Farming and health



Tabinda Ashraf Shahid

At the core of food security is not only the need to provide sufficient, safe and nutritious food to fill empty stomachs but also to avoid malnutrition and diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Sustainable agriculture practices can support this goal by encouraging the optimal use of resources and by preserving the ecosystem.

Unfortunately, many cultivation practices and extreme weather conditions have combined to disrupt food systems around the globe. This is the source of surging nutritional deficiencies and diet-related NCDs. Agriculture affects food security and malnutrition in a variety of ways; a quality crop with high yield is affordable, nutritious and available. It also provides more micronutrients hence there's less chance of developing deficiencies.

According to the World Food Programme, in 2023, about 345 million people around the globe face acute levels of food insecurity, with 783m experiencing extreme hunger due to wars, low economic growth, climate shocks and high fertiliser prices. Globally, every third person is malnourished — a figure predicted to reach one in two by 2025. Currently, 151m children are underweight and 38m children who are overweight have a greater chance of developing NCDs later in life, including cardiovascular disease, hypertension, diabetes, cancer, etc. Pakistan is the fifth most densely in-

habited country carrying the burden of NCDs which continues to rise and is accountable for 58 per cent of all deaths.

The SDGs 2030 and the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) have advocated food and health privileges by remodelling the food system to eradicate all forms of malnutrition, a prominent cause of diet-related NCDs. That can be achieved by adopting a sustainable agriculture system, better species of seeds, sensible fertilisation, and the more efficient use of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium fertilisers, as well as the use of organic fertilisers, to improve crop production and quality, while reducing soil PH and increasing the availability of iron and zinc in the soil and grain. Modern biotechnology (crop bio-fortification with iron and zinc which are vital for immunity) can also be used to increase the bioavailability of these nutrients in staple crops.

Plant growth and production depend on soil nutrients which produce 95pc of food, affecting nutrient composition and its availability to the body. To increase yield, chemical sprays, pesticides and antibiotics are used in large quantities. Unfortunately, these also kill useful pests and negatively impact soil health and nutrients. It is estimated that 200,000 deaths annually are associated with the faulty application of pesticides, mostly in developing countries due to poor awareness.

Besides ignoring the social and economic dimensions, environmental factors are not considered in conventional farming, affecting food sustainability and productivity. Recurrent planting of the same crops, extreme use of fossil fuels, chemical fertilisers, pesticides, and the excessive use of water and energy resources in-

crease the cost and decrease the nutrients, and are hostile to the environment. Meanwhile, the excessive use of fertilisers can pollute underground water, including drinking water resources.

For encouraging a sustainable approach in farming, regenerative agriculture has appeared as a significant alternative. Practices such as restoring soil health by growing cover crops (crops grown closely to give protective cover to the soil), rotational crops and composting will help restore fertility and enhance nutrient availability.

Climate change is another global health threat. Alterations in temperatures, changes in rainfall patterns and storm and drought conditions affect crop quality and quantity. Regenerative agriculture contributes to climate change adaptation and reduces GHG emissions and conserves water resources. It is also useful for biodiversity conservation.

Agricultural attainments need to be promoted in view of human health and safety. Unfortunately, policymaking is often conducted in silos so that there are implementation gaps between farming practices and the health sector. It is imperative to focus on the cultivation of nutrient-dense crops rather than the quantity of yield. Public-private partnerships and incentives can promote agro-ecology research, while the agriculture and health administrations should work closely and realise that farming practices are directly associated with health and nutrition. An adaptive management attitude is required to work on regenerative and sustainable agriculture practices to restore and nurture the health of the soil, and protect the environment and resources, while increasing crop nutrients to avoid deficiencies and disease. -- Courtesy Dawn



Touqir Hussain

Pakistan and Afghanistan have always had a complex relationship that has been mishandled by both sides. Each has expected the other to make up for the failure of its own policies, has sought solutions that were worse than the problem, and has become friendly with the other's enemies.

Pakistan needs a sound strategy to deal with a relationship that is critical to the two countries' security, economic future and political stability.

Pakistan and Afghanistan have a shared but contentious history, overlapping identities, a disputed border, divided ethnicity and bifurcated tribes. These ingredients provided each with an opportunity to interfere in the other's affairs, as well as incentives for ambitious policies. The two had also become dependent on external powers, subordinate to the latter's security and strategic interests and victims of their wars. All this negatively impacted their domestic dynamics.

It puzzles Pakistanis that the Afghans are not grateful for all that they did for them. True, Afghanistan was liberated from Soviet occupation, and later, according to a former prime minister, it broke "the chains of slavery" that had tied it to another superpower. But what did the Afghans get out of being "liberated", a process in which Pakistan helped not once but twice? The Taliban.

The Taliban are no liberators except through a lens distorted by narrow

Taliban's shadow

nationalism, religious extremism, anti-Americanism and political opportunism. The reality is that under Taliban rule, the Afghans are undergoing prison-like restrictions. The treatment of women alone is a crime against humanity.

Contrary to what some Pakistanis think, the Afghan Taliban's fight was not for the Afghans but for their own power and ideology that arose not from a conflict among the Afghans, but between Afghans and the Taliban.

It is true the Taliban had a following among the rural poor especially in Pakhtun areas — similar to how extremist religious elements appeal to many among Pakistan's low-income groups. But would our educated population aspiring to democracy and progress like them to come to power? So why would Afghanistan's educated favour the Taliban? Do they deserve or aspire to anything less?

For most Afghans, it was important that in the 20 years before the Taliban's return, education and healthcare facilities had expanded, women's rights, including work opportunities, had improved, and citizens had experienced political freedoms.

Yes, the elite were corrupt and primarily responsible for Afghanistan's failure. But the Taliban were not the substitute. Nor can they be termed an entirely Afghan phenomenon. Only by acknowledging this and owning its share of the responsibility can Pakistan understand the true ramifications of the Taliban challenge.

The UN Security Council's Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team has named several groups that helped the Taliban's fight. Now again, they enjoy their protection in Afghanistan, as they did before 2001. The nexus among the Taliban and these 'brothers in faith' that in-

Punjab govt imposes 4-day environment, health emergency to combat smog in Lahore Div

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has announced to impose environmental and health emergencies for the next four days in Lahore Division, Gujranwala and Hafizabad to combat smog.

Addressing a presser at his office on Tuesday, the CM said that Section 144 has been imposed in Lahore Division, Gujranwala and Hafizabad. There is a public holiday on November 9 and Friday has also been decided as a holiday. Meanwhile, Saturday and Sunday are weekly holidays, he added and stated that educational institutions, government and private offices, cinemas, parks and restaurants would remain closed during environmental and health emergencies while markets

would remain shut on Saturday.

CM Naqvi added that marriage halls, bakeries, pharmacies, public transport and construction activities would not be halted. Similarly, the government is not going to shut factories. He maintained that Lahore badly needs environmental rest, prevention from smog is imperative as it is not a good phenomenon. The children and elderly people are facing asthma and eye diseases, he noted and added that decisions have been taken in the light of experts' recommendations during a meeting of the cabinet committee for environment/smog.

The smog-related meeting has decided a public holiday on November 10. Markets would remain closed on Saturday while traders

would be consulted for deciding about shutting down markets on Friday, he added. The purpose of these decisions is to decrease the smog level, the CM said and appealed to the children and elderly citizens to wear facemasks. The holiday decision is temporary and would apply to this week only, he explained and maintained that indispensable decisions have been taken in the wake of an environmental emergency. The chief minister said that India burns 4 times more crop residue than Pakistan, which increases smog. The burning of crop residue across the border is directly affecting us. In the Indian city of Delhi, holidays and other decisions were also taken, so the smog situation improved, he noted.



