

QUETTA VOICE

Editor :Asim khan

Friday October 20,2023

dquettavoice@gmail.com

WHO says medical aid 'ready to go' at Gaza crossing as death toll climbs to 3,785

MONITORING DESK: Jordan's Foreign Minister has said the country feared the worst was yet to come in the Gaza war, with no signs of success in efforts to de-escalate, Reuters reports. In remarks at a press conference with his German counterpart, Ayman Safadi said the war would have "catastrophic repercussions" and urged "protecting the region from the danger of its expansion". Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi speaks with the media following a meeting with German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock in Amman. —Reuters



Pakistan has dispatched the first batch of humanitarian assistance to Palestine.

According to state-run PTV, the aid includes 4,000 blankets, 1,000 tents and three tonnes of medicines.

The Gaza Health Ministry has issued an urgent appeal for diesel to keep hospitals in Gaza after a fifth major medical facility in the Palestinian enclave closed due to lack of fuel, the Associated Press reported.

A statement issued by the ministry said the Yemen al-Saeed Hospital in the north of Gaza was forced to shut down after running out of fuel. Beit Hanoun Hospital, Dora Children's Hospital, Karama Hospital and the International Eye Hospital in Gaza have already closed due to fuel shortages and air strike damage, the ministry said, adding that services at 14 primary health centres have also been closed down for similar reasons.

"The ministry issued an urgent call to all gas stations in Gaza and anyone else who may have a spare litre of diesel to immediately call a hotline so that the fuel can be transferred to Gaza's hospitals, now powered by backup generators with scant fuel supplies," AP said.

United Nations (UN) Secretary General Antonio Guterres urged "rapid, unimpeded humanitarian access" to the besieged Gaza Strip, as Israel kept up its retaliation for Hamas' October 7 attack, AFP reports.

"We need food, water, medicine and fuel now. We need it at scale and we need it to be sustained, it is not one small operation that is required," Guterres said in Cairo, as calls mounted for aid to reach the territory's 2.4-million people. "In plain terms, that means humanitarians need to be able to get aid in and they need to be able to distribute it safely," he said.

The US Department of State has urged its citizens overseas to exercise "increased caution" due to increased tensions in various locations around the world, and the potential for terrorist attacks, demonstrations or violent actions. Tamara Alrifai, who works at the UN relief agency for Palestine, has called attacks on schools, refugee camps and other UN premises in Gaza "utterly shocking". In an interview with Al Jazeera, she said eight people were killed at a UN school in a strike two days ago.

"I am lost for words," Alrifai said. Several thousand people rallied in Algiers and across the country in support of the Palestinians and to denounce Israel's ongoing strikes in the Gaza Strip, AFP reports. "The people and the army are with you, Palestine!" shouted demonstrators as they marched towards Martyrs' Square in Algiers, holding banners with slogans reading: "No to the murder of children, women and civilians." A demonstrator stands with a sign showing the faces of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Nazi Germany's leader Adolf Hitler during a rally in solidarity with Palestinians.

CM Domki Inaugurates ENTOPD Renovation Project at Bolan Medical Complex

Health Desk: QUETTA: In a significant stride towards advancing healthcare infrastructure, Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki, visited the Bolan Medical Complex on Thursday.



Secretary Health Briefs CM Balochistan

Secretary of Health, Isfandyar Khan, provided a comprehensive briefing to the Caretaker Chief Minister regarding the project's scope and objectives.

The project aims to bolster healthcare services in the region, ensuring that the people of Balochistan receive the best medical care possible.

The occasion marked the inauguration of the renovation project for the Ear, Nose, Throat, and Ophthalmology Department (ENTOPD) in phase one, as part of the ambitious Digitalization of the Balochistan Human Capital Investment Project.

Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki expressed his satisfaction with the progress made thus far, stating that the situation at BMC had improved significantly.

CM directs improving medical facilities

In line with this commitment to improving healthcare access, the Caretaker Chief Minister directed that complete medical facilities should be made available to patients arriving from the farthest corners of Balochistan. This decision reflects the government's dedication to ensuring that every resident, regardless of their location, receives the necessary medical care.

Dr. Kamalan Gachki, the Medical Superintendent of BMC, was also present during this momentous occasion. His presence signified the collective effort and dedication of the healthcare community in Balochistan to enhance healthcare services for the betterment of the people.

CM reviews medical facilities

During his visit, Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki took the opportunity to explore various wards of the Bolan Medical Complex. He meticulously reviewed the medical facilities available to patients, emphasizing the need for continual improvement in the

Electoral Alliance Talks with NP: No Negotiations with Other Political Group

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: Chief of Jamiat ul Ulama e Islam (JUI) Balochistan, Maulana Abdul Wasey on Thursday confirmed the religious party's formal negotiations with the National Party (NP) regarding seat-to-seat adjustments in the upcoming general elections.

No electoral alliance with any political party so far

"We have formally discussed seat-to-seat adjustment with NP", Maulana Wasey told Daily Quetta Voice in an exclusive interview. He said so far no electoral alliance was finalized with any political party in Balochistan.

Preferring to avoid sharing information about electoral alliances, the Maulana said no formal meeting was held with Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) in this regard. "PKMAP leaders speak about the alliance in meetings but so far nothing practical", he clarified.

BAP being merged into PML N: Maulana

Maulana Wasey said the religious party could win more seats if fair and transparent elections were held. He alleged that during 2018, constituencies of JUI were given to the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), preferring to avoid sharing details in this regard. Although, he said the BAP was likely to be merged into the Pakistan Muslim League (N). Based on their (BAP) former lawmakers' leaked audios, it seems, the BAP was being merged into the PML N, he asserted.

CM Domki is a good human being

The Maulana also stated that the Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mardan Domki is a good human being and now he represents the entire province rather than a specific political party. When asked about the possible joining of Domki of JUI,



he said after the completion of tenure he would be in a position to say something about this.

Protest erupts against killing of a woman in Quetta

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: In a recent incident in the Hazar Ganji area of the city, a woman lost her life, and two others were injured in a tragic firing incident. The incident unfolded on Thursday, leading to a wave of anger and protests within the community.

Protest caused major road blockade

As a result of this heinous crime, enraged protesters took to the streets, blocking major roadways that include the main Western Bypass, as well as the Quetta Karachi and

Chaman highways. These impassioned demonstrators also resorted to burning tires as a symbolic act of expressing their collective outrage against this brutal killing.

Protesters demand justice

The community's call for justice and their strong demand for a safer environment is resonating loudly, bringing attention to the pressing issue of women's safety. This incident serves as a somber reminder of the need for immediate action and reform to protect the lives and well-being of all citizens.



