

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vd XXV No 82, Rabi-us-Sani 27, 1445 AH Sunday November 12, 2023 Pages 12, Price Rs.15

Calls for halting arms exports to Israel

OIC summit rejects justifying Gaza attacks as Israeli self-defence

Saudi crown prince says Israel responsible for 'crimes' against Palestinians; Israel must be tried in International Criminal Court on genocide: Palestinian president; Turkiye's Erdogan suggests international peace conference; Israeli army should be designated terrorist organisation: Iranian president

Monitoring Desk
RIYADH: An Arab-Islamic summit hosted by Saudi Arabia on Saturday called for an end to the conflict in Gaza and rejected justifying Israel's actions against Palestinians as self-defence.

The summit condemned "Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, war crimes and barbaric and inhumane massacres by the occupation government", a final communique said.

The communique also called for an end to the siege on Gaza, allowing humanitarian aid into the enclave and halting arms exports to Israel.

Arab leaders and Iran's president meeting in the Saudi capital on Saturday roundly condemned Israel's actions in its conflict against Hamas in Gaza, as fears mount the

fighting could draw in other countries. The emergency meeting of the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) comes after the October 7 surprise attacks by Hamas.

Israel's subsequent aerial and ground offensive has killed over 11,000 people, mostly civilians and many of them children, according to the health ministry.

Host Saudi Arabia "confirms that it holds the occupation (Israeli) authorities responsible for the crimes committed against the Palestinian people," Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Gulf kingdom's de facto ruler, said as Saturday's summit began. "We are certain that the only way to guarantee security, peace and stability in the region is to end the occupation, siege and the settlements," he said of Israel's actions

Continued on page 2



RIYADH: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a group photo with heads of the States/ Government participating in the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meeting with Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Riyadh

President, Caretaker PM, Information Minister condole

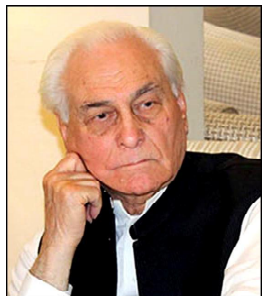
Caretaker CM Azam Khan dies of cardiac arrest

Funeral prayer of Azam Khan offered at Charsadda; KP Govt announces three-day mourning; Interim cabinet stands dissolved; Governor taken over administrative affairs of the province; Constitutional procedure to be followed on appointment of caretaker CM KP: Solangi

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister (CM) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Muhammad Azam Khan died apparently due to cardiac arrest at a local hospital here Saturday.

According to doctors and his family sources, Azam Khan was brought to a local hospital in Peshawar the other day after feeling severe pain in his chest and expired during the treatment process at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

The funeral prayer of Azam Khan will be offered at Prang in Charsadda district at 3:30 p.m. today and



will be laid to rest in his native town.

He took the oath as interim CM of KP on January 21 of this year, following the dissolution of the KP Assembly in the same

month by the then Chief Minister Mahmood Khan.

He was nominated to lead the province by the opposition parties, and his name was unanimously approved by the outgoing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government as well.

Azam Khan was a retired bureaucrat and Pakistan Administrative Officer who served in various key positions.

He had served as minister of interior, capital administration, and development in the interim cabinet

Continued on page 2

PM appreciates efforts of KSA for promoting Palestinian cause

PM Kakar, Saudi Crown Prince underline need for urgent int'l collaboration to end Israeli aggression

RIYADH (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman, on Saturday, underlined the need for urgent international collaboration geared to stopping Israel from brutal and indiscriminate aggression against the besieged and innocent Palestinians.

He thanked the Saudi leadership for the timely initiative of convening the summit with a view to evolving Joint Arab-Islamic Action on the deteriorating situation in the Occupied Palestinian territories.

The two leaders held a meeting on the sidelines of ongoing Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit to discuss the latest situation caused by the aggression of the Israeli occupation

forces against the Palestinians both in Gaza and West Bank, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Prime Minister Kakar appreciated the role and efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the sagacious leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the Crown Prince, for promoting the Palestinian cause.

He thanked the Saudi leadership for the timely initiative of convening the summit with a view to evolving Joint Arab-Islamic Action on the deteriorating situation in the Occupied Palestinian territories.

The prime minister denounced the Israeli action of bombing hospitals, refugee camps, schools and residential buildings, resulting in the loss of more than 10,000 precious lives.

Services of late Azam Khan to always be remembered: Governor, CM Balochistan grieved over death of CT Chief Minister KP; pay rich tributes

Independent Report

He said that the services of caretaker Chief Minister would always be remembered.

Similarly, the Chief Minister Domki paying tributes to late Azam Khan said that he performed very well the responsibilities entrusted to him as the Chief Minister KP.

He said that late Azam Khan was a capable administrator and a good and sincere human being.

He said that we share the grief of his death with bereaved family members.

Meanwhile, the Governor and Chief Minister also prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into its eternal peace and give enough strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear the tragic loss of his death.

The Governor paid rich tributes to the late Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan on his invaluable services for the country and KP.

Reacting to the letter of Dr Arif Alvi that he sent to interim Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar on Wednesday last, the ECP spokesperson in a statement said a high official was elected from.

Continued on page 2

Israel has turned Gaza into a living hell PM Kakar suggests possibility of initiating ICJ proceedings against Israel for its war crimes

Says establishment of sovereign state of Palestine to guarantee lasting peace in region

RIYADH (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday suggested that the Arab and Islamic countries should explore the possibility of initiating proceedings at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against Israel for its war crimes and crimes against humanity under the Genocide Convention and under the interim measures request.

The UN Secretary General could be requested to establish a special commission of inquiry to investigate Israel's war crimes and crimes against humanity since October 7, the prime minister said during his address at the a Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit, which brings together leaders from the Arab and Islamic world to discuss the current worsening situation in Gaza and the future strategy.

The prime minister further said that they should also demand establishing of the international mechanism and call for halt to illegal settlements by Israel. "We call for a political solution for which it is imperative that conditions are created for a dialogue between the Palestinians and Israel to evolve a way forward through the two-state solution," he reiterated.

PM Kakar suggests possibility of initiating ICJ

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George visiting District Jail Quetta

Federal Minister Khalil George says: Interim Govt mobilizing resources to bring reforms in jails

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Federal Minister for Human Resources, Khalil George has stated that the interim government is mobilizing all resources to bring reforms in the prisons, provide facilities to the prisoners and make them useful citizens.

The Federal Minister for Human Rights was speaking on occasion of the visit of Quetta District Jail

here on Saturday. During the course of visit, Khalil George also met the prisoners and got him acquainted about their problems. He also directed to the concerned authorities to resolve certain issues.

Earlier, the Inspector General of Jail Shujauddin Kasi and Superintendent of Jail welcomed the Federal Minister and briefed him about the jail matters.

Sanjrani attends meeting of BAP & JAH leaders: All stakeholders & political parties united for dev. of Balochistan: Chairman Senate

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has stated that all stakeholders and political parties are united for development of the province.

The Chairman Senate was speaking during a meeting attended by the leaders of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and Jamiat Ahle Hadith (JAH) here on Saturday.

Those who were present in the meeting were included Chairman Senate, Senator Manzoor Ahmed Kakar, besides other leaders.

From JAS, Maulana Ali Abu Turab and other leaders participated in the meeting. During the meeting, there was consensus on extending cooperation between the BAP and JAH Balochistan. Speaking on the occasion, Sadiq Sanjrani said that development is linked with the pen and book.

Referring the Palestine issue, the Chairman Senate said that the government and masses are standing shoulder to shoulder with the Palestinians.

ECP says it will make all-out efforts to ensure free and fair elections

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), without quoting the name of President Arif Alvi, said efforts were under way by a high official to make the electoral process doubtful.

Reacting to the letter of Dr Arif Alvi that he sent to interim Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar on Wednesday last, the ECP spokesperson in a statement said a high official was elected from.

Continued on page 2

Freedom of expression an important gift of present developed era: Governor

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that no doubt the freedom of expression is an important gift of the present developed era.

He said that media management is a science the basic objective of which is to give awareness to the society about truth as well as to bring the public hardships before the rulers and create social stability.

However, there is a need to ensure honest and responsible use of media just to save from the chaos and indiscipline.

The Governor said that difference of opinion is beauty of democracy, but under its garb, there's no justification of humiliation and baseless allegations of the leading personalities and groups, nor it can be

accepted in any healthy society, he maintained. The Governor also said that the false and unverified news spread make any individual and institution disrespectful and the democratic society is not ready to trust such rumours.

Mr Kakar said that it becomes duty of all serious and conscious people not to pay heed towards the rumours and not spread the unverified news forward.

He said some elements happen to be involved in character assassination and making baseless allegations on important personalities.

Under the given circumstances, it is responsibility of the concerned institutions to keep a strict vigil on such elements and take strict action against them so as to ensure prevention of the negative trend.

Solangi urges President to play his constitutional role

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Saturday said President Dr Arif Alvi should play his constitutional role instead of giving the statements that showed his biasness for a specific political party.

Speaking in a Current Affairs programme of a private television channel, he said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was a registered political party with a large number of spokespersons who were using every resource to speak for themselves.

He recalled that the

Continued on page 2



BANGKOK: Caretaker Sports and Culture Minister of Balochistan Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani in a group photo with participants of Best Diplomat Conference

Pakistan exit World Cup as England end tournament on high note

Chasing 388 runs, Green Shirts were bowled at 244 runs in 44th over

Sports Desk

KOLKATA: England defeated Pakistan by an impressive 93 runs in their last group match being played at Kolkata's Edens Gardens on Saturday, with Green Shirts crashing out of the tournament.

Batting second and chasing England's 338-run target, Pakistani batters kept losing their wickets as the English side restricted the Green Shirts to 244 runs as the national side was bowled in the 44th over.

During the chase, Pakistan lost early wickets with openers Abdullah Shafique and Fakhar Zaman being sent back to the pavilion by David Willey in the first three overs, leaving their side 10-2 in 2.4 overs.

The Men in Green got a bit of a breakthrough as

skipper Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan provided some stability to the team but both were after 22.3 overs as Pakistan were four down for 100 runs.

Salman Ali Agha top-scored for the struggling Pakistani side by scoring 51 runs. Shaheen Shah Afridi contributed to 26 runs down the batting line.

Haris Rauf and Wasim Smashed sixes at the end as the two combined for 53 runs but their heroics were not enough in front of the massive target set up by the English batters.

Earlier in the day, England — while batting first — managed to post 337 runs on the scoreboard courtesy of a solid batting display by their top order.

Dawid Malan and Jonny Bairstow provided their side with a dominant start as they scored 80 runs within 13 overs with-

out a loss. The former was the first batter to depart for the pavilion after becoming the victim of Iftikhar Ahmed for 31 runs.

Malan was soon followed by Bairstow as the right-handed aggressive batter ended up losing his wicket for 59 runs.

However, after losing two wickets, Joe Root and Ben Stokes built a crucial 132-run partnership that helped Jos Buttler's men get in a comfortable position.

Stokes top-scored for his side with 84 runs courtesy of 11 fours and two sixes. The left-handed batter was on his way to score his consecutive World Cup century but was bowled by Shaheen Afridi.

Root scored 60 runs before becoming the victim of Afridi.

However, Buttler (27 off 18) and Harry Brook

(30 off 17) provided their side with important runs late in the game that helped them set a 338-run target.

For Pakistan, Haris — who became the bowler to concede the most runs in a single World Cup edition — took three wickets, while Afridi and Wasim Jr bagged two and Iftikhar could only pick one.

Pakistan ended their World Cup campaign with four wins out of nine matches and finished at the fifth position in the points table with eight points.



QUETTA: Unregistered Afghan families are willingly enroute their home land with their homes necessities



KARACHI: Pak-China Joint Naval Exercise "Sea Guardian-2023" commenced with an aim to enhance bilateral cooperation and interoperability between the navies of both countries.

Solangi urges President to...

Continued from page 1

journalists were abducted and attacked, opposition leaders arrested under false cases and media gags were imposed during the PTI's government tenure.

The minister said the National Assembly was dissolved illegally for the first time in the history to prevent the no-confidence motion against former prime minister Imran Khan.

He said the President had a role of the symbol of federation in the constitutional framework and he should fulfill his responsibilities in accordance with the constitution.

According to the constitution, the President was the supreme commander of the armed forces, he said, adding why President Arif Alvi did not take any action when the sensitive installations were attacked on May 9.

"How many letters, the President wrote in this regard," Solangi questioned.

To a query, he asked PTI leader Omar Ayub to refrain from lecturing him on his constitutional duties.

He said if any party or individual had any com-

plaint regarding level-playing field in the elections, they could reach out to the courts and the Election Commission that were functioning independently in the country.

To another query, the minister said the caretaker government would address all the complaints within its jurisdiction and in accordance with the Constitution and law.

The Election Commission was responsible for conducting transparent, free, fair, and impartial elections in the country, he remarked.

A statement issued by the President's Office on Wednesday said it was of the "utmost importance" that the caretaker government made efforts as a "neutral entity to provide a level playing field for all political parties".

He also forwarded a letter sent to him by PTI Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan to the premier.

Alvi termed "reassuring" the premier's remarks assuring that all registered political parties should have equal rights and opportunities to contest the forthcoming elections.

Democracy was the only viable way forward for the state and people of Pakistan, he said, adding its essence lay in giving people the right to partake in political activities and to be able to voice their opinions through free media.

He said "there was a resonance in Pakistan that for free, fair and credible elections, all political parties and leaders had right to contest and it was up to people to decide."

In his letter, President Alvi said he was constitutionally "duty-bound, along with the prime minister and all institutions, to protect the rights of the citizens".

The president highlighted Article 4 (right of individuals to be dealt with in accordance with law), 17 (freedom of association) and 19 (freedom of speech) of the Constitution as he urged PM Kakar, as the head of the government, to "kindly look into these issues".

The PTI is not the only party complaining about a level playing field leading up to the polls. The rivalry between the PML-N and the PPP has gained momentum as the latter has alleged that the PML-N has a hidden alliance with the current caretaker government.

tools for pressure, then any step we take or speech we give will have no meaning," said Assad, who was welcomed back into the Arab fold this year after an extended rift over his country's civil war.

He said no Middle Eastern country should engage in any "political process" with Israel, including developing economic relations, until a lasting ceasefire was reached.

Israel and its main backer the United States have so far rebuffed demands for a ceasefire, a position that drew heavy criticism on Saturday.

"The US has prevented the ceasefire in Gaza and is expanding the scope of the war," Raisi said before departing from Tehran.

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said at the summit that "it is a shame that Western countries, which always talk about human rights and freedoms, remain silent in the face of the ongoing massacres in Palestine."

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas decried Israel's genocide and called for its accountability at the International Criminal Court.

Addressing the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit on the Gaza situation in Saudi Arabia, he expressed regret over international community's apathy, urging its involvement, particularly from the United States, in achieving regional peace.

