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Dr. Shamshad Akhtar says Govt controls inflation with a better strategy

KARACHI (Online): Caretaker Finance Minister Dr. Shamshad Akhtar has said that the tax collected by FBR in the first quarter of the current fiscal is more than the target of IMF and during this period the IMF program effectively implemented.

Anti-trafficking campaign is being given much attention and illegal transactions and hoarding are being controlled, she added. Shamshad Akhtar said there is a special focus on the anti-trafficking campaign and the important role of the law enforcement agencies in the eradication of trafficking and for this I salute our law enforcement agencies.

The government has controlled the inflation with a better strategy, the effort to control the inflation is going on, success is also happening, we have tried to revive the economy and it is not an easy task, she continued.

Finance minister said "We all have to work to-

gether, when we came to government, we were surrounded by problems from all sides but the caretaker government has controlled the situation very quickly, improvement in the value of rupee depends on the market."

She expressed these views while addressing the members and talking to the media at the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) yesterday (Sunday).

Chairman FBR Amjad Towana, President KATI Farazur Rahman, Deputy Chief Patron Zubairchaya and others also spoke on this occasion.

The caretaker finance minister while talking to the media said that the Pakistani rupee has strengthened to 279 rupees against the dollar in the interbank market and its value has improved by 8 percent.

Treasury head said dollar had reached Rs 305 in the interbank and more than that in the open market.

Continued on page 2



SIBI: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Domki talking to media persons.

Catastrophe unfolding in Gaza, warns UN secretary general

Monitoring Desk

UNITED NATIONS: "A humanitarian catastrophe is unfolding in front of our eyes," UN Secretary General António Guterres warned on Saturday as another night of heavy bombing flattened Gaza and virtually cut it off from the outside world.

The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution by 120 to 14 votes calling for an "immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce" in Gaza. But even this overwhelming support for a pause in fighting had little impact on the situation in Gaza, where the Israeli military action seems to have entered a decisive phase.

"Gaza is in complete blackout and isolation while heavy shelling continues," warned Josep Borrell, the EU High Representative for foreign affairs.

In a tweet posted on Saturday, he described the situation in Gaza as 'desperate', where people live 'without electricity, food, water'.

Noting that "far too many civilians, including children, have been killed," Mr Borrell said: "This is against International Humanitarian Law."

The UNGA resolution, on Friday, besides calling for a "humanitarian truce" in Gaza, also underlined the hope that it would lead to a cessation of hostilities.

Cop martyred as militants storm police camp in Dera Ismail Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (INP): A policeman was martyred when militants, armed with sophisticated weapons, stormed a police camp near CPEC York Toll Plaza in Dera Ismail Khan early Sunday morning.

Sources said that loud explosions were heard as the militants also hurled hand grenades at the camp, which normally houses 15 to 20 policemen.

The exchange of fire between the two sides continued for a considerable time period.

The deceased cop was identified as Sher Alam.

However, swift response by the police personnel forced the militants to flee.

Heavy contingents of police and other law-enforcement agencies (LEAs) were combing the area when last reports came in.

Attacks by militants on the police and personnel of other LEAs have become more frequent in the recent past, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

At least one police officer was martyred and two others were injured in a terrorist attack on Hathala police station in Dera Ismail Khan three weeks ago.



SIBI: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Domki inaugurates restoration of Sibi-Harnai Railway section. Caretaker Federal Minister for Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar and others are also present.

Sibi to Harnai train service restored after 18 years Restoration of railway service will create economic prospects, job opportunities in the region: CM

Says Bolan Mail service will be restored on Dec 25, while Nawab Akbar Bugti Express will run in the next phase

QUETTA (INP): Pakistan Railways has restored the Sibi-Harnai railway service for traffic after 18 years.

Caretaker Chief Minister of Balochistan Ali Mardan Domki and Federal Minister of Railways inaugurated the railway service.

Caretaker CM addressing the ceremony said that the railway track was closed in February 2006. "Restoration of the railway service will create economic prospects and job opportunities in the region," he said.

"The Bolan Mail service will be restored on Dec 25, while Nawab Akbar Bugti Express will run in the next phase," chief minister said.

Moreover, goods trains will also run on the Sibi-Harnai railway track, he added.

"The railway's track was made dysfunctional after a series of bomb blasts which damaged 22 steel bridges in the highly rugged and inaccessible area," an official in the Ministry of Railways earlier told the official news agency.

"The restoration of the railway between the twin historical cities of Sibi and Harnai

will have a positive impact on the economy and agriculture of the entire region," the official added.

With the rehabilitation of the railway track, he said not only the students of district Harnai and Ziarat will also get opportunities to acquire higher education but also boost the economic and commercial activities in the region.

In March 2016, a contract for rehabilitation and restoration of the Sibi-Harnai railway track along with the up-gradation of railway stations was awarded to the NLC.

During the initial survey of the track, it was found that 22 steel bridges were destroyed and required replacement for the restoration of the train operation.

Railway official said a total of nine railway stations along with tracks had been upgraded by NLC engineers including the reconstruction of Harnai Railway Station and a complete renovation of Sibi Railway Station, which could be regarded as the finest railway station in Balochistan.



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar in a group photo with Balochistan members of Pakistan Writers Guild.

President condoles with families of martyred troops

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi on Sunday expressed condolences to the families of the martyrs of the Pakistan Army over telephone. The president spoke to the families of the soldiers over phone who were martyred in North and South Waziristan on October 16 and 18.

He paid tribute to Sepoy Abdul Hameed, Lance Naik Tabassum-ul-Haq, and Sepoy Naeem Akhtar, President Alvi also paid tribute to Lance Naik Waris Khan and Sepoy Sajid Azim in a telephonic conversation with their families. He saluted on behalf of the nation to the martyred for their services and sacrifices for the country.

Federal government's criminal delay become fatal blow to PIA

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Government's criminal delay has become a disaster for Pakistan International Airline (PIA).

The Ministry of Religious Affairs also became a participant in the recent PIA crisis. Despite the availability of Rs.550 million, the Ministry of Religious Affairs was unable to pay the PIA.

According to PIA sources, if the Ministry of Religious Affairs makes payments, the problems of non-availability of fuel can be solved.

Federal Secretary of Religious Affairs could not be appointed even after 40 days. Aftab Akbar Durrani, Grade 22 Secretary of Religious Affairs, was trans-

Two remaining footballers recovered from Dera Bugti

QUETTA (INP): Pakistan Levies have recovered two footballers, who had been kidnapped from Dera Bugti along with their four team mates on September 9, from Pir Koh tehsil of the district. The other four had been recovered 20 days later on September 29.

According to the Levies officials, both Babar Ali and Shiraz Khan have reached their homes. The footballers were whisked away when they were travelling from Dera Bugti to Sibbi.

Anti-polio campaign postponed in Chaman due to sit-in

CHAMAN (INP): District Administration has decided to postpone seven-day special anti-polio campaign in Chaman district due to the sit-in on the Pak-Afghan border highway. Deputy Commissioner Chaman Raja Athar Abbas said that the decision was made due to sit-in, law and order situation and other problems in the area.