Quetta Local Body Elections Set for November 30, 2023: Election Schedule Announced

By Our Correspondent:

Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan, is gearing up for its local body elections scheduled for November 30, 2023. The Provincial Election Commissioner of Balochistan, Sharifullah, officially announced the election schedule in Quetta. Here is a breakdown of the key dates and activities related to the upcoming local government elections.

1. Public Notice Issuance: On October 30, 2023, returning officers will issue the public notice, marking the commencement of the election process.

2. Nomination Papers Submission: From November 2 to November 4, candidates can submit their nomination papers to contest in the local elections.

3. Announcement of Nominated Candidates: On November 6, the list of nominated candidates will be made public, providing transparency to the election process.

4. Nomination Paper Scrutiny: Between November 7 and November 9, returning officers will diligently scrutinize the nomination papers submitted by the candidates.

5. Appeal Submission Deadline: Candidates will have

until November 11 to file appeals against the acceptance or rejection of their nomination papers by the returning officers.

6. Appeals Review: The Appellate Authority will assess and make decisions on these appeals by November 14, ensuring fairness and accountability in the election process.

7. Revised Candidate List: A revised list of candidates will be released on November 15, providing voters with updated information.

8. Nomination Paper Withdrawal: November 16 is the final date for candidates to withdraw their nomination papers if they choose to do so.

9. Election Symbol Allotment: On November 17, election symbols will be allotted to the candidates, symbolizing their identity in the electoral process.

10. Final Candidate List: The final list of candidates will be officially released, giving voters a comprehensive overview of their choices.

11. Polling Day: The local body elections in Quetta will take place on November 30, 2023, allowing citizens to exercise their democratic rights. This meticulously planned schedule ensures that the local elections in Quetta will be conducted with transparency, fairness, and accountability. It is an essential step in promoting civic engagement and democracy in the region. For more information and updates regard-



ing the Quetta local body elections, stay tuned to our news channel. Your voice matters, and these elections are an opportunity to shape the future of your local community.

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

11 DAYS REMAINING

11

4 @ WorldPeace

EDITORIAL

Editor: Asim Khan

2m children out of school in Balochistan as learning quality declines

Editorial:

QUETTA: In Balochistan, over 2 million children are out of school despite repeated enrollment campaigns by the provincial education department, political parties and non-governmental organisations. Learning quality in government-run schools continues to decline as teachers are recruited on a political basis with no proper training to teach students. During the middle-level examination for the year 2019-20, only 0.8 percent of students secured an A+ grade across the province. This simply exposed the declining quality of education in government-run schools.

322 students out of a total of 42,823 got A+ grades in the middle examination
Only 322 students got A+ grade out of a total of 42,823 candidates in the middle-level examination, statistics of the Balochistan Assessment and Examination Commission (BAEC) revealed.

This painted a bleak picture of declining and poor quality of education. The documents showed 122 students got an A grade during the examination conducted in the province. In 9 districts including Barkhan, Haran, Kachi, Kharan, Musakhil, Nushki, Sherani, Killa Abdullah, and Sikandar Abad, no student achieved an A+ grade.

The literacy rate in Balochistan is 46%

The literacy rate in Balochistan is 46 percent as per statistics obtained from the education department with 61 percent male and 29 percent female. The province has not conducted any survey to assess the learning quality of students studying in over 15,000 government-run primary, middle and high schools across Balochistan, a contented report obtained by Dawn. Quetta Voice, still over 2 million children are out of school. Similarly, the number of enrolled students in government schools is 1,119,925, the report mentioned.

The students studying in private schools are in addition to this. However, no data about the private schools' enrollment is available.

47% of children are out of school in Balochistan

The report mentioned that the percentage of out of school children stands at 47 percent. It means half of the children of Balochistan are deprived of education. Those who are going to government schools are unable to read a sentence in English.

Abraham's seed

By F.S. Aijazuddin:

IN 1945, Adolf Hitler committed suicide in a bunker in Berlin. Seventy-eight years later, his destructive spirit has reincarnated itself in Benjamin Netanyahu, a US-trained Jew. Many of Hitler's policies that led to World War II — lebensraum, contempt for treaties, unbridled militarisation, persecution of minorities, and the malevolent use of a ubiquitous security apparatus — have been reborn in modern Israel. Those violations of civilised norms — once a *casus belli* — are now kosher to the West.

Geography reveals the vulnerability of the Gaza Strip. It is only 365 square kilometres — one tenth the size of India. Gaza, once a simple coastal strip between a hostile mainland and an inhospitable sea, India revealed that by military intervention in 1967. The Gaza Strip is dwarfed by Israel's 22,145 sq km. The present Palestine-Israel conflict is between an underfed David and a US-fattened Goliath. Since 1948, Palestinians have survived off scraps tossed from the tables of their wealthy Arab brethren, while Israel has been the recipient of some \$260 billion in aid from the US. Every year, it receives about \$3.3 billion in foreign military financing from it.

Hamas's surprise attack last week was a

reprise of the Yom Kippur war of 1973. 50 years ago, when Egypt and Syria took advantage of the Yom Kippur holidays to launch an offensive. This attack by Hamas on a Sabbath caught Israel again off guard.

It should not have. Over the past five years alone, Israel has invested over \$80 billion on military defence. It must be galling, therefore, for the Israeli defence ministry to discover that 5,000 Hamas rockets could penetrate its expensive security shield with such precision.

In May 1987, an audacious German teenager, Matthias Rusi, flew a Cessna aircraft from Helsinki and landed in Moscow's Red Square. The Soviet defence minister Sokolov and other top officials were forced to resign. The Israeli defence minister Yoav Gallant has no intention of going anywhere, except into the Gaza Strip, with a vengeance.

Netanyahu has told the residents of the Gaza Strip to leave before they are bombed into non-existence. It is a cruel warning, as callous as if the Nazis had called on the Jews living in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1940 to find alternative accommodation. The final aid from that ghetto was used to buy 92,000 victims of starvation and related dis-

easees". The two million trapped in the Gaza Strip have nowhere to go. Their exodus is replaced by "Je suis Palestinien" (I am a Palestinian). Meanwhile, an Armageddon waits in the wings.

Some who spot a comedy in every tragedy will have a field day when the predicament of Scotland's First Minister Humza Yousaf. His mother-in-law is trapped in Gaza, unable to escape. Forty years ago, the British cricketer Ian Botham remarked caustically that Pakistan was "the kind of place to send your mother-in-law for a month, all expenses paid". Humza Yousaf must wish his mother-in-law had chosen anywhere — even Pakistan — for her foreign trip.