LAHORE: A delegation of overseas Pakistanis from Britain under the leadership of London Borough of Hounslow Mayor Afzal Kayani meeting with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor's House.

Baqar witnesses robotic surgery procedure at SIUT

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice @ Maqbool Baqar visited the Sindh Institute of Urology & Transplantation (SIUT) and met with legendary Dr Aadeeb Rizvi, inquired about his health and then personally watched robotic surgery being carried out in Robotic Surgery Theater.

The CM on his arrival at the SIUT was received by Executive Director of JPMC Prof Shahid Rasool, Dr Sajida Qureshi of DUHS and others and was taken to Dr Aadeeb Rizvi.

The CM presented a bouquet to Dr Aadeeb Rizvi and prayed for his good health and long life. "You

are an asset to this country and your presence was a matter of satisfaction for me," he said.

Baqar was taken to the robotic surgery theatre where he witnessed a robotic surgery operation. During the operation, the CM asked several questions relating to the robotic operation procedure.

He was shown the advantages of robotic surgery over conventional laparoscopic surgery in dealing with cancer patients. He asked several questions related to the increased advantages of robotic surgery and the cost of disposables.

He was later taken to

a presentation on robotic surgery. After the presentation, he asked several questions regarding the different robotic surgery aspects.

The CM was told that Robotic-assisted surgery has been the top innovation in the field of surgery. What makes Robotic surgery useful is its ability to take fine and precise actions under the command of a human surgeon, Dr Aadeeb Rizvi told the CM.

The small spaces in the body where the surgeon's hands cannot reach, and eyes cannot see are easily approached by the robotic arms, the CM was told.

Punjab Governor says: Overseas Pakistanis have key role in highlighting the positive image of Pakistan

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman has said that overseas Pakistanis have a key role in highlighting the positive image of Pakistan outside the country. He expressed these views in a meeting with a delegation of overseas Pakistanis from Britain under the leadership of London Borough of Hounslow Mayor Afzal Kayani here at the Governor's House Lahore today.

Councillor Barrister Riaz Gill, former Mayor of London Borough of Hounslow, Samia Chaudhary, and others were present in the delegation.

Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab said that overseas Pakistanis are a source of pride for the country. He said that foreign delegations keep meeting them, adding that they tell him that they had a

negative impression of Pakistan before visiting due to the portal of negative image of Pakistan on media, but they had found it otherwise. Governor Punjab said that Pakistan is a safe country and the government is giving special investment facilities to foreign investors through the Special Investment Facilitation Council. He said that the reason for the negative image of Pakistan on social media is that people not only believe false news without verification, but also spread it further. He said that religion of Islam places great emphasis on not believing what we hear without verification. Governor Punjab said that Transparency International is a reliable organization. It needs to be researched in which government the country's ranking of Transparency International has improved.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan being briefed by Secretary Water and Management about the Department.

Caretaker LG minister lauds remarkable progress during visit to WSSP

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Caretaker Minister of Local Government Engineer Aamir Durrani embarked on a comprehensive inspection tour of the Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP), where he lauded the significant strides in sanitation, water supply and drainage operations here on Tuesday. The visit, aimed at evaluating the progress and compliance with directives, showcased the dedication and efforts of the WSSP staff in maintaining essential services for the region.

Accompanied by Chief Executive Officer Dr. Hasan Nasir, General Manager Operation Engineer Tarab Shah, Zonal Manager Basit Khattak and other officials, the minister initiated the visit with a specific focus on assessing the impact of ongoing initiatives.

A pivotal aspect of this inspection was the

evaluation of the manhole covering process, with Minister Durrani expressing his satisfaction with the progress achieved thus far.

The visit took Minister Durrani to several key areas, including Bihari Colony, Sardar Ahmed Jan Colony, Warsak Road, Ring Road, and their adjacent regions.

During these visits, he observed the clearing of collection points and the efficient collection of garbage from neighborhood streets, a testament to the relentless efforts of WSSP in maintaining cleanliness in the region.

During the inspection, the minister identified the need for garbage bins along the bank of Hazar Khawani canal. His immediate call for action prompted the placement of these bins in designated locations, further enhancing waste management efforts in the area.

Four labourers killed in road accident

MULTAN (APP): At least four labourers belonging to the same family were killed in a road accident in Sanwan Town of Kot Addu, early morning on Tuesday.

Rescuers said the accident occurred when a Rajanpur-bound passenger coach hit their donkey-cart.

The accident resulted in the death of four persons on the spot with as many wounded hailing the same family critically.

The deceased included Muhammad Sajid, 32, son of Ibrahim, Muhammad Sajawal, 14, son of Muhammad Sajjad Hussain, Muhammad Ashfaq, 40, son of Hafiz Ghulam Rasool and Shahbaz, 35, son of Ghulam Rasool. Those who were injured including Yasir, 21, son of Bashir Ahmed, Aamir, 22, son of Murtaza, Aziz, 19, son of Riyaz Hussain and Muhammad Zeeshan, 17, son of Fida Hussain.

All the bodies and injured were shifted to a nearby hospital.

Pak Army rebuilds, functionalizes girls' school in Tank

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Army has rebuilt and functionalized the Government Girls' Primary School in the Kat Kot area of Tank district in South Waziristan, the district administration said on Tuesday.

After the restoration of peace in the area, the Pakistan Army took steps on an emergency basis for rehabilitation and reconstruction of schools in the area.

After the rehabilitation of the school, the Pakistan Army provided all the necessary facilities to students for their studies so that girl

students from this far-flung area could add their share in national progress through their abilities and education.

Around 90 girl students were studying at Government Girls' Primary School Kat Kot under the supervision of graduate teachers. To encourage female students in their studies, the Pakistan Army has also provided free-of-charge books, school bags and stationery to them.

The area people were highly obliged to the Pakistan Army for rebuilding and functionalizing the girls' school.



PESHAWAR: Minister Industries Dr. Syed Amir Abdullah and VC SBBWU Prof. Dr. Safia Ahmed cutting ribbon during the second day of First Dosti Women Literature Festival, 1st Edition at SBBWU.

PML-N to win Feb 8 polls, to steer Pakistan out of troubles: Sardar Awais

RAJANPUR (APP): General Secretary Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Punjab Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari said that PML-N would return triumphant in the Feb 8 general elections with commitment to steer the country out of troubled situation and put it back on a path to progress and prosperity, the way it had done so in past.

Talkign to APP here Tuesday, he said that PML-N Supremo Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's return to the country had been widely welcomed by the nation and rekindled the hopes of a better future for the country and its people.

He said the country can no more afford the politics of anarchy and

violence and does not need politicians who mislead people for their political agenda. He said that PML-N always strengthened the county's economy through a coordinated effort whenever it encountered difficult situation and added that it would again usher a new era of development and prosperity by the power of vote. He said that the leadership of Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Mian Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif always proved instrumental in bringing economic stability in Pakistan. He said that Mian Muhammaad Nawaz Sharif and other PML-N leaders had suffered hardships after they were politically victimized by the PTI government.



KARACHI: Police officer transport detained immigrants who fail to provide legal documents during a search operation against illegal immigrants at a neighborhood of Provincial Capital.

Four die as pick-up falls into gorge in Upper Dir

PESHAWAR (APP): At least four people were killed and as many injured when a mini pick-up truck fell into a gorge in the Goldai area of Upper Dir on Tuesday.

Police said a mini pick-up truck, carrying passengers to the Thall area, fell into a deep gorge near Goldai. Four people were killed on the scene, police said, adding that four other people who sustained injuries in the mishap were shifted to a hospital in Patrak.

Police said the dilapidated condition of the road caused the pick-up to fall in the gorge adding that Rescue 1122.

