

# Independent

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Vol. XIII No. 287 Reg. mails-B/ ID-445 Monday October 09, 2023, Rabi-ul-Awwal 22, 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

## President urges world to play role for world peace

Israeli occupying forces should immediately stop violence, oppression: FM

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Sunday called upon the international community to play its active role for peaceful resolution of the Israel-Palestine dispute in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and international law.

In a post on X, he said progress towards peace could not materialise without condemnation of usurpation and brutalisation of Palestinian rights and people by Israel.

"Continuous annexation of land, illegal settlements, disproportionate reactions and killings. The result is no hope and no progress towards peace," the president added.

He said time had come to move forward in line with UN resolutions, adding "International community can play a big role today towards world peace."

Online adds: Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilil Abbas Jilani has expressed deep concern over the growing tension in the Middle East and said that the Israeli occupying forces should immediately stop the violence and op-

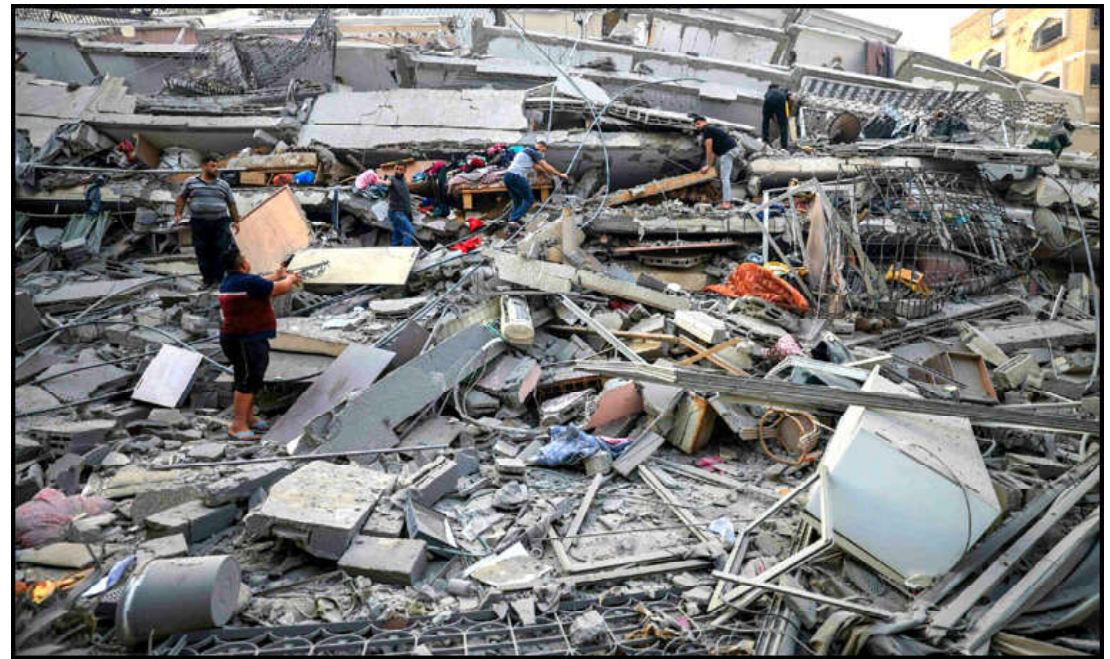
pression, deeply saddened by the loss of innocent lives.

More than 300 Palestinians have been martyred after Israel launched retaliatory air strikes in the Gaza Strip following Hamas's operation "Al-Aqsa Storm" which saw 5,000 rockets being launched into Israel from Gaza, followed by gunmen infiltrating areas in the southern region of the country.

The foreign minister also expressed concern over the volatile situation and the loss of precious Palestinian lives.

"Pakistan is deeply concerned by the escalating hostility in the Middle East and the loss of innocent lives. We stand in solidarity with Palestinians and call for an immediate end to the violence and oppression by Israeli occupation forces," Jilani wrote on his X account.

Furthermore, the caretaker minister also called for the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state on the basis of pre-1967 borders and according to the United Nations (UN) resolutions.



People inspect a building destroyed in Israeli strikes in Gaza City

## Giving date of elections not mandate of caretaker regime, says Solangi

Nawaz did not flee country illegally; No ban on PTI for upcoming elections, says info minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has said that it was not the mandate and responsibility of caretaker government to give date for general election in the country.

Talking to WE News on Sunday, the minister said Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was an autonomous constitutional institution, and since the day, he took oath as minister, he was in constant contact with the ECP. The minister said he had full faith and confidence in the capability and leadership of the ECP, and the elections would be held on the date announced by the Election Commission.

To a question he said that Pakistan People's Party was one of the major political parties of the country.

"We are going through the phase of election and



during the environment of election, any party and its leadership had the freedom to give their stand on any important issue", he maintained.