Those who have a reverence for God in whichever form will recall the Bhagavad Gita's opening verses. In them, Arjuna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra expresses despair at seeing his kinsmen fighting with friends and honoured elders: "Some side, some that side ranged; and, seeing those opposed, such kith grown enemies [...] If I win kinsfolk and friends for love of earthly power, Ahovut! What an evil fault it were!"

Is the Gaza Strip to become a wasteland like Kurukshetra, a battlefield of untrued graveyards for the warring seed of Abraham?

By Samiullah:

In recent years, the Israel-Palestine conflict has witnessed numerous escalations, resulting in the tragic loss of countless lives and extensive damage to infrastructure. Among the most shocking incidents in this ongoing conflict is the illegal Israeli attack on a hospital in Gaza, which has sparked international outrage and underscores the pressing need for international intervention to protect the most vulnerable individuals caught in the crossfire.

The Impact of the Attack:

The repercussions of the attack on a hospital in Gaza were catastrophic. Innocent civilians, including children, the wounded, and the elderly, were directly affected by this grave violation of international law. Lives were lost, and the injured faced dire circumstances with limited access to medical care.

The Inhuman Act: Targeting Hospitals:

War, even when waged between states with longstanding conflicts, is subject to rules and conventions. The fundamental principle of international humanitarian law is to protect civilians, including the wounded, children, and the elderly. Hospitals are

International Responsibility:

war, even when waged between states with longstanding conflicts, is subject to rules and conventions. The fundamental principle of international humanitarian law is to protect civilians, including the wounded, children, and the elderly. Hospitals are meant to be sanctuaries in times of conflict, places where the injured can receive medical care without fear of attack. Yet, the attack on a hospital in Gaza flagrantly violated these principles and sent shockwaves through the international community.

The United Nations and powerful nations must step up and play a pivotal role in addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict. The concept that "the enemy of my enemy is my friend" has been a long-standing principle in international relations. In this context, it should translate into a resolute commitment to safeguard the rights and safety of the most vulnerable. Powerful nations should exert diplomatic pressure on the conflicting parties to adhere to the rules of war and peace.

Thucydides' Insights: Rules of War and Peace:
The ancient Greek historian Thucydides, in his timeless work "History of the Peloponnesian War," underscored the importance of rules in times of war and peace. He argued that upholding these rules is not a sign of weakness but an essential element of the international order. The attack on a hospital in Gaza stands as a blatant violation of these principles and underscores the necessity of enforcing them.

To Sum Up:

The illegal Israeli attack on a hospital in Gaza serves as a stark reminder of the importance of rules in times of war and peace. He argued that upholding these rules is not a sign of weakness but an essential element of the international order. The attack on a hospital in Gaza stands as a blatant violation of these principles and underscores the necessity of enforcing them.

The United Nations and powerful nations must step up and play a pivotal role in addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict. The concept that "the enemy of my enemy is my friend" has been a long-standing principle in international relations. In this context, it should translate into a resolute commitment to safeguard the rights and safety of the most vulnerable. Powerful nations should exert diplomatic pressure on the conflicting parties to adhere to the rules of war and peace.

Thucydides' Insights: Rules of War and Peace:

The ancient Greek historian Thucydides, in his timeless work "History of the Peloponnesian War," underscored the importance of rules in times of war and peace. He argued that upholding these rules is not a sign of weakness but an essential element of the international order. The attack on a hospital in Gaza stands as a blatant violation of these principles and underscores the necessity of enforcing them.

To Sum Up:

The illegal Israeli attack on a hospital in Gaza serves as a stark reminder of the importance of rules in times of war and peace. He argued that upholding these rules is not a sign of weakness but an essential element of the international order. The attack on a hospital in Gaza stands as a blatant violation of these principles and underscores the necessity of enforcing them.



International community to unite in its efforts to promote peace, protect the most vulnerable, and ensure the principles of war and peace are upheld.

As Thucydides noted, these principles are not a sign of weakness but the cornerstone of a just and humane world order. It is high time for the United Nations and powerful nations to take proactive measures to end the suffering and work towards a lasting solution in the region.

Pink battle

By Navaira Ali Bangash:

A COMPARATIVE analysis of breast cancer data from over a decade ago to now shows interesting figures: the average age of diagnosis has shifted in women from 54 to 57 years old and three decades of their lives. Today, even young girls are falling prey to the disease, making the situation increasingly complex for countries like Pakistan where breast cancer occurs more often in comparison to other Asian countries.

The total number of breast cancer cases diagnosed in 2020 in Pakistan was 25,928, according to GLOBOCAN 2020. This compares to 14.5 percent of new cases detected in the country throughout the year. The infamous "one in every 40 women ratio of Pakistani women becoming afflicted with breast cancer in the early stages. Apart from Pakistan's soaring cases and ways to reduce occurrences have been under discussion for a while.

Non-modifiable risk factors for breast cancer include age, genetics, mutations, family history, etc. Modifiable risk factors are sedentary lifestyle, alcohol consumption, and certain habits such as smoking. What is more important is that many women, especially in Pakistan, become breast cancer patients without any risk factors, whereas, a risk factor does not necessarily translate into becoming a victim of the ailment. So the next best option is screening for early detection and minimising risks. Treatment is possible when it is diagnosed at an early stage because timely treatment is neither complex nor expensive. Early detection is one of the most pressing concerns worldwide and is achievable with public education and awareness. Estimates show that every year over 83,000 cases are reported in Pakistan and most cases of breast cancer in Pakistani women are diagnosed at an advanced stage. Apart from a low literacy rate among women, ignorance about symptoms and inhibitions around breast cancer form major reasons for late diagnoses.

Accessing climate finance

By Ali Tauqeer Sheikh:

THE global landscape for international climate finance has in recent years undergone a transformational change. Fundamentally, it has moved away from grants to lending and investments. It has become overly complex, fragmented, and competitive for Pakistan's lethargic policymaking processes.

The present government machinery is constrained when it comes to optimally accessing and exploiting opportunities without first clearly understanding the nature of available finances, their essential, particularly the distinct roles and responsibilities of national and provincial institutions trying to curb public expressions of support for the Palestinians, perhaps in anticipation of what is to come, and how their substantial Arab and Muslim populations might react. It is a matter of time before it starts churning financial markets too, as well as the appetite of bilateral lenders to finance Pakistan's assets. There are some suggestions that the war could restore Pakistan's relevance in some form or another. But consider the realignments underway. This is the first time I am seeing leaders of Egypt and Jordan refusing to meet a US president on his visit to the region.

a staggering 63.2pc of its participants lacked knowledge about breast cancer and 64.7pc were ignorant about mammography screening. For a country with such a high incidence count, these figures are shocking and point to the need for greater awareness and information about the disease. It was also noted that the lack of knowledge is not due to poor education alone but also because of the economic status displayed by the patients of a higher socioeconomic status displayed negligible understanding about the malady, and more so about the means and importance of reporting it to the authorities. The reasons for Pakistan's soaring cases and ways to reduce occurrences have been under discussion for a while.