ATC grants bail to PTI activist in May-9 case

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday granted post-arrest bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) activist Sanam Javed in a case of torching the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) office in Model Town.

The court directed the accused to furnish surety bonds of Rs 200,000 to avail the relief of the bail.

UFL and PET join forces to achieve net zero emissions by 2050

Independent Report
KARACHI: Unity Foods Limited (UFL) and its affiliated companies have embarked on a transformative journey towards a more sustainable and environmentally responsible future. In a

Comprehensive Emission Assessment to conduct a thorough evaluation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across all three scopes—Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3. This in-depth assessment will serve as the



landmark initiative, UFL has teamed up with the Pakistan Environment Trust (PET) to commit to achieving Net Zero emissions by the year 2050, solidifying their dedication to combat climate change and reduce their carbon footprint.

UFL and PET have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that encompasses a multi-faceted strategy to decarbonize their operations and foster responsible environmental practices. The strategy

cornerstone of the decarbonization strategy, providing a clear and data-driven perspective on the carbon footprint.

The alliance between UFL and PET also extends to a steadfast commitment to Science-Based Targets (SBTi). By aligning their goals with the latest scientific recommendations and industry standards, UFL and PET aim to ensure that their decarbonization efforts are not only ambitious but also grounded in validated methodologies.

Sharjeel grieved over martyrdom of Pak Army Jawans in Tirah valley

KARACHI (APP): Former provincial Information Minister and PPP leader Sharjeel Inam Memon has expressed deep grief over the martyrdom of four Pakistan Army soldiers including Lt. Colonel Muhammad Hassan Haider and other armed forces personnel who embraced martyrdom and prayed for the departed souls.

In a statement issued here on Tuesday, Sharjeel Memon expressed condolence to the families of Lt. Colonel Muhammad Hassan Haider and other armed forces personnel who embraced martyrdom and prayed for the departed souls.



KARACHI: Doctors and paramedics hold placards during a pro-Palestinian rally organized by Pakistan Islamic Medical Association PIMA at Jinnah hospital.

FIA arrests ringleader of gang involved in illegal currency exchange

KARACHI (APP): In a significant operation, the State Banking Circle of Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Karachi Zone has carried out a sweeping crackdown on illicit currency exchange activities.

According to spokesman for FIA Sindh on Tuesday, a raid, conducted by the FIA, led to the apprehension of the primary ringleader of a criminal gang involved in

illegal currency exchange. The arrested individual was taken into custody from Shaheed-e-Millat Road in Karachi.

During the operation, the premier investigation agency's officials seized a substantial amount of domestic and foreign currency, exceeding 40 millions in total.

The accused was found to be engaged in the unlawful exchange of both domestic and foreign

currencies, including foreign currency exchange without the required license. The raid yielded a substantial quantity of various currencies, including 46,370 US dollars, 11,445 British pounds, and 6,500 euros. Additionally, 5,720 Australian Dollars, 63,985 Saudi Riyals, 52,795 UAE Dirhams, 18,528 Qatari Riyal, 36,740 Turkish Lira, and 66,890 Thai Baht were also recovered.



Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib addressing a gathering of BISP staff at Jamia Masjid Asad Faredia in Faisalabad.

KMC to become self-reliant by improving tax system: Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) can stand on its feet in one year if the tax networking is improved and unnecessary interference is not done.

He said the KMC has 27.4% land control of the city and the Mayor has no direct administrative relationship with other administrations.

Sindh government has no representation in institutions like Karachi Electric and Sui Gas and the city can run better if it is allowed to run, he said this while talking to a delegation of police officers consisting of participants

of the 50th Specialized Training Program and 26th Initial Command Course at his office on Tuesday.

Municipal Commissioner KMC Syed Aizal Zaidi, DIG Nauman Siddiqui, Course Commander SSP Mubashir Mekan and other officers were also present.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that all over the world municipal bodies are considered the government as these organizations issue even driving licenses and passports.

He urged the Police officers that they should embrace the poor and keep the doors of their offices open for them.

FIA arrests female on human smuggling

LAHORE (APP): Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) during its ongoing anti-human trafficking operation arrested a female suspect involved in human smuggling, here on Tuesday.

According to a spokesperson of the FIA, on instructions of the Director FIA Lahore, Sarfaraz Virk, a crackdown against human smugglers was ongoing where a female suspect was arrested from Ichra who was luring vulnerable women into job offers in Oman by promising them beauty salon jobs, while later forced into dancing in foreign countries. Multiple passports and travel documents were recovered from the suspect.

Pakistan ready to replicate its unique AMA success story with developing countries: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday, highlighting Pakistan's achievement through the Asaan Mobile Account (AMA) Scheme to enhance women's financial inclusion, said the country was ready to replicate its success story with the developing countries.

"Many developing countries are in touch with us directly through world organizations like the Islamic Development Bank, ADB, the AIIB, UNDP, etc. We stand ready to replicate this unique Pakistani success story with their support for the underprivileged and for the deprived women anywhere in the world," he said addressing a virtual event on "Bridging the Financial Inclusion Gap in Pakistan".

The event was organised by the World

Economic Forum's Edison Alliance and the Virtual Remittance Gateway.

The prime minister said that his prime objective as the head of the government was to give hope to the poor through the many-to-many platform. He thanked the World Economic Forum's Edison Alliance and its head Claude Dyer for recognising Pakistan's amazing success story of the Asaan Mobile Account (AMA) Scheme on the World Bank's Financial Inclusion and Women Empowerment Project.

He said under the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS), the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) collaborated with various branchless banking providers, banks and telecom operators to introduce Third Party

Provider Services in Pakistan to facilitate the unbanked and underbanked population.

"The slogan is banking the unbanked. Before the launch of the AMA Scheme, 80% of the population was unbanked, whereas after the soft launch in December 2021 the ratio has improved by 10%. Unfortunately, of the 30% having bank accounts, only 18% (less than 5% of the total banking population) are women. With the launch of the AMA accounts 38% are women," he told the participants. He said any Pakistani holding a valid National ID Card could open a bank account digitally anywhere without any hassle in less than two minutes in a swift, easy and affordable manner in any AMA participating bank from a smart or a feature phone using a short code of *2262#.



DUBAI: Pakistan investment road show in Dubai.

FCCI ready for resolution of business conflicts, disputes: Dr Khurram

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) is ready to play its role in resolution of business conflicts and disputes which will not only facilitate the business community but also lessen burden on the police of unnecessary litigation, said Dr. Khurram Tariq President, FCCI.

He was addressing a meeting held with newly appointed SDPO Peoples' Colony ASP Madam Zainab Khalid at FCCI Complex to discuss the issues relating to business disputes and prevention of crime.

Dr. Khurram Tariq said that the trend of mediation is increasing throughout the world which is generally followed by arbitration.

'Maritime stability, regional peace essential for blue economy'

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Moazzam Ghurki said that maritime stability and regional peace is essential for the blue economy prosper during a think tank session here at PCJCCI Secretariat on Tuesday. The PCJCCI president said: "Our future depends upon global peace rather than confrontation. Pakistan is taking effective steps on blue economy for improved livelihoods while preserving health of the ocean ecosystem."

He expressed satisfaction that Pakistan was heading towards a sustainable blue economy by giving importance to food security related to

litigation by 85%. He said that the law has been introduced in Punjab under which 150 mediation centers have been established while 12,000 advocates have been nominated as mediators.

He said that the experience of the Citizen Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) proved successful in Karachi but in Faisalabad "we could not get the required results". However, a comprehensive plan should be evolved to revive a meaningful CPLC to help the overloaded police.