Murtaza Solangi said that media in Pakistan enjoyed freedom and the courts were also free, adding all registered political parties had equal opportunities.

The Election Commission of Pakistan and caretaker government would ensure equal opportunities

and the previous government," Murtaza Solangi opined.

The minister stressed the need for reformation in the institutions.

Answering a question, he said that public broadcasters were considered essential services, and as they were institutions of compulsory national service they were supported by the state worldwide.

He said he was against privatization of public broadcasters which was a matter of principle and ideologically wrong.

However, the minister said that public broadcasters should not have such people who do not belong to today's modern broadcasting mechanisms.

When asked about fundamental changes in national broadcasters, he said making such decisions was not included in the mandate of the caretaker government.

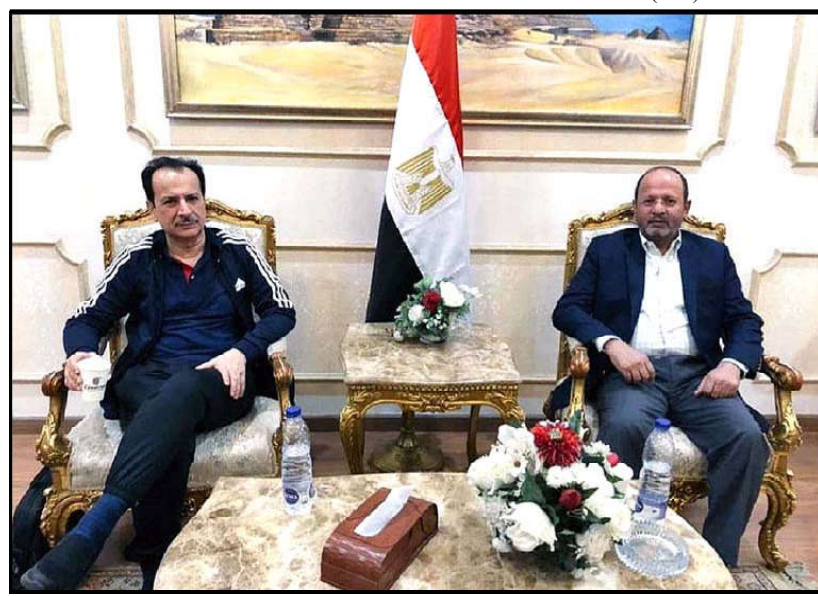
Answering a question about deadline given for deportation of illegal immigrants living in Pakistan, he said those who lecture Pakistan on human rights should check their own record on human rights.

The minister said no other country in the world had hosted as many refugees during past over four decades as Pakistan has done.

The countries could not survive with soft borders with anybody entering in its territory without documentation and living freely and prepare fake passports and identity cards, he said.

The minister said that the people residing illegally in the country should voluntarily leave the country by October 31.

After October 31, he added such illegal foreigners would be forcibly evicted from the country.



CAIRO: Egypt Ambassador Sajid Bilal receives Federal Minister for National Health services Dr. Nadeem Jan upon arrival at Cairo airport.

## Pakistan grieved over devastating earthquake in Afghanistan

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday expressed deep sadness and condolence over loss of precious lives and properties in devastating earthquake that hit Western regions of Afghanistan on Saturday.

"The Government and people of Pakistan are deeply saddened by the devastating earthquake in Western regions of Afghanistan yesterday, resulting in tragic loss of life and widespread damage to property," a statement issued by the foreign office spokes-

person said.

"We extend our sincerest condolences to the families of those who lost their loved ones and pray for the early and complete recovery of the injured." The statement added that Pakistan stood in complete solidarity with the brothers and sisters in Afghanistan during this difficult time. "We are in contact with the Afghan authorities to get a first-hand assessment of the urgent needs of those affected by the earthquake. Pakistan will extend all possible support to the recovery effort," it added.



MUZAFFRABAD: Prime Minister of AJK Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq addressing during a ceremony to mark the 18th anniversary of the devastating 2005 earthquake

## Anniversary of the 8th Oct devastating earthquake observed in Balakot

BALAKOT (APP): People of Balakot and adjoining areas Sunday observed the 18th anniversary of the devastating earthquake that took thousands of lives and destroyed Balakot City, where hospitals and schools are still waiting for reconstruction.

At 8:52, a memorial ceremony was held at Balakot, where the survivors of the earthquake, members of civil society, and other organizations were present and also observed a minute of silence. 18 years ago, on October 8, 2005, at 8:52 a.m., some 80,000 people died and houses were destroyed when an earthquake of 7.6 magnitudes hit Azad Kashmir and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to the statistics, the earthquake left more than 17,000 people dead in Balakot alone. Collective prayers for the victims will be offered at different places in Balakot.

brought a wave of destruction to the Hazara division, particularly in Balakot and surrounding areas. According to the figures of the Provincial Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (PERRA), 2,959 schools and colleges were destroyed, and less than half of the destroyed buildings could be rebuilt. On the 18th anniversary, the survivors are still waiting for the reconstruction of schools and health centers.