Non-modifiable risk factors for breast cancer include age, genetics, mutations, family history, etc. Modifiable risk factors are sedentary lifestyle, alcohol consumption, and certain habits such as smoking. What is more important is that many women, especially in Pakistan, become breast cancer patients without any risk factors, whereas, a risk factor does not necessarily translate into becoming a victim of the ailment. So the next best option is screening for early detection and minimising risks. Treatment is possible when it is diagnosed at an early stage because timely treatment is neither complex nor expensive. Early detection is one of the most pressing concerns worldwide and is achievable with public education and awareness. Estimates show that every year over 83,000 cases are reported in Pakistan and most cases of breast cancer in Pakistani women are diagnosed at an advanced stage. Apart from a low literacy rate among women, ignorance about symptoms and inhibitions around breast cancer form major reasons for late diagnoses.

Non-modifiable risk factors for breast cancer include age, genetics, mutations, family history, etc. Modifiable risk factors are sedentary lifestyle, alcohol consumption, and certain habits such as smoking. What is more important is that many women, especially in Pakistan, become breast cancer patients without any risk factors, whereas, a risk factor does not necessarily translate into becoming a victim of the ailment. So the next best option is screening for early detection and minimising risks. Treatment is possible when it is diagnosed at an early stage because timely treatment is neither complex nor expensive. Early detection is one of the most pressing concerns worldwide and is achievable with public education and awareness. Estimates show that every year over 83,000 cases are reported in Pakistan and most cases of breast cancer in Pakistani women are diagnosed at an advanced stage. Apart from a low literacy rate among women, ignorance about symptoms and inhibitions around breast cancer form major reasons for late diagnoses.

Accessing climate finance

By Ali Tauqeer Sheikh:

THE global landscape for international climate finance has in recent years undergone a transformational change. Fundamentally, it has moved away from grants to lending and investments. It has become overly complex, fragmented, and competitive for Pakistan's lethargic policymaking processes.

The present government machinery is constrained when it comes to optimally accessing and exploiting opportunities without first clearly understanding the nature of available finances, their essential, particularly the distinct roles and responsibilities of national and provincial institutions trying to curb public expressions of support for the Palestinians, perhaps in anticipation of what is to come, and how their substantial Arab and Muslim populations might react. It is a matter of time before it starts churning financial markets too, as well as the appetite of bilateral lenders to finance Pakistan's assets. There are some suggestions that the war could restore Pakistan's relevance in some form or another. But consider the realignments underway. This is the first time I am seeing leaders of Egypt and Jordan refusing to meet a US president on his visit to the region.

and has evolved as an important legal doctrine in common law jurisdictions. But presently, it has little to no utility in multilateral contexts. The Paris Agreement has not accepted the principle of historical responsibility nor has Western countries agreed upon the notion of compensation under any arrangement. In any case, the size, governance structure, and eligibility criteria for accessing the proposed Loss and Damage fund are still up in the air.

Developed countries are duty-bound to support climate finance. The principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities, also enshrined at the Earth Summit, the assumption that Pakistan's policy makers brought home then was that international support would be in the form of grants. The subsequent evolution of the global climate finance architecture has all but buried the CDR principle. The DNA of climate finance has undergone profound changes. It now emphasises blending public and private sector finances.

We in Pakistan did not recognise it, but the world system began to move away from Kyoto even before the Kyoto Protocol came into force in 2005. The most significant step was taken by

and has evolved as an important legal doctrine in common law jurisdictions. But presently, it has little to no utility in multilateral contexts. The Paris Agreement has not accepted the principle of historical responsibility nor has Western countries agreed upon the notion of compensation under any arrangement. In any case, the size, governance structure, and eligibility criteria for accessing the proposed Loss and Damage fund are still up in the air.

Developed countries are duty-bound to support climate finance. The principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities, also enshrined at the Earth Summit, the assumption that Pakistan's policy makers brought home then was that international support would be in the form of grants. The subsequent evolution of the global climate finance architecture has all but buried the CDR principle. The DNA of climate finance has undergone profound changes. It now emphasises blending public and private sector finances.

We in Pakistan did not recognise it, but the world system began to move away from Kyoto even before the Kyoto Protocol came into force in 2005. The most significant step was taken by

Accessing climate finance

By Ali Tauqeer Sheikh:

THE global landscape for international climate finance has in recent years undergone a transformational change. Fundamentally, it has moved away from grants to lending and investments. It has become overly complex, fragmented, and competitive for Pakistan's lethargic policymaking processes.

The present government machinery is constrained when it comes to optimally accessing and exploiting opportunities without first clearly understanding the nature of available finances, their essential, particularly the distinct roles and responsibilities of national and provincial institutions trying to curb public expressions of support for the Palestinians, perhaps in anticipation of what is to come, and how their substantial Arab and Muslim populations might react. It is a matter of time before it starts churning financial markets too, as well as the appetite of bilateral lenders to finance Pakistan's assets. There are some suggestions that the war could restore Pakistan's relevance in some form or another. But consider the realignments underway. This is the first time I am seeing leaders of Egypt and Jordan refusing to meet a US president on his visit to the region.

Playing for pennies

By Khurram Husain:

IT is now next to impossible to have any forward-looking conversation about the outlook for Pakistan's economy without taking into consideration the developments in the Gaza crisis.

The external sector of the Gaza conflict from this perspective. First, how far will it go? Secondly, how far will it spread?

Others are better positioned to talk about the geopolitics and drivers of conflict in that crisis. For now, it is enough to note that this time it is different. This is not one of those fare-ups that has marked the timeline of Gaza and Israel since 2000.

That was a strategy the Israelis referred to as "mowing the lawn" which meant going after a gap of a few years and taking out a large number of the fighters, bomb-makers, financiers and other skilled individuals working with Hamas, to degrade the organisation's ability to wage conflict. Hamas

has not stood in for decades. And given this precariousness, its vulnerability to developments in the world, whether economic or geopolitical, is magnified.

Two questions are the impact of this conflict from this perspective. First, how far will it go? Secondly, how far will it spread?

Others are better positioned to talk about the geopolitics and drivers of conflict in that crisis. For now, it is enough to note that this time it is different. This is not one of those fare-ups that has marked the timeline of Gaza and Israel since 2000.

That was a strategy the Israelis referred to as "mowing the lawn" which meant going after a gap of a few years and taking out a large number of the fighters, bomb-makers, financiers and other skilled individuals working with Hamas, to degrade the organisation's ability to wage conflict. Hamas

would rebuild this capability in a few years, and the Israelis would come in a few years later and "mow the lawn" once again.