He said that the private sector had introduced a hybrid system for patrolling in Millat Industrial Estate but the police constables were withdrawn.

Senior Vice President FCCI Dr. Sajjad Arshad stressed the need to change the "Thana culture" and said that Faisalabad is a business center and the general crime rate is very low here.

Wheat to be cultivated on 62,000 acres in Sillanwali

SARGODHA (APP): The agriculture department (extension) on Tuesday said that wheat crop would be cultivated on 62,000 acres in tehsil Sillanwali this year, while a target of 35.86 maunds per acre yield had been set.

While talking to APP here, Assistant Director (agri) Sohail Ibrahim, he said that the government would reduce the cost of wheat yield on priority so that the growers could get full produce of wheat during Rabi season.

He directed the concerned staffers and officials to ensure supply of quality agricultural inputs in the market. He warned that action would be taken against those who sell substandard agricultural inputs and those involved in black marketing of seeds and fertilizers.

Sohail Ibrahim called upon wheat growers to cultivate wheat on maximum area as well as to ensure adequate supply of fertilizers, water to their crop. He congratulated farmers for achieving more than 100 per cent of the cotton target and also emphasized the need to achieve the wheat produce target with the same spirit.

LESCO detects power theft at plastic factory

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has detected electricity theft at a plastic bags manufacturing factory in an area of Wahgah Sub-Division.

According to the company's spokesman here Tuesday, an inspection team of Wahgah Sub-Division conducted an operation against electricity thieves in the area and found that management of a plastic bags factory was stealing electricity from the direct supply of LESCO through illegal hooking.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali inaugurated the Exhibition at 29th edition of Annual technical conference and Oil Show.

Muhammad Ali says: Govt making all-out efforts to provide energy to people, industries through LNG

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Energy, Power and Petroleum, Muhammad Ali on Tuesday said that to ease the lives of people and businesses, the government was making all-out efforts to provide energy to the people and industries through imported LNG, especially during winters.

He was addressing the 29th edition of the Annual Technical Conference (ATC) jointly organized by the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) and the Pakistan Association of Petroleum Geo-scientists (PAPG).

The conference was attended by Faheem Haider, Chairman ATC and Chairperson SPE Pakistan Section, Mr Mohamed Al Marzouqi SPE Middle East & North Africa (MENA) Regional Director and EVP Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), Respectable Chief Executives and Country Heads of Oil & Gas companies, Geo-scientists, Petroleum Engineers. Speaking on the occasion, this gathering of Geo-scientists and Engineers with vast experience will enable a new thought

horizon that may lead to new ideas in the exploration of indigenous oil and gas in the country, he hoped. He lauded the Theme of the Conference "Exploring the Unexplored: High-Risk Plays and Economic Challenges" stating that it is a pertinent focus area under the present circumstances. The Minister was confident that this conference will provide wide opportunities to address current challenges and future strategy for the development of Energy Resources particularly in the area of oil & gas exploration.

Incessant efforts underway to strengthen industrial sector of KP

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali, said on Tuesday that the federal and provincial government were making incessant efforts to strengthen the industrial sector of KP and promote business and trade activities.

He was talking to a delegation of the Industrialist Association of Peshawar at Governor House. The delegation was led by Ayub Khan Zakori and included former President Sarhad Chamber, Riaz Arshad, Ahsan Malik, Junaid Altaf, Faisal Safi, and Wasullah.

The delegation

informed the governor about the concerns of industrialists relating to the labor department, the export difficulties of pharmaceutical companies, and gas and electricity charges. They also urged the governor to take steps for establishing a police post in Hayatabad Industrial Estate and said that PC I has been completed but practical work has not started due to the unavailability of funds.

The governor said that the resolution of problems confronted by the industrial sector is among the priorities of the government.

Shipping Activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships namely, MSC Silvia, Maersk Boston and Hafnia Prestige, carrying Container and Gas oil, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal and Oil Terminal respectively on Monday.

A total of nine ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, MSC Silvia, Adam and AAI Evolution left the Port on today morning, while two more ships, Maersk Boston and Haj Mohammad are expected to sail on today afternoon.

A cargo volume of 119,486 tonnes, comprising 88,230 tonnes imports cargo and 31,256 tonnes export cargo carried in 3,781 Containers.



PESHAWAR: A delegation of the Industrialist Association meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali at Governor House.

OGRA takes firm action against substandard LPG cylinder manufacturing

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a collaborative effort with the district administration, OGRA's enforcement department recently executed a targeted operation in Gujranwala, successfully uncovering and sealing four illegal LPG cylinder manufacturing facilities.

These unlawful facilities were discovered operating with substandard materials and practices, said the spokesperson. OGRA promptly sealed them, and

FIR's have been registered against their operators. This action underscores OGRA's unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of consumers.

Illegal gas cylinder manufacturing has gained prominence, driven by the high demand for this essential household item, especially in regions with a shortage of piped or natural gas.

OGRA is resolute in its mission to eradicate this menace.

SCCI organizes fund raising event for people of Palestine

SIALKOT (APP): The Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) organized a fund raising event for the people of Palestine at Heritage Club Sialkot on Tuesday. The event was attended by Group Leader Sialkot Business Community Riaz-ud-Din Sheikh, Chairman Sialkot International Airport Limited (SIAL) Sohail Saeed Barlas, Chairman AirSial Fazal Jillani, Khawaja Masood Akhtar

and leading industrialists. Addressing the event, SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik expressed solidarity with the people of Palestine. Ghafoor Malik said 2.2 million refugees in Gaza were suffering from severe humanitarian crisis due to the worst siege by Israel. Malik said that homeless and destitute Palestinian brothers and sisters were in a life and death struggle due to lack of basic necessities like food, water.

Emirates celebrates decade of success in Sialkot

1.5 million passengers have travelled with Emirates on the route since operations began in 2013

Independent Report

KARACHI: Emirates, the world's largest international airline and facilitator of vital trade links, is proud to announce a significant milestone in its history in Pakistan. This month, Emirates is celebrating its 10th anniversary of providing customers in Sialkot with passenger and cargo services. Over the past decade, Emirates has firmly established itself as a key player in this dynamic region, supporting travel and the movement of goods with unmatched dedication and commitment.

For ten years, Emirates has been connecting the industrial city of Sialkot with the world through its direct services to Dubai, the hub city of the airline, and seamless connectivity. With the inaugural flight to Sialkot in November 2013, the city became the fifth Pakistani point in Emirates network.

The airline offers diverse and robust connections, with the most popular destinations and points of origin for Sialkot including Dubai, Barcelona, Paris, London, Jeddah, Johannesburg.

Export Triangle of Pakistan, encompassing Gujrat, Sialkot, and Gujranwala. Sialkot, renowned for its manufacturing excellence in producing sporting goods, clothing, and leather garments, amongst others, has significantly benefited from Emirates' cargo services. Emirates SkyCargo has played a pivotal role in exporting more than 41,000 tonnes of commodities, in addition to imports in excess of 1,400 tonnes. With seven weekly flights connecting Sialkot to global destinations, Emirates has become an integral part of the city's aviation landscape, carrying more than 1.5 million passengers on routes from and to Sialkot over the ten-year period. During the same period, Emirates operated more than 5,500 flights from and to Sialkot.

The airline offers diverse and robust connections, with the most popular destinations and points of origin for Sialkot including Dubai, Barcelona, Paris, London, Jeddah, Johannesburg.



QUETTA: Man repairs gas heater at main Quetta bazaar.

SCCI chief asks airlines to take steps to facilitate business community

PESHAWAR (APP): President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Fuad Ishaq asked the private airlines to take further steps to facilitate the business community at an optimal level.