OIC Secretary General Hissen Ibrahim Taha urged immediate end to the massacre of innocent Palestinians, a Gaza ceasefire, and an end to the Israeli army's siege.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said a lack of concrete punitive measures against Israel would render the summit toothless.

"If we do not have real

Netherlands' cricket brilliance opens scheduling opportunities, says coach

Sports Desk

KOLKATA: Netherlands' cricket coach Ryan Cook revealed on Saturday that coaches from other teams have approached him to explore the possibility of fitting the Dutch team into their cricket schedules, following their impressive show in the World Cup.

In the tournament's last league match, the Netherlands are set to face table-toppers India in Bengaluru on Sunday. The Dutch team, led by Scott Edwards and composed mostly of foreign-born players, caught attention early in the tournament by

stunning high-flying South Africa and securing victories against Bangladesh. Despite their notable performances, they find themselves at the bottom of the 10-team table before their ninth and final league game.

Cook shared the positive response the Netherlands have received, stating, "I have actually had a few teams' coaches approach me and ask about our schedule and how potentially they could fit into their schedule, so that bodes well."

He emphasised the desire to play against more teams, citing the team's demonstrated ability to compete effectively.

ECP says it will make all-out...

Continued from page 1

trying to make the transparency of the election process doubtful. He said this was not an appropriate approach as the ECP would ensure free and fair elections in the country.

President Arif Alvi sent a letter to the caretaker PM, raising the PTI's concerns regarding the "erosion of fundamental rights and a level playing field for all political parties" in the run-up to the upcoming general elections.

A statement issued by the President's Office on Wednesday said it was of the "utmost importance" that the caretaker government made efforts as a "neutral entity to provide a level playing field for all political parties".

He also forwarded a letter sent to him by PTI Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan to the premier.

Alvi termed "reassuring" the premier's remarks assuring that all registered political parties should have equal rights and opportunities to contest the forthcoming elections.

Democracy was the only viable way forward for the state and people of Pakistan, he said, adding its essence lay in giving people the right to partake in political activities and to be able to voice their opinions through free media.

He said "there was a resonance in Pakistan that for free, fair and credible elections, all political parties and leaders had right to contest and it was up to people to decide."

In his letter, President Alvi said he was constitutionally "duty-bound, along with the prime minister and all institutions, to protect the rights of the citizens".

The president highlighted Article 4 (right of individuals to be dealt with in accordance with law), 17 (freedom of association) and 19 (freedom of speech) of the Constitution as he urged PM Kakar, as the head of the government, to "kindly look into these issues".

The PTI is not the only party complaining about a level playing field leading up to the polls. The rivalry between the PML-N and the PPP has gained momentum as the latter has alleged that the PML-N has a hidden alliance with the current caretaker government.

tools for pressure, then any step we take or speech we give will have no meaning," said Assad, who was welcomed back into the Arab fold this year after an extended rift over his country's civil war.

He said no Middle Eastern country should engage in any "political process" with Israel, including developing economic relations, until a lasting ceasefire was reached.

Israel and its main backer the United States have so far rebuffed demands for a ceasefire, a position that drew heavy criticism on Saturday.

"The US has prevented the ceasefire in Gaza and is expanding the scope of the war," Raisi said before departing from Tehran.

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said at the summit that "it is a shame that Western countries, which always talk about human rights and freedoms, remain silent in the face of the ongoing massacres in Palestine."

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas decried Israel's genocide and called for its accountability at the International Criminal Court.

Addressing the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit on the Gaza situation in Saudi Arabia, he expressed regret over international community's apathy, urging its involvement, particularly from the United States, in achieving regional peace.

OIC Secretary General Hissen Ibrahim Taha urged immediate end to the massacre of innocent Palestinians, a Gaza ceasefire, and an end to the Israeli army's siege.

Pakistan citizens' portal registers over 5.4m complaints in five years

ISLAMABAD (INP): The number of citizens registered on the Pakistan Citizens Portal has increased from 41.67 lakh to 5.4mn in five years.

According to media reports, during this period, 54,04,589 complaints were registered on the portal, of which 27,48,186 were filed against federal ministries and institutions.

Overseas Pakistanis made 2,63,169 complaints, foreigners made 16,932 complaints, the Punjab government received 17,19,137 complaints, KP

received 5,47,000 complaints, and the Sindh government received 3,17,296 complaints.

Students filed the highest number of complaints at 8,10,000, followed by businessmen at 6,56,411 and civil service officers and employees at 4,82,000.

Engineers filed 5,05,000 complaints, teachers filed 6,84,000 complaints, social workers filed 3,14,000 complaints, and women filed 3,71,264 complaints.

The complaint redressal rate on the citi-

zens portal was 98.67%.

The report also revealed that the most complaints were received against Sui Northern, Mapco, and BISP, while the most complaints were received against the Pakistani embassy in Saudi Arabia.

The Pakistan Citizens Portal is a one-window solution for citizens to register complaints against government departments and institutions. The portal has been instrumental in resolving citizens' issues and improving the delivery of public services.

Ban on Friday prayers in Al-Aqsa, Srinagar Jamia Masjid denounced

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senior APHC-AJK leader Muhammad Farooq Rehmani has strongly condemned Zionist-imposed restrictions in Al-Aqsa Mosque on below 50 aged Palestinians for Friday prayers, yesterday, forcing them to face a continuous ban in the third holiest mosque of Islam.

Muhammad Farooq Rehmani in a statement issued in Islamabad also castigated Indian authorities in

occupied Jammu and Kashmir, who sealed the Srinagar Jamia Masjid for fifth consecutive Friday to stop the Muslims offering Juma prayers on an excuse that otherwise the Muslims will pray for Palestine's freedom from Israel. At the same time, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq also was prohibited and incarcerated in his home as before, he added.

Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, condemning con-

tinued house detention of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, deplored that the arrests and incarceration of people in the occupied territory would not deter them from raising their voice for freedom and praying for the freedom of Al-Quds and Al-Aqsa (Palestine).

He said that the consequences of such abhorrent and racist policies were harmful for the region, therefore, such policies must be discontinued.



QUETTA: Players are aiming the target during the Harts Game competition of the Inter Academies Darts Championship 2023, held at Fighter Sports Academy

PM Kakar suggests possibility...

Continued from page 1

proceedings against Israel for its war crimes.

The prime minister said that permanent solution to the conflict was in the establishment of a secure, viable, contiguous and sovereign state of Palestine on the basis of pre-June 1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its Capital and urged upon the Muslim countries to work towards that end. Gaza urgently needed reprieve and immediate and complete ceasefire, he said, adding Israel must be forced to halt its indiscriminate aerial bombardments and ground invasions in compliance with the international humanitarian and human rights laws, and should ensure immediate lifting of the blockade and rapid and unhindered humanitarian aid supply. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hosted a Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit, which brings together leaders from the Arab and Islamic world to discuss the current worsening situation in Gaza and the future strategy. The caretaker prime minister stressed that the Israeli occupation forces were in clear violation of international humanitarian and human rights law, and their indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force amounted to war crimes and crimes against humanity. He called on the international community to hold Israel accountable for its crimes.

Prime Minister Kakar underscored the urgency of bringing an end to Israel's campaign of terror with an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, lifting of the

siege of Gaza, and rapid and unhindered humanitarian and relief assistance for the people of Gaza. Israel as an occupying power must be reminded of its responsibility to create conditions for the urgent delivery of food, water, electricity and medical supplies to Gaza, he stressed.

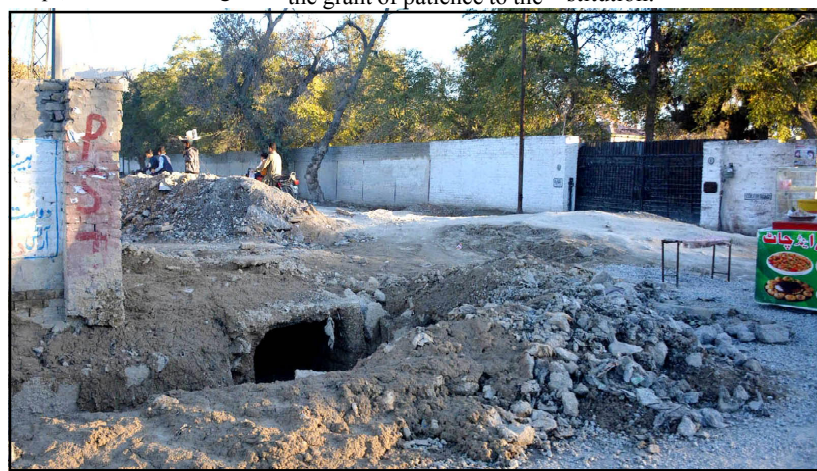
He also underlined that the root cause of the current situation was the perennial settler colonialism and denial of the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people. He reaffirmed Pakistan's solidarity and support for the Palestinian people and for their right to self-determination. The prime minister said that some 70 years back the framers of the UN charter pledged to save the coming generations from the scourge of future wars, but unfortunately, they were witnessing another war in Gaza, "what is worst, this war is a genocide".

He said that their hearts bleed at the distressing images of the state of women and children while the bombs were dropped at hospitals, refugees camps and ambulances as Israel had turned Gaza into a living hell. Israel's incessant flouting of international laws with impunity had few parallels in history, he said, adding "I condemn these atrocities in the strongest terms."

The prime minister also regretted the loss of human lives including children, women and the vulnerable. He said that the international laws prohibited infliction of deaths and destruction on the innocent civilians and this massacre must stop. He also appealed to the conscious of all the

world leaders to immediately ensure ceasefire, and ensure unhindered and full scale humanitarian assistance to Gaza. Prime Minister Kakar also appreciated the diplomatic and humanitarian efforts undertaken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Egypt, Jordan and other countries of the region, to bring the escalating situation under control. He observed that the huge onus was on the UNSC members to rise above their differences and urgently perform their primary responsibility of maintaining peace and security in the region. "Human lives cannot be sacrificed at the altar of technicalities," he stressed and also appreciated UN Secretary General for his calls for restraint and urgent humanitarian efforts.

Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories lied at the heart of current crises situation, he said, adding the conflagration possessed the risk of engulfing the entire region. The caretaker prime minister said that a UN-independent human rights member last month had issued a public warning of imminent risk of genocide of the Palestinian people at the hands of occupying forces. The prime minister also called upon the international media to objectively cover the ongoing carnage in Gaza. Injustices and brutal suppression of people's rights could give rise to future wars and conflicts, he cautioned and said without early solution to the two-state, they might continue witnessing similar cycles of violence which would only magnify in scale.



QUETTA: A view of broken road creating problems for motorists.

I'abad take proactive stance, launches awareness drive to curb dengue

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a decisive move to combat the looming dengue threat, Islamabad's Additional Deputy Commissioner (East) Usman Ashraf convened a review meeting, bringing together District Health Officer, Assistant Commissioners and Magistrates, and other stakeholders to curb dengue spread. The meeting highlighted the urgent need for intensified preventive measures, encompassing improved sanitation, waste management, and public awareness campaigns, the

ICT spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabasum said on Saturday. Ashraf emphasized that while dengue might not be a fatal disease, vigilance and proactive measures were paramount to safeguard public health. He directed the authorities to enhance sanitation efforts in various city areas, ensuring prompt waste removal and preventing water accumulation in potential mosquito breeding grounds such as workshops, tire shops, and other neglected spaces.

Recognizing the effectiveness of fogging cam-

paigns, the Additional Deputy Commissioner commended the ongoing fogging efforts in Islamabad, which have contributed to a significant reduction in dengue cases. He reiterated the administration's commitment to utilizing all available resources to control the spread of this deadly virus. With a particular focus on Islamabad's rural areas, Ashraf underscored the importance of prioritizing these communities, ensuring that every possible step is taken to protect the lives

of Islamabad's citizens. He also emphasized that the administration's primary objective is to safeguard public health and prevent the spread of dengue.

The meeting concluded with a renewed sense of urgency and a collective commitment to combating dengue. The authorities pledged to work in tandem, implementing effective preventive measures and disseminating crucial information to the public by fostering a collaborative approach and prioritizing the well-being of Islamabad's residents.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary Communication Sher Alam Mahsood and IG Motorway Police Sultan Ali Khawaja preside over the meeting at Central Police Office.



ISLAMABAD: A painter is making Palestine flag on her face during 10 Days annual Lok Mela at Lok Versa, as tomorrow is the last day of such splendid event in Federal Capital.

'Traditional shawls, Khusa footwear' at Lok Mela stalls attracting number of visitors

ISLAMABAD (APP): As ongoing 10-day 'Lok Mela' folk festival is fascinating public from all walks of life, mostly stalls showcasing colorful traditional hand-made shawls and 'Khusa' footwear are serving as a major attraction for local as well as foreign visitors.

Dozens of stalls have been set up where Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and KPK related traditional dresses specially, hand-made wool shawls are selling like hot cakes and gripping the attention of customers in the Mela. This Lok Mela is not only awesome interpretation of cultures but it gives entertainment and employment opportunities to many people, said an artistic work related seller belongs to Punjab.

Punjabi traditional dresses are incomplete without wearing embroidered Khosa, Lala

Muhammad Aslam Khosa maker at Lok Mela talking to PTV news channel said. The prices of these footwear are reasonable and the designs are fashionable, which can well show the characteristics of Pakistani Khussa which is the main attraction for female customers, he added.

Every province has set up its own aesthetically designed cultural pavilion to depict its indigenous folk heritage but I love to prefer for buying traditional Khosa footwear in the Mela which is unique design and hand-made durable product, said a female visitor while purchasing it.

Sindhi and Gilgilt-Beltistan embroidery, Ajrak, block printing, traditional shawls are on display at the Lok Mela, said a foreigner visitor, these embroidered shawls are available in comfortable stuff and attracting mostly visitors.

'Mela' proving us an economic opportunity to poor and under-privileged craftspeople, said another female customer, adding, I am buying a Pashto related traditional dress for my girls which has very attractive and colourful work.

A stall holder while displaying typical and traditional Punjabi khussa commented that this product is generally made by preserving law and order within the federal capital, a public relations officer said. He said that, to fortify the security of the superior courts and judges' enclave situated in high-security zone, personnel stationed at the security diligently executing their responsibilities, meticulously verifying the particulars of individu-

als accessing the high security zone and meticulously documenting vehicle information. The high security zone encompasses pivotal government and private establishments, diplomatic missions, and other vital assets, necessitating an unwavering focus on their safeguarding. Government personnel entering the high security zone are now mandated to display their departmental identification cards. Additionally, individuals with private business within the high security zone are urged to carry their requisite documentation.

No doubt women's khussa shoes are available in various colours and designs, said a group of female in Mela.

Campaign for registration of house servants and tenants data in full swing

ISLAMABAD (APP): According to details, following the special orders of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police "Knock the Door" campaign for the registration of employees and tenants is in full swing, a pub-



lic relations officer said.

He said that, during this campaign various teams of Islamabad Capital Police are going to the streets and door-to-door to ensure the registration of tenants and domestic workers as well as to inquire about the problems faced by the citizens.