Owing to the delay in the construction of New Bakriyal City, where the victims of the 2005 earthquake would be accommodated, the people of Balakot are deprived.

The devastating earthquake of 2005 destroyed the buildings and infrastructure of Balakot; unfortunately, rehabilitation projects have yet to be finished after 18 years, and no complete schools or hospital facilities are available in the earthquake-hit areas of Balakot.

## OIC voices concern at Israeli escalation in Palestinian territory

ISLAMABAD: Organization of Islamic Corporation has expressed deep concern on dangerous Israeli escalation in Occupied Palestinian territory.

The General Secretariat in a statement said that Israel's impunity has encouraged it to persist in its policy which in their entirety amount to war crime against humanity.

The statement stressed for providing international protection for Palestinian people and sponsoring a credible political process to establish an independence sovereign Palestinian State with East Al-Qudus as its capital on the line of 1967 borders.

## Project Manager of PMDC killed in Sorenj road blast

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Project Manager of Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC), Shabbir Mirza was killed and his driver injured in the roadside blast hit their vehicle in Sorenj area on Sunday morning.

According to the police sources, the Project Manager PMDC was on way to the Sorenj coalmine field riding his vehicle when an explosive device went off just close to his vehicle.

As a result the explosive device hitting his vehicle exploded, the Project Manager PMDC died on the spot while his driver got injured.

On the other hand, the Israeli army, in a cowardly operation, bombed the houses of Hamas commanders in Gaza throughout the night. Everywhere

## Hamas, Israel war, total casualties exceed 900

TEL AVIV/GAZA (Online): After the unexpected attack by Hamas, the death toll of Israeli citizens has increased to more than 600 and dozens of people, including soldiers, have been taken hostage.

While according to Palestinian officials, at least 370 Palestinians have been killed and nearly 2,000 injured in Israeli airstrikes in the Gaza Strip.

In this way, the total number of casualties has exceeded 900 in the clashes between Hamas and Israel that have been going on for 2 days.

The Israeli army said fighting is ongoing in eight locations in its territory.

According to media reports, the current tension between Israel and Palestine has now completed 24 hours.

After the sudden attack by Hamas, the Israeli army could not recover even for the second day.

The death toll of Israelis in various clashes has exceeded 600, including more than 100 military commanders and officials.

On the other hand, the Israeli army, in a cowardly operation, bombed the houses of Hamas commanders in Gaza throughout the night. Everywhere

there are scenes of destruction.

According to the Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip, more than 313 Palestinians, including children, were martyred in these attacks.

According to local media reports, fierce clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian militants are ongoing in many parts of southern Israel.

The Israeli army said it had regained control of most of the south, but heavy fighting was still ongoing in Israeli areas near the Gaza border, including Be'eri and Sderot.

The Israeli embassy in the UK has confirmed that Jack Marlowe, a British national, is missing. He was working as security staff at an outdoor dance festival near the Gaza border when the attack took place.

The Times of Israel quoted an IDF spokesman as saying that more than 400 Palestinian militants have been killed and dozens arrested in southern Israel and the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli Embassy in Turkey has reported that at least 300 Israelis have been killed so far in the tension, while dozens have been kidnapped by Hamas.



KARACHI: Palestine Foundation Pakistan activists chant slogans against Israel at a protest rally outside Karachi Press Club.



CHAMAN: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over a meeting regarding deportation of illegal immigrants

## Maulana Fazal JUI-F standing with Palestinian brothers in this difficult time

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman Sunday said that his political party was standing with our Palestinian brothers in this difficult time and urged the United Nations to fulfill and implement its resolutions of 1967 to settle down the conflict.

Rehman in a statement said, Palestinian freedom fighter's attacks on Israel were a historic success, adding that they have freed their territories from Israeli occupation. "I congratulate the Palestinian people on this landmark achievement," he said.

## Security forces kill one terrorist in North Waziristan

RAWALPINDI (APP): One terrorist was killed in an exchange of fire with security forces in Razmak area of North Waziristan.

According to Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorist. Known as Azeem Ullah alias 'Ghazi', the killed terrorist remained actively involved in various terror activities against security forces and killing of innocent civilians.

## Nawaz's return to end days of sadness: Maryam

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz expressed optimism on Sunday about the return of her father, Nawaz Sharif, to Pakistan on October 21, aiming to bring an end to what she referred to as a "seven-year period of prolonged sorrow".

Addressing a public gathering in Lahore, Maryam remarked that Nawaz Sharif had suffered more days of hardship instead of remaining in power corridors, emphasising former prime minister's commitment to the nation's well-being.

Maryam highlighted the PML-N's economic achievements under

Nawaz Sharif's leadership and challenged the audience to recall any other prime minister who had successfully reduced the prices of essential commodities.