It may be mentioned here that for the past nine days, thousands of political workers, traders and tribesmen have been protesting against the government's decision to only allow travellers with a passport and visa to enter Afghanistan.

Calls for global solidarity JUI-F declares unwavering support for Palestinian cause

QUETTA (INP): Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman Sunday called for global unity against Israeli oppression and declared unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people and their struggle for independence.

In an address at the Al-Aqsa Conference organized by the JUI-F in Quetta, he asserted without taking the name, "We have defeated the agent of Jewish lobby and we will defeat the Zionist powers on Palestinian land as well." He hinted that the agent of the Zionist lobby (Imran Khan) is facing the consequences.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman asserted that they stand with our Palestinian brothers and are with them in the war of independence.

He reiterated that the large gathering was a message directed towards America and Israel, under-

scoring the shared commitment of the JUI to the Palestinian cause.

"We declare equal participation in the liberation of Palestine," Maulana Fazlur Rehman added.

In a direct message to the world, Maulana Fazlur Rehman asserted, we stand with our Palestinian brothers. He expressed his unwavering belief in the readiness of the Mujahideen to fight against Israel.

Fazlur Rehman also addressed the changing dynamics of global power, stating, "America is no longer the superpower of the world," and urged the rulers to break free from what he perceived as subservience to America.

Commenting on the global stage, Maulana Fazlur Rehman raised concerns about Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's open support for Israel.



QUETTA: Chief of Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam, Maulana Fazlur Rehman addressing public gathering during Toofan Al-Aqsa conference.

Caretaker federal cabinet to meet today on 14-point agenda

ISLAMABAD (Online): The meeting of the caretaker federal cabinet will be held today (Monday).

The meeting will be held under the chairmanship of caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar at the Prime Minister House, in which the 14-point agenda will be considered.

The Hajj Policy 2024 will be presented for approval in the cabinet meeting.

The Hajj and Umrah Regulation Bill 2023 will be presented to the Cabinet for approval.

Issues related to providing international routes to Fly Jinnah will be reviewed.

Approving repatriation orders for illegal aliens, extension of the Commission

of Inquiry on Missing Persons is on the agenda.

Along with the approval of the establishment of FIA and anti-human trafficking police stations and inclusion in the rolls, the agreement regarding the increase in Ramadan trade, exports and imports of Pakistan-Tajikistan will also be approved.

The agenda includes approving the relaxation of PPRA (Public Procurement Regulatory Authority) rules related to LNG and LPG procurement and cargo, ratifying the decisions of the Cabinet Committee on Legislation dated 6, 26 and 27 October.

The federal cabinet will review the country's overall economic, law and order and political situation.



DUKI: Chairman PkMAP Mehmood Khan Achakzai addressing Jirga.

Pakistan calls on world to exert pressure on Israel for ceasefire in Gaza

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has called on the international community to put pressure on Israel to respect UN resolutions demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

In a post on social media platform X on Sunday, Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilil Abbas Jilani said Israel turned lights off and cut all communication in Gaza as the death toll rises. He further stressed not

to lose sight of the plight of innocent Palestinians in the hour of darkness. "Pakistan calls on Int community to exert pressure on Israel to respect UN Res demanding an immediate ceasefire, Abbas further said in his post. The Gaza health ministry has said that more than 8,000 had been killed in the Palestinian territory since the start of the current conflict with Israel on October 7.

Senate to discuss Gaza situation today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Senate body will hold session to discuss Gaza situation as Israel continues its blatant aggression and human right violation against Palestinians in Gaza. Senate session will be held today (Monday) at 2pm. Chairman senate Sadiq Sanjrani will chair the session. According to the senate secretariat the agenda of the session is to present resolution on the Gaza crises.

During the session, Senators will also voice their own opinion regarding the latter situation.



USTAMUHAMMAD: Caretaker Provincial Home Minister Mir Zubair Khan Jamali talking to tribal elites and media persons.

**REPATRIATION OF
ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

**DAYS
REMAINING**

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SC to hear cases under SC practice & procedure act

ISLAMABAD (Online): Cases will be heard in the Supreme Court this week under the new policy, on a priority basis, the necessary cases will be dealt with, while the rest of the cases will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

After the decision of the Practice and Procedure Act, the hearing of cases in the Supreme Court has also increased considerably and the rate of disposal of cases has also increased.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Gazan apocalypse

With Tel Aviv's troops carrying out land incursions inside Gaza while its jets mercilessly pound the congested Strip, obliterating hospitals, residential buildings and shelters, it is clear that Israel is attempting to foist its 'final solution' on the Palestinian people in the name of going after Hamas. Since Oct 7, when Hamas staged raids inside Israel, over 7,000 Palestinians have been butchered by Israel, nearly half of them children. Tel Aviv has shown no mercy, wiping out entire families, targeting civilian infrastructure, and cutting off food, water, communication links, power and fuel to Gaza — all qualifying as war crimes. Yet Israel's powerful friends, including US President Joe Biden, doubt the Palestinian toll; they believe Israeli accounts that Tel Aviv did not bomb the Al-Ahli Hospital, and that it was a misfired Palestinian rocket that caused the atrocity.

In fact, it is the blind support of the West that has emboldened Israel to unleash genocidal force against Palestinian civilians, as it knows it will not have to pay for its crimes.

There is also disingenuous framing of the conflict by Israel and its friends in Western officialdom and media. The fact is that the Arab-Israeli conflict did not begin with the Hamas raid. For decades, Palestinians have faced death, humiliation and the usurpation of their ancestral land on a daily basis. And, while the targeting of civilians by both sides is condemnable, Oct 7 was the explosive reaction to years of pent-up rage, as Gaza's people had been living under a siege enforced by Israel long before the latest hostilities broke out.

Whatever spin Tel Aviv and its clique of supporters may be putting on the conflict, people of conscience the world over are demanding an end to the massacre of Palestinians.

The majority of states voted for a Jordanian resolution in the UN General Assembly calling for a truce. Moreover, hundreds of thousands have marched in cities as diverse as London, Sana'a, Baghdad and Paris demanding an end to the slaughter. Many, many Jews have clearly told Israel: 'not in our name'.

The Middle East stands at the edge of a precipice. If Israel continues its slaughter in Gaza, particularly through an expanded ground invasion, and if the US-led West flexes its military muscle in its support, the whole region can go up in flames.

Tel Aviv needs to immediately end its bloody campaign, while all actors must stand down and allow the grieving people of Gaza to bury their dead. The siege must be broken so that ample supplies of food, water and medicine can reach Gaza.

But if Israel continues its merciless assault, and the West continues to aid it, the Middle East will explode, and the reverberations will be felt across the world.