In this regard, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Islamabad has registered a data of 133 domestic servants and tenants of 384 houses from Bara

Kahu Police Station jurisdiction.

The purpose of this campaign is to avoid any untoward incident by maintaining law and order in the federal capital adding that the registration of tenants and domestic workers could not only keep a close watch on miscreants but

also prevent the elements involved in any kind of suspicious activity. He said citizens are also requested that they can ask for the identity of a person if someone dressed in civil clothes comes to their house in order to collect the data. Unregistered employees and tenants could be involved in serious incidents like theft and robbery by impersonating as common citizen and Islamabad Capital Police is trying to provide a safe environment.

I am joining PML-N on the voice of my conscience.

Ashok Kumar further said that Pak Army has always defended the country and failed the nefarious intentions of the enemy.

I am joining PML-N on the voice of my conscience.

Ex-Senator Ashok leaves National Party, joins PML-N

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former Senator Dr Ashok Kumar has decided to say goodbye to National Party.

Dr Ashok Kumar will join the PML-N. Dr Ashok Kumar will join PML-N during the visit of Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif.

National Party had issued notice to Ashok Kumar on voting in favor of the Senate Army Act.

He said that no reply was given to the notice. Being disheartened with the behavior of the party I have decided to say goodbye.

PML-N is a federal party. We have always done politics by keeping in mind the interest of the country. I have been strongly criticized on voting in favor of Army Act.

Ashok Kumar further said that Pak Army has always defended the country and failed the nefarious intentions of the enemy.

I am joining PML-N on the voice of my conscience.

Female judge threatening case: Hearing adjourned till November 28

ISLAMABAD (Online): Hearing of female judge threatening case against chairman PTI has been adjourned till November 28 due to non availability of defence counsel in district and sessions court Islamabad.

The case came up for hearing before civil judge Muhammad Murid Abbas Saturday.

Khalid Yousuf Chaudhry counsel for chairman PTI appeared in the court. Barrister Suleman Saifdar could not appear being pre-occupied.

Prosecutor Rizwan

Abbasi appeared in the court.

He said "I am ready to give arguments. If arguments have to be given in the presence of defence counsel then give the date.

Judge Murid Abbas remarked arguments will be given in the presence of Suleman Saifdar. The day chairman PTI case is there in the court I cannot hear any other case. I am sitting free today too. I am costing to high court dearly. My daily salary is Rs 13000. There are four cases of chairman PTI and the entire day is wasted.

Foolproof security being ensured at High Security zone

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police is ceaselessly dedicated to preserving law and order within the federal capital, a public relations officer said.

He said that, to fortify the security of the superior courts and judges' enclave situated in high-security zone, personnel stationed at the security diligently executing their responsibilities, meticulously verifying the particulars of individu-



ISLAMABAD: A skilled woman is demonstrating fire from mouth to entertain people during 10 Days annual Lok Mela at Lok Versa, as tomorrow is the last day of such splendid event in Federal Capital.

Food sensitivity may significantly increase risk of cardiovascular disease

ISLAMABAD (Online): In a new study, researchers report that people with a food sensitivity to cow's milk (lactose intolerance) and other common food allergens may have a higher risk of cardiovascular disease.

They published their findings today in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology.

The researchers used information from the National Health and Examination Survey (NHANES) and the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA) to reach their conclusions.

A total of 5,374 participants - 4,414 from NHANES and 960 from MESA - were followed by

researchers for over a decade to determine if food sensitivities could contribute to cardiovascular disease.

Previous studies have shown some food allergies are associated with higher risks of heart disease, but food sensitivities (food intolerance) have not previously been identified as contributing factors to cardiovascular disease.

Details from the food sensitivities study

The NHANES study was conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention using questionnaires and laboratory tests. Participants were 20 years and older and tested for IgE antibodies at baseline.

Indonesian Corner inaugurated in NBF

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, Adam Tugio, and Managing Director (MD) of National Book Foundation (NBF), Dr Raja Mazhar Hameed jointly inaugurated the first Indonesian Corner at National Book Foundation in Islamabad.

In his remarks Ambassador Tugio said, "Indonesian Corner is not only a resource center with comfortable space for learning and open dialogue but also a manifestation of close linkages between Indonesia and Pakistan," said a press release issued here Saturday.

He extended his sincere gratitude to the MD along with his team and hailed the joint efforts of Indonesian Embassy and the NBF in establishing the good work.

IRSA releases 106,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 106,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 63,800 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1514.08 feet and was 114.08 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 31,600 cusecs and 50,000 cusecs respectively.

The inauguration ceremony was also scheduled coincided with the commemoration of the birth anniversary month of the revered national poet and philosopher, Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

The Envoy took the moment to honor Dr Muhammad Iqbal by recognizing the profound connections between Indonesia and Pakistan through the influence of Allama Iqbal's philosophy, vision, ideas to Indonesian Muslim scholars in their effort to make Islamic values continue to be relevant in facing challenges of the time.

MD of NBF, Dr Raja Mazhar Hameed said, "Pakistan values the evergreen relationship with Indonesia as the two brotherly countries always supported each other in every need of

the hour."

"Both the countries will collaborate to promote, literature, culture, and people to people contact," he added.

CEO of Institute of Dyslexia Education and Attitudinal Studies (IDEAS), Mumtaz Irum commended the establishment of the Indonesia Corner in NBF.

She highlighted the important contribution of academic exchange programme between Indonesia and Pakistan to establish a more inclusive educational environment including to enhance awareness and address the issues faced by dyslexic students.

Indonesian Corner will build bridges and promote open dialogue between the people of Indonesia and Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Girls are taking keen interest in the different things on various stalls during Behbud art and craft bazaar at Pak China Friendship Center in Federal Capital.

E&TD dept to open on weekend for vehicle registration, physical check

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant move aimed at enhancing citizen convenience, the Excise & Taxation Department (E&TD) has announced its weekend availability for vehicle registration and physical checking.

This initiative, scheduled for November 11-12, is set to streamline the process and make essential services more accessible to the residents of Islamabad, the ICT spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabasum said on Saturday.

He further said that the

decision was made under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Irfan Nawaz Memon, reflecting the administration's commitment to improving public services.

"This initiative is part of the ICT's efforts to provide better services to the citizens of Islamabad. The ICT Doorstep Service will also be available to provide domicile certificates, birth certificates, powers of attorney, international driving permits, fuel permits, motor vehicle registrations, and other services.

AIOU strives for education of out-of-school: VC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is providing educational opportunities to the remotest areas of the country, especially the most backward areas of Balochistan, said Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood in his message on the inaugural session of the Model Study Center in Dalbandin.

"We are on a mission to bring every out of school child of Balochistan into the educational network" he remarked. It is pertinent to mention here that former Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanveer Hussain inaugurated this center online in the main campus Islamabad on August 2, 2023 and a ceremony was held yesterday

to make it functional formally. This ceremony was presided over by Director General Regional Services, Dr. Malik Tauqeer Ahmad Khan, while former Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Ejaz Khan Sanjrani was the chief guest of the event. Students, tutors, social personalities and academicians participated in the event. Dr. Malik Tauqir said that regional network is being extended to include out-of-school children in educational network as per the vision of VC AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood.

He said that this study center in Dalbandin will provide education facilities to the people of the area at their doorsteps, children from Iran and Afghanistan will also benefit from this center.



ISLAMABAD: Children are enjoying swings at Play Land Park during sunny weather in Federal Capital.

Advancement in science vital for peace & development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary Friday said that continued advancement in the science and technology sector is vital for ensuring peace and development.

In connection with World Science Day, he said, "I want to underscore the transformative power of science, particularly in our era of Artificial Intelligence (AI). As we celebrate this occasion, it is crucial to address how we educate our communities about the advancements in Science and

Technology and Artificial Intelligence". COMSTECH, representing 57-member states and committed to Science and Technology, takes pride in its comprehensive efforts to raise awareness globally and its initiatives span various programs aimed at fostering scientific cooperation.

He said that the organization has launched impactful initiatives, including the COMSTECH Science in Exile Fellowships, Research Fellowships for Women Scientists in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) within

the OIC. "Additionally, our commitment extends to supporting displaced and refugee scholars, Muslim minorities, and Palestinian nationals", he said.

"Through extensive collaboration with prestigious organizations such as The World Academy of Sciences, UNESCO, International Center for Genetic Engineering and Bio-Technology, The Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, International Foundation of Science, Islamic Organiza-

tion for Food Security, Islamic Development Bank and others, COMSTECH actively contributes to science education. Our engagements include diverse activities such as webinars, seminars, training workshops, symposiums, exhibitions, and programs tailored for specific countries like Somalia, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan, Yemen, Gambia, and more", he said.

"As a bridge among member states, COMSTECH facilitates seamless communication, inviting all to contribute ideas and thoughts to en-

hance Science and Technology cooperation. Our dedication to effective science communication is evident through engagement with all mediums including electronic, print, social and digital media, ensuring the widespread dissemination of the importance of science", Dr. Iqbal said.

"Recognizing that communication begins at the grassroots, we advocate for starting science education from the school level. Initiating education in basic sciences lays the foundation for reaching diverse audiences", he added.

Working with IMF

With the IMF mission in Pakistan reviewing the progress made on its short-term \$3bn loan facility goals, the performance of the economy during the first quarter of the current fiscal year has come under the spotlight. So far, media reports, quoting unnamed Pakistani officials, suggest that the technical talks, which will lead to policy discussions from next week, between the two sides have moved smoothly.

With Islamabad having met most of the fiscal, monetary and other programme goals — with a few deviations here and there — there are hopes the Fund will release the second tranche of \$710m once the review is over. It is encouraging that Pakistani authorities are working proactively to address the Fund's concerns regarding potential slippages during the remaining period of the nine-month programme.

For example, a report says that Pakistan has suggested some "backup measures" including the imposition of a fixed tax on retailers from January to cover likely fiscal slippages due to the potential shortfall in targeted import and other tax revenues.

In case of further revenue gaps, the government is prepared to increase tax recovery from real estate to meet the full-year tax target of Rs9.4tr. The IMF is said to have assented to the proposal, but it remains unclear how much additional revenue the finance ministry wants to collect from retailers or the real estate sector. Likewise, there's no issue between the two sides regarding the need to curtail public development spending to meet the deficit target. Apparently, the IMF's major concerns pertain to possible interventions in exchange rate management, the role of the SIFC in attracting FDI in both green-field and brown-field projects through privatisation, and the government's ability to raise bilateral and commercial loans to meet external financing needs. The talks are ongoing and these concerns will, hopefully, be addressed during policy discussions next week. Analysts are confident that the country will meet most IMF goals even if some concerns remain on SIFC plans and the materialisation of investment commitments in the Gulf countries.

The successful completion of the present programme is crucial for Pakistan to be able to secure a bigger and longer-term bailout from the lender to put the economy back on the road to growth. While some caretaker ministers have in recent months claimed that Pakistan will not need another IMF loan once the promised Gulf investments materialise, realities dictate otherwise.

As an economy that consumes more than it produces, Pakistan has repeatedly gone to the IMF for help because of decades of poor governance, bad economic policies and wrong priorities. The country's chances of overcoming these chronic structural problems in the near to medium term outside the strict discipline the IMF imposes are slight if not impossible.



Madeeha Ansari

As part of a global research project on forced migration, I was able to listen closely to the stories of children who had perhaps one, perhaps two parents of Afghan origin, and whose only memories were of life in Pakistan. The most powerful, common motif reverberating through their experiences was: 'I was born here'.

In September 2023, an announcement was made giving undocumented families and individuals of Afghan origin a deadline of Nov 1 to exit the country. This impacts an estimated 1.7 million people, and includes communities that have experienced protracted displacement since the 1980s. For many, a second and often a third generation of children has grown up in Pakistan. However, with-

out pathways to citizenship, their position has remained insecure — even for registered refugees. Proof of Registration (PoR) or Afghan Citizen cards have been subject to renewal after a certain time period.

What, then, is identity? If identity is a document, then it could be a valuable key opening doors to education, livelihoods, the dream of a future different from that of an uprooted generation. The PoR or Afghan Citizen card fit into some doors, enabling bright-eyed young people to enter formal schools and build, brick by brick, those imagined futures. But identity as a document can be a vanishing key, as many now fear deportation in the second phase of the plan as currently shared.

The fear of repatriation was one reason why some of the most vulnerable communities — often in informal, urban contexts — chose to remain invisible, even if that meant giving up even the most basic rights. There was nothing promised to them, yet they fought to stay — moving multiple times, even from the rubble of bulldozed settlements. Perhaps, then, identity is more than a piece of paper, and has something to do with homes built and rebuilt, relationships forged, children born and raised.

They were born here. When embracing friends, saying goodbye, tearing up at the border while facing uncertainty ahead, a voice somewhere whispers: they belong here.

In a parallel reality, children born in Pakistan would have had access to the same kind of birthright citizenship, according to the 1951 Citizenship Act, as those who came as refugees to the country in 1947. They would be able to open bank accounts, own property, enrol in schools with the confidence that comes from a secure national identity. In this alternative vision, they would have the responsibilities that come with citizenship rights, part of a social contract and contributing to a shared and harmonious future.

But our reality is less than utopian, with a crippling economic crisis and worsening security conditions driving both public and policy reactions. One question is whether the sudden exodus of Afghan communities will truly impact, for the better, the fuel prices having a paralytic effect on families in Pakistan — or the rising threat of violence from angered Taliban neighbours.

For the children and families now being sent to holding centres or across the border, the signs are pointing to a humanitarian and "human rights catastrophe", according to the UNHCR, the UN refugee agency. It will be the latest wave of disruption and displacement, this time to a barely post-war pariah country with little international support, and few or no remaining personal networks to moor them. The likely scenario will be the setting up of yet more camps during a harsh winter, with little time to prepare for their arrival and basic survival in terms of food and shelter, let alone livelihoods and education. The journey itself is fraught with physical protection risks for women and children, who are ever the most vulnerable in a crisis. Once there, unless there are

provisions for protection, sanitation and hygiene in camp conditions, there will once more not only be risks in terms of disease but also physical and sexual violence.

They were refugees here. And if they go 'back' to Afghanistan in this way, they will be refugees there. In the medium term, there are big question marks surrounding livelihoods and education, and whether Afghanistan has the capacity to absorb such a large number of people. For children, sudden and involuntary migration can have a deeply traumatic impact for which there are unlikely to be psychosocial support mechanisms, or the provision of safe and child-friendly spaces that can provide stability.

In fact, there is a high likelihood of families relying on negative coping strategies such as early marriage and child labour to survive.

Girls are expressing terror at the prospect of losing their chance to go to school, in the only country where female education is banned.