Amidst an enthusiastic crowd displaying placards bearing Nawaz Sharif's images, Maryam expressed her anticipation of the joyous reception her father would receive upon his return on October 21.

Taking a swipe at the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, Maryam accused the previous administration of appointing individuals who resorted to using offensive language against the then opposition.

**REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

**DAYS REMAINING**

**22**

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## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Palestine at war

Fifty years since the last Arab-Israeli war, hostilities have once again broken out in Palestine. Hamas, the Palestinian group which rules Gaza, launched a Saturday morning surprise blitz targeting Israel, sending fighters into the state and initiating what will likely be a lengthy armed confrontation between the Palestinians and Israelis.

Tel Aviv has already said Israel is "at war". According to Hamas, "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood" was started in response to "atrocities in Gaza, against Palestinian people [and] our holy sites". Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, meanwhile, has said his people have the right to defend themselves against the "terror of settlers and occupation troops".

Many Western states have issued typically sanctimonious statements criticising Hamas, and reiterating Israel's right to defend itself. Yet they choose to ignore what has led to the current conflagration: the far-right government that runs Israel has unleashed a reign of terror upon the Palestinians. According to the UN, over 200 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces and settlers (before yesterday's declaration of war) — the highest number in 18 years. At the time of writing, another 200 Palestinians in Gaza had been killed in a single day's bombardment, a blood-soaked tally that is bound to rise. Moreover, rabid extremists have been staging increasingly provocative marches in the occupied city of Jerusalem, taunting Palestinians on grounds of Al Aqsa. They have also been involved in desecrating churches in the holy city, and attacks on Christian pilgrims and residents, emboldened by a racist government that seeks to ethnically cleanse Palestine of all non-Jews. The situation had been simmering for months, and Saturday's events were the reaction to a sustained cycle of violence and humiliation. All sides need to exercise restraint, and to avoid civilian targets. Yet knowing Israel's historical desire for bloodlust, it is the Palestinian people, particularly in Gaza, who will pay a heavy price as women, children and the elderly are decimated by Tel Aviv's war machine, even as Israel's foreign friends trumpet its right to 'self-defence'.

The latest escalation also raises a question mark over the efforts of various Muslim states to normalise ties with Israel. The Palestine question cannot be resolved unless a just solution is found, one where the Palestinians have a viable state that is secure and financially self-sufficient, where those ethnically cleansed over the decades by the Zionists have the right to return to the land of their forefathers, and where illegal settlements are permanently dismantled. Unless the Palestinians receive justice, the cycle of violence will continue, with Israel periodically beating them into submission. No fanciful deal sidestepping the core issue of Palestinian nationhood will ever deliver, no matter what slick PR is employed. The Israeli occupation needs to end, and the Palestinian people need justice.



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

The seeds of mistrust between Afghanistan and Pakistan were sown even before independence in 1947. By 1946, it had become clear that British India would be partitioned. The Afghan government saw an opportunity to revise the Durand Line of 1893 and lay claim to several territories that were to become part of Pakistan. When a referendum held in the then NWFP in July 1947 ruled decisively in favour of joining Pakistan, the Afghan government started championing the cause of independence for the Pakhtuns in a separate state ('Pashtunistan'). On Sept 30, 1947, Afghanistan's representative cast the only negative vote for admitting Pakistan to the UN. That vote was later withdrawn but the hostility it represented cast a long shadow of mistrust between the two countries.

During the Pakistan-India war of 1965, Afghanistan chose to stay neutral though public sympathy appeared to be with Pakistan, leading many Pakistani strategists to believe that Afghanistan could ensure strategic depth for Pakistan. After the Soviet and US invasions of Afghanistan in 1979 and 2001, Afghanistan plunged into a series of crises, causing enormous hardship to its people. Pakistan opened its doors to millions of Afghan refugees and even supported Afghan militants — referred to as mujahideen — who were resisting the occupiers. That built expectations in Pakistan that a friendly

### Mutual mistrust

Afghan government denying space to elements hostile to Pakistan could be a strategic asset. This expectation has remained largely unfulfilled, even during the past two years of a seemingly friendly government in Kabul led by the Taliban.

How should Pakistan deal with a state which distrusts it so deeply? The first option would be to start treating Afghanistan as a sovereign state whose people choose rulers without outside influence. Secondly, Pakistan needs a multipronged approach to deal with the difficult situation created by Taliban rule.

Politically, Pakistan should maintain regular contact with the Taliban, through formal and back channels, to convey its concerns and also listen to their perspective. But this should not mean that Pakistan extends formal recognition to the Taliban government. That question should be addressed in consultation with Afghanistan's neighbours. Ideologically, Pakistan should encourage our ulema, particularly those in whose madrasahs the Taliban were trained, to engage with the Afghan ulema to persuade the TTP to refrain from carrying out terrorist acts against Pakistan's people.