It's safe to say the days of "mowing the lawn" are now over. The attacks of 7 were so intense — claiming more casualties in this short timespan than the Israelis have faced in any preceding war — that they have turned the page in this conflict forever.

What is opening up before us now is a much larger and most likely more protracted war than anything in the long history between Israel and Palestine. Unless diplomacy succeeds in talking the Israelis out of their ambition, the attack on the hospital in Gaza on Tuesday could be only the first of many more such atrocities to come.

This war has already started in the streets, both in Arab as well as Western capitals. The important thing to note is that it has not even begun in earnest

yet. These are the days between Sept 11 and Oct 7, 2001. The real conflict is yet to begin. How far it goes, and how much social upheaval it engenders along the way, remains to be seen — the protagonists themselves do not know.

But note how England, France and Germany have all passed decrees trying to curb public expressions of support for the Palestinians, perhaps in anticipation of what is to come, and how their substantial Arab and Muslim populations might react. It is a matter of time before it starts churning financial markets too, as well as the appetite of bilateral lenders to finance Pakistan's assets. There are some suggestions that the war could restore Pakistan's relevance in some form or another. But consider the realignments underway. This is the first time I am seeing leaders of Egypt and Jordan refusing to meet a US president on his visit to the region.

What is opening up before us now is a much larger and most likely more protracted war than anything in the long history between Israel and Palestine. Unless diplomacy succeeds in talking the Israelis out of their ambition, the attack on the hospital in Gaza on Tuesday could be only the first of many more such atrocities to come.

This war has already started in the streets, both in Arab as well as Western capitals. The important thing to note is that it has not even begun in earnest

yet. These are the days between Sept 11 and Oct 7, 2001. The real conflict is yet to begin. How far it goes, and how much social upheaval it engenders along the way, remains to be seen — the protagonists themselves do not know.

But note how England, France and Germany have all passed decrees trying to curb public expressions of support for the Palestinians, perhaps in anticipation of what is to come, and how their substantial Arab and Muslim populations might react. It is a matter of time before it starts churning financial markets too, as well as the appetite of bilateral lenders to finance Pakistan's assets. There are some suggestions that the war could restore Pakistan's relevance in some form or another. But consider the realignments underway. This is the first time I am seeing leaders of Egypt and Jordan refusing to meet a US president on his visit to the region.

Israel-Hamas war: Pakistan has no intention to send Army to Gaza

ISLAMABAD (INP): Foreign Office (FO) Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch reiterated Pakistan's unwavering commitment to supporting the Palestinian cause and clarified Pakistan has no intention to send troops to Palestine. She said Pakistan has no intention to send troops to Palestine amid the ongoing war between Hamas and Israel. FO spokesperson expressed grave concerns about the ongoing humanitarian crisis inflicted by Israel in Gaza. Pakistan will continue to support Palestinians' right to self-determination, adding that, in Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) meeting, Pakistan asserted

a resolute stance on the Gaza crisis, firmly advocating for the rights and dignity of the Palestinian people. She highlighted caretaker foreign minister held crucial discussions with their Saudi counterpart during a diplomatic visit to Saudi Arabia. The talks revolved around the pressing matter of Gaza, as Pakistan seeks to build regional consensus for a peaceful resolution. "Pakistan desires peace in the Middle East," the spokesperson stressed, reaffirming Pakistan's dedication to promoting stability and harmony in the region. To demonstrate Pakistan's solidarity with Palestine, the government has

dispatched a special plane carrying vital humanitarian aid to Gaza. The aid package includes medical supplies, blankets, tents, and daily necessities to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people. The FO spokesperson called for an immediate halt to the Israeli bombardment in Gaza and the lifting of restrictions that have strangled the region. "Pakistan wholeheartedly welcomes all measures aimed at establishing a ceasefire in Gaza," the spokesperson declared. To ensure the efficient delivery of aid, Pakistan's assistance to Palestine will be routed through Egypt. This substantial 100-ton aid package

encompasses medicines, food, tents, and interpreters to address the immediate needs of the affected population. "All these relief goods from Egypt will be promptly delivered to the specified places in Palestine," the spokesperson confirmed, emphasizing Pakistan's commitment to standing with the Palestinian people in their time of need. PM Kakar in China MOFA spokesperson said that caretaker Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar is in China for Belt and Road Initiative anniversary global forum meet up of global leaders. She said that premier will return Pakistan after visiting Xinyang.



ISLAMABAD: SAPM Jawad Sohrab Malik Launches Web-Based Application for recovery of dues of overseas Pakistani workers on 19th October 2023.

US missiles won't help Ukraine, says Putin

BEIJING (INP): Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that long-range missiles Washington had supplied Kyiv would only prolong the country's agony, hours after Ukraine's leader Volodymyr Zelensky said they had already reported more deaths from the latest wave of Russian missile strikes and said they were bracing for an expected fresh assault on the frontline town of Avdiivka. It had been a "mistake" for Washington to give Ukraine long-range ATACMS missiles, Putin told journalists at a news conference in Beijing. "War is war and, of course, they pose a threat, that goes without saying," he said in response to a question about the weapons. "But most importantly, this will not change the situation on the line of contact dramatically at all," he added. The decision to supply the missiles had been "another mistake on the part of the United States," he said. "It just prolongs the agony." White House confirmed on Tuesday that it had provided Ukraine with the longer-range weapons they had requested

to strike deep inside Russian-held territory. According to US media outlets the ATACMS have a maximum range of around 160 kilometers (100 miles). Russian officials had already accused Ukraine on Tuesday of using the US-supplied missiles to attack Berdyansk, a Russian-controlled port city in Ukraine's southeastern Zaporizhzhia region. Zelensky confirmed Ukraine had used the missiles against the town of Avdiivka, but did not give details about how or when they were deployed. "They have performed very accurately. ATACMS have proven themselves," he said in an evening address Tuesday. On Wednesday, he posted on X, formerly Twitter, that he had had talks with pro-Russian separatist forces in 2014. "I can say for sure that this is the largest offensive that has ever taken place in Avdiivka since the war began in 2014," the head of the town's administration Vitaliy Barabash said on television. While attacks on the town itself had quieted down, Russia had continued to shell Ukrainian positions. "Most likely, in the next few days we expect this escalation to continue,"

he added. The town has become a symbol of Ukrainian resistance against Moscow, with Kyiv fighting on despite relentless Russian attacks during the Kremlin's almost 20-month long offensive. Russian forces now control territory to the east, north and south of Avdiivka, gradually tightening the noose in a bid to push Ukrainian forces further from Donetsk. Avdiivka itself has been devastated by attack other parts of Zaporizhzhia, local officials said. Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia and Dnipropetrovsk regions had killed at least six people. Five died in a missile strike that hit the southeastern city of Zaporizhzhia, local officials said. A 31-year-old woman was killed in a strike on a town just outside the city of Dnipro, Ukraine's internal affairs minister Igor Klymenko said. Zaporizhzhia governor Yuriy Malashko said Russia had "launched six missile attacks on Zaporizhzhia" in the early hours of Tuesday.