As of Nov 5, an esti-

mated 128,000 people have left via Torkham. While this is a fraction of the intended numbers, there are reports of minors being separated from caregivers, and of Pakistani Pakhtun minors being mistakenly sent across the border. If anything, all this indicates that an undertaking of this magnitude needs more time, careful planning and communication across stakeholders — including governments, UN agencies, civil society and individuals at risk — to ensure that any return is truly what we as a country have for decades promised it will be: voluntary, safe and dignified.

Identity is a tangled mesh of past and present. For third-generation children, growing up in a 'host' country means their identities are informed by transmitted memories and culture — but also very much by their lives and experiences in the only home they have known.

We owe it to them to consider them, their protection and rights in any next steps, so they can say with pride that they were born in Pakistan. -- Courtesy Dawn

Born in Pakistan

So you want to start working?



Dr Ayesha Razaque

A few months ago, these pages carried an op-ed of mine that attempted to provide some insights into university admissions processes ('The admissions game', May 27, 2023). A few weeks ago, I followed up with an op-ed on how students can make the most out of their college/university years ('Welcome to college — and adulthood', September 20, 2023).

Today I want to complete this trilogy by adding some advice for new graduates about what comes next — entering the workplace. I am mindful that there is an entire industry of self-help and life/professional coaching out there, which addresses this among other issues. A 2021 article reported that TikTok had become a go-to destination for career advice and that videos with #careeradvice received 80

million views in February of that year alone ('The latest TikTok craze: Career advice, resume reviews, and interview tips', Washington Post, March 26, 2021). I will endeavour to remain focused on the local context and new graduates entering the job market.

The list of things I talk about here is not — cannot be — exhaustive. There are plenty of responsibilities that fall on employers, but today is not about that. These are just a few pointers that can hopefully make for a better start to work-life and that should also caution new entrants about where the rhetoric of Western commentators found in articles and blogs may be far ahead of the ground situation they may face here at home.

Your professional relationships at the workplace are unlike any other you have had yet. Your professional colleagues are not like your friends (though some may eventually develop into some) and certainly not like family (elders, siblings, or otherwise). A lot of employers tend to use the 'we are like a family' line which is inappropriate, cringy, dated, and even exploitative. What it often translates to

is an expectation of not challenging or disagreeing with higher-ups (the 'family elders') and going above and beyond without expectations of compensation and reward because, well, families don't keep score. In my experience, talk of the office staff 'being a family' is a red flag, even when it is meant well.

Ageism, discrimination against older people, is a workplace problem that is often talked about in the West and can be found in our local context as well. However, a far more prevalent problem in our workplaces is ageism — discrimination against the young — possibly rooted in the reverence given to elders in our culture. To rise to a certain level of management, you need to look the part. A few years ago, I was privy to a conversation in which a man in his mid-thirties confessed that he had to gain 10 kilograms and grow a beard to be considered for a more senior role by his employer.

Age and (service) seniority often figure prominently in public-sector organizations. Although the same rules and norms do not apply to private-sector organizations, many people have a hard time accepting

someone even slightly younger as their manager, even if that manager is more experienced, accomplished, and qualified. Although this may be less of an issue at your first job, do not be surprised if you encounter resistance from reportees older than you. On the flip side, while this is unlikely to be the case in your first job, be prepared to take orders from people younger than yourself.

Closely related, some men continue to feel it beneath them to report to women who are their managers. In the 21st century, there is nothing further I need to say about such attitudes other than: don't become one of those fossils.

Few and far between are workplaces that are free of office politics, sometimes with employees divided into 'camps' or 'groups'. As an entry-level employee, you are cannon fodder in intra-office political chess and the most replaceable person in the office. Steer clear of drama and do not let yourself be dragged into the office rumor mill.

A lot of advertised positions that could or should be entry-level ask for work experience. That is because showing someone with no

work experience the ropes is seen as a huge overhead. Employers hire employees to reduce or distribute workloads and make things easier not to increase the bandwidth needed to manage teams. When faced with a problem at work, try to figure things out on your own before making demands of someone else's time. When you see a problem approaching, see you reactive: let things happen and take action after the Titanic hit the iceberg — or proactive: take action as soon as you spot a problem coming? That is what all those descriptors like 'go-getter', 'self-starter', 'self-motivated', and 'proactive' refer to.

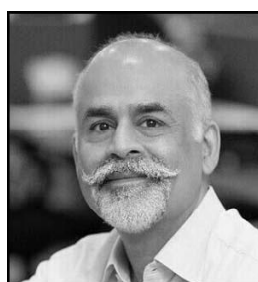
Build a reputation for being trustworthy, dependable, and available. Start by being punctual and being available during office hours. Do not be hard to find when needed. If you are finished with your assignments, find a task that needs doing but always gets crowded out by other priorities or tell your manager you are available to pick up some slack. Do not become the guy who is always found in the kitchen or office breakroom. Do not demonstrate your own redun-

dancy.

Lastly, the most fundamental office etiquette that is more relevant today than ever: Do not talk about religion or politics at the office (or your favourite professional social networking platform) — you are almost guaranteed to offend someone. People work for many reasons — to make a living, to take care of their families, and in the process learn something but never to have their political views changed or preached to.

In conclusion, whether your employer spotted you potential to be great at a job during the interview process or the name of your alma mater signaled it and got you through the door, the sheen of potential wears off quickly and has to be backed up by delivery. Perhaps nothing irks a manager more than inconsistency in performance and quality of work and high transaction cost. Trust — trust that you deliver, do not play office politics, are available when needed, keep pertinent information to yourself, keep your nose out of other people's business, and most importantly, are truthful — is everything. -- Courtesy TheNews

Wafa's keffiyeh



Shahzad Sharjeel

Not that I earned any of the checks in its pattern, but the keffiyeh I have is not bought at the abaya and rosary shops that sprang up across the country in the decades that followed its acquisition. The black-and-white checked headgear was given to me by a Palestinian girl, Wafa.

Not sure if I and many among my generation should consider ourselves fortunate or otherwise as Palestine for us is not some far-off land and its inhabitants some characters we read about in history books or whose map is spotted at sundry religious groups' marches timed more for local political expediency than any deeper connection with Wafa and her people.

The deep sense of helplessness causes this ambivalence as our ties with the Palestinians go further than political slogans and natural empathy with a people a majority of whom are our co-religionists. We went to school with them.

My alma mater, the University of Karachi (KU), counts among its alumni Sudanese, Somalis, Algerians, Iranians, Jordanians, Thais, Filipinos, and yes, Palestinians. We, the Sindhi, Baloch, Pakhtun, Seraiki, Punjabi, Gilgit-Baltistani, and Karachiite students, were concerned as much about Nelson Mandela's continued incarceration under the apartheid regime as we were about Abu Ammar's, aka Yasser Arafat, where-

abouts in those days.

Our sympathies and, dare I say, affiliations at times lost sight of the bigger picture and degenerated into bickering over support for Fatah and the Popular Front. Hamas was just making its presence felt. Yes! On the KU campus. One would avoid visiting their camps during the admissions drive lest our Fatah friends got offended.

The similarities between Pakistan and Israel are too many to enumerate here. The recycling of the same faces and policies in both polities sometimes reduces the entire political edifice to a game of musical chairs. Fear, nay perennial existential threat, marks the national psyche of both countries.

Of late, the superior judiciary in Israel has come under the same type of pressure that we witness to varying degrees under almost all forms of government in Pakistan.

While movements for restoring judicial independence have lasted longer over here, the scale and intensity of the recent pro-judiciary protests in Israel outdid a similar outpouring of support for the Supreme Court. And while both countries have relied on economic and military support from the US, in Israel's case, the tail has usually wagged the dog, whereas we get called out every time we try to play smart with the Yanks. Moreover, they have Dimona and we have Kahuta.

During a brief exchange programme in Boston, I once shared a room in a dorm with an Israeli rally race driver-turned-motor journalist. Whenever we were missing from class, we would jokingly tell our course mates, 'Must be going through my things right now'.

Not sure if it was deliberate, but religion and

politics did not come up for discussion. He seemed like a decent guy, nothing like Benjamin Netanyahu or Amichay Eliyahu, who would not discount the nuclear option in Gaza. I hope he holds a similar view of me and does not think we're all school and mosque bombers here.

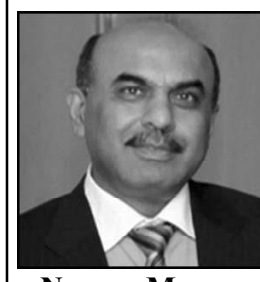
During my university days, the departmental chair got furious when at a mock UN session, a few of us decided to declare that whatever peace process and solution was acceptable to the legitimate representative body of the Palestinians was good for us. The PLO had accepted the state of Israel.

Our dear professor believed he knew better than the Palestinians what was best for them. We students were convinced that no amount of moral and diplomatic support gave us the right to second-guess those who lived cheek by jowl with the Israelis and whose generations had come up in refugee camps.

To make matters even more personal, Waheed and Abu Limun became my next-door neighbours in Karachi. All we had to do to exchange cups of tea and extremely thick and sweet coffee was to get to our rooftops and call out to each other. Our building was somewhat higher than theirs, but Abu was so tall he could stretch his arms and exchange steaming mugs.

Life happened, and we all drifted apart. It has been over 40 years since, yet it seems like yesterday. Waheed's kid sister back in the West Bank was named Maha. Wafa could not have been more than three when she gave me the keffiyeh. I pray that she and Maha have survived all that providence has in store for the Palestinians. I somehow have no such illusions about Waheed and Abu. -- Courtesy Dawn

Long road ahead



Naseer Memon

The fate of those affected by last year's floods has faded from memory but the miseries of the people persist. Catastrophic events leave deep bruises. Complete healing is a complex and protracted process, while certain impacts of the disaster remain irreversible. Poverty resulting from or aggravated by such disasters is one such element that transcends generations.

The World Bank's recent Macro Poverty Outlook estimates that poverty in Pakistan has increased in the last fiscal year due to skyrocketing food and energy prices, a struggling labour market and the aftermath of the floods.

The floods of 2022 not only displaced over 10 million people in Sindh, they also scrapped their meagre asset base and left critical infrastructure and public services crippled.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority's (PDMA) situation report released in April counts over 2m houses damaged (including 1.4m that collapsed altogether), 436,435 perished livestock heads and 3.7m acres of swamped crop area.

These are not simply digits, they are also a numerical depiction of a torment inherited by posterity in the shape of poverty, malnutrition, mental disorder and social instability.

Recently travelling in the far-flung areas of Khairpur Mirs, Naushahro Feroze, Ghotki, Badin, Mirpurkhas and other parts of Sindh, I was aware of the pain that had permeated the shattered lives of the flood

affected. A septuagenarian woman with a wrinkled face broke into tears while sharing distressing memories of how she spent months in a shabby tent on the roadside, cut off by a deep pool of water and surviving on one meal a day while spending sleepless nights under swarms of mosquitoes.

Apart from personal trauma, the loss of critical services has made life miserable for millions of dwellers. People in many villages said that groundwater had been rendered undrinkable as stagnant floodwater had dribbled its way into aquifers. Barring a few major towns, most areas rely on subsurface water for everyday use, including drinking and cooking. Even small towns do not receive properly treated water through a piped network.

According to the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment report, 5,318 water supply and sanitation schemes in Sindh had been damaged. Water and sanitation, community infrastructure, and municipal services in Sindh faced losses and damage to the tune of \$509m. These facilities and services are being rehabilitated at a snail's pace.

Polluted drinking water is playing havoc with public health in Sindh. Gastroenteritis, malaria and skin diseases are being reported in the flood-ravaged districts. The provincial health department acknowledged 247,799 malaria cases from January to August.

Health experts term these numbers the tip of the iceberg. Health department officials attributed the surge in malaria cases to standing floodwater and poor sanitation. Most of the flood-affected population is left with no choice but to consume contaminated water.

The major cause of displacement includes collapsed houses. Over 2m homes were damaged, forcing millions of people to dwell in tents and makeshift huts on the roadside. Rural

houses are mostly made of unbaked brick walls and thatched roofs (they are referred to as katcha homes).

They are unable to withstand even normal amounts of rain and wind currents. The Annual Development Report, 2017, of the Sindh Bureau of Statistics reveals that over half the homes in the rural areas are katcha.

The share of such houses in the worst flood-hit districts in--c-1--ude Dadu (56 per cent), Jamshoro (65pc), Kambhar-Shahdadkot (65pc), Khairpur Mirs (51pc) and Mirpurkhas (71pc). In these areas, more than 75pc of homes are just

one-room structures. Most of these homes were wiped out by the floods. The Sindh government has initiated an ambitious project of reconstructing these houses as pakka, concrete structures. So far over 325,000 houses are reportedly at different stages of reconstruction.

The process is time-consuming yet the construction of climate-resilient houses with ownership titles is expected to bring about a positive and major transformation in the rural areas. The floods have erased most of the unmetallodracks, link roads, culverts and bridges in the rural areas. This has created unimaginable hardship for village communities living away from proper roads.

The Sindh PDMA reported the loss of 8,463 kilometres of roads, 165 bridges and 1,749 culverts. This has crippled life in the rural areas as alternative routes require longer travel time and higher transportation costs. Potholes in the link roads have also caused numerous accidents.

More than a year and a half after the floods, much of the damage remains unaddressed and the promised rehabilitation is a distant dream for the flood-affected communities. -- Courtesy Dawn

Naqvi reviews progress on 43 preferential public welfare projects

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, during a meeting at Planning & Development (P&D) board office on Saturday, reviewed progress being made on 43 public welfare preferential projects through the drone footage. Chairman Planning & Development Board Ifthikhar Sahu briefed the CM about physical progress made on the projects.

Mohsin Naqvi issued directions to the secretaries concerned to complete the ongoing projects within stipulated time period. Progress on Shahdara multi grade flyover Imamia Colony overhead bridge, Akbar Chowk flyover and Ring Road Southern Loop was reviewed during the meeting.

A briefing was given about the construction of dual road from the Wahndo Interchange up to Benazir

Chowk to link Gujranwala with the Sialkot-Lahore Motorway, construction of Abdullahpur flyover at Faisalabad and construction of road from Gajjumata up to Kasur Ferozepur Road.

CM expressed his grave concern over sluggishness being shown in the pace of work on the Multan Shujaabad flyover project and directed to speed up pace of work on the project. Progress with regard to upgradation work of other hospitals including new GOR, Services, Ganga Ram, Lady Willingdon, Mayo and General Hospitals was reviewed during the meeting. A briefing was given during the meeting about the upgradation work of Lahore Zoo, Safari Park and Safe City Authority projects of Faisalabad, Rawalpindi and Gujranwala. Establishment of a Cadet College Multan,

Gujranwala University, restoration of Fort Kohna Qasim Bagh Multan and establishing a park was also reviewed during the meeting. The participants were given a briefing about PAFDA (Punjab Agriculture, Food and Drug Authority) Laboratory and Bio Gas plants. A fateha was offered for salvation of the soul of Director General Punjab Forensic Science Agency Doctor Muhammad Ashraf Tahir late. The participants paid tributes to the invaluable services of Doctor Muhammad Ashraf Tahir late. CM remarked that Doctor Muhammad Ashraf Tahir late was an asset and his services in PFSA will always be remembered.