Militarily, Pakistan should maintain its policy of not talking to the TTP but engage with the Afghan military leadership to persuade them to not provide safe havens to the TTP. We should also manage the border more humanely so that tribes across the border have a friendly attitude towards Pakistan and do not provide shelter to the TTP.

Economically, Pakistan should do everything to boost bilateral trade and facilitate Afghan transit trade through its ports. This is a positive leverage that must be used prudently to win the hearts and minds of Afghanistan's trading

community. Pakistan should also encourage the regional TAPI and CASA-1000 projects as economic prosperity will help counter militancy.

The government has decided to evict all foreign nationals residing in Pakistan illegally, including undocumented Afghan refugees. Through a right decision in principle, its implementation carries serious implications, and would require meticulous, pragmatic and realistic planning, preferably in consultation with UNHCR and the Afghan government.

Diplomatically, besides bilateral engagement, we should coordinate closely with regional countries on the following int-emational expectations from the Taliban: an inclusive government, girls' right to education, and effective counterterrorism measures. The recent Moscow Format Consultations, which brought together special representatives from several regional states, including Pakistan, urged the Afghan authorities to prevent their country from becoming a "terrorism and instability hotspot".

These countries felt that non-regional players, particularly the US-led Western coalition, must shoulder the responsibility for post-conflict reconstruction of the country, unfreeze Afghan national assets and lift unilateral sanctions. There are reports that the Taliban leadership includes pragmatic elements as well as hardliners. Pakistan's top priority should be to stay engaged with all segments of the Taliban and persuade them that mutual mistrust is not serving the people of either country. Overcoming that mistrust will take time. At this point, establishing good-neighbourly ties is a realistic goal that can serve the larger interest of both countries and the region. — Courtesy Dawn

### Monk à la mode



Muna Khan

I had the good fortune to travel up north recently with my family. The few days in a picturesque town, getting plenty of rest, laughter and good food along with limiting smartphone consumption impacted us all positively. Over breakfast I wondered whether we really needed to be connected 24/7 if we knew it was not doing us any good?

The very morning of our departure, I read an article on BBC about people going into 'monk mode' — limiting social media and other screen time, in a bid to be more productive. Had we inadvertently done the same which is why we felt so much sukoon (calm)?

Monk mode gained popularity last year when it was reported as a productivity hack popular among CEO and entrepreneurs who use it to focus on one activity at a time. While the term has been around for at least two decades, it found its way to TikTok, and well, you know the rest — 68.8 million views at the time of writing.

TikTokers post their progress of doing the monk mode challenge — wherein they eliminate distractions like social media, Netflix, apps, video games, dating and focus on one task at a time. They practise an iteration of the following schedule: wake up around 5:30, no checking of devices, cold shower, exercise, reading for half an hour, stretches for 15 minutes, focused work for X hours, a walk or more exercise, some phone time before putting it on silent and away from your bed before bedtime

at 10pm. Some people also include healthy habits into the challenge like no junk food, sugar, alcohol and drugs. TikTokers also followed three beliefs that helped them during their monk mode challenge — isolation, introspection and improvement. All of this, they said in their videos, improved their productivity, ie, they could manage one task at a time, having been inspired by an XYZ influencer (read rich person).

Funny things happen when capitalism gets its grubby hands on sacred philosophies.

The name monk is a nod to monks who have renounced worldly goods to pursue spiritual goals. The popular self-help guru/ influencer and author Jay Shetty, who has a massive social media following, renounced business school to join an ashram, wrote about his experience of adopting monk habits in his best-selling Think Like a Monk. "I want to help people find stillness, purpose, peace and clarity in their daily life, by adopting the mindset monks have developed over thousands of years," Shetty told the Guardian in 2020. While noble, I want to add that Shetty is worth between \$25m and \$30m and reportedly earns \$7m a year from his books, podcasts and speaking tours. Monks in Asia, meanwhile, do not earn, certainly not for themselves.

Forbes wrote in 2022 that "the global personal development market was valued at \$41.81 billion in 2021, with projected growth at a compound annual growth rate of 5.5 per cent from 2022 to 2030."

I'm not against self-development. I believe all of us can benefit from introspection without relying on apps for long periods.

I will get into trouble for saying this but Imran Khan would have done well had he ventured into

the realm of self-development, instead of governance. He is clearly inspirational and has the makings of motivational gurus who appeal to folks struggling to find purpose or direction. Such influencers tap into someone's weakness and offer them goals — packaged through books, programmes, courses, videos, complete with hashtags — to help them attain confidence, security, riches, even love.

Khan helped disenchant, disconnected, apolitical people find some purpose; even if I don't understand it, I can't deny his appeal. He also did it without a heavy reliance on religion, compared to anyone with cleric ahead of their names who are our version of motivational speakers. But unlike those shilling a product disguised in a philosophy, Khan's 'goals' were unrealistic, in fact, all smoke and mirrors. Maybe, he'd fare better if he 'sold' concepts suited to our ancient culture and wisdom for collective personal betterment minus empty sloganeering.