Mission Lion-heart



Muna Khan

For the past month, we've been hearing iterations of 'sher aya' (here comes the lion), referring to the return of Nawaz Sharif, but I'm here to write about another sher. In this case, a real person, a zoology professor at Government Postgraduate College in KP named Sher Ali, who last week gave a three-page undertaking, reportedly under pressure from clerics, denouncing Darwin's theory of evolution. That he did this in the district commissioner's office, which, as a representative of the state, has to protect all citizens, is most infuriating. But it's easy for me to say this from the comfort of my home, because I have not had to face threats for my teaching material.

And yet. In 2020, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan released a statement warning of the grave threats posed to academic freedom. They expressed fears of "recurring attacks on academic freedom of expression through use of the country's controversial blasphemy or sedition laws that could carry a death sentence".

But Sher Ali wasn't teaching his opinion. I understand the theory of evolution is a prickly subject among a lot of faiths, but as a science teacher, Sher Ali was following approved course material and doing his job. He also wrote on Facebook — where he has a following of 21,000 — how he seeks his students' consent before teaching Darwin's theories. However, it seems

clerics took exception to a speech he made earlier this month about women's rights in relation to purdah. And apparently, the only way to resolve the issue, which had been brewing for a fortnight, was for Sher Ali to denounce Darwinism and mixed gatherings, as well as accept women's inferiority to men. He also renounced his speeches and social media posts saying they were "contrary to teachings of Islam", as reported by this paper, and absolved the clerics of Bannu if something untoward happens to him.

Science and religion have often been portrayed as enemies at war. But religious leaders have come a long way since Galileo was charged with heresy in 1633 for teaching that the Earth orbits the sun. Because people's lives are at serious risk in Pakistan, where anything they say can be labelled as anti-religion, perhaps a compromise can be reached: maybe some lessons do not fall under science's domain, but those that do should be taught by the experts.

Thankfully, science and religion are clear on gender: women are not the inferior sex. Some clerics saying otherwise do not make it so. This must be challenged.

Muslim leaders have run into trouble for embracing Darwinism elsewhere. Dr Usama Hasan, an imam and science lecturer in the UK, was suspended from his mosque in 2011 following backlash to his saying that religious belief and the theory of evolution were not incompatible. He also said the requirement for hijab was cultural in origin. He received death threats for both views. I am sure I can find several other examples from across the world to show that we are not alone in being bullied by hard-line clerics.

However, we are alone in our social indicators. Pakistan has the world's second highest out-of-school children according to Unicef. The World Health Organisation recommends the health budget be enhanced to six per cent of GDP. It was under 1pc in the last budget. The poverty rate has risen from 34.2pc to 39.4pc in just one year.

The World Bank in May listed Pakistan's Human Capital Index as 0.41. This means "a baby born in Pakistan today will only be 41pc as productive as they could be if they enjoyed complete education and full health".

The report said "it is a human capital crisis that is profound, silent and with far-reaching negative effects on the potential of the country and its people."

I believe Sher Ali represents the potential of this country, as do so many teachers that work hard because they want to make a difference in children's lives. Children deserve a shot at the future, but the odds are stacked against them.

To the sher planning his family's return to power, I ask them to protect all the Sher Alis of this country. To let them do their jobs safe in the knowledge that if a student or outsider accuses them of heresy, the state's pillars will act in accordance with the law. I ask them to imagine the education and health sectors as the big development projects they love, and prioritise them over motorways. Demolish these dismal statistics that keep this country poor. Pakistan is owed courageous leadership that must make tough decisions for the betterment of its poor and marginalised citizens. Their future should be the one being negotiated in deals. Is this lion up to the task? — Courtesy Dawn

Elusive peace



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

A popular view by academics and politicians alike is that Hamas's recent action of Oct 7 not only instigated Israel to exact the biggest ever death toll of Palestinians, even more than the Intifadas, but also undermined the peace process. However, this act did not take place in a vacuum. It was an act of resistance to the systematic state terrorism that Israel has been committing for decades against the Palestinian people.

For seven decades, Israel has used brutal force to suppress the Palestinians' right to self-determination, guaranteed by UN Resolution No 181 of 1947, which had decided to partition Palestine into two states: one Arab, the other Jewish. On Oct 7, 1947, when the General Assembly of the newly formed United Nations was discussing the draft resolution, Pakistan's representative, Sir Zafarullah Khan, built a strong case for the right of Palestinians to form an independent modern state on the lands on which they had lived for millennia.

At the centre of the debate was the British government's Balfour Declaration, which, on Nov 2, 1917, had announced its intent to establish "a national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine and asserted that "... nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine..." This commitment was never honoured. To date, the

Palestinians, like the Kashmiris, have been fighting for the right to live on their own lands with honour and dignity, a right that most people regard easily. Palestine's Israel conundrum can be understood from three dimensions: territorial, ideological, and geopolitical.

Territorially, the Arab Palestinians believe that they have lived in this land for millennia, including the times when Palestine was called Canaan, or when King David and, before him, the patriarch Jacob, later named Israel, lived in these territories. In recent history, the land has remained under the suzerainty of, among others, the Romans, Arabs, the Ottomans and then the British. It was the Zionist movement (those Jews who strove for an independent homeland), which brought Jews from Europe to occupy the Arab lands, pushing 700,000 native Palestinians out of their homes in an event remembered as the Nakba, the catastrophe that accompanied the creation of the state of Israel on May 14, 1948. Ideologically, this land has religious significance for the Jews, Christians and Muslims. The Muslims revere the Al-Aqsa Mosque, while for the Jews this land was home to their traditional ancestors and Hebrew patriarchs.

Geopolitically, it was Britain that initiated the idea of creating a Jewish state in Palestine, pulling in Jews from Europe and displacing the local population. Over the past 70 years, the US and Britain have treated Israel as the pivot of their Middle East policy. Given the above territorial, ideological, and geopolitical factors, peace continues to elude the land of Palestine. Neither the Arab-Israeli wars of 1948, 1967 and 1973, nor the Palestinians' indig-

enous resistance to Israel, which peaked twice as the first Intifada (1987-1992) and then the second Intifada (2000-2005), have helped resolve the conflict. Disunity amongst Palestinian ranks, ie, between Fatah and Hamas, has also undermined their cause.

The peace option was tried but did not result in earnest implementation of the two-state solution. Egypt recognised Israel in 1979 and Jordan in 1994. The Oslo Accords of the 1990s could secure only a little more autonomy for Palestinians. Most recently, the Abraham Accords saw the UAE, Bahrain and Morocco establishing diplomatic relations with Israel. There are reports that Saudi Arabia was negotiating a peace settlement with the US, which would have ensured the right of the Palestinians to live in a state of their own. As is evident, the recent attack by Hamas on Israel on Oct 7 has halted Arab-Israeli normalisation.