Provincial Minister P&D Bilal Afzal, Chief Secretary, SMBR, ACS (Home), Secretaries of various departments and senior officials attended the meeting.



BAHAWALPUR: Governor Punjab Engineer Muhammad Balihur Rehman, Vice Chancellor Islamia University Bahawalpur Prof. Dr. Naveed Akhtar conferring honorary PHD degree to renowned poet Muhammad Shakir Shuja Abadi at the Special Convocation of Islamia University Bahawalpur.

Punjab govt to upgrade 45 nursing colleges in province

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has decided to upgrade all 45 nursing colleges in the province with a cost of Rs.1.5 billion, here on Saturday.

Punjab Health Department official sources told that these colleges would be equipped with the latest medical and civil facilities by upgrading them as per with other hospitals and medical institutions. The Punjab government was taking all the steps for improvement in nursing colleges he said.

Minister for Health Punjab, Prof. Dr. Javed

Akram said in a recent statement that adding new furniture, electric devices and all related facilities would be provided at these colleges. Moreover, digital libraries, skilled laboratories at the nursing colleges would also be improved.

He said that the aim and vision was to take a step in the field of nursing education and provide affordable medical facilities to the people saying that by laying the foundation of improving nursing colleges, the Punjab government would fulfill another promise.



HYDERABAD: Workers of Jeay Sindh Students Federation hold a protest rally in the favor of their demands, in City.

Provocative speeches against state: Court rejects exemption plea, bail bonds of Marriyum, Javed Latif

LAHORE (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) has rejected plea for exemption from appearing in the court and bail bonds of PML-N leaders Marriyum Aurangzeb and Javed Latif in anti state speeches case.

The case came up for hearing before ATC led by duty Judge Arshad Javed Saturday. The counsel for the accused filed application for exemption from appearance in the court for Marriyum Aurangzeb and Javed Latif

which was rejected. The court also rejected the bail bonds of both the accused as well. The court while completing the attendance of co-accused adjourned the hearing of the case till November 25.

It is pertinent to mention here that the court had sought reply from prosecution department on the acquittal plea of Marriyum Aurangzeb. The case against PML-N leaders was registered in police station Green Town.

Walk held to raise awareness about smog

BAHAWALPUR (APP): A walk was conducted from the Deputy Commissioner's office under the leadership of DC Bahawalpur Zaeem Anwar Jappa to raise awareness among people about staying safe from smog.

Additional Commissioner

Consolidation Ashfaq Sial, Assistant Commissioner Bahawalpur City Adeel Khan, CEO Education Mohammad Akram, CEO BWM Naem Akhtar, Assistant Director Environment Ansir Abbas, officers and staff of departments, social leaders.

Court summons lawyers for arguments on post arrest bail plea of Pervaiz

LAHORE (Online): Anti-Corruption Court (ATC) Judge Arshad Hussain Bhutta has summoned lawyers for arguments on November 14 on Parvez Elahi's application for post-arrest bail in the case of appointing Mohammad Khan Bhatti as Principal Secretary.

Prosecution has submitted the record of case in court.

CCPO says: Lahore police conducted 5,755 IBOs this year

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Police conducted 5,755 intelligence-based operations (IBOs) this year, with an ongoing commitment to safeguarding lives and properties of citizens.

This was stated by Lahore Police Chief Bilal Siddique Karyana in a statement, released here on Saturday.

During these operations, a thorough examination had been conducted, encompassing 153,607 houses, 77,744 tenants and 601,599 individuals, he added. The CCPO Lahore reported that 258 hotels, 62 guest houses, 116 hostels, and 8,516 shops were scrutinized during the search operations.

Notably, action has been taken against 1,047 individuals under the Tenancy Act, he added and concluded that the protection of the community remains a paramount responsibility for Lahore Police.

Diwali celebrated

Independent Report
BAHAWALNAGAR: The Hindu Valmek community celebrated Diwali with religious fervor and complete freedom. A ceremony was organized by the Hindu community in the ancient temple of Bahawalnagar, in which delegations of political and religious parties including Jamaat-e-Islami also participated. The cake was cut, men and women belonging to the Hindu religion spread colors on each other and expressed happiness. Minorities are most cared for, grateful to our Muslim brothers who always share our happiness.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali addressing the 5th convocation Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan.

Speakers urge Organizations to use AI to thwart growing cyber threats

KARACHI (APP): The speakers of a Conference titled "Artificial Intelligence for Cyber Security" have urged organizations to link Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities with evolving challenges of cyber security to better defend themselves against increasing threats.

They said that AI would ultimately ensure security and integrity of their digital assets and data.

The Conference on AI was organized by the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIA) on its premises on Saturday, aimed at bringing together experts and practitioners to discuss the latest advancements in AI-driven cyber-security and explore innovative solutions to protect digital future against relentless cyber threats through collective efforts.

The speaker of the conference were Member of Pakistan Information Security Association; Member of Core Committee Pakistan IT Task Force; Lead Risk Manager, FECEB Canada and Educational Design Consultant (ILM-UK) Dr. M. Shaheer Waqar; Co-founder and Executive Director of Global Blockchain Organization Jorge Sebastiao; Programme Leader for Cyber Security at White Cliffe-Technology and Innovation, Wellington; Dr. Shahbaz Pervez Chattha; Senior Member of Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers; Member of Pakistan Academy of Sciences; and Member of Prime Minister's Advisory Committee for Establishment of IT Centre of Excellence in Pakistan Dr. Muazzam A.

Minister visits hospital, orders improving treatment facilities

FAISALABAD (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Health Prof Dr Javed Akram visited Allied Hospital on Saturday and ordered for improving medical facilities for patients.

He said that the Punjab government was spending huge money for revamping hospitals in Faisalabad so that people could be provided quality treatment facilities. He said that development projects had been started in about 100 hospitals across the province. Most of the up-

gradation projects were completed whereas pace of work was also accelerated to complete remaining projects in the hospital up to January 31, 2024.

He also visited emergency ward, OPD and new block of Allied Hospital and ordered to ensure quality material in the construction work.

Vice Chancellor (VC) Faisalabad Medical University (FMU) Prof Dr Zafar Ali Chaudhry, Medical Superintendent Dr Muhammad Faheem and others were also present.



KARACHI: Anwaar Habib Academy organizes Dukhtar-e-Islam rally in support of Palestinians at Press Club.

Punjab govt releases Rs 400m for upgrading three hospitals

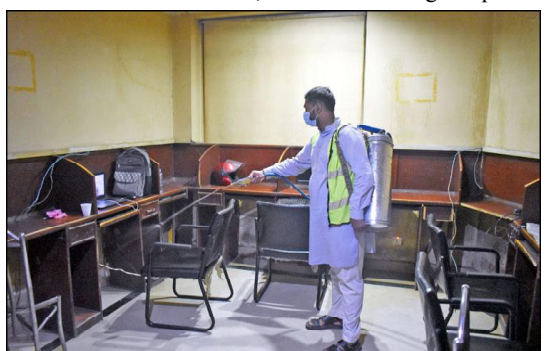
SARGODHA (APP): The Punjab caretaker government released Rs 400 million funds for construction and repair of buildings and various departments of three hospitals in Sargodha including Government Dr. Faisal Teaching Hospital, Government Mian Moola Bakhsh Hospital and Government TB Hospital.

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti in his conference room on Saturday in which SE Buildings Ghulam Abbas Virk, ADCR Mohsin Salahuddin, MS Dr Faisal Masood Teaching Hospital Dr. Akif Bashir, MS Moola Bakhsh Hospital Dr. Imtiaz Bhatti, Principal Sargodha Medical College Dr. Humaira Akram,

Deputy Director Technical Rana Shahid Imran, District Officer Population Malik Aftab Ahmad Awan and others also attended the meeting.

The commissioner ordered for starting work of the hospitals immediately. He said that the buildings of the three hospitals including other departments should be upgraded. The meeting was held in the three hospitals, repair of floors, tiles, walls, ceilings, new doors and windows including improvement of sewerage system and underground wiring of electricity, lawns and waiting rooms would be completed.

The meeting was informed that Rs 180 million for Government Dr. Faisal Teaching Hospital.



LAHORE: A worker of health department is spraying Anti-Dengue spray at Press Club in Provincial Capital

Governor awards honorary PhD degrees to Shakir Shuja Abadi, Javed Chaudhry

By Tariq Hafeez
BAHAWALPUR: Governor Punjab Engr. Muhammad Baligh ur Rahman on Saturday said that universities are the bright face of society and play a key role in the development of the country.

He said along with traditional teaching, universities also perform literary and social services and patronize personalities associated with them.

"It is very gratifying that the Islamia University of Bahawalpur is awarding honorary PhD degrees to two prominent personalities of the country, he said.

These views were expressed by Governor Punjab and Chancellor Engr. Muhammad Baligh ur Rahman while addressing the special convocation 2023 at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur.

He said that

Muhammad Shafi Shakir Shuja Abadi is undoubtedly a strong reference to Seraiki language and literature and a proud asset of the South Punjab. His services to the Seraiki language and literature are worth remembering. "Javed Chaudhry is a positive personality of Pakistani journalism and his journalistic services are commendable. I congratulate both degree recipients on the day of this ceremony," the governor acknowledged.

Governor Punjab said that Bahawalpur is a center of lush green gardens, libraries, and great educational institutions and has an important role in national development.

The educational institutions here have produced the best academicians, writers and poets, athletes and scientists who have proved their talents at the national

and international level. Among these institutions, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur is at the forefront and the role of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur in promoting education from Baltistan to Sindh and Balochistan has been highly commendable.

Governor Punjab said that our educational institutions are morally bound to produce educated youth who are not only endowed with technical skills but also have high personal standards. I am glad that under the leadership of the current Vice Chancellor, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur is playing its role in promoting the teachings of this great poet based on peace and harmony.

The Governor appreciated the efforts of the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Naveed Akhtar, the faculty, and their team.

Dense fog engulfs city suburbs

PESHAWAR (APP): The city and surrounding areas were enveloped in fog, and the children going to school faced difficulties due to the heavy fog.

Traffic flow is also badly affected due to heavy fog. The traffic police also issued an advisory to maintain the fog and avoid overtaking by keeping their vehicles in lanes.

Besides Peshawar city, Mardan, Nowshera, and Charsadda are covered by heavy fog, creating difficulties for people reaching their respective offices and work.

After the fog, the intensity of the cold has also increased in Peshawar and in other cities.



GILGIT: Advisor to Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan for Information, Eman Shah giving away shield to the student participating the program of Gilgit-Baltistan Independence Day and Fikriya Iqbal organized by State Youth Parliament Pakistan.

Police's SI martyred during exchange of fire with Ladi gang dacoits

Independent Report

MULTAN: A sub-inspector Punjab Police embraced martyrdom while another three sustained injuries during exchange of fire between police personnel and dacoits of Ladi gang at Shadi Lund area, about 22 kilometer away from Dera Ghazi Khan city, on Saturday.

According to official sources, responding to an incident of dacoity, in-charge Shadi Lund picket sub-inspector Rizwan Mehboob took immediate action and managed to encircle the dacoits. The dacoits opened fire at the police team. In exchange of fire, sub-inspector Rizwan Mehboob embraced

martyrdom however another three police officials including ASI Iqbal, Head Constable Tahir and Constable Mazhar became injured. A dacoit was also shot dead by the police. After getting information, some more police officials led by DPO Mohiuddin rushed to the site and took part in the operation against the dacoits. The identity of the deceased dacoit is yet to be ascertained. Commissioner DG Khan Dr Nasir Mahmood Bashir also visited hospital and met the injured police officials. The police personnel are stated stable by doctors, said Commissioner Nasir Bashir.



KARACHI: Police personal takes action against illegal Afghan migrants during operation at last late night in provincial capital.

2nd phase of Tablighi Ijtima to conclude on today, amid tight security

LAHORE (APP): The second phase of the annual international congregation, Raiwind Tablighi Ijtima, would conclude on Sunday, Nov 12, with final prayer, amid tight security arrangements.

According to the Ijtima administration, the second and final phase of Ijtima 2023 had started on Thursday, Nov 9. The districts and areas participating in the second phase included Kohat, Hangu, Karam and Kazai Agency, Tirah, Dara Adam Khel, Sada, Mardan, Malakand, Dargai, Swabi, Ghazi, Tarbela, Gilgit, Besham, Bitgram, Mansehra, Chillas, Abbottabad, Kohistan, Haripur, Torgar, Bahawalpur, Rahimyar

Khan, Lodhran, Gujranwala, Gujarat, Sialkot, Narowal and Mandi Bahauddin. Around six to seven lakh people are participating in the second phase.

The arrival of delegates from abroad has already completed; however a large number of people around Lahore and suburbs is likely to attend final prayers on early hours of Sunday. Around more than 600,000 people so far have reached the venue. The data of citizens, residing in nearby houses, hotels, guesthouses, bus stops and railway stations, has been collected through geo-fencing, biometric verification and Hotel Eye app.

Fixing economy key priority of govt: Punjab Law Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Punjab's Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Kanwar Muhammad Dilshad said that fixing the economic problems is the top priority of the government and all possible measures were being taken to revive the economy.

He said this while addressing as chief guest at a Business Networking Lunch organized by the former MNA Kanwar Qutbuddin Khan in honour of Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), said a press release issued here.

Kanwar Dilshad said that the business community is the key stakeholder in the country's economic development and the government is determined to provide them maximum

facilitation in business development.

He assured that he would play a role in taking up the key issues of the business community at relevant forums for their early redressal so that they can promote businesses with ease.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, ICCI said that Pakistan is a country of a very young population and we need to develop a strong economy to give them a better future.

He said that the business community has a lot of hopes for the Special Investment Facilitation Council and we are confident that it would steer the economy out of the current economic crisis.

Bakhtawari said that the government is planning to impose a fixed tax on

retailers and realtors and emphasized that this should be done in consultation with the stakeholders to avoid any unnecessary problems in the business sector.

He assured that the business community would fully support the government in its endeavours for the revival of the economy.

Former MNA and renowned businessman Kanwar Qutbuddin Khan said that the real estate sector has the potential to steer the economy out of the current crisis as the growth of over 50 allied industries is linked with this industry.

He said that the government should focus on creating a conducive environment for the real estate and construction industry to attract more investment.



ISLAMABAD: Vendors are busy in taking part in bidding to buy newly arrived Oranges at Fruit and Vegetables Market of Sector I-11 in Federal Capital.