On the surface, monk mode is an incredible idea. It frees us from the terrible trappings of social media which, studies show, make users feel bad about themselves. But just like being a monk isn't for everyone, neither is going into a mode. Given the advancements in technological innovations vying for your attention, there's got to be a better way to manage living in these times. I don't have answers but I know healthy lifestyles based on personal connections shouldn't be a mode. Our elders may have the answers as they also lived in times of disruptions in communication, albeit not at today's dizzying speed. They adapted without losing sight of personal relationships and didn't compromise on simple sources of joy. We may want to turn to them for their sage advice. — Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Internet shutdowns cost Pakistan Rs 1.3 bln in direct loss: PIDE

ISLAMABAD (APP): A study conducted by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) revealed that the closure of internet services for 24 hours results in a direct loss of Rs1.3 billion, which equates to 0.57% of the daily GDP average for the nation.

According to a press release issued here Sunday, this study is part of PIDE's research infographic titled "The Economic Cost of Internet Closure" and highlights the consequences of internet shutdowns in the country.

It said that the internet has become a fundamental necessity in modern times, however, the internet infrastructure of the country lags behind in terms of both quality and coverage.

The recent internet closure in various parts of the country has had an impact on multiple sectors, leading to substantial financial losses and operational challenges.

Online cab services, online food delivery services, freelancers, transport companies, and postal services have all been affected by the disruption of internet services, it said.

The PIDE infographic showed that online cab services, a cornerstone of modern transportation, saw a 97% reduction in the number of rides on days when the internet has been closed down. This significant downturn equates to a loss of Rs 29 to 32 million for the industry per day.

Similarly, online food

delivery services suffered a 75% reduction in the number of orders, translating into a substantial daily loss of Rs 135 million.

Meanwhile, the freelance community, which contributes significantly to Pakistan's economy, has also felt the brunt of internet disruptions.

Denial of orders to Pakistan-based freelance workers resulted in over \$1.3 million loss of revenue, equaling Rs 390 million, impacting the livelihoods of many and the national economy as a whole too, it revealed. Besides, the suspension of 3G/4G services for a single day causes a loss of PKR 450 million to the telecommunication sector alone.

### Power theft detected at Relax Inn hotel; owner fined Rs 7m

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has detected pilferage on an electricity connection of a nine-storey hotel, 'Relax Inn,' owned by Basharat Muhammad, in the area of Davis Road Sub-Division. The LESCO spokesman told media here Sunday that under the supervision of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer Shahid Haider, the operation against electricity thieves is going on successfully. In this regard, Basharat Muhammad, the owner of the 9-storey "Relax Inn" hotel, was caught stealing electricity while checking by a LESCO inspection team in the area of Davis Road Sub-Division. Accused Basharat Muhammad was stealing electricity from LESCO's direct supply by hooking wires and caused a loss of millions of rupees to the power distribution company.



QUETTA: President Anjuman-e-Tajiran Balochistan Raheem Agha, Wali Afghan and Umar Tareen inaugurate food point at Sirki Road.

### PBF welcomes EU Parliament's decision of extending GSP Plus status to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) has welcomed the European Parliament's decision of extending the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) Plus status to Pakistan for another four years till 2027, but has urged the government to remove regulatory obstacles to boost exports to the EU.

The GSP Plus status offers developing countries duty-free or reduced-tariff access to the EU market for over 6,000 products. It is a significant opportunity

for Pakistan to boost its exports and create jobs.

In a statement, PBF Chairman (Capital Area) Atif Ikram Sheikh said that PBF appreciates the unwavering efforts of the Government of Pakistan in advocating for this extension, further strengthening trade relations and fostering economic growth for our nation.

He said that the GSP Plus status, which Pakistan has enjoyed in the past, has significantly contributed to enhancing our export potential and economic

prosperity. Atif Ikram said that GSP Plus status holds paramount importance for Pakistan's economy as it has played an important role in expansion of multilateral trade.

According to the trade statistics from ITC World Trademap, Pakistan's exports to EU, which were around 6.3 billion dollars in 2013, have increased over the time to 11.3 billion dollars in 2022, primarily due to the deeper market access provided by European Union under GSP Plus.

### World Bank takes proposal to impose tax under 50,000 salary

ISLAMABAD (Online): The World Bank withdrew the proposal to impose tax on people earning 50,000 monthly salary. The World Bank retracted its proposal saying that the proposal was issued based on 2019 data, which needs to be updated to reflect recent inflation and labor market conditions.

The spokesperson of the World Bank said that the Bank is not making any recommendations for the implementation of taxes.