With protests breaking out in all Muslim lands, Europe, and even the US, it appears Israel's disproportionate reaction to the Hamas attack and the indiscriminate bombing of civilians in Gaza has shaken the conscience of the world — yet, this is not enough. The United Nations Security Council met, where Russia, China and others tried to secure a ceasefire and a humanitarian corridor to Gaza. The US veto blocked practically any action by the UN. The unequivocal support that Israel has received from the US has emboldened it to disregard all human rights. Keeping Gaza under siege for weeks with no food, water, fuel or medicine, killing innocent civilians, including children, bombing hospitals and places of worship, and blocking humanitarian aid to besieged Gazans is tantamount to war crimes. For Palestinians, resistance has become a duty. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Bilateral trade b/w Kazakhstan, Pakistan continues to witness expansion each year: Envoy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador Yerzhan Kistafin of Kazakhstan to Pakistan has said that the bilateral trade between Kazakhstan and Pakistan continues to witness steady and robust expansion each year. "Interaction between Kazakhstan and Pakistan in the scientific and educational spheres is intensifying, coupled with an increase in the number of Pakistani students attending universities in Kazakhstan. Along with a progressive improvement in bilateral relations in the banking sector," he said while talking to APP on the occasion of Kazakhstan's Republic Day.

The ambassador said that both nations are celebrating the remarkable 30-year friendship, peace, and harmony between Kazakhstan and Pakistan. Kistafin said that during the past 30 years, the countries have established and reinforced close relations across various domains, including political interaction, trade, economics, culture, and humanitarian cooperation. He said that positive dynamics have become evident in the industrial production sector. "Key elements driving trade, economic, and investment interaction between the two countries included meetings of the

Intergovernmental Commission, Business Council, business forums, and reciprocal visits by business delegations," he added. He further said that cooperation in the field of inter-parliamentary interaction, particularly at the upper houses of legislative assemblies, is generating substantial interest not only in bilateral relations but also in multilateral formats. The Ambassador expressed confidence that such interaction at the legislative level would significantly advance the matters discussed between the two governments.

PCMEA says: Exporters facing problems due to dollar factor

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) Senior Vice Chairman Usman Ashraf said on Sunday that exporters are facing many problems as despite the lucid slashing in dollar rate, the prices of imported raw materials did not decrease. "Keeping this in view, we are promoting links with all institutions to solve problems." He expressed these views while talking to Chief Executive Officer/Chairman of Soneri Bank, Muhtashim Ahmed Ashai,

who visited the PCMEA office along with a delegation. Carpet Training Institute (CTI) Chairman Ejazur Rehman, senior central leader Abdul Latif Malik, Shahid Hasan Sheikh, senior member Riaz Ahmed, Saeed Khan, Major (Rtd) Akhtar Nazir, Faisal Saeed Khan and others were also present. Usman Ashraf informed the delegation about the difficulties faced by the exporters in banking matters and said that sometimes new rules are implemented without giving timely information.



CHINIOT: A worker busy in making gas geyser at railway road.

Seminar on '3rd Belt and Road Forum' held

LAHORE (APP): The Chinese Consulate Lahore and the Institute of International Relations and Media Research organized a seminar titled: "3rd Belt and Road Forum" at a local hotel on Sunday. Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanvir and Consul General Zhao Shiran participated as the special guests and talked about the possibility of increasing cooperation between the two countries. The participants emphasized the promotion of bilateral economic cooperation and people-to-people contacts.

Provincial Minister of Industry and Commerce SM Tanvir said that China is a sincere friend of Pakistan and has come to help Pakistan in every hour of difficulty. Two agreements were signed during the PM's recent visit to China while two agreements were signed during the visit of a delegation led by the Punjab chief minister.



RAWALPINDI: People are busy buying warm clothes in Sunday weekly bazaar at Committee Chow area in the city.

Private sector asked for investing in technology advancement

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis Sunday emphasized the paramount significance of innovation in propelling Pakistan's technology sector to greater heights with sole active participation of private sector. Speaking at a seminar on "Innovation for development led Economy" organised under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum, he said in today's rapidly evolving global landscape, innovation stands as the cornerstone of progress, enabling nations to adapt, compete, and thrive.

He said technology parks have played a central role in these efforts. Technology parks and innovation clusters are physical locations where businesses, research institutions, and entrepreneurs can collaborate and innovate, he added. He said Finland, Singapore, South Korea, China, California, Ankara, Bangalore in India and Cambridge are excellent living examples of promoting innovation that played magic in propelling their economies to new heights globally. Pakistan, with its

vast pool of talent and untapped potential, has a unique opportunity to harness innovation for economic growth, he said adding that by investing in research and development, fostering a culture of creativity, and providing adequate support to startups and entrepreneurs, Pakistan must unlock new avenues in technology. He said Innovation not only drives advancements in sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, and education but also enhances the nation's overall competitiveness on the international stage.

Railways all set to upgrade Rawalpindi Rail Station

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is all set to upgrade and commercialize the Victoria-era Rawalpindi Railway Station aimed at facilitating the passengers and making it the business hub, considering its location in the centre of business activities. "The Railway Station was built a century ago in a British style, the value addition to the

station and its surroundings would make it commercially viable and would generate significant revenues for all the stakeholders involved", an official in the Ministry told APP. He said the upgrade was already decided in a meeting that reviewed the upgradation as well as commercialization plan of Rawalpindi Railway Station.

Lahore Science Mela concludes

LAHORE (APP): A 2-day "Lahore Science Mela" on Sunday concluded at Crescent Model Higher Secondary School organized by the Khwarizmi Science Society (KSS). Khwarizmi Science Society General Secretary Dr Muhammad Sabieh Anwar while speaking on the occasion said that the KSS was established with an aim to promote culture of science in country's educational institutions and general public.

KPTMA Chairman urges PM's support for KP industry in crisis

PESHAWAR (APP): In a resolute and impassioned plea, KPTMA Chairman, Muhammad Kamran Shah, has reached out to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, seeking immediate help to address the profound challenges confronting the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Industry. The pressing matter was discussed during a pivotal meeting of the KP Textile Mills Association, where grave concerns were raised over the Federal Government's recent decision to implement a

blended gas supply, composed of 80 per cent natural gas and 20 per cent R.L.N.G. (Re-Gasified Liquefied Natural Gas), to serve the KP industry, said a press release issued here on Sunday. Kamran Shah, in his fervent appeal, beseeches the National Authorities to intervene promptly. Shah emphasizes that all sectors of the KP industry stand united against what they perceive as a serious injustice the imposition of Blended Gas, which combines natural gas with R.L.N.G.



LAHORE: Senior Vice Chairman Pakistan Carpet Association Usman Ashraf and Chief Executive Officer Sonheri Bank talking to members.

Need urged to support research, development of seed technology

ISLAMABAD (APP): to the innovative advancements in seed technology, particularly the development and utilization of hybrid seeds. He said its significance in enhancing agricultural productivity cannot be overstated. He said Guard hybrid rice seed, engineered through meticulous research and cutting-edge techniques, has proven to be a game-changer for farmers in Pakistan. Their unique genetic composition, combining desirable traits from different varieties, empowers farmers to cultivate crops that are more resilient, disease-resistant, and high-yielding, he remarked.