IMPACT digital market initiative launched as Saudia, African summit concludes

RIYADH (SPA/APP): The Digital Government Authority (DGA) has launched the IMPACT digital market initiative for members of the Digital Cooperation Organization and African Union countries, totaling 54 countries. The initiative aims to contribute to creating value for individuals, communities, and business sectors, and to work on bridging the digital gap towards a comprehensive and sustainable digital economy for all. The initiative was launched at the conclusion of the Saudi-African Summit, held in Riyadh earlier Friday. Governor of the DGA, Ahmed Mohammed Al-Suwaiyan said the initiative aims to build the digital infrastructure to achieve a positive impact in terms of increasing productivity, enhancing efficiency and providing a better experience for service beneficiaries.

This reflects the determination to enhance integration and joint work in accordance with the directives of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Al-Suwaiyan said.

He added that the IMPACT Initiative aims to increase the contribution of the digital economy and facilitate access to digital services in various sectors, including education, health, justice, and security. Moreover, it seeks to increase the contribution of the private sector and facilitate business practices.

The DGA and the Digital Cooperation Organization will work along with the governmental entities in the beneficiary countries to utilize this initiative, Al-Suwaiyan said.

FESCO spokesman says: Rs. 452.3m fine imposed on 3,670 electricity thieves

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has imposed Rs. 452.3 million fine on 3,670 electricity thieves, caught during last 64 days of anti-power-theft campaign in FESCO region.

FESCO Spokesman Tahir Sheikh said here on Saturday that the company launched a vigorous anti-theft drive on special direction of Minister of Energy (Power Division) and during 64 days of this campaign the anti-theft teams of the company caught 3,670 power pilferers from its eight districts.

The company had

imposed a total fine of Rs.452.3 million on the pilferers under the head of detection units of 9.78 million in addition to getting Rs.270 million recovered from them.

FESCO had also got cases registered against 3479 accused whereas the police had arrested 3053 electricity thieves so far, he added.

Giving further details, he said that the FESCO teams continued checking of power pilferage round the clock and caught 24 electricity thieves during last 24 hours who were stealing electricity through various modes including direct supply.



HYDERABAD: Peoples purchasing fireworks items from woman vendor in connection with Dewali festival.

Over 40 mln tonnes of autumn grain purchased in China

BEIJING (Xinhua/APP): China is stepping up the purchase of autumn grain, with companies in the country's major grain-producing areas purchasing over 40 million tonnes of grain so far, data from the National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration showed Friday.

The administration said that purchasing activities in the market had been brisk, with grain prices remaining relatively stable. Local governments should provide better services for farmers and toughen their crackdown on all types of irregularities to maintain market order and safeguard the rights and interests of farmers, it said.

It also called for efforts to closely monitor the prices of major autumn grain products, such as rice, corn and soybeans, and provide region-specific countermeasures against adverse weather.

We will buy sugarcane by Rs. 425 per ton from farmers, Jahangir Tareen

LAHORE (Online): Patron In chief of IPP Jahangir Tareen said that we will buy sugarcane by RS 425 per ton from farmers.

In a statement, Jahangir Tareen said that Caretaker government has fixed the support price of sugarcane at RS 400 per ton.

Jahangir Tareen said that protecting the rights of farmers is the first priority.

He also said that the country will be prosperous if the farmer is prosperous.



ISLAMABAD: Girls are taking keen interest in the different things on various stalls during Behbud art and craft bazaar at Pak China Friendship Center in Federal Capital.

Moody's sounds alarm on US economy; credit rating outlook dips to 'negative'

NEW YORK (INP): Moody's, one of the three major credit rating agencies, downgraded the outlook on the U.S. credit rating from "stable" to "negative" on Friday.

The decision comes amid growing concerns over large fiscal deficits and a diminishing capacity to service debt, echoing similar sentiments expressed by Fitch earlier this year.

Moody's highlighted the impact of federal spending and escalating political polarization as key factors contributing to the negative outlook. Investors have become increasingly wary, leading to a sell-off that has pushed U.S. government bond prices to their lowest

levels in 16 years. Christopher Hodge, Chief Economist for the U.S. at Natixis, emphasized the challenging landscape, stating, "Deficits will remain large, and as interest costs take up a larger share of the budget, the debt burden will continue to grow."

Political calendar delays potential solutions. Moody's Senior Vice President William Foster pointed out that any significant policy response to address the declining fiscal strength might not materialize until 2025, citing the political realities of the upcoming year.

White House reaction In response to Moody's decision, the Biden administration criticized

what it deemed "congressional Republican extremism and dysfunction."

White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre expressed disagreement with the shift to a negative outlook, asserting that the American economy remains robust and Treasury securities are globally recognized as safe and liquid assets.

Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo defended the administration's commitment to fiscal sustainability, citing measures taken, including over \$1 trillion in deficit reduction and a proposed reduction of nearly \$2.5 trillion over the next decade.

LESCO chief visits Transformer Reclamation Workshop Kasur

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer Shahid Haider visited Transformer Reclamation Workshop at Kasur on Saturday. Director (Customer Services) Rai Muhammad Asghar, Director (Safety) Fawad Khalid and Superintending Engineer (SE-Civil Works) Farqan also accompanied the CEO, according to LESCO spokesmen here Saturday. On this occasion, Shahid Haider said that Kasur and its surrounding

areas would benefit greatly from this workshop that would only save time but would make it easier to provide the best services to the customers. The CEO also reviewed the performance of the officers in recovery, line losses and electricity theft campaign in the Kasur Circle. The spokesman disclosed to media that in its ongoing anti-power theft campaign under the supervision of its CEO, the LESCO's Johar Town Sub-Division SDO Irfan Ali took a major initiative of announcing social boycott.

Gold price drops by Rs 2100 per tola

LAHORE (APP): The price of per tola gold decreased by Rs 2100 in the country on Saturday.

All Pakistan Gems and Jewellers Association (APGJA) sources told APP that the price of 24-karat gold had decreased by Rs 2100 to settle at Rs 211,000 per tola. The association said after a decline of Rs 1,800, 10 grams of 24-karat gold had settled at Rs180,898.

The price of gold in the international market had decreased by \$17 to settle at \$1958 per ounce.



ISLAMABAD: People purchasing old shoes from a roadside vendor at Abpara market in the Federal Capital.

Meeting discussed matters relating to Kalam, Ashoran Power Projects

PESHAWAR (APP): Commissioner Malakand Division, Saqib Raza Aslam on Friday chaired a meeting to discuss matters relating to Kalam and Ashoran Micro Hydel Power Projects.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Swat, District Police Officer, Assistant Commissioner Babuzai, concerned officials, area elders and representatives of the Sarhad Rural Support Program.

The meeting discussed problems and administrative matters of these hydropower projects, and the needed assistance to resolve difficulties. Addressing the meeting, Commissioner Malakand directed Assistant Commissioner Behrain to install electricity meters in the area in collaboration with team of SRSP. He also directed Deputy Commissioner Swat to devise a proper plan with the consultation of stakeholders to remove hurdles for continuation of ongoing work.

Meeting discussed

matters relating to Kalam, Ashoran Power Projects. PESHAWAR (APP): Commissioner Malakand Division, Saqib Raza Aslam on Friday chaired a meeting to discuss matters relating to Kalam and Ashoran Micro Hydel Power Projects.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Swat, District Police Officer, Assistant Commissioner Babuzai, concerned officials, area elders and representatives of the Sarhad Rural Support Program.

The meeting discussed problems and administrative matters of these hydropower projects, and the needed assistance to resolve difficulties.

Addressing the meeting, Commissioner Malakand directed Assistant Commissioner Behrain to install electricity meters in the area in collaboration with team of SRSP. He also directed Deputy Commissioner Swat to devise a proper plan with the consultation of stakeholders.

NCP goods of Rs 233 m seized in DI Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The Dera police claimed to have recovered non-customs-paid (NCP) items worth over Rs 233 million during the last month.

Following the directions of Regional Police Officer (RPO) Dera Ismail Khan Nasir Mehmood Satti, the district police, under the supervision of District Police Officer (DPO) Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani, intensified operations against all crimes, especially the smuggling of NCP items across the district, said a police spokesman.

Strict checking at all the check posts and effective patrolling in different areas were underway to control smuggling, which was badly affecting the national economy. According to the police spokesman, "District police have recovered NCP items, including diesel, petrol, vehicles, and others worth around Rs 233.1 million, from various areas of the district." All the recovered NCP items were handed over to the customs authorities for further legal action.

Pak expert illuminates poultry feed management at conference in China

BEIJING (APP): Experts and entrepreneurs from over 10 Asia-Pacific countries and regions including Pakistan gathered to delve into topics of poultry breeding, nutrition, disease management and production.

The 12th Asia Pacific Poultry Conference (APPC 2023), an international scientific event held every four years, took place in Nanjing, China.

Pakistani Professor Nasir Mukhtar, representing Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), made significant contributions as a committee member during the conference.

In a session dedicated to nutrition and feed, he

delivered a compelling presentation on the impact of fasting time and body weight on amino acid digestibility in broiler chickens.

His findings provide a robust scientific foundation for improving feed management in poultry farming, empowering poultry farmers to optimize their feed strategies to enhance production efficiency and overall quality.

The contributions of Nasir Mukhtar and other experts at the conference provided invaluable insights and solutions for the global poultry industry. This collaborative effort is set to drive innovation and foster the sustainable development of the industry.



LAHORE: Farmers busy planting garlic at their field.

UAFVC expresses concern over shrinking farmlands

FAISALABAD (APP): Punjab to inform the farmers about the agricultural recommendations. He said that Pakistan's wheat production per acre is limited to only 32 maunds, for which climate resilient and high-temperature resistant varieties will have to be introduced. He said as per the model of UAF, the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was also considering launching a wheat campaign.

He said that it is the need of hour to make the research available to the farmers instead of being an adornment of the libraries so that the goals of reducing poverty and achieving food stability can be achieved by promoting agriculture in line with global requirements.

3-day Intl conference over ICSBM-2023 concluded

PESHAWAR (APP): The first International Conference on Sustainable Business Management 2023 (ICSBM-23) organized by Institute of Business and Management Sciences (IBMS), University of Agriculture Peshawar was held with Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Jahan Bakht in the chair.

Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean Faculty of Management and Computer Sciences Prof. Dr. Daud John was the chief organizer of the conference. Dr. Muhammad Fayaz presided over the conference while Dr. Sabihullah was the focal person and Dr. Sajidur

Rahman was the secretary of the conference.

The organizer of the conference Prof. Dr. Daud Jan and co-chair Dr. Muhammad Fayaz thanked the chief guests, guests, participants and sponsors and explained about the conference in detail that the purpose of the conference is to bring together researchers, academicians, practitioners and business and related fields. It was to provide a platform for scholars to exchange their research and experiences. The conference was attended in person and online by researchers and academics from several countries including Pakistan, Turkey.



MULTAN: Workers stitching cotton quilts at his workplace as the demand increased for quilts after dropping mercury in the city.

SCCI expresses grave concern over sale of smuggled Iranian oil

PESHAWAR (APP): President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Fuad Ishaq expressed grave concern over sale of smuggled Iranian petrol and diesel at dabba station and demanded the authorities concerned to take immediate action against the remove the concerns of genuine petrol pump owners. Fuad Ishaq made this demand during a meeting with a high-level delegation of owners and dealers of petroleum

pumps led by Sarhad Petroleum and Cartage Dealers Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (SP&CDA-KP) chairman Abdul Majid Khan and the patron-in chief of the association and former president SCCI Engr Maqsood Anwar Pervez, held at SCCI House here Friday. Ijaz Khan Afridi, Vice President and Sajid Aziz, General Secretary of the SCCI were also present on this occasion. The delegation consisted of the SP&CDAKP General Secretary.

Middle East leaders slam Israel at Saudi-hosted summit on Gaza

Monitoring Desk
RIYAD: The emergency meeting of the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) comes after Hamas militants' bloody October 7 attacks that Israeli officials say left about 1,200 people dead, mostly civilians, and 239 taken hostage.

Israel's subsequent aerial and ground offensive has killed more than 11,000 people, also mostly civilians and many of them children, according to the Hamas-run health ministry.

Host Saudi Arabia "confirms that it holds the occupation (Israeli) authorities responsible for the crimes committed against the Palestinian people," Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Gulf kingdom's de facto ruler, said as Saturday's summit began.

"We are certain that the only way to guarantee security, peace and stability in the region is to end the occupation, siege and the settlements," he said of Israel's actions in Gaza and the occupied West Bank.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, on his first trip to Saudi Arabia since the two countries mended ties in March, said Islamic countries should designate the Israeli army a "terrorist organisation" for its conduct in Gaza. Israel says it is out to destroy Hamas and blames the Palestinian armed group for the high death toll, accusing it of using civilians as "human shields"—a charge Hamas denies. The Arab League and the OIC, a 57-member bloc that includes Iran, were originally meant to meet separately.

Arab diplomats told

AFP the decision to merge the meetings came after Arab League delegations had failed to reach an agreement on a final statement.

Some countries, including Algeria and Lebanon, proposed responding to the devastation in Gaza by threatening to disrupt oil supplies to Israel and its allies as well as severing the economic and diplomatic ties that some Arab League nations have with Israel, the diplomats said. However, at least three countries—including the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, which normalised ties with Israel in 2020—rejected the proposal, according to the diplomats who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Prior to the meeting, Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad said it did not "expect anything" to come out of it.



Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas arriving in Saudi Arabia for a summit.

UN adopts six resolutions in favour of Palestinians

UN rights chief urges probe into use of 'high-impact' weapons by Israel

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: Relevant committees of the UN General Assembly have passed with overwhelming majority six resolutions on the current situation in the Middle East and in the process also reaffirmed permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people over natural resources in the occupied lands.

Another resolution endorsed the demand for UN agencies to probe human rights violations committed by the Israeli occupation forces.

During a two-day debate on the resolutions that concluded on Friday, Paki-

stan underscored its unwavering support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the population of the occupied Syrian Golan. One of the resolutions authorising a UN committee to investigate Israeli practices affecting human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories was approved by 85 to 13 votes, with 72 abstentions.

The resolution urges the General Assembly to demand that Israel cooperate with the Special Committee in implementing its mandate.

It expresses grave concern over the critical situa-

tion in the occupied Palestinian Territory resulting from unlawful Israeli practices and measures and calls for the immediate cessation of all illegal Israeli settlement activities.

It also calls for the lifting of the blockade of the Gaza Strip as well as the complete cessation of the excessive and indiscriminate use of force and military operations against the civilian population. The UN human rights chief on Friday called for an investigation into Israel's use of "high-impact explosive weapons" in Gaza, which he said was causing indiscriminate destruction in the besieged Palestinian enclave.

Erdogan wades into judicial crisis, slams top court

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan waded into a brewing judicial crisis, criticising the Constitutional Court for "many mistakes" and backing an unprecedented challenge to it by an appeals court, as opponents marched in Ankara.

The comments stoked a debate over the rule of law that erupted on Wednesday when the appeals Court of Cassation made a criminal complaint against judges of the Constitutional Court, which ruled last month that jailed parliamentarian Can Atalay should be released. In a twist—which critics said highlighted the diminished state of Turkey's legal system—the top appeals court said the Constitutional

Court's ruling was unconstitutional. Legal experts say the next steps in resolving the unprecedented standoff between the two courts are difficult to predict.