CHINA: International students from Shandong University of Science and Technology's College of International Exchange practice a martial art for agility at the Shi Hai An (West Coast) New Area Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital in Qingdao, East China's Shandong Province. The Bedouins are learning.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a meeting with the Ambassador of the State of Palestine in Pakistan Ahmed Jawad Rabei, and expressing solidarity with the people of Palestine.

US agrees deal with Egypt to restart aid to Gaza as death toll rises to 3,478

TEL AVIV/GAZA (INP): Egypt agreed to reopen its border crossing with the Gaza Strip to allow aid to reach Palestinians, the U.S. said, as the humanitarian crisis deepened in the narrow enclave and anti-Israel protests flared across the Middle East. The region remained volatile in the aftermath of an explosion at Gaza's Al-Shifa hospital late on Tuesday, which Palestinian officials said killed 471 people. Israel denied what they said was an Israeli air strike. Israel and the U.S. said the cause was a failed rocket launch by anti-Israeli Palestinian militants in Gaza who denied responsibility. Lor Haiat, spokesperson for Israel's Foreign Ministry, said on Tuesday that at the hospital "several dozen people were apparently killed," a figure unshared by the Red Cross, which is supported by Palestinian officials. Amid outrage over the hospital explosion, Israel and the U.S. said the cause was a failed rocket launch by anti-Israeli Palestinian militants in Gaza who denied responsibility. Lor Haiat, spokesperson for Israel's Foreign Ministry, said on Tuesday that at the hospital "several dozen people were apparently killed," a figure unshared by the Red Cross, which is supported by Palestinian officials. Amid outrage over the hospital explosion, Israel and the U.S. said the cause was a failed rocket launch by anti-Israeli Palestinian militants in Gaza who denied responsibility.

where Israeli forces shot dead two Palestinian teenagers in the West Bank during protests, Palestinian officials said, while Lebanese security forces fired tear gas and water cannon at protesters throwing projectiles near the US embassy in Beirut. While flying home from a less than eight-hour visit to Israel, US President Joe Biden discussed with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi by phone late on Wednesday. Biden told reporters that Sisi agreed to open the Rafah crossing to Egypt to Gaza to allow about 20 trucks carrying humanitarian aid into the enclave. Still, some people are desperately short of food, water, fuel and other essentials after Israeli unleashed a black and air strikes 12 days ago. Biden did not give a timeline for the opening but said the deal would occur in coming days following repairs to the road. Amid fears the conflict could spread beyond Gaza, Biden had planned to meet Arab

leaders. But Jordan called off his planned summit there with Egypt and the Palestinian Authority after the hospital blast. AP adds: Biden said Egypt's president agreed to open the crossing and to let in an initial group of 20 trucks with humanitarian aid. If Hamas confiscates aid, "it will end," he said. The aid will start moving Friday at the earliest, White House officials said. Egypt must still repair the road across the border that was cratered by Israeli airstrikes. More than 200 trucks and some 3,000 tons of aid are positioned at or near the Rafah crossing. Gaza's only connection to Egypt, said the head of the Red Crescent for North Sinai, Khalid Zayed. Supplies will go in under supervision of the UN, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry told Al-Arabiya TV. Asked if foreigners and dual nationals seeking to leave would be let through, he said: "As long as the crossing is operating normally and the (crossing) facility has been repaired."

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the decision was approved after a request from Biden. It said Israel "will not thwart" deliveries of food, water or medicine from Egypt, as long as they are limited to civilians in the south of the Gaza Strip and don't go to Hamas militants. The statement made no mention of fuel, which is badly needed for hospital generators. Relatives of some of the roughly 200 people who were taken hostage and forced back to Gaza during the attack reacted in fury to the aid announcement. "Children, infants, women, soldiers, men, and elderly, some with serious illnesses, wounded and shot, are held underground like animals," said a statement from the Hostage and Missing Families Forum. But the Israeli government pampers the murderers and kidnappers," Palestinian rocket attacks on Israel resumed Wednesday after a 12-hour lull. Israel strikes on Gaza continued, including on cities in the south that Israel had described as "safe zones" for civilians.

Saudi Arabia donates dates to PBB for distribution among needy

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) Relief has donated five tons of dates to Pakistan Batul Mal (PBM) for distribution among the needy in a ceremony at Pakistan Batul Mal's Women Empowerment Display Center in F-9 Park, Islamabad. At this event, notable figures in attendance were Managing Director Pakistan Batul Mal, Amir Fida Paracha, Official Engineer Tarad Al-Mehjal from KSA Relief and Abdullah, Head of Distribution at KSA Relief.

Amir Fida Paracha, MD Pakistan Batul Mal, during his speech at the ceremony emphasized that their organization consistently placed a high priority on collaborating with international and regional entities to advance humanitarian efforts across a wide spectrum of social security areas. He mentioned that Saudi Arabia has consistently supported Pakistan during challenging global politics, trade, and humanitarian initiatives. This steadfast partnership holds immense value for the people of Pakistan. As is the tradition every year, the generous gift of five tons of dates from KSA Relief to the people of Pakistan pressed a profound and services and initiatives.

the enduring friendship between the two countries. Pakistan Batul Mal takes immense pride in the trust bestowed by KSA Relief. Amir Fida Paracha expressed gratitude to the Saudi Government on behalf of Pakistan and expressed optimism for the enduring collaboration between Pakistan Batul Mal and KSA Relief. He emphasized their commitment to not only supporting various initiatives but also fostering the exchange of experiences to serve the greater humanitarian cause. Speaking to the distinguished guests, the Managing Director of Pakistan Batul Mal expressed a profound admiration for KSA Relief's services and initiatives.

KSA Relief extends aid and relief to those in need worldwide, including Pakistan. This organization diligently utilizes the available resources to provide essential facilities to disadvantaged individuals in Pakistan through various programs, he said and said that this significant partnership holds immense value for the people of Pakistan. Tarad Al-Mehjal, official engineer of KSA Relief and Abdullah, the Head of Distribution at KSA Relief, reiterated that Pakistan Batul Mal had been a longstanding partner in the realm of social services and this collaboration would endure into the future.