Talking to a delegation of progressive farmers, he said in recent years, the agricultural sector has witnessed a transformative revolution in Pakistan due

Governor KP visits AUST, inaugurates projects worth one billion rupees

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali has reaffirmed his commitment for advancing the education and research in the province. During his visit to the Abbottabad University of Science and Technology (AUST) on Sunday, the Governor underlined the importance of universities engaging in commercial research, showcasing how universities worldwide are generating billions through research commercialization. He urged universities in the province to make a name for themselves in the research field. During his visit, the Governor inaugurated various projects worth one

billion rupees, funded by the Higher Education Commission in the university. These projects included the establishment of the Institute of Space Technology and initiatives to harness solar energy for the University. The Governor unveiled a new Academic Block and a Regional Anti-Terrorism Center at the University, emphasizing the importance of research and security efforts. Governor Ghulam Ali distributed laptops among the university's students and Higher Education Commission scholarships. The inaugural ceremony was attended by numerous dignitaries, including Vice Chancellor Abbottabad University, Dr. Majid-ur-Rahman, faculty

members, and representatives from the Higher Education Commission, along with a large gathering of students. In his address, Governor Ghulam Ali highlighted the substantial allocation of the national budget towards the education sector and encouraged all universities to prepare surplus budgets. He stressed that guidelines for budget preparation had been provided to universities after consultation with the Governor's Secretariat. In an unprecedented move, the Governor's Secretariat has prepared a comprehensive financial report related to university budget matters, which will be presented to the universities for review, said Governor Ghulam Ali.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali inaugurates Institute of Space Technology at Abbottabad University of Science and Technology.

IGP instructs officials to complete modern law and order control training

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr Usman Anwar on Sunday visited Punjab Constabulary Headquarters Farooqabad. He presided over a meeting about the training matters of Punjab Constabulary officials, reviewed the training modules, inspected the field exercises of anti-riot force, issued orders after listening to problems of the force and officers, and gave away awards to the best performers in various categories as well. The IGP started his visit by laying wreaths at

the Martyrs Memorial, recited Fateha and paid tribute to sacrifices of the martyrs. He inspected the anti-riot force formations exercise at PC Headquarters parade ground. He instructed the officials to complete the modern law and order control training with utmost dedication. The IGP said that the anti-riots course had been designed to deal with emergency situations including control of violent angry protesters and crowd dispersal. He also visited Police Training School Farooqabad.

Naqvi convenes Punjab Cabinet special today

LAHORE (Online): Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi called a special meeting of the Punjab Cabinet today (Monday). In the meeting, the budget for the next four months of the current financial year 2023-24 will be approved. Provincial Ministers, Advisors, Chief Secretary, Inspector General of Police, Chairman Planning and Board, Secretaries of concerned departments and senior officials will participate in the meeting.



HUNZA: Minister IT Gilgit-Baltistan Suraiya Zaman in a group photo with the team of KADO.

ANF recovers 137kg drugs in six operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations managed to recover over 137 kg of drugs and arrested three accused including a woman, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman. He informed that 3.6 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused, a resident of Karachi arrested in Dera Ghazi Khan. The accused was trying to smuggle drugs from Quetta to Punjab. A woman resident of

Okara who was going to Doha by flight number QR-621 from Allama Iqbal Airport was arrested. 59 heroin and Ice filled capsules were recovered from her possession. In the third operation, 85 kg heroin and 10 kg Ice drug, hidden in a house in the Batizai area of Pishin were recovered. In the fourth operation, 26 kg of ice concealed in a house near Turbat was recovered which was concealed to smuggle abroad.

6 dead, 1,268 injured in 1167 road accidents in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least six persons were killed and 1268 injured in 1167 road accidents in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of them, 624 people with serious injuries were shifted to hospitals, while 644 victims with minor injuries were treated at the sites by rescue medical teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals. Furthermore, the analysis showed that 601 drivers, 35 underage drivers, 161 pedestrians, and 512 passengers were among the victims. The statistics show that 258 accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 285 persons placing the provincial capital at top of the list followed by 83 in Faisalabad with 92 victims and Multan with 67 accidents and 69 victims.

Muslims urged to unite for Palestine cause

SIALKOT (APP): Jammu and Kashmir Freedom Movement convener Dr. Zahid Ghani Dar has said that Israel's atrocities on Palestinians should stop immediately. Talking to APP here today, he urged the world community to use its influence to pressurize Israel for halting larger scale human rights violations and genocide of the Palestinian people by the Israel armed forces. He said that Israel's

atrocities on the oppressed Palestinians had reached an extreme level. He said that the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and Muslim countries should play their role in stopping the war. He demanded that Muslim countries should come together for the Palestine cause. "Raising voices for Palestinians is the responsibility of Muslims and a part of their faith."

Two cops among four booked

FAISALABAD (APP): Sadr police claimed on Sunday to have booked four people including two police officials on charge of abduction for ransom, and arrested one of the accused. Constable Umar Daraz and constable Qaisar posted at Gulam Muhammad Abad police station, along with his two accomplices Zeeshan Younus, etc. had allegedly abducted a citizen Waris Ali, resident of Kaleem Shaheed Colony. The meeting was

Punjab CM greets leadership of Turkiye

Independent Report LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has congratulated the leadership and people on the Republic Day of Turkiye. In his message on the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Turkiye, he said it is a matter of great joy for the Pakistanis as well. "Turkiye is an important Islamic country in the global scenario. Strenuous hard work of the people and leadership of Turkiye is worth appreciating. Pakistan-Turkiye friendship is a unique and unprecedented tale of mutual love. Turkiye and Pakistan always stand shoulder to shoulder with each other to provide assistance and cooperation in every time

of difficulty and will continue to do so. Pakistan-Turkiye relationship is a magnificent blend of mutual love, brotherhood, trust and partnership. We earnestly endeavour for the promotion of mutual collaboration and brotherhood between Pakistan and Turkiye. We deeply extol the splendid services rendered by various Turkish institutions in Punjab," he added. The chief minister highlighted that Pakistan and Turkiye have similar culture, history and civilization on account of which their friendship is exemplary. "I pray for a bright future of the people of Turkiye and further strengthening of Pakistan-Turkiye friendship," he added.



KARACHI: Members of Students Civil Society are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, held at Karachi press club.

PDB expedites work on 43 development projects

LAHORE (APP): The Planning and Development Board (PDB) Punjab has geared up its round the clock working to complete the 43 development projects in the province, within the timeline, official sources told APP on Sunday. It is worth to notify that in a recent meeting with PDB, the Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, the progress on ongoing development projects across the province was reviewed in which the CM Punjab observed the development progress on 43 projects. The meeting was

informed that 92 percent of the work on Shadara Multigrade Flyover project, 65 percent on Imamia Colony Overhead Bridge had been completed. The construction of Akbar Chowk flyover and Bedian underpass had been completed 80 percent, Main Boulevard Gulberg to Walton Road 80 percent while Ghorra Chowk flyover had been completed 34 percent. The meeting reviewed the up-gradation of Services Hospital, Gangaram, Mayo Hospital, General Hospital, Lady Willingdon and other hospitals.