"Unfortunately, the Constitutional Court has made many mistakes in a row at this point, which seriously saddens us," Erdogan told reporters on a flight back from Uzbekistan, according to a text published by his office. "The Constitutional Court cannot and should not underestimate the step taken by the Court of Cassation on this matter," he said.

Turkiye's bar association and the main opposition party have denounced the appeals court move as an "attempted coup" and hundreds of members demonstrated.



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan shakes hands with Zuhut Arslan, head of the Constitutional Court, during a ceremony at the mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in Ankara to mark his 85th death anniversary. Mehmet Akarca, who heads the Supreme Court of Appeals, is also seen.

Qatar's emir holds talks in Egypt on ending Gaza violence

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: The leaders of Qatar and Egypt met in Cairo on Friday, both hoping to mediate a de-escalation of violence in the Gaza Strip, the provision of humanitarian aid and the release of Israeli hostages.

The talks between Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani discussed intensified efforts to achieve a ceasefire in Gaza and the delivery of sufficient quantities of aid for its 2.3 million besieged residents, a statement from Sisi's office said.

Qatar said "joint efforts to stop the aggression against Gaza, reduce escalation and bring in urgent humanitarian aid" were discussed.

Three Egyptian security sources said on Fri-

day that negotiations aimed at securing a truce in areas of northern Gaza designated by Israel had moved forward, but that no agreement had been reached on the number of hostages and prisoners to be freed by each side.

Qatar and Egypt were demanding guarantees for the return of displaced civilians to northern Gaza as a condition for any deal they helped to mediate, the sources said.

The Qatari emir's visit comes a day after Qatar's prime minister met the chiefs of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and Israeli spy agency Mossad in Doha to discuss the parameters of a deal for a hostage release and a pause in fighting between Israel and Hamas.

Czechs team up with Taiwan for Ukraine reconstruction

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: The Czech and Taiwanese governments signed an agreement to work together to help reconstruction work in Ukraine, with a senior Czech envoy praising Taipei as a "great ally" despite the absence of formal diplomatic ties.

Ukraine has won broad sympathy in Taiwan after Russia's invasion, with many Taiwanese seeing parallels between Ukraine's situation and the threat Taipei's government says it faces from China, which claims the island as its own territory.

Taiwan has donated more than \$100 million for humanitarian relief, and joined in Western-led sanctions against Russia.

UK PM Sunak under pressure to sack interior minister over police criticism

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was under growing pressure to sack one of his most senior ministers, Suella Braverman, after she published an inflammatory article attacking the police's handling of a planned pro-Palestinian march. Braverman, the home secretary responsible for policing and national security, has a long history of making controversial statements that have alienated her more moderate colleagues.

In an opinion piece published ahead of a pro-Palestinian march on Saturday, Braverman accused the police of exhibiting a "double standard" in the

way they treat protests, notably pro-Palestinian demonstrations.

Braverman, seen as a possible candidate to be the next leader of the governing Conservative Party, has repeatedly criticised the tens of thousands of protesters who have gathered in London since the Hamas attack on Israel last month. The home secretary has called the protests "hate marches" and "mobs", despite the fact they have not led to overt violence.

Downing Street is conducting an investigation into how the article in The Times was published on Wednesday after officials in Sunak's office demanded changes to its content that did not appear.

Iran President Raisi says action, not words, needed on Gaza

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said on Saturday that the time had come for action over the conflict in Gaza rather than talk as he headed to Saudi Arabia to attend a summit on the war between Israel and Hamas. "Gaza is not an arena for words. It should be for action," Raisi said at Tehran airport before departing for the summit of Arab and Islamic nations in the Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh. "Today, the unity of the Islamic countries is very important," he added. It is the first visit to Saudi Arabia by an Iranian head of state since Tehran and Riyadh ended years of hostility under a China-brokered deal in March.

A missile strike targets Kyiv as Russian train carriages derail due to 'unauthorized interference'

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russian forces targeted Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, as part of an overnight bombardment felt across the country, local officials said Saturday, while drones that Russian officials blamed on the Ukrainian military targeted areas around Moscow and the region of Smolensk.

A ballistic missile was shot down as it approached the Ukrainian capital, said Serhii Popko, head of the Kyiv City Military Administration. He said that no one was injured. The Ukrainian air force later confirmed an Iskander-M ballistic missile was used in the attack, the first attempted missile strike on Kyiv in almost two months.

Elsewhere in Ukraine, the strikes killed four people in three regions: two in Kherson, one in Dnipropetrovsk and another in Zaporizhzhia, local officials reported.

Ukraine's air defense systems actively repelled attacks in Odesa, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Poltava, Sumy, and Kirovohrad regions. The country's air force said Russian troops launched 31 Shahed-136/131 drones, of which 19 were shot down. The strike in the Odesa region damaged the city's port infrastructure and a small community of cottages, injuring three people including a 96-year-old woman, said regional governor, Oleh Kiper.

Russian forces also launched an X-31 aircraft missile, an Onyx anti-aircraft missile, and an S-300 anti-aircraft guided missile overnight, said Ukrainian military spokesperson Yuri Ihnat, but did not give further details. In Moscow, Russia's defense ministry said that its aerial strikes had hit an ammunition depot serving the 43rd mechanized brigade of Ukraine's Armed Forces near the village of Devichki in the Kyiv region.

Microsoft chief says Russia is spreading Middle East disinformation

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia has been spreading "disinformation" about the situation in the Middle East, the president of Microsoft said on Saturday, as tensions soar in the region due to the Israel-Hamas war. Brad Smith, Microsoft vice chair and president, was asked about the role of the US tech giant in promoting peace at an international peace forum in Paris.

He said that Microsoft and its competitors were fighting against disinformation, in particular by using Artificial Intelligence (AI). Smith said that Microsoft and other companies are doing this "by creating technological tools that facilitate the detection of manipulated, modified, altered content," according to remarks translated in French by Radio France Inter. "We are getting very good at identifying a Russian campaign, like when they tried to tell people not to get the Covid vaccine."



EAST JERUSALEM: An Israeli security officer gestures as Palestinians offer prayers in the Ras al-Amud neighbourhood.

FBI agents seized New York mayor's electronic devices

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: FBI agents seized electronic devices from New York City Mayor Eric Adams earlier this week, days after a raid on the home of his chief campaign fundraiser, according to an attorney for the mayor's campaign.

Federal authorities are conducting an investigation into whether his 2021 mayoral campaign conspired with a Brooklyn construction company and the Turkish government to funnel foreign money into the campaign through a straw

donor scheme, the New York Times has reported.

Boyd Johnson, an attorney for Adams' campaign, confirmed on Friday that Adams had provided the FBI with electronic devices after agents approached the mayor following an event on Monday night.

Johnson said the FBI requested the devices after Adams informed investigators of impropriety by an unidentified individual. "After learning of the federal investigation, it was discovered that an individual had recently acted improperly."

Pope dismisses conservative US bishop Strickland

Monitoring Desk
VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis has dismissed Bishop Joseph E. Strickland of Tyler, Texas, one of his fiercest critics among US Catholic conservatives, a Vatican statement said on Saturday.

It is very rare for a Roman Catholic bishop to be relieved of his duties outright. Usually, bishops in trouble with the Vatican are asked to resign before submitting a resignation, which the pope accepts.

London police scuffle with far-right protesters

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: A large pro-Palestinian march kicked off in London on Saturday following scuffles nearby between far-right protesters and police, who launched a major operation to avert clashes between the two rival groups. The pro-Palestinian march, which is expected to attract hundreds of thousands of people, has also drawn counter-protesters from right-wing groups to the capital on what is Britain's day of remembrance for war veterans.

London's Metropolitan Police said in a post on X, formerly Twitter, that they had faced aggression from counter-protesters who were in the city in "sig-

nificant numbers", adding that they would not allow them to confront the pro-Palestinian rally.

"We will use all the powers and tactics available to us to prevent that from happening," the police said.

The "National March for Palestine" is the latest in a series of rallies in the British capital to show support for the Palestinians and call for a ceasefire from Israel's bombardment of the Gaza Strip.

Government ministers had called for Saturday's march to be cancelled because it falls on Armistice Day, which marks the end of World War One and commemorates those killed in military action.

UN warns violence in Sudan 'verging on pure evil'

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: Violence against civilians in Sudan is "verging on pure evil," a senior United Nations official warned, as a humanitarian crisis in the country worsens and ethnic violence escalates in the western region of Darfur.

A war erupted on April 15 between the Sudanese army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) after weeks of rising tension between the two sides over a plan to integrate forces as part of a transition from military rule to civilian democracy. "We continue to receive unrelenting and appalling reports.

Japan-led navy exercise starts with Philippines observing for first time

Monitoring Desk
ABOARD USS CARL VINSON: Japan's navy on Saturday announced the start of a joint annual military exercise, with the Philippines observing the operations for the first time as the two countries seek closer maritime cooperation.

The Japan-led Annual exercise started on Friday with operations conducted by the naval forces of the United States, Australia and Canada, with the Philippines attending as an observer, Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force Vice Admiral Akira Saito told reporters. "The Philippines is a very important country for us, and we are looking to coordinate with their navy at every possible opportunity," Saito said aboard the USS Carl Vinson as it sailed in an undisclosed location in the Pacific Ocean.

The exercise comes as Japan, the U.S. and the Philippines seek closer ties and deeper security cooperation to counter China, though Saito said the operations are not being conducted to tar-

get a specific country. Last week, Japan said it would provide radar systems to the Philippines to bolster its security. The two countries also announced the start of negotiations for a reciprocal military access agreement.

"The more that our navies work together, the more multilateral our operations and our exercises are, the greater the security for this region. So I'm thrilled that Japan invited the Philippines to observe this year," Vice Admiral of the U.S. Seventh Fleet Karl Thomas said.

Saito added that strong cooperation between like-minded countries is crucial for the stability of the Indo-Pacific region. The operations will be conducted for 10 days and will involve 30 ships and 40 aircraft, Saito said. There has been a string of clashes between the Philippines and China in recent weeks, including a collision in October, while Japanese and Chinese ships also faced off in the East China Sea last month.

Losing ground to rebel alliance, Myanmar junta faces biggest test since coup

Monitoring Desk
BANGKOK: A rebel alliance has overrun parts of northern Myanmar, including areas bordering China, with resistance to the military junta notching its most significant win since the 2021 coup, according to a rebel commander, diplomats and analysts.

The fiercest fighting has been near Myanmar's border with China in northern Shan state where three powerful ethnic armed groups have combined to lead an offensive that has taken multiple towns and military outposts in recent weeks. Myanmar's military-appointed president said on Thursday the country was at risk of breaking apart due to the failure to deal with the insurgency more effectively.

Alarmed by its neighbour's deteriorating situation, China's foreign ministry said on Friday that Beijing will ensure security and stability at its border with Myanmar and urged all parties there to stop fighting immediately.

Anti-junta fighters operating with "unprecedented coordination" have overrun 100 military outposts and the junta stands to lose control of key border crossings that account for some 40% of cross-border trade and a vital tax revenue source, the United States Institute of Peace think-tank said.

Around 50,000 people have been displaced in Shan, where artillery shelling and airstrikes are continuing, and some have crossed into China, the United Nations said.

"It is very significant," said one diplomat with knowledge of the assault named by opposition groups as "Operation 1027", after the date it started.

A junta spokesman did not respond to requests for comment. Maung Saung Kha, leader of the Bamar People's Liberation Army, which contributed troops to the offensive, told Reuters the rebel alliance had spent more than a year preparing to take on the better-armed military.

Mexico's Acapulco hit by garbage pile-up after deadly hurricane

Monitoring Desk
ACAPULCO: Residents of Acapulco stunned by a devastating hurricane are now battling with another blight trailing in the storm's wake: garbage piling up in streets, fanning concern about the spread of disease in the Mexican beach resort. Hurricane Otis, which roared through Acapulco in the early hours of Oct. 25, was the most powerful storm on record to strike Mexico's Pacific coast, killing dozens of people and wrecking thousands of homes in the city of nearly 900,000.

Its 165 miles per hour (266 km per hour) winds caused major flooding, destroying furnishings, bedding and household appliances that were dumped outside homes alongside bags of rotting organic waste that have fed putrid smells in the city.

The government has sent in thousands of soldiers to help clean up Acapulco, but residents say rubbish

has engulfed some areas so quickly that even traffic is being held up.

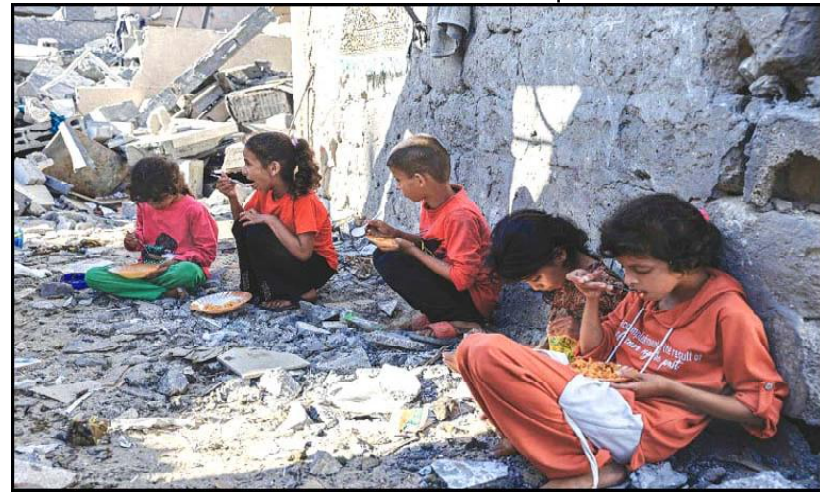
"They need to come and get the trash because there's too much of it," said Rosa Pacheco from the La Mira neighborhood in the west of the city, where some locals have had to remove rubbish from roads to allow cars to get through.

"There's almost no way through, because there's more and more trash every day," the 46-year-old homemaker added.

Mexico's Civil Protection authority did not reply to a request for comment, but the government said getting Acapulco cleared up is a top priority.

When questioned about the garbage this week, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said authorities are fumigating the city to prevent disease, and would deal with the problem.

"Everything is going to be cleaned up," he said.



Amal Al Robayaa's children eat their meal amidst the ruins of their family home which was destroyed in an Israeli strike in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip.

Pak-China joint Naval Exercise Sea Guardian commences at Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Opening Ceremony of Pakistan Navy and PLA (Navy) bilateral exercise Sea Guardian-2023 was held at Pakistan Navy Dockyard, Karachi. Commander Qingdao Naval Base, Rear Admiral Liang Yang graced the occasion as Guest of Honour.

Commander Pakistan Fleet, Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi was also present at the occasion.

In his opening remarks, Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi welcomed the officers and personnel of PLA (N) Flotilla, underscoring the close and strategic ties between the two countries in general and Navies in particular.