The SCCI chief said the private airlines should introduce schemes and incentives and facilitation to the business community under corporate social responsibility so that will assist to further build up the image and public trust of airlines but also bring these good initiatives before the public.

Fuad Ishaq made these remarks during a meeting with senior sales officer of Emirates Airline International Faraz Ahmad and Sales Executive Azam Jan here at the Chamber's House here Tuesday.

Vice President SCCI, Ijaz Khan Afridi, senior member Fazl Muqem and Secretary General SCCI Sajjad Aziz were present in the meeting.

Both sides on the occasion agreed to take joint initiatives for facilitating the business community and offer them special incentives.

Fuad Ishaq emphasized that there was dire need that SCCI and Emirates airline should initiate joint measures to provide facilities and incentives and other special steps under corporate social responsibility.

The Chamber President suggested the introduction of special loyalty cards and display of the joint logo of SCCI and Emirates Airlines at public and private educational institutions.

He said our topmost priority is to make efforts for provision of maximum facilities to the business community, ease of doing businesses and removal of irritants/difficulty for smooth promotion of businesses, trade and industries in the province.



FAISALABAD: People are buying peanuts from vendor at Ghala Market in City.

Stocks retreat as weak growth concerns weigh

LONDON (AFP/APP): Major stock markets mostly retreated on Tuesday as concerns about weak growth offset hopes of an end to global interest-rate hikes.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the S&P500 opened lower as a huge rally that began last week appears to be fading but the tech-heavy Nasdaq bucked the trend as it rose.

European markets were down in afternoon trading while Asian indices mostly closed in the red.

Oil prices slid by 2.5 percent on data showing China's exports fell at a faster pace than predicted in October, as the world's second-largest economy is buffeted by faltering global demand and a sluggish domestic recovery.

At the same time, the International Monetary Fund raised its 2023 economic growth forecast for China, citing stronger consumption and recent policy measures announced by Beijing.

But official data showed German industrial output slumped more than expected in September, signalling that Europe's biggest economy was struggling to emerge from a slowdown.

In the United States, trade figures released by the US government showed that the trade deficit widened more than anticipated, with exports and imports both growing.

Investors also remain concerned about the potential impact of the Israel-Hamas conflict on the world economy.



FAISALABAD: A vendor selling fresh corn cobs at Vegetable Market.

UN Security Council fails to agree on Israel-Hamas war as Gaza death toll passes 10,000

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The U.N. Security Council on Monday failed again to agree on a resolution on the monthlong Israel-Hamas war. Despite more than two hours of closed-door discussions Monday, differences remained. The U.S. is calling for "humanitarian pauses" while many other council members are demanding a "humanitarian cease-fire" to deliver desperately needed aid and prevent more civilian deaths in Gaza.

eral Antonio Guterres earlier Monday told reporters he wanted an immediate humanitarian cease-fire in Gaza and a halt to the "spiral of escalation" already taking place from the occupied West Bank, Lebanon and Syria to Iraq and Yemen. Guterres said international humanitarian law, which demands protection of civilians and infrastructure essential for their lives, is clearly being violated and stressed that "no party to an armed conflict is above" these laws. He called for the immediate unconditional release of the hostages Hamas took from Israel to Gaza in its Oct. 7 attack. China, which holds the Security Council presidency this month, and the United Arab Emirates, the Arab representative on the council, called Monday's

meeting because of the "crisis of humanity" in Gaza, where more than 10,000 people have been killed in less than a month. UAE Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh said all 15 council members "are fully engaged" and efforts will continue to try to narrow the gaps and reach agreement on a resolution. The death toll in Gaza has exceeded 10,000 after nearly one month of Israeli bombardment, the Hamas-run health ministry said on Monday as the military action against the Palestinian group showed signs of intensifying. Determined to destroy Hamas whose Oct 7 raid left 1,400 dead in Israel and saw over 240 taken prisoner, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed no let-up despite mounting international calls for a halt to fighting.



A girl covers her ears during Israeli air strikes on the al-Maghazi refugee camp, Gaza Strip.

Ukrainian officers investigated for holding awards ceremony struck by Russia, killing 19 soldiers

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine on Monday launched a criminal investigation into military officers who organized a troop-honoring ceremony that was hit by a Russian missile strike, killing 19 soldiers in one of the deadliest single attacks reported by Ukrainian forces. The State Bureau of Investigation said it aims to hold military officials accountable for the Rocket Forces and Artillery Day event held Friday near the front line in Zaporizhzhia, where Russian reconnaissance drones could easily spot the crowded gathering. The carnage sparked a wave of criticism among Ukrainians who questioned on social media the planning of an event so close to the battlefield. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy lamented the deaths of the men of the 128th Separate

Mountain-Assault Brigade of Zakarpattia as a "tragedy that could've been avoided." The investigation announcement came shortly before Ukraine's commander-in-chief, Gen. Valerii Zaluzhnyi, said a top aide and close friend, Maj. Hennadii Chastiakov, was separately killed by an explosive device hidden inside a birthday present as he celebrated with his family. Local media reported the explosion happened when a hand-grenade was mis-handled and said the blast also injured Chastiakov's 13-year-old son. Writing on his Telegram channel, Zaluzhnyi expressed his "inexpressible pain" for the "heavy" loss of Chastiakov, 39, and indicated a judicial investigation would establish how he died.

Blizzards in China ground flights, force school closures

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Unseasonably cold weather and blizzards hit northeast China on Monday, forcing hundreds of flights to be rescheduled and closing schools as several cities issued heightened weather alerts and warned people to stay indoors. With snowfall of as much as 25 centimetres, over 90pc of expressway entrances in Jilin province had been closed as of 7pm, state television CCTV said. In the country's northernmost province Heilongjiang, the local railway operator halted 51 passenger lines over safety concerns. A gymnasium in Heilongjiang's Jiamusi city collapsed, trapping three inside, according to CCTV.

Indian states vote in key test for Modi and rivals ahead of 2024 general election

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Two of five Indian states due to elect new legislatures this month began voting on Tuesday, a big test of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's chances of winning a third term in a national election due by May. Modi and leaders of the main opposition Congress party headed by Rahul Gandhi have crisscrossed the five states, addressing campaign rallies and promising cash doles, farm loan waivers, subsidies and insurance covers, among others, to woo voters. Gandhi has worked hard to revive Congress since its drubbing in the 2019 general elections and helped form an alliance of 28 regional parties to give Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) a tougher fight in 2024. But surveys suggest Modi remains popular after a decade in power and will likely win a third term.

Trump testifies at trial that property estimates were inaccurate

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Donald Trump on Monday testified that his company did not provide accurate estimates of many of his properties in a rambling and defiant performance on the witness stand in a civil fraud trial in New York. The former US president said his company undervalued his Mar-a-Lago estate and Doral golf course in Florida and overvalued his Trump Tower apartment, among other assets, but sought to minimize the importance of the estimates, which state lawyers said were inflated to win better financing terms. "It wasn't important. You've made it important, but it wasn't," Trump said of the estimates. Judge Arthur Engoron has already ruled those estimates to be "fraudulent". New York state lawyers argued in their lawsuit that

the estimates misled lenders and insurers, earning him \$100 million and exaggerating his wealth by \$2 billion. Trump has repeatedly said the case is "witch-hunt" and has accused Engoron and New York Attorney General Letitia James of being politically biased against him. He kept up those complaints on the witness stand, where he accused legal authorities of paying undue close attention to his business after he won the 2016 presidential election. "I'm sure the judge will rule against me because he always rules against me," he said. "This is a very unfair trial," he added later. Trump's remarks drew a sharp reprimand from Engoron, who threatened to cut his testimony short.



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese meets Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People, in Beijing.