TENDER NOTICE

Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-BUILDING (E/CO) DEPARTMENT DISTRICT KHARAN invites bids from Eligible Bidders on National Competitive Bidding (NCB) who can prove their eligibility and qualification as mentioned in bidding documents subject to execution of following works for the Year 2023-24 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 with allowable premiums on Percentage Rates, Category C3- or above, Earnest Money Rs.2%, Tender Fee Rs.15000/-

S.#	Name of work / Schemes	E/COst
1.	Construction of CTD Complex in Balochistan (Baluchistan Division at Quetta) (PCO) 5241 2202:1312 (2023-24) TSE-232410357473	451 303M

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: i) Presence in Active Tax Payee List ii) The bidder firm must not be debarred by any procuring agency of Pakistan c) Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required d) The bidder must have completed 2 Assignments of similar nature of work e) Turnover of at least 315,912,100 PKR Amount in 5 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The I/T Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppa.gov.pk. Issuance of Tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppa.gov.pk. Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically until 06 Nov, 2023 till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System. Address: Office of the Executive Engineer-Building, CWP/BA Department District Khاران Phone no: 0847519875. Email: engr.adilnaseem@gmail.com

Executive Engineer (Buildings) CWP/BA Department District Khاران

PRQ No.795/19-10-2023

www.ppr.gov.pk | @ppr.gov.pk | @ppr.gov.pk | @ppr.gov.pk

QUETTA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY

OSQO TENDER NOTICE

Quetta Electric Supply Company (OSQO) for the purpose of various capacities of Distribution Transformers is providing the allied material lying in office of the Executive Engineer-Quetta.

Name of Works	Repair of X-ray Distribution Transformer, Material to be used: a. Manufacturing & Supply of HLLT Coils for various capacities Transformers. b. Repairing of LT Coils. c. Providing the allied materials for Distribution Transformers i.e. HT bushes, LT bushes, HLLT Components including HT Flat conductors, HT fuses, copper Cyl. Glauks and Miscellaneous consumable
Eligibility of Contractor	Contractors should be registered with PEC and having Specification Code ME-05. Certificate of Eligibility (COE) should be submitted to the concerned authority by the year 2023. The firms who are registered with OSQO are eligible to participate.
Earnest Money	Tender must be accompanied by the earnest money equal to 2% of the bid cost in shape of Bank Guarantee or Call deposit obtained from a scheduled Bank of Pakistan. The bid without earnest money will be rejected. No Forfeiture/Refund of Cheque will be accepted.
Tender Documents can be purchased from	Office of the Executive Engineer (Operations) Division of OSQO Quetta
Valid till	30th October 2023
Last Date for purchase of Tender Documents	28th October 2023
Date of Opening & Place of Opening	Will be received until 11:00 AM on 29th October 2023 and will be opened on the same day at 1:30 PM in presence of interested parties.
Terms & Conditions	i) Tender forms will be issued after confirmation of declaration of the bidder by the contractor. ii) The firm must have HLLT Coils Manufacturing Machines with three Phase Motors as per WAPDA Standard Specification. iii) The firm must have experience of 03 years for Coil Manufacturing experience certificate should be enclosed.

The Bidding Authority reserves the right to reject and cancel all bids at its sole discretion without assigning reasons to any bidder. This notice is also available on the website of OSQO Quetta.

Executive Engineer (Operations) Division OSQO Quetta

A woman killed, 2 injured in Quetta Hazar Ganji attack

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: A woman was killed and another two injured when unknown accused opened fire in the Hazar Ganji area of the provincial capital on Thursday.

One woman was dead on the spot

Police sources said unknown accused on a motorcycle attacked women in Hazar Ganji. One woman was killed on the spot, whereas, two women sustained injuries.

Injured women rushed to hospital

The injured women were rushed to the Bolan Medical Hospital for medical treatment. The accused sped away from their motorcycle after the attack.



Police reached the spot

Police reached the spot as an investigation into the incident went underway. The Caretaker Balochistan Home Minister, Captain (R) Mir Zubair Jamali strongly condemned the attack and directed police to arrest the culprits involved in the attack. In a statement issued after the incident, Mr. Jamali expressed grief over the incident and said that the terrorists would be brought to justice.

Experts Emphasize Youth Inclusion in Governance and Accountability at NUML Seminar in Quetta

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA (October 19, 2023) – The Anti-Corruption Establishment Balochistan (ACEB) and the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) jointly hosted a seminar discussing the pivotal role of youth in strengthening accountability and governance in Balochistan.

This collaborative event forms part of a comprehensive capacity-building project supported by the U.S. Embassy's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and executed by the Accountability Lab.

Youth role pivotal for accountability

During the seminar, Mr. Khalid Ahmed Gola, Deputy Director of ACEB, enlightened students about the structure and mission of ACEB. He underscored the significance of educating the youth about their role in enhancing governance and accountability within the province.

Additionally, he introduced students to complaint mechanisms, including the automated complaint management system and WhatsApp numbers for reporting instances of corruption and maladministration by government officials or departments.

Importance of accountability and transparency discussed

Addressing the pressing economic and governance challenges facing Balochistan, the regional Director of NUML Quetta, stressed the importance of raising awareness among the



general public about the repercussions of corruption and the existing mechanisms for fostering transparency and accountability. He emphasized the need to educate the public about reporting corruption, maladministration, and the misuse of authority, thereby supporting anti-corruption endeavors to combat corruption and enhance public service delivery in Balochistan.

Asif Farooqi spotlighted role of civil society

Asif Farooqi, Deputy Director Programs of Accountability, spotlighted the essential role of civil society in governance improvement, advocating for change, and promoting transparency in communities. He emphasized the necessity of creating space for active participation by civil society, despite existing challenges related to regulatory frameworks and security in Balochistan.

CPEC generated 236,000 jobs in Pakistan, a glimpse of 10-year-old BRI

BEIJING (INP): Data from the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan shows that till the end of 2022, CPEC has generated a total of 236,000 jobs in Pakistan.

China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday. It has been a decade since China unveiled the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Ten years on, what has the mega project brought to the people of the countries along the BRI route, and what can we expect from BRI in the days to come? Pakistanis working on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a massive project under BRI to capitalize on Pakistan's geographical importance and improve Pakistan's socio-economic conditions, shared their views.

Pakistan is a country facing a severe power shortage. According to Ktrade Research, the percentage of the population in Pakistan that has access to electricity in 18 years increased by only 1.1 ppts. However, 9,740MW in capacity created by CPEC had fueled the number rose by 3.8 ppts in just 4 years. CPEC power plants are providing cheaper electricity by utilizing coal reserves, which reduced Pakistan's oil and gas bill burden. Inside the Thar Block-1 Integrated Coal Mine Power Project, an open-pit coalmine with an annual lignite output of 7.8 million tons and a total capacity of

1,320MW, is providing the most cost-effective energy to millions of Pakistani households.