International News

Biden says Mideast leaders must consider a two-state solution after the war ends

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: As the 3-week-old Israel-Hamas war enters what Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says could be a "long and difficult" new stage, President Joe Biden is calling on Israeli and Arab leaders to think hard about their eventual postwar reality. It's one, he argues, where finally finding agreement on a long-sought two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict should be a priority. "There's no going back to the status quo as it stood on Oct. 6," Biden told reporters, referring to the day before Hamas militants attacked Israel and set off the latest war. The White House says Biden conveyed the same message directly to

Netanyahu during a telephone call this past week. "It also means that when this crisis is over, there has to be a vision of what comes next, and in our view it has to be a two-state solution," Biden said. The push for a two-state solution — one in which Israel would co-exist with an independent Palestinian state — has eluded U.S. presidents and Middle East diplomats for decades. It's been put on the back burner since the last American-led effort at peace talks collapsed in 2014 amid disagreements on Israeli settlements, the release of Palestinian prisoners and other issues. Palestinian statehood is something that Biden rarely addressed in the early going of his adminis-

tration. During his visit to the West Bank last year, Biden said the "ground is not ripe" for new attempts to reach a permanent peace even as he reiterated to Palestinians the long-held U.S. support for statehood. Now, at a moment of heightened concern that the Israel-Hamas war could spiral into a broader regional conflict, Biden has begun to emphasize that once the bombing and shooting stop, working toward a Palestinian state should no longer be ignored. Until recently, Biden had put far more emphasis on what his administration saw as the achievable ambition of normalizing relations between Israel and its Arab neighbors than on restarting peace talks.



Protesters calling for a ceasefire in Gaza walk past the ancient Colosseum in Rome. Massive protests were held in major European capitals demanding an end to Israeli atrocities in the besieged enclave.

Hundreds of thousands attend pro-Palestinian rallies in Europe

Monitoring Desk LONDON: Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators rallied in cities across Europe, the Middle East and Asia on Saturday to show support for the Palestinians. In London, which saw one of the biggest marches, aerial footage showed large crowds marching through the centre of the British capital to demand the government of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak call for a halt to hostilities. "The superpowers at play are not doing enough at the moment. This is why

we're here: we're calling for a ceasefire, calling for Palestinian rights, the right to exist, to live, human rights, all our rights," said protester Camille Revuelta. "This is not about protecting Palestinian lives," she added. Echoing Washington's stance, Rishi Sunak's government has stopped short of calling for a ceasefire, and instead advocated "humanitarian pauses" to allow aid to reach Gaza. Britain has supported Israel's right to defend itself after the Oct 7 Hamas raid in Israel. There has been strong

support and sympathy for Israel from Western governments and many citizens over the Hamas raids, but the Israeli response has also prompted anger, particularly in Arab and other Muslim countries. In Malaysia, a large crowd of demonstrators chanted slogans outside the US embassy in Kuala Lumpur. A huge rally in the Turkish city of Istanbul also drew hundreds of thousands of people. In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Palestinian protesters took to the streets in Hebron, calling for a global boycott of Israeli products.

Ukrainian drones hit Nuclear waste facility, says Moscow

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: A Ukrainian drone crashed into a nuclear waste storage facility at the Kursk power plant in western Russia on Thursday, damaging its walls, Russia's foreign ministry said on Saturday, calling on other governments to condemn "an act of nuclear terrorism". A ministry statement said Ukraine must have known that its actions could have caused a full-scale nuclear catastrophe that would have affected many countries. "We call on all governments to issue a strong condemnation of Kyiv's bar-

baric actions, which are extremely dangerous and could lead to irreparable consequences," said foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova. Moscow said that it had thwarted Thursday's drone attack and two news outlets said an explosion had damaged the facade of a warehouse storing nuclear waste. Saturday's statement was the first official confirmation of the damage. Zakharova said one explosive-packed drone had damaged the nuclear waste facility's walls while another two had hit an administrative building complex.



People gather outside the explosion site in India's Kerala state.

Turkiye celebrates centenary under shadow of Gaza war

Monitoring Desk ISTANBUL: Turkiye marks its centenary as a post-Ottoman republic on Sunday with somewhat muted celebrations held under the shadow of Israel's escalating war with Hamas militants in Gaza. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will be front and centre of day-long events that both honour the secular republic's founder and play up the achievement of the Islamic-rooted party running Turkiye since 2002. Erdogan and World War I-era military commander Mustafa Kemal Ataturk have become the seminal figures of the modern Turkish state. Ataturk is lionised

across Turkish society for driving out invading forces and building a brand new nation out of the fallen Ottoman Empire's ruins in the wake of World War I. Turkiye was formed as a Western-facing nation that stripped religion from its state institutions and tried to forge a modern new identity out of its myriad ethnic groups. It eventually became a proud member of the US-led NATO defence alliance and a beacon of democratic hopes in the Middle East. But Ataturk's social and geopolitical transformation of the overwhelmingly Muslim nation created divisions that weigh on Turkish politics to this day.



Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa and Yasutoshi Nishimura, right, the Japanese minister in charge of trade and the economy, attend a G-7 Trade Ministers' Meeting in Osaka, western Japan.

Anti-Hasina protest turns violent, leaves two dead

Monitoring Desk DHAKA: Police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at huge crowds of Bangladesh opposition supporters on Saturday to break up a giant protest against the prime minister, with an officer and a protester killed in several hours of violent clashes in central Dhaka. More than 100,000 supporters of two major Bangladesh opposition parties rallied to demand Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina step down to allow a free

and fair vote under a neutral government. Live footage on the verified Facebook page of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) showed thousands of people running for safety as sound grenades went off one after another and plumes of black smoke rose from the roads. Correspondents said the violence spread in roads and alleys in the centre of the capital as police fired tear gas and rubber shotgun rounds.

Chinese party delegation visits Solomon Islands

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: A Chinese communist party delegation has visited the Solomon Islands, calling the "flourishing" cooperation between China and the Pacific nation a show of how diplomatic ties were in their peoples' interest. Chinese state media said on Sunday. The delegation led by the deputy head of the international department under China's Communist Party central committee, Guo Yezhou, met Solomon Islands' Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare during a visit spanning Friday to Sunday. The delegation also met the foreign minister and energy minister. China had signed a policing pact with the Solomon Islands in July, as both countries upgraded their ties to a "comprehensive strategic partnership" when Sogavare met Chinese Premier Li Qiang in Beijing. China's visit to the southern Pacific archipelago comes a week before Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is set to visit Beijing.

Catastrophe unfolding in Gaza, warns UN secretary general

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: "A humanitarian catastrophe is unfolding in front of our eyes," UN Secretary General António Guterres warned on Saturday as another night of heavy bombing flattened Gaza and virtually cut it off from the outside world. The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution by 120 to 14 votes calling for an "immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce" in Gaza. But even this overwhelming

support for a pause in fighting had little impact on the situation in Gaza, where the Israeli military action seems to have entered a decisive phase. "Gaza is in complete blackout and isolation while heavy shelling continues," warned Josep Borrell, the EU High Representative for foreign affairs. In a tweet posted on Saturday, he described the situation in Gaza as "desperate", where people live "without electricity, food, water".