China, Australia agree 'to turn the page' as tensions ease

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: President Xi Jinping said on Monday stable ties between China and Australia served each other's interests and both should expand their cooperation, sending a clear signal that Beijing was ready to move on from recent tensions. China and Australia should promote the development of their strategic partnership as they build up mutual understanding and trust, Xi told Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, the first Australian leader to visit Beijing since 2016, at the Great Hall of the People in the heart of the Chinese capital. A strong relationship "will be beneficial into the future," Albanese told Xi in

their second face-to-face talks in a year, a meeting that lasted more than an hour. For decades, China and Australia built a relationship on trade, with Beijing becoming Canberra's biggest commercial partner with purchases of Australian food and natural resources. But ties soured after Australia in 2017 accused China of meddling in its politics. The following year, Australia banned equipment from Chinese tech giant Huawei Technologies Co for its 5G network fear of national security risks. An Australian call in 2020 for an international inquiry into the origin of the Covid pandemic, which emerged in the Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019.

Sudan's military conflict is getting closer to South Sudan and Abyei, UN envoy warns

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The "unprecedented" conflict between Sudan's army and rival paramilitary force now in its seventh month is getting closer to South Sudan and the disputed Abyei region, the UN special envoy for the Horn of Africa warned Monday. Hanna Serwaa Tetteh pointed to the paramilitary Rapid Support Force's recent seizures of the airport and oil field in Belila, about 55 kilometers (34 miles) southwest of the capital of

Sudan's West Kordofan State. She told the UN Security Council that the conflict "is profoundly affecting bilateral relations between Sudan and South Sudan, with significant humanitarian, security, economic and political consequences that are a matter of deep concern among the South Sudanese political leadership." Sudan was plunged into chaos in mid-April when simmering tensions between the military and

the RSF exploded into open warfare in the capital, Khartoum, and other areas across the East African nation. More than 9,000 people have been killed, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data project, which tracks Sudan's war. And the fighting has driven over 4.5 million people to flee their homes to other places inside Sudan and more than 1.2 million to seek refuge in neighboring countries, the UN says.

Russian strikes injure eight in Odesa, damage museum

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russian strikes overnight in the southern Ukrainian region of Odesa left eight people wounded and damaged a historic art museum, Ukrainian officials said on Monday, in the latest barrage of drones and missiles. Three more were injured in a Russian shelling attack on the southern city of Kherson on Monday, as Kyiv doubled down on its warnings that Russia was planning to pummel Ukraine's energy infrastructure ahead of the winter.

Images released by officials from inside the Odesa Fine Arts Museum showed art ripped from the walls of the 19th-century building and windows blown out by the aerial bombardment. Ukraine's deputy foreign minister Emine Dzheppar said Kyiv was "deeply outraged" by the attack and urged the United Nations' Paris-based heritage agency Unesco to condemn the strike. Unesco said it "strongly condemns the attack" and that "cultural sites must be protected".

Turkish parliament removes brands from menu over alleged Israel support

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Turkey's parliament removed Coca Cola (K.O.N) and Nestle (NES.S) products from its restaurants on Tuesday over their alleged support for Israel amid the conflict in Gaza, according to a parliament statement and a source who named the two companies. The two companies did not immediately respond to a request for comment. "It was decided that the products of companies that support Israel will not be sold in restaurants.



Deputy head of Russia's Security Council and chairman of the United Russia party Dmitry Medvedev visits the Raduga State Machine Building Construction Bureau named after A. Bereznyak in Dubna, Moscow region, Russia.

Italy's migrant deal with Albania faces rights hurdles and red tape

Monitoring Desk
ROME: Italy's government is hailing as "historic" a plan to send seaborne migrants to Albania, but experts and opposition politicians warn that it could face significant bureaucratic and human rights obstacles. The move is part of an EU-wide drive to clamp down on irregular immigration. Other countries, including Germany, are toughening their policies, amid negotiations within the bloc to overhaul asylum rules and reduce arrivals. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni announced the

initiative on Monday with her Albanian counterpart Edi Rama, saying her country would build two centres to host up to 36,000 migrants per year on Albanian soil. The centres, one on the coast for identification and another inland for detention, would be paid in full by Italy and operate under its jurisdiction, meaning they would be covered by European Union asylum rules. "Big questions loom over the application of Italian jurisdiction in Albania, as it remains unclear how people on the move could access asylum.

Jailed Iranian Nobel laureate goes on hunger strike

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Imprisoned Iranian Nobel Peace Prize winner Narges Moham-madi began a hunger strike on Monday in protest against what she said was the jail's failure to give her access to medical care, the activist HRANA news agency reported. The women's rights advocate won the award on Oct 6 in a rebuke to Tehran's theocratic leaders, who accused the Nobel committee of meddling and politicizing the issue of human rights.

The laws British PM Sunak wants to pass before the next election

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: King Charles set out the British government's plans for legislation over the coming months on Tuesday with a highly political package of measures, including the promise of tougher sentences for serious criminals, before a national election expected next year. The King's Speech - given by the monarch but written by government ministers - opens the new session of parliament. This is likely to be the last one before the election, which must be held by January 2025, and many poli-

cies were aimed at appealing to voters. The government plans to introduce five pieces of legislation intended to toughen sentences and deter crime in a sign that the governing Conservatives hope to make this a key election issue. The Sentencing Bill will mean murderers who carry out sexually motivated or sadistic attacks will automatically face life in jail without the prospect of parole. The Criminal Justice Bill will also mean that criminals will be made to appear in the court when they are sentenced so they can hear statements from victims.

India's top court tells states to stop crop burning as New Delhi's air turns hazardous

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India's Supreme Court ordered authorities in the states surrounding New Delhi on Tuesday to stop farmers burning crop residue, as the air quality from smog engulfing the world's most polluted capital during the past week reached hazardous levels. Air quality dips every year ahead of winter, when calm and cold winds trap pollutants from sources including vehicles, industries, construction dust, and agricultural waste burning.

Blinken seeks G7 unity on Israel-Hamas war among items on crisis-heavy global agenda

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Fresh from a whirlwind tour of the Middle East, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken shifted his intense diplomacy on the Israel-Hamas war to Asia on Tuesday with an appeal for the Group of Seven leading industrial democracies to forge consensus on how to deal with the crisis. As he and his G7 counterparts began two days of talks in Japan, Blinken said it was critically important for the group to show unity as it has over Russia's war in Ukraine and other major issues and prevent existing differences on Gaza from deepening. "This is a very important moment as well for the G7 to come together in the face of this crisis and to speak, as we do, with one clear voice," Blinken told Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, shortly after talks with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. The devastating monthlong conflict in Gaza and efforts to ease

the dire humanitarian impacts of Israel's response to the deadly Oct. 7 Hamas attack will be a major focus of the meeting. Yet with the Russia-Ukraine war, fears North Korea may be readying a new nuclear test, and concerns about China's increasing global assertiveness, it is far from the only crisis on the agenda. In Tokyo, Blinken and foreign ministers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Japan and Italy will be seeking common ground in part to prevent the Gaza war from further destabilizing already shaky security in the broader Middle East and seeking to maintain existing consensus positions on other matters. Kamikawa said Japan "unequivocally condemns" the Hamas' attack on Israel, supports U.S. efforts to find a way forward and said that "solid unity between Japan and the U.S. is especially critical at this point."