He added that the World Bank recommends comprehensive reforms in Pakistan's tax system, reforms that would increase the tax burden on the rich and provide relief to the poor. According to government data, the salaried class has paid more tax than the total tax of rich exporters and real estate sector during the last three months. While the exporters and real estate sector have paid a total of Rs 65 billion in taxes, there is no comparison of wealth between the salaried class and the real estate sector and exporters. The salaried class is the fourth largest taxpayer after contractors, bank depositors and importers, the majority of whom have a very low standard of living.

### Privatization Commission will take over the financial affairs of PIA

ISLAMABAD (Online): Privatization Commission will take over the financial affairs of Pakistan International Airlines from today (Monday).

According to sources, the Privatization Commission will take over the financial affairs of Pakistan International Airlines from October 9, while PIA will remain administratively with the Aviation Division.

Privatization of PIA will begin on a phased basis after the Privatization Commission takes over the administrative affairs.

### First Pakistani company approved by GACC to export meat to China

BEIJING (APP): In a groundbreaking development for Pakistan's meat industry, a local meat company named Pakistan's Organic Meat has achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first Pakistani entity to be registered with the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC).

This achievement not only opens up new avenues for Pakistan's meat exports but also solidifies the country's position in the global meat market, said Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing.

The company that has achieved this

remarkable feat is "The Organic Meat Company Ltd," a leading player in Pakistan's meat processing and export industry. This achievement comes after years of rigorous quality control measures and compliance with international standards, he told China Economic Net (CEN). He further said that to secure registration on the GACC, Organic Meat Company Ltd underwent rigorous inspections and quality audits.

This demonstrates their commitment to maintaining high-quality standards in meat production, processing, and packaging.



KARACHI: Members of Azad Contractor Association are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Karachi press club.

### Business leaders urge govt to consult with private sector for revival of economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): President, Markazi Tanzeem-e-Tajran Pakistan and President Pakistan Business Forum Islamabad Muhammad Kashif Chaudhry along with a delegation of presidents of various market associations visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI). He assured that he would work with ICCI for resolving the key issues of the business community, said a press release.

Addressing the delegation, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President,

Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that ICCI being the apex trade body of the federal capital is working actively for the progress and development of the business community and cooperation of Markazi Anjuman-e-Tajran and market associations would further strengthen its hands to achieve common goals of the welfare of business community more effectively. He said that the unity among traders and common stand of their issues would send a strong voice to the government to promote ease of doing business in the country.



CHINIOT: A farmer is checking vegetables before plucking at Faisalabad Road.

### Railways strives to complete rehabilitation work of tracks

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is striving to complete rehabilitation and reconstruction work on railway tracks in order to improve the speed of the locomotives to carry passengers to their respective destinations on time.

The infrastructures, including the track and signalling system from Karachi to Peshawar, Main

Line-I (ML-I) and doubling of track from Lahore to Peshawar (462.20 Km) are also being revamped, an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. The official noted that the length of the track was 1,726 kilometres and the department has planned to improve the speed up to 160 kilometres per hour in the project of up-gradation.

## Naqvi visits PIC to make onground review of the up gradation plan

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: On the special direction of Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi upgradation plan of the emergency block of Punjab Institute of Cardiology has been prepared.  
Emergency block will be upgraded under the plan and new surgeons will be hired. New ICUs and operation theatres will be established. 100 beds will be further increased. Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi paid a visit to PIC

so as to make onground review of the upgradation plan and ordered to start upgradation work of the ground floor of emergency block by the start of next week.  
CM Mohsin Naqvi while directing to hire the services of surgeons from abroad stated that surgeons should be hired on contract basis as well after seeking approval of the Board of Management. Mohsin Naqvi directed to complete the upgradation project within three months adding

that work on upgradation of the emergency block should be done in three shifts. The construction of Sarai should also be completed at the earliest.  
CM was informed during the briefing that LED screens will be installed for the facilitation of patients and their attendants.  
Mohsin Naqvi during his visit reviewed upgradation plan of the emergency block and inspected relevant sections.



LAHORE: Patients suffering from dengue fever are treated at a hospital in Provincial Capital.

## Construction work of Dadocha Dam to be resumed soon: Chatta

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chatta has said that the construction work of Dadocha Dam would be resumed soon.

He informed that the construction work of the Dam would be completed within the stipulated period as Punjab government was paying special attention to water supply projects.

The Commissioner said that the patriotism and sacrifices of the local population, especially the residents of Barwala including Azari Sehla, Malikpur, Azizal and Khanpur areas are

commendable. "We value the sacrifices of the local population and would make every effort to provide them with the full benefit of these sacrifices," Liaquat Ali Chatta said.

In the light of the Supreme Court's decision and the directives of the caretaker government of Punjab, the local population would be given the prices of their land according to the current market rates, the Commissioner added.

The local residents whose property is affected by the construction of the dam would be given fair compensation, he said.