Egypt FM accuses Israel of impeding aid into Gaza

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: Egypt's foreign ministry said on Saturday "Israeli obstacles", including truck inspection procedures, were impeding the prompt delivery of aid to Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing between Egypt and Gaza. "The trucks must be inspected at the Israeli Nitzana crossing before they head to the Rafah crossing on a journey that takes a distance of 100km before they actually enter the Rafah crossing, which causes obstacles that significantly delay the arrival of aid," a ministry spokesperson said in a statement.



LANDIKOTAL: Unregistered Afghan families are willingly enroute their home land with their homes necessities after the government of Pakistan decided in the apex committee meeting to return all those Afghans who are living in Pakistan unlawfully, at Torkham Border in Landikotal.

Muslim rulers must provide military aid to Palestinians in Gaza: Sirajul Haq

ISLAMABAD (INP): Thousands attended the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) led Gaza Solidarity March in Islamabad as Israeli occupation forces intensified aggression against the Palestinians, ARY News reported on Sunday.

JI Pakistan Ameer Sirajul Haq and several political and religious leaders addressed the Gaza Solidarity March which was scheduled to be staged before the US Embassy, however, the authorities blocked the routes citing security concerns.

The administration has not allowed entry of the rally participants to the Srinagar Highway, a high security zone. Later, the JI staged its protest at Aabpara Chowk.

The participants of the public rally also heard the special message of the Hamas top leader Ismail Haniyeh.

JI Ameer Sirajul Haq said that they stand side-by-side with the Muslims in Gaza. He said that JI announced to hold a protest before the US Embassy but the US deputy secretary of the state contacted the Pakistani rulers to stop the protest.

He said that JI workers faced police baton charge and arrests before the protest. Haq announced to continue the series of protests against the Israeli barbaric moves against Palestinians across the country until an end to the war.

The JI chief blamed the Muslim rulers for not fulfilling their responsibilities towards the Palestinians.

He slammed the silence of the international community over the illegal occupation of Israel on Palestinian land, the martyrdom of over 250,000 Palestinians and the targeting of hospitals in Gaza.

Sirajul Haq said that Muslim rulers have a duty to save Gaza people and provide military and humanitarian aid to the Palestinians.



SIBI: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Domki inaugurates restoration of Sibi-Harnai Railway section. Caretaker Federal Minister for Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar and others are also present.

Caretaker Health Minister visits Palestinian Embassy

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Federal Minister of Health Dr. Nadeem has said that the heart is very sad and saddened by the events in Gaza, human rights are being violated in Gaza.

According to the details, the Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem visited the Palestinian Embassy in Pakistan and also met with the Palestinian Ambassador Ahmad Jawad Rabi.

While talking during the meeting, the caretaker federal health minister said that the heart is very sad and saddened by the events in Gaza.

The Palestinian Ambassador said that millions of people are facing disaster in Gaza, upon which the Minister of Health said that there is great sadness over the martyrdom of innocent children, old people and young people, thousands of innocent citizens, children, old women are deprived of medical facilities, injured. Providing medical facilities to the citizens is a big problem.

Human rights are being violated in Gaza, he continued. The United Nations (UN) demands that measures be taken to ensure the delivery of medicines, shelters, food and basic needs on humanitarian grounds and calls for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza.



LAHORE: Ex-MNA of PTI Wajaha Qamar has announced joining the PML-N during meeting with President PML-N Shehbaz Sharif.

JI demands to convene the OIC summit

ISLAMABAD (Online): Leader of Jamaat-e-Islami Liaquat Baloch demanded to convene the OIC summit. While giving a press conference on Sunday, Liaquat Baloch said that Palestine, which has practically been turned into Karbala. Israeli planes have been attacking Gaza throughout the night and a large number of people are being killed.

Doctors and journalists are also being martyred, despite all this, Palestinians are standing firm. Islamabad is the capital of Pakistan and Muslims around the world have high hopes for Pakistanis.

Jamaat-e-Islami invited all parties and civil society, our programs are peaceful and orderly.

Despite all this, the administration arrested our people to make whom please, he said.

Further he said they thought that Shahid will end all this and There will be no protest but Alhamdulillah we have completed all the preparations.

They have supported America and Israel by cracking down on this protest in Islamabad, he maintained.

Liaquat Baloch further said that the government should tell whether it is with the Palestinians or with the Zionists. In European countries, people are also on the streets for the Palestinian people.

We demand that the OIC summit be called, he said.

Jamaat-e-Islami will mobilize people all over the country, the whole country needed that there should be a big demonstration in Islamabad.

He continued that Jamaat-e-Islami has invited all religious parties and civil society.

Liaquat Baloch said the caretaker government and the administration exercised power over us to please whomever we did not know.

Amid Mideast tensions Munir stresses resolution of old disputes to promote peace

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Nations, Munir Akram, has called for resolving festering disputes involving the peoples' right to self-determination—like Palestine and Kashmir—so that they don't get more aggravated and threaten regional peace and stability.

Speaking to an international youth delegation at the Pakistan Mission, he said that the ongoing conflict in the Middle East highlighted the need for a push to settle old disputes. The delegation comprised youth delegates from various countries who were in New York for a 4-day Global Peace Summit, which concluded on Saturday.

Ambassador Akram told the delegation that India had denied Kashmiris their inalienable right to self-determination in contravention of international law, the UN Charter and the UN Security Council resolutions. The 76 years, he said, have witnessed exemplary sacrifices rendered by the different generations of Kashmiris in their legitimate, just and indigenous struggle for freedom from India's illegal and immoral occupation.

Freedom Network Pakistan fails to stop crimes against journalists despite legislation

ISLAMABAD (Online): In its special report, the international organization Freedom Network declared Pakistan unable to stop crimes against journalists despite legislation.

In its report released by the Freedom Network, it said that Pakistan is the only country to legislate on the protection of journalists.

Yet the Pakistani state has failed to use this legislation to prevent crimes against journalists.

According to the report, there has been an alarming increase in the unproven allegations of kidnapping, torture and rebellion cases without proof against journalists in Pakistan in the last 2 years.

The international organization added in the report that the most incidents of crimes against journalists in Pakistan have occurred in Islamabad and Sindh.



KARACHI: A delegation led by Former Chief Minister Balochistan Jam Kamal Khan meeting with Chinese Consul Yang Yundong. Caretaker Provincial Minister for Excise and Taxation Prince Ahmed Ali is also present.

Indian troops martyr 1 more Kashmiri youth in Kupwara

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism martyred one more Kashmiri youth in a fake encounter in Kupwara district in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The youth was martyred in extrajudicial killing by Indian forces during a cordon and search operation in the Jamagund area of the district, KMS reported.

Two days earlier, Indian troops abducted five defenseless Kashmiri people and martyred them extrajudicially close to the Line of Control. The youth had gone in the forest to collect shrubs.