Myanmar resistance claims first capture of a district capital from the military government

Monitoring Desk
BANGKOK: Armed resistance groups fighting Myanmar's military government seized a district capital in the north Monday after taking state offices and a police station in a four-day offensive, according to residents, the country's major opposition coalition and media reports. Kawlin in Sagaing region is the first administrative capital seized by the resistance forces in continuing strife since the army seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021. Sagaing has been a stronghold of armed resistance to the army, which has responded with major offensives using ground troops supported by artillery and air strikes, burning down villages and driving hundreds of thousands of people from their homes. Loosely organized resistance groups opposed to army rule, known as the People's Defense Force, or PDF, have sprung up

around the country since the army's takeover. They have made alliances with well-established armed ethnic minority groups such as the Kachin and Karen, who have been fighting in border areas for greater autonomy from the central government for more than half a century. Kawlin, which is about 200 kilometers (125 miles) north of Mandalay, the country's second biggest city, is the principal town of Kawlin district. Clashes began there at dawn on Friday with coordinated attacks by a combined force of at least three local resistance groups including the Kawlin People's Defense Force, according to reports posted online by media groups sympathetic to the resistance struggle. Outlets including Khit Thit Media also posted video online showing what they said were members of the resistance clearing the bodies of soldiers and police killed in battle from damaged buildings.

Protests turn ugly as pressure mounts on Spain's acting gov't for amnesty talks with Catalans

Monitoring Desk
BARCELONA: Three people were arrested late on Monday in a protest against negotiations between Spain's acting government and Catalan separatist parties over a possible amnesty for thousands involved in Catalonia's independence movement. Government authorities said that the arrests took place during a gathering by over 3,000 people in front of the national headquarters of Spain's Socialist Party in Madrid. Two men were arrested for violent behavior against police, and one woman for disobedience, the representative of Spain's national government in the Madrid region said. The leader of the far-right Vox party, which holds the third-most seats in the national Parliament, was at the rally. Several protesters waved Spanish flags and pushed back against police in riot gear. There were other similar protests in other Spanish cities, but no addi-

tional arrests were reported. Spain's acting Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, the Socialists' leader, blasted the protests, saying they were being led by "reactionaries." "(I extend) all my warmth and support for the Socialist Party members who are suffering harassment by reactionaries at their local headquarters," Sanchez wrote on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter. "To attack the headquarters of Spain's Socialist Party is to attack democracy," Sanchez is negotiating with the Catalan separatist parties to receive their backing in his bid to form a new government and keep his center-left coalition in power following an inconclusive national election in July. But the two separatist parties have demanded a sweeping amnesty that would include their leaders who fled Spain following their failed 2017 secession attempt.



Snow removal vehicles move on a street amid a blizzard in Harbin, Heilongjiang province.

Comprehensive strategy needed to address growing mental health issues: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday urged the need for a comprehensive strategy to address the growing challenge of mental health issues in the country. He called for taking collective measures and adopting an integrated approach involving various stakeholders, including relevant ministries, the Prime Minister's Office, NGOs, psychiatric associations, and civil society to overcome the mental health burden in Pakistan. The president expressed these views while chairing a follow-up meeting on mental health, at

Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Strategic Reforms Implementation Unit Prime Minister's Office Hussain Islam and representatives of various organizations working on mental health, including the Pakistan Psychological Association (PPA), Pakistan Psychiatric Society (PPS), the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), Tasken Health Initiative, Pakistani American Psychiatric Association of North America (PAPANA), and British Pakistani Psychia-

trists Association (BAPPA) through video link. During the meeting, the president highlighted that mental health was a major concern, demanding a coordinated approach from all involved parties. He said that around 24% of the country's population was facing various mental health issues and 60% of college and university students were under stress. He said that this situation needed the immediate attention of the government, healthcare professionals, civil society organizations, and the media. The president called

for concise and impactful messaging to create awareness about mental health issues by drawing upon the lessons learnt from the successful campaigns on COVID-19 and breast cancer. He said that coordinated efforts were needed to overcome the social stigmas and taboos attached to mental health issues in Pakistan. He also underscored the need for increasing the number of mental health professionals, besides taking steps for the capacity building of human resources to provide quality counselling and assistance to people.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi chairing a follow-up-meeting on mental health issues in Pakistan, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



ISLAMABAD: NDMA dispatches humanitarian relief assistance to war ravaged Gaza, Palestine. Caretaker Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Jalil Abbas Jillani and Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights, Khalil George sent off second tranche to Gaza via Egypt from Islamabad International Airport.

All tribes living in Balochistan are respectable, no injustice to be done with anyone, assures Domki

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that all tribes living in the province are respectable and as such no injustice would be done with anyone. The Chief Minister was speaking to the tribal elder of Ghilzai tribe, Dr Hayatullah Khan Ghilzai, who called on him here on Tuesday.

Dr Ghilzai informed the Chief Minister about the issues being faced by his tribe. He said that the baseless impression is being given about his tribe of being Afghan refugee. As a result, resentment is prevailing among the Ghilzai tribe living in the province for centuries, he noted with concern adding that the issues are also being faced about the national

identity cards due to that baseless impression. He said that a representative delegation of Ghilzai tribe is also desirous of meeting with the Chief Minister so as to apprise him about the tribes' hardships and apprehensions. On this, the Chief Minister assured that everything would be done on merit and according to the law and constitution.

Calls for concrete steps to guide youth towards right direction

Political, social leaders, educationists and intelligentsia

Independent Report
QUETTA: The political and social leaders as well as educationists and intelligentsia have pleaded to take concrete measures for guidance of the youth in better direction. In addition to this, they stressed the need to promote better qualities of decision making, social harmony and gender equality among the future leadership. They were expressing views at the end of three-day training workshop of the emerging leaders of Balochistan here on Tuesday. The workshop was organized by the non-governmental organization namely Bargad and Youth

Development Organization. The former Speaker of Balochistan Assembly, Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani, FDI head Uzma Yaqoob, senior Associate Professor of faculty of social sciences BUITEMS, Abdul Wadood Khan, Jahangir Khan, Manahil Aslam, Saiqa Durrani and others addressed the workshop. The speakers said that the future leadership has been given awareness about the easy skills, proficiency, democracy and governance so that they (young generation) may be guided in the right direction and that in the fields they have chosen for them.



QUETTA: Speaker Balochistan Assembly Mir Jan Muhammad Khan Jamali meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki.

CT Minister LG says Implementation of LG policy to bring new era of development

Independent Report
QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister Local Government, Sheikh Mahmood Al Hasan Mandukhel has said that the launch of the Community Led Local Governance Policy is a great initiative that was introduced with the technical assistance of the European Union BRACE Technical Assistance, DAI and Department

these views on the occasion of holding a two-day training workshop on CLLG policy implementation with the support of BRACE Technical Assistance DAI and the Local Government Department. Members of civil society and social organizations including the Agricultural Department, Finance Department, Life Stock, Social Welfare Department,



of Local Government. The implementation of this policy will bring a new era of development in the province. He expressed

and Education Department participated in the training workshop. Expressing his views from the workshop, the caretaker provincial

President pays tribute to martyred troops of Tirah operation

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi on Tuesday paid tribute to the army personnel who lost their lives during the operation in Tirah area of Khyber.

The president paid tribute to Lt Col Muhammad Hassan Haider, Naik Khushdil Khan, Naik Rafiq Khan and Lance Naik Abdul Qadir for sacrificing their lives for the nation. "The sacrifices of martyrs will not go in vain and terrorism will come to an end," he said.

NAB and Pak cannot go together: Abbasi

KARACHI (Online): Former Prime Minister (PM) Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said that NAB and Pakistan cannot go together. NAB is wasting time and destroying people's lives.

The only purpose of NAB is to hold politicians accountable. While talking to media on occasion of NAB court appearance in Karachi, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said that Caretaker government should decide what to do with NAB institution.

GDA intensifies crackdown against illegal housing schemes

QUETTA (APP): The Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) has scaled up crackdown against illegal housing schemes operating within the jurisdictions of the port city of Gwadar.