The admiral emphasized on the importance of immaculate & sound planning during the exercise and hoped that this exercise will further enhance strategic cooperation and interoperability between the two navies.

During his speech, Commander Qingdao Naval Base Rear Admiral Liang Yang thanked Pakistan Navy for hosting Exercise Sea Guardian and hoped to have a mutually benefiting and professionally rewarding experience from the joint exercise.

Earlier, Chinese Flotilla comprising of naval ships, Submarine and Submarine Rescue Ship along with PLA (Navy) Marines Corps Detachment, arrived Karachi to participate in the exercise. During exercise, frontline destroyers/ frigates along with Air and other assets and Marines/ Special Forces from Pakistan Navy and PLA (Navy) will carry out advance level joint drills and naval maneuvers in North Arabian Sea besides professional and social activities during the harbour phase. The aim of Exercise Sea Guardian-2023 is to share professional experiences on contemporary traditional and non-traditional threats in Indian Ocean Region.



KARACHI: Group photo of Commander Pakistan Fleet Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi and Chinese Commander Rear Admiral Liang Yang with Pakistan and Chinese Naval officials at the opening ceremony of Pak-China Joint Naval Exercise "Sea Guardian-2023".

Aneeq sets to reveal Hajj Policy 2024 promising reduced cost for pilgrims

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed, called upon the business community to refrain from disseminating negative information about the current economic state, whether in public discourse or through media channels.

Addressing a dinner reception, organized by the Pakistan Business Group Organization (PBGO) Punjab Chapter the other day, he emphasized the need for a positive approach and concrete actions, urging them to inspire hope among the public, motivating them to harness their full potential to address prevailing challenges and elevate Pakistan's economy to international standards.

Minister Aneeq clarified that commerce, industry, or finance did not fall within his purview, however, regarding the Ministry of Religious Affairs, indicated his intention to announce the Hajj Policy by the upcoming Wednesday. He emphasized the consistent adherence to the Hajj Policy since 2004, underscoring the importance of respecting and implementing the directives of the Saudi government both in letter and spirit.

Highlighting a notable accomplishment of his government, Minister Aneeq disclosed that the forthcoming Hajj pilgrimage would incur a reduced cost, now standing at less than Rs. 1,075,000, compared to the previous pilgrimage which incurred expenses of Rs. 1,175,000.

He additionally guaranteed that pilgrims would

experience maximum convenience and comfort during this Hajj season, with a range of facilities, including an affordable internet data package with a private network SIM available throughout their 45-day stay in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The ministry was introducing a short-term Hajj programme spanning approximately 20 days, recognizing the constraints faced by some pilgrims who are unable to stay for more than 40 days due to personal and professional commitments, he added. Minister Aneeq shared uplifting news for prospective pilgrims paying their Hajj dues in dollars, stating that they would be exempt from the balloting process. This exemption, he highlighted, aimed to streamline the Hajj

process effectively. He emphasized that every pilgrim would receive a suitcase equipped with a QR code, ensuring the secure tracking of both their luggage and themselves throughout the entire Hajj operation. In conclusion, he outlined the ministry's initiative to maintain discipline among female pilgrims by providing a scarf (Hijab) adorned with the national flag on their back.

Meanwhile, Chairman of Alfursan Group of Companies, S.M. Zunnurain, emphasized the need for the government to develop a comprehensive 10-year business policy. He said this strategic initiative could facilitate the evolution of small and midsize enterprises into the corporate sector, enhancing their competitiveness within the region.



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Culture, Heritage Syed Jamal Shah visits National Museum.

Bilawal hopes for decisive resolution of Gaza war summit in Saudi Arabia

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has condemned bombing over hospitals in Gaza by Israeli soldiers and hoped that a Summit, which is going to be held in Saudi Arabia today to end to Gaza War will be decisive.

He said that Israel had set a worst example of terrorism by targeting Al-Shifa, Al-Awda, Al-Quds and Indonesian hospitals in Gaza.

Bilawal said that children and elderly people, who were under treatment

in the hospitals had become victims of Israeli cruelty and brutality. He urged the international community to play its role in resolving the matter.

The PPP chairman said that Israel was targeting civilians including children, elderly men and women to create fear and for mass evacuation from Gaza.

He said that a child was being martyred in every 10 minutes in Gaza by Israeli aggression and Netanyahu was refusing a ceasefire.



QUETTA: Mir Bangal Khan Marri meeting with Provincial Ameer JUI Maulana Abdul Wasey

Route permits of 34 transport companies suspended on non-installation of trekker device

QUETTA: The route permits of 34 transport companies of the province have been suspended on the issue of non-installation of trekker device in their buses playing on different routes.

According to an official notification issued here on Saturday, the Provincial Transport Authority (PTA) suspended the route permits of 34 transport companies just because their buses / coaches have

not installed trekker devices despite the instructions already issued.

The PTA has advised the passengers not to travel on the buses / coaches of these transport companies to avoid any road mishap.

It may be mentioned here that the transport companies have been issued standing directives to install trekker devices in their respective companies' buses and coaches, otherwise, stern action would be taken against them.

Gwadar's most-awaited road widening project finally commenced

ISLAMABAD (INP): Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) initiated construction activities to enhance and expand the Makki Masjid-Mullah Fazil Chowk section of Syed Zahoor Hashmi Road, commonly known as Airport Road.

This marks a pivotal step towards advancing the city's connectivity and underscores the commitment to bolstering its overall development.

Based on the directive issued by Dawood Khan Khilji, GDA Director Gene, the initiative aims to address a long-standing demand from the local community for better connectivity, according to a report carried out by Gwadar Pro on Saturday.

mentation of the long-delayed project. They voiced confidence in wholeheartedly supporting the construction and development of this significant project.

"Due to illegal occupation and unauthorized encroachments, the construction work on Maki Masjid to Mala Fazil Chowk was stalled for many years," reads GDA's statement. However, the government has already arranged a handsome amount as compensation for the legitimate owners if their shops or properties are disturbed during the expansion of the road.

"These compensations, benchmarked against market values, represent the most competitive rates in the entire region," according to GDA.

The improvement and widening of the road will facilitate convenient access to key business hubs in the city, such as Mullah Fazil Chowk and Shahi Bazaar.

GoB to control Congo virus very soon: Dr Jogezeai

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Health, Dr Ameer Muhammad Jogezeai has expressed the hope that the provincial government would control the Congo virus in the province very soon.

According to an official statement, the Minister Health said that the government has taken every possible steps for stopping spread of the virus.

In this regard, the sincere efforts being made by the provincial government and health department, he commended.

The Minister Health said expressed sorrow over death of paramedic Abdul Ghaffar Achakzai due to Congo virus.

He mentioned that Abdul Ghaffar Achakzai was shifted to Karachi few days ago where he was admitted in the Infectious Diseases Center.

Fifth polio case reports from Karachi

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Health on Saturday reported the fifth polio case of the current year.

A 31-month-old child has been diagnosed with polio in Karachi's Eastern District, said the spokesperson of the Ministry of Health.

He added after this case, the number of polio cases in Pakistan this year has increased to five.

The affected child belongs to Union Council Gujru, from where the fourth case of this year was also reported.

He said that polio is an opportunistic virus as it especially targets children with low immunity, especially in areas where health facilities, nutrition, sanitation systems and vaccination rates are low.

CTD arrests 5 terrorists in Punjab IBOs

LAHORE (APP): The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) arrested five terrorists on Saturday including Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) commander during 179 intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in different cities of Punjab. According to details, the operations were carried out in Pakpattan, Rawalpindi, Bahawalpur and Sahiwal. The TTP commander was arrested from Pakpattan, official sources told APP on Saturday. Those arrested were identified as Nadeem (TTP commander), Shahbaz, Khalid, Madani and Salman Saheed. Sources said explosive materials, two improvised explosive device (IED)



PESHAWAR: Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan inaugurating lab in Khyber Medical University Peshawar.

Achakzai, Jamali pay rich tributes to late CT Chief Minister KP

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Azam Khan.

In a condolence statement issued here on Saturday, the Provincial Minister for Information expressed condolence with the bereaved family member.

He said that the services of late Muhammad Azam Khan would always be remembered for the country and KP.

He also prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into its eternal peace and give enough strength to the bereaved family members to bear the tragic loss of his death.

Meanwhile, the Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Zubair Jamali has expressed grief and sorrow over death of Muhammad Azam Khan.

He paid rich tributes to the late Azam Khan for invaluable services for the country.

He also prayed for the departed soul.

Pakistan total debt decreases by Rs 1675 billion

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan's total debt value has significantly decreased by Rs 1675 billion during one month due to the improvement in the value of the rupee.

According to experts, the overall debt of Pakistan has decreased in the last 12 years, which is the result of the caretaker government's economic strategy, especially administrative measures to prevent dollar smuggling and black marketing.

The total debt quarterly data from the State Bank of Pakistan shows that compared to August 2023, there was a significant decrease in the total debt of the government by Rs 1675 billion during September 2023. By the end of August, the total debt value was a record Rs 63,966 billion, which reached the level

of Rs 62,291 billion at the end of September.

In a period of one month, the value of the total loans has decreased by 2.6% due to the stabilization of the value of the rupee. According to the data released by the State Bank, the value of loans in August was estimated at 305.62 rupees to the dollar, while the average value of the dollar in September was 287.78 rupees, which reduced the value of total loans.

Although there was a significant decrease in the volume of loans till the end of September compared to August of the current financial year, the total loans increased by Rs 1450 billion in the first quarter. At the end of June 2023, the value of total loans was recorded at Rs 60,840 billion.

Speaker BA condoles death of CM KP Azam Khan

QUETTA: The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali has expressed condolence and grief over the death of caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Azam Khan.

In a condolence statement issued here on Saturday, the Speaker Jamali said that the services of late Muhammad Azam Khan would be remembered as the caretaker Chief Minister and a bureaucrat.

He prayed for the departed soul of the late Azam Khan. He also prayed for the bereaved family to bear the tragic loss with fortitude.

PPP Chairman to visit KP next week

PESHAWAR (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto will visit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa next week for mobilizing party and workers for the upcoming general elections to be held in February 2024.

During the visit, PPP Chairman will address four workers conventions and two public gatherings in different parts of KP including Abbottabad, Nowshera, Dir and Chitral, said Amjad Khan Afridi, Deputy Information Secretary PPP KP.

Addressing a press conference here at Peshawar Press Club on Saturday, Amjad Afridi said during the visit, PPP Chairman will also take into confidence the party leadership and workers about strategy adopted for upcoming polls. Amjad Afridi was confident over better position of PPP in elections and expressed the hope that people will support Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto for their pro-people's policies in the past governments.

190m scandal Bushra Bibi status changes into accused from witness

LAHORE (Online): NAB investigations into 190 million pounds scandal have entered into final phase.

Status of Bushra Bibi wife of chairman PTI has changed from witness to accused.

On November 13 Bushra Bibi will be interrogated in NAB as accused. Sources said Bushra Bibi earlier was summoned as witness. In the light of evidence Bushra Bibi has been made accused.

Sources further said NAB can seek arrest order of Bushra Bibi from court if cooperation is not extended in investigation. NAB is likely to file reference in court soon.

Mushaal meets Pop Francis's Chief Advisor

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Husseini Mullick on Saturday held a comprehensive meeting with Chief Advisor to Pope Francis, head of the Catholic Church, the bishop of Rome and sovereign of the Vatican City State.

During meeting held in Riyadh, they discussed matters of mutual interest including Interfaith, working towards co-existence, eliminating the possibility of discord, violent or non violent.

Both the dignitaries agreed that the teachings of all religions are based on peace, love and harmony and a true follower of any

side will be able to understand the other dispassionately and curb those prejudices that give rise to hatred and conflict in religion.

The Chief Advisor to Pope Francis invited Mushaal to visit the Vatican City and send the message of peace and interfaith harmony to the world as a Muslim woman of the 21st century.

Mushaal said that it is a need of the time to develop and identify mystical interpretations around the true moderate and tolerant message of Islam to the world and become an enabler towards meaningful Interfaith dialogues.

The guiding idea is not to tamper with the basic tenets of Islam or any faith



religion can never think of provoking hatred against other faiths.

They reaffirmed their commitment that through broader dialogue and effective communication, each

but to present them in a form wrapped with the message of love, tolerance and moderation, as the Sufis did in order to avoid a clash of civilization and resolve global conflicts.

Jamal visits Archeology, National Museum, Library, Urdu Dictionary Board

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah visited the National Museum, National Archeology Library, Pakistan Academy of Letters and Urdu Dictionary Board here on Saturday.

Federal Minister was briefed about National Museum and other institutes by officers concerned during his visit.

Syed Jamal Shah inspected artifacts, antiques and archeological objects placed at the National Museum.

He also visited National Archeological Library and reviewed ancient and historical books.

Speaking on the occasion Syed Jamal Shah said

regarding expansion of the National Museum, a meeting will soon be arranged with expert architects to restore the museum in its original shape.

He said that the National Museum will be made a world-class museum so that it could attract the attention of international tourists.

Meanwhile, the Minister also visited Academy of Letters and Urdu Dictionary Board and inspected different sections of the both organizations. The management of Academy and the Board briefed the Minister about the affairs of the institutes. The Minister also held meeting with Urdu Dictionary Board management.



QUETTA: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani inaugurating academic block at Jamia Salfia Dawatul Haq Quetta

PML-N to form govt in Punjab & Centre, claims Sanaullah

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz senior leader Rana Sanaullah Khan has said that if free and fair elections are held in the country, the PML-N will secure the public mandate and make strong governments in centre and Punjab.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, he said the PML-N steered the country out of crises in 1990 and in 2013 under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif, and now the party Qauid had arrived with a more aggressive approach to tackle challenges like inflation, electricity tariff hike and revival of economy, etc.

He termed the PML-N rally in Lahore on October 21, held for welcoming party Qauid Mian Nawaz Sharif, the largest public gathering in the present political history of the country, in which huge number of people participated to welcome their leader.

The former interior minister said the country's journey towards prosperity had been halted by imposing a selected favourite,

and people had to face severe economic hardships. He said a failed project in the form of Imran Khan had been launched which later harmed the country's economy and stability.

He mentioned that the PML-N had started its election campaign properly and Mian Nawaz Sharif was scheduled to visit other provinces. He said plan had been finalised under which he would visit Balochistan in the next week. Various political delegations have also held meetings with party president Mian Shehbaz Sharif to form a comprehensive political strategy in the upcoming elections. The PML-N delegation had also visited Sindh and held negotiations with the Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) leaders, he said. "We rid the country of menace of terrorism and overcame shortage of electricity in 2013, when people had started saying that issues like terrorism and electricity shortage could never be resolved in Pakistan," he recalled. Only the PML-N has the ability to overcome challenges.



HYDERABAD: Workers of "I On Hyderabad" carrying mock funerals of Palestinian martyrs stage a protest rally against genocide of Palestinian people by Israeli at Hyder Chowk.