Lahore tops polluted cities' list

LAHORE (NNI): The city of Lahore has been declared the top ranking city in the world air pollution index, showing the air quality mark of 281 among the other cities of the world.

The World Environment Report, Beijing stood at the second number with air quality index of 196 while India's Delhi stood third with an air quality index of 181.

In the report, the other cities of Pakistan including Peshawar, Haripur and Islamabad are also told to be the harmful for the human health. The Peshawar air quality is recorded 171, Rawalpindi 163, Islamabad 162 and Haripur 152.



ISLAMABAD: Members of Aurat March, holds placards during protest in favor of their demands outside National Press club, in Federal Capital.

100th anniversary of Turkiye Pak leaders want to further enhance strategic partnership with Turkiye

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistani leaders on Sunday said that Pakistan wants to further enhance strategic partnership with people of Turkiye. In their separate messages on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Turkiye, President Dr Arif Alvi, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar, Former prime minister and PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif, and Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi have reaffirmed Pakistan's abiding commitment to further cement its multidimensional strategic ties with Turkiye, especially in the economic domain.

President Arif Alvi caretaker has congratulated the President and people of Turkiye.

"On behalf of the people of Pakistan and the government of Pakistan, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the auspicious occasion of 100th anniversary of Republic of Turkiye which was found on October 29 in 1923 under the charismatic leadership of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the great leader of Turkiye," President Alvi said in his video message.

He said the relationship between Pakistan and Turkiye had been very old, even before the formation of Turkiye and Pakistan when there was a great friendship of people of this region and the people Turkiye. He highlighted that the good relationship was evident from the fact that people along with relief goods from this region were sent to fight along with them in the Russian battle which Turkiye had always reciprocated.

The president believed that a tremendous progress had been made under the outstanding leadership of Tayyip Erdogan while at the same time there had been a great leadership shown in the issues of the Muslim world by the current Turkiye leadership.

The outstanding friendship between Pakistan and Turkiye is based on mutual understanding on world issues as well as Turkiye stood by us on Kashmir, the president said. He said the Turkish president had taken bold stance on the recent brutal events happening in Gaza. He believed that the Muslim world would also take a bold stance on this very painful issue of Gaza and on the issue of Kashmir as well. The president said the world had forgotten how the Muslims had always welcome people from all religions in Anatolia and Andalus throughout history.



ISLAMABAD: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Sirajul Haque addressing the participants of the Gaza March.

Ashrafi highlights S. Arabia's crucial role in resolving Palestinian issue amid

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and the Pakistani Diaspora in the Middle East and Islamic Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, said on Sunday that Saudi Arabia had emerged as a crucial player in finding a solution to the long-standing Palestinian issue in a tumultuous region marred by conflict and uncertainty.

In an exclusive interview with APP, he said the recent escalation in violence, exemplified by a deadly missile strike on Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital just hours before President Biden's visit to Israel, underscored the urgency of addressing the Palestinian crisis.

Ashrafi, who is also the chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council, said for the Palestinians in Gaza, each passing day brought more suffering, with a continuous toll of lives lost since October. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's commitment to a potential ground offensive on Gaza added to the tension, while journalists had become casualties in targeted attacks, he added.

In a heartbreaking turn of events, he said Al Jazeera Arabic's Gaza bureau chief lost his wife, son, daughter, and grandson in an Israeli airstrike on his home. He said the absence of foreign journalists in Gaza amplified the courage of Palestinian journalists, who were risking their lives to report on the situation in a region under Israeli siege.

Ashrafi said the Arab leadership, once poised for a new chapter in Israeli-Palestinian relations and the prospect of a self-governing Palestinian state, had witnessed Israel's disproportionate response to recent events. He said the Saudis had taken a stand by informing Washington of their decision to freeze normalized talks, as this gesture emphasized that the Palestinian issue could not be dismissed in the pursuit of normalizing relations with Israel.

Bilawal grieves over death of Prof. Shahida

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday expressed his grief and sorrow over the death of Professor Shahida Qazi.

In a condolence message here, he said that late Shahida Qazi played an important role in eradicating gender discrimination in Pakistani journalism.

He said that the deceased had valuable services in the field of teaching.

Bilawal said that being the first woman reporter of Pakistan, the late Qazi opened doors for the woman in the field of journalism.

SKARDU (INP): Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has announced multiple flights to Skardu, Gilgit to rescue tourists who were stranded in northern areas amid blockade of roads and cancellation of flights.

PIA, the national flag carrier, has announced plans to operate six flights to rescue stranded tourists. The flights will operate from Islamabad for Gilgit and Skardu.

The tourists were stranded after Pakistan International Airlines cancelled multiple flights to and from Gilgit and Skardu due to fuel crisis and land routes restricted by extreme weather.

Taking notice, Minister of State Wasi Shah took action and approached concerned officials to arrange flights for those who were stranded in Skardu and Gilgit.

Shah contacted the senior officials of PIA and asked for an immediate solution to the problem, as the tourism industry is badly affected amid the haphazard situation.

The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet approved a Rs. 8 billion bridge financing package for Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Health Dr. Ameer Muhammad Khan Jogezi inspecting the cleanliness and various sections during his visit to Civil Hospital.

Nawaz likely to start political activities next week

ISLAMABAD (Online): Leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is likely to start regular political activities from next week.

According to the sources, Nawaz Sharif will first address the general meeting in Mansehra.

Nawaz Sharif will start the activities after the relief from the high court and the fears of arrest are over, while the schedule of meetings with the leaders of other political parties is also being fixed.

Meetings with the leaders of Nawaz Sharif's recent allied parties will be prioritized.

Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi are also likely to be met.

Consultation will also be made to meet angry leader Sardar Mehtab Ahmed Khan.

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan Muslim League-Q (PML-Q) Sunday organized a protest demonstration outside the Lahore Press Club to express a powerful display of solidarity with the Palestine people.

Former Punjab Governor and the chief organizer of the party Chaudhry Sarwar led the protest.

PML-Q Punjab General Secretary Chaudhry Shafiq Hussain also joined the rally in voicing his concerns about the dire situation in Palestine.

The demonstration, which saw a significant turnout of PML-Q workers, conveyed a resounding message of support for the oppressed Palestinian people, who have been enduring decades of conflict and hardship in the face of Israeli aggression.

Carrying banners and placards bearing slogans in favor of Palestine, the protesters demanded an immediate end to Israeli oppression and called for the implementation of United Nations resolutions addressing the Palestinian issue. Speaking on the occasion, the PML-Q chief organizer Ch Sarwar underlined the importance of international solidarity by urging, "We all have to raise our voice for Palestine together." He further urged the people to boycott Israeli products. Addressing the atrocities in Palestine, Sarwar emphasized, "The world needs to understand that children are being massacred, and over fifty thousand people have already lost their lives."

Drawing a powerful comparison to other nations, he questioned, "You ask the international community what would happen if another country did what Israel is doing wrong?"