The GDA official told the media on Tuesday that the Authority had expedited its efforts against the land mafia operating illegally in the Gwadar. On the complaints of the public, a crackdown has been launched in Dhor Ghati and other areas to contain unlawful practices that allures people of high profit and later deprives them of their hard-earned money, he said. He said that in compliance with the directives of the DG GDA Dawood Khilji, the owner of the illegal housing schemes had

Murtaza Solangi clarifies role, authority of CLCC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi clarified on Tuesday that the Cabinet Committee for Disposal of Legislative Cases (CCLC) does not wield more power than the Supreme Court and the Parliament. In response to a calling attention notice regarding the issuance of notification on August 23, 2023, which led to the establishment of the CCLC, the minister said, that Senator Raza Rabbani's concerns on the committee have no reality. Highlighting the legal framework behind the committee's formation, he

said that the committee has been formed as per section 17 (2) of the Rules of Business 1973. According to this sub-section, Committees of the Cabinet may be constituted, and their terms of reference and membership laid down by the Cabinet or the Prime Minister. Such Committees may be standing or special committees; accordingly, as they are appointed to deal with a class of cases or a specific case. He said that the CCLC's purpose did not involve making the bills or primary legislation. Instead, it was established for subsidiary rule-making and the facilitation of extreme and emergency.

Caretaker FM, Korean FM pledge to enhance bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Underscoring the strong potential for future collaboration, Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jillani and Foreign Minister of Republic of Korea Park Jin have pledged to intensify cooperation in all fields, including political, economic, cultural and people-to-people contacts.

messages of felicitations through diplomatic channels," the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release. The relationship between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea was marked by characteristic warmth and candour and features mutually beneficial cooperation in diverse fields. Foreign Minister Jillani and Foreign Minister Park reviewed the rich history of Pakistan-ROK relations, socio-cultural ties, development and economic cooperation and the contribution of respective diasporas, which acted as a bridge of friendship between the two countries.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commissioner Sikander Sultan Raja calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

10 doctors among 13 medical staff being treated for Congo virus in Agha Khan Hospital

Independent Report
QUETTA: In all 13 medical staff members including 10 doctors of the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital contracted Congo virus in Quetta are being treated at the Agha Khan Hospital Karachi. According to the spokesman of Health Department, the doctors and paramedics have been shifted to Karachi from Quetta for treatment of the Congo Virus. The condition of two doctors is stated to be un-

stable, the spokesman told. Other doctors and paramedics' condition is, however, stated to be stable and being provided necessary medical treatment at the Agha Khan Hospital Karachi. It may be mentioned here that a doctor namely Shakrullah Jan suffering from Congo virus had died in Karachi on Sunday last. A health emergency has already been launched in view of the prevalence of Congo virus in the province.

Pakistan sends second consignment of 90 tonnes relief goods to Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Tuesday dispatched the second consignment of humanitarian assistance for the people of Gaza. Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jillani saw off the special plane carrying 90 tonnes of hygiene kits, medicines, and food packages, here at Islamabad International Airport. Palestine's ambassador in Pakistan Ahmed Jawad Rabi'i, Minister for Human Rights Khalil George, and senior officials of the National Disaster

Management Authority (NDMA) were present. FM Jillani said Pakistan was sending humanitarian assistance for the people of Gaza who were persistently facing oppression by the Israeli security forces. He urged the international community to play its role in finding a peaceful resolution to the conflict by establishing an independent state of Palestine with Al-Quds as its capital. He expressed Pakistan's full solidarity with the Palestinian brothers and sisters and condemned Israel's brutal, disproportionate, and indiscriminate use of force against civilians, including women and children, currently besieged in Gaza. The Foreign Minister underlined the urgency of bringing an immediate end to Israeli aggression and lifting the siege of Gaza. He called for upholding the principles of justice and humanity and facilitation of the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza.

Ministry of Religious Affairs seeks Huffaz nomination from provinces

QUETTA (APP): Federal Ministry of Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony has sought nominations of Huffaz Karam from the provinces for the national "Mehfil-e-Shabina to be organized by the federal ministry at Islamabad. "As many as eight Huffaz Karam will be selected before the final round," said the Religious Affairs Department Balochistan on Tuesday. They said that the provincial Religious Department will hold a competition on 13th November in Quetta among the aspirant Huffaz wherein the eight contestants would be selected and sent to the federal capital.



RAWALPINDI: COAS Asim Munir Ahmed shares his condolence with family members of Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hassan Haider who embraced shahadat in Tirah valley, at Chaklala Garrison in City.

Balochistan issues: Path to resolution lies in results-oriented negotiations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Tahir Bizenjo on Tuesday emphasized the need for result-oriented negotiations to resolve Balochistan's issues, highlighting the region's strategic significance and natural resources. Speaking here in the Senate, he said that resolving issues in Balochistan does not lie in the use of power, advocating instead for result-oriented negotiations and justice. He highlighted Balochistan's unique geography and abundant natural resources, drawing both local and international interest. Senator Bizenjo also called for a people-centric foreign policy and emphasized the importance of fostering friendly relations with other nations. Senator Saadia Abbassi of PML-N shared her party's challenges and

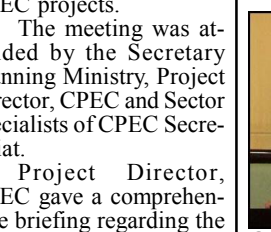
voiced in favor of detainees, including PTI President Ch. Pervaiz Elahi and incarcerated women. Senator Haji Hidayat Ullah Khan (ANP) condemned Israeli atrocities in Gaza and urged Islamic countries to take action, also calling for a review of Afghan cases with proper documentation. Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haidri (JIUP) expressed sorrow over the loss of innocent lives, particularly children, in the ongoing conflict in Gaza. Senator Gurdeep Singh from PTI highlighted minority issues and urged immediate compensation for affected families of the Jaranwala incident. Senator Shafique Tareen highlighted the ongoing sit-in at the Chaman Border, triggered by the introduction of a new passport mechanism.

Planning Minister reviews progress on CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD (Online): After the successful third Belt and Road (BRI) forum 2023 held in Beijing, the Caretaker Planning Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed on Tuesday reviewed a progress over the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects while directed the relevant stakeholders to expedite the projects. The Minister reviewed the projects during his visit at CPEC Secretariat where he was given a detailed briefing over the CPEC projects. The meeting was attended by the Secretary Planning Ministry, Project Director, CPEC and Sector specialists of CPEC Secretariat. Project Director, CPEC gave a comprehensive briefing regarding the progress related to completed projects, the ongoing projects and areas which were highlighted in the BRI Forum.

Senator Saadia Abbassi of PML-N shared her party's challenges and

QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Ministers Amanullah Kakrani, Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani and Advocate General Muhammad Asif Reki meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki.



and writing at Government Girls College Quetta Cantt with the goal of promoting an anti-corruption mindset and raising awareness and hatred against corruption among students. Numerous university students from Balochistan participated in these con-

competitions were observed by Director NAB Dr. Mohammad Rashad, Principal of Government Girls College Raheela Ramzan, Deputy Director NAB Khurram Shahzad, along with faculty members and a significant turnout of students from the host college.

NAB Balochistan encourages student activism against corruption

QUETTA (APP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan organized an inter-university competition in Urdu speech

tests. Professor Dr. Humira Sadouzi, Associate Professor Abdul Rasool, Professor Gulnaz Rasheed, Associate Professor Tahir



and writing at Government Girls College Quetta Cantt with the goal of promoting an anti-corruption mindset and raising awareness and hatred against corruption among students. Numerous university students from Balochistan participated in these con-

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