Gul Hassan, a mining engineer with Sino Sindh Resources (Pvt) Ltd (SSRL) of China Economic Net (CEN), "The Thar Block-1 project has been instrumental in transforming the lives of people in Thar." Furthermore, renewable energy projects of water, wind, etc under CPEC are also optimizing the country's energy structure.

Peerzada Zain ul Abideen, O&M manager of PowerChina HPEC Engineering Company Limited Pakistan, proudly said that the 12 projects in Jhimpir of his company have generated 1888.29 GWh of electricity so far. In Gharo, Sindh, Muhammad Saleem Munshi, Chief Financial Officer of Hydrochina Dawood Power (Pvt) Limited told CEN that the wind speed in the area is up to 7 meters per second. If properly developed, it can meet 5%-10% of the nation's power demand. Data from the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan shows that till the end of 2022, CPEC has generated a total of 236,000 jobs in Pakistan. Azim ul Haq is a HSE Engineer working at the 1263MW Punjab Power Plant in Jhang to ensure the project personnel's safety and health standards are met. "Earnings from

this job provide comfortable living for my families. Although living away from family and my newborn daughter is difficult, given that the power project's location is far from my home town, the company provides me with all kinds of benefits and allows me to take vacations as needed," he said. "Locals find learning and working opportunities here. Most of the engineers, managers, and workers are from nearby areas", Peerzada Zain ul Abideen said, adding, "I myself have also been offered a job that my family and friends are proud of and a good salary". Muhammad Waqas, Director Finance of the UEP 100MW wind farm in Jhimpir said the most worthwhile thing he ever did was to choose wind power as his career while he also holds certificates in computer programming, teaching, and accounting. "I can learn state-of-the-art technologies of one of the most promising sectors. Chinese brothers are transferring the advanced mechanism to Pakistan," he said, adding, "Before the pandemic, I went to China every year to learn about power-related technologies and business know-how". Mir Arslan Ali, Assistant Duty Officer of the Control and Protection Department, Matiari to Lahore-660kV HVDC Transmission



GUJAR KHAN: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf inaugurating solar energy system at Gujar Khan Bar.



BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq meets Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing.

Xi, PM Kakar hails Pak-China partnership as 'made in heaven'

BEIJING (INP): Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar on Thursday met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing and hailed Pakistan's partnership with its neighbour as "made in heaven".

"We will always stand with China and trust you blindly," the premier told President Xi during a meeting on the sidelines of the third Belt and Road Forum (BRF) for Inter-national Cooperation.

The premier is in China on a two-day visit to attend the forum which is being held amid the backdrop of ongoing celebrations marking 10 years of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

A day earlier, the two countries had decided to expand the scope of the multibillion-dollar infrastructure project, which will now diversify to areas like industrial development, ICT, livelihood exploration, mining and mineral extraction, and agriculture.

During his meeting with President Xi today, PM Kakar expressed Pakistan's "deep commitment" to China. He described the ties between the two countries as "sweeter than honey" and an "iron-clad brotherhood".

"The kind of global challenges that many nations are facing today, they need answers — deep and long-term

answers. And the Belt and Road Initiative is an answer to all those questions," Kakar said.

He stated that the path of modernisation adopted by China for the past many years was a lesson for Pakistan on how a country could transform the lives of millions of people.

Kakar reiterated that Pakistan would stand steadfast with China and there was no "dissenting view" in this regard.

"I reiterate that Pakistan will not allow anything to undermine our strategic partnership and we actually mean that. We will continue to strengthen, realise and articulate in our actions [...] we will not just show commitment through words but also through action," he said.

Separately, in a post on X (formerly Twitter), Kakar said: "President Xi reassured that China would continue supporting Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and development, and would continue supporting us in harnessing our geo-economic potential and as a hub of regional trade and economics, which is our shared vision".

He added that the Chinese President had also accepted his invitation to visit Pakistan at the earliest.

Earlier today, Kakar also met a number of Chinese corporate executives, state-run Radio Pakistan reported.

During the meetings, the premier encouraged Chinese firms to explore the "vast investment potential in Pakistan, especially in information technology, agriculture, renewable energy, textile, digital economy and the mining sector".

According to the report, the PM appraised Chinese businessmen of Pakistan's initiatives for economic and financial stability.

Sharing Pakistan's vision for sustainable and inclusive development, he outlined Pakistan's investor-friendly policies, including the establishment of the Special Investment Facilitation Council, which he said would act as a one-window platform to facilitate foreign investment.

Meanwhile, Chinese entrepreneurs briefed the premier on their business portfolios in Pakistan and expressed interest in working with Pakistan partners.

PM Kakar also invited the executives to Pakistan to discuss their business interests with the relevant ministers, Radio Pakistan added.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai addressing a press conference.

Pakistan joins newly-launched Beijing Initiative for Green Development

BEIJING (INP): In a major development of the concerted efforts towards a green future, the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) of Pakistan joined the Beijing Initiative for Belt and Road Green Development as a founding member.

The initiative was launched in Beijing today at the High-Level Forum on Green Development.

The Forum is part of the two-day Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation that ended today. The Green Investment and Finance Project (GIFP) of BRI partners was kicked off in tandem.

Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, executive director of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), told reporters from China Economic Net (CEN) that green financing is the solution to climate-friendly economic growth.

"Our institution will continue to work closely with Chinese partners to address common climate concerns".

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, Chief Executive Officer of Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research and Development, said in an interview with CEN that as Pakistan is facing both economic and environmental challenges, green financing will help the country mitigate both problems, reducing poverty and providing climate-compatible infrastructure.

Shariq Shaikh Muhammad, chief representative of the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) Beijing Office, said, "Green development is the future. NBP is also striving to enhance its capacity to facilitate the generation of green energy."

We will also turn the office in Beijing into an operation branch to cement collaboration with China". Zhang Jianyu, executive director of BRI International Green Development Institute, which is one of the organizers of the forum and is also carrying out climate change mitigation and adaptation projects in

collaboration with Pakistan, told CEN that climate commitment, integration with digitalization and information technology, and exquisite but impactful projects for communities hold the key to efficient, sustainable green BRI development in the future.

The forum was addressed by UN Secretary-General António Guterres, who stressed that Green Silk Road can help step-up the global efforts for green future in two key areas.

"First, investments flowing from the Green Silk Road are an important opportunity to fast-track sustainable and climate-resilient development to protect lives and livelihoods."

Second, we must ensure that any new infrastructure investments through the Green Silk Road turbocharge a just and sustainable transition away from planet-wrecking fossil fuels towards renewable energy". Over 400 representatives from over 40 countries attended the forum.