## Couple killed in m/c-tractor trolley collision in DI Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): A couple died when the motorcycle they were riding on was collided with a tractor-trolley here on Chashma road last night.

According to Rescue 1122, the accident occurred near Segri-Bangla on Chashma road when a motorcycle was collided with a tractor-trolley which was wrongly parked in the center of road. There was no reflective tape on the trolley which caused the accident in the darkness.

After receiving information about the incident, the rescue team reached the site and shifted the bodies to Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital paharpur where the deceased were identified as Muhammad Zulfikar, son of Muhammad Zareef, a resident of Pipplan area of Mianwali district, and his wife. The deceased couple was reportedly coming to Dera Ismail Khan to inquire about the health of the woman's ailing father.



PESHAWAR: Visitors take keen interest in art during Art Exhibition organized by Ramina Foundation held at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University (SBBWU) in Peshawar.

## Chief Secretary stresses joint efforts to wipe out polio virus from region

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary has directed authorities to vaccinate every eligible child against the crippling polio virus. He stressed the need for meticulous monitoring of anti-polio drives to ensure complete eradication of the virus from the region.

The Chief Secretary, gave the instructions on Sunday during his visit to several parts of the

## CMO visits different schools

NAWABSHAH (APP): Chief Monitoring Officer (CMO) Shaheed Benazirabad, Tariq Ali Solangi here on Sunday paid a surprise visit of different schools of Nawabshah and checked the attendance of teachers and staff members.  
The CMO visited 13 schools and checked the attendance register and facilities available at schools. During detail check, he found 14 teachers absent from duty. The CMO noticed that 12 teachers were absent from without submitting any leave application while two teachers were absent for a long period.

## Free camp for hearing loss to be organized on 11 October

HYDERABAD (APP): Islamabad Hearing center (Pvt) Ltd would organize a free camp for hearing loss patients on 11<sup>th</sup> October (Wednesday).

The camp will be held from 10 am to 7 pm at Ghazi Medicare and Maternity home Hiranabad, Hyderabad. Eminent Specialists from Islamabad would examine patients suffering from Hearing loss, Tinnitus-Management, Baby Hearing Deficiency, Hearing Aid and test will be conducted through computerized machines.

## Smuggling bid foiled, NCP items worth over Rs 23.6 mln recovered

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The district police have foiled a smuggling attempt and seized non-custom paid (NCP) items worth over Rs 23.6 million during the checking of several vehicles here in the limits of Daraban police stations.

According to the Police spokesman, a police team of Daraban police station led by SDO Daraban Circle Malik Aneesul Hassan along with SHO Atta

provincial capital including Hayatabad and Rigi to monitor anti-polio campaign, along with Deputy Commissioner Peshawar Afaq Wazir.

Chief Secretary Chaudhry personally met with polio workers and appreciated them for their excellent performance during the campaign. He appealed to parents, urging them to cooperate with polio teams and vaccinate their children to protect them from permanent disability.

Ullah Khan inspected several vehicles.  
During checking, the police recovered NCP items including 15 rolls of cloth, 33 tyres of different sizes, 20 sacks of plastic bags, 70 sacks of China Salt, eight Iranian blankets, eight blankets with bed-sheets, six rolls of plastic pipe, 12 sacks of Iranian sandal, three sacks of dry milk, five cartons of cosmetic items, one sack of tea and two cartons of veterinary medicines.

## International News

## 58 Kurdish 'militants' killed by Turkiye in Syria

**Monitoring Desk**  
ANKARA: Turkish forces have killed 58 Kurdish militants in northern Syria in overnight attacks on militant targets, the Defence Ministry said on Saturday, as conflict in the region escalated nearly a week after a bomb attack in Ankara.

Turkiye this week said all targets belonging to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militia and the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia were "legitimate targets" for its forces, after the PKK claimed responsibility for Sunday's bombing in Ankara which wounded two police officers and killed the two attackers.

Turkiye said the at-

tackers came from Syria. The US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) — a coalition of rebel groups spearheaded by the YPG militia — denied this.  
Since the bomb attack, Ankara has launched a barrage of air strikes and ground-based attacks against militant targets in northern Syria and Iraq, while ramping up security operations at home. "Targets belonging to PKK/YPG terrorists in northern Syria's Euphrates Shield, Olive Branch, and Peace Spring operation areas were hit strongly all night long," the ministry said, referring to regions where Turkiye has previously mounted incursions.

The ministry said the operations, which it says

are carried out under self-defence rights, had "neutralised" 58 militants in the region. Ankara typically uses the term "neutralised" to mean killed. Late on Friday, the ministry had said Turkiye's military had conducted air strikes in northern Syria, destroying 15 militant targets where it said militants were believed to be. Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said that police in the eastern province of Van had captured six people suspected of PKK links and in preparation of an attack.

Following the bomb attack, authorities have carried out raids and operations across the country, seizing dozens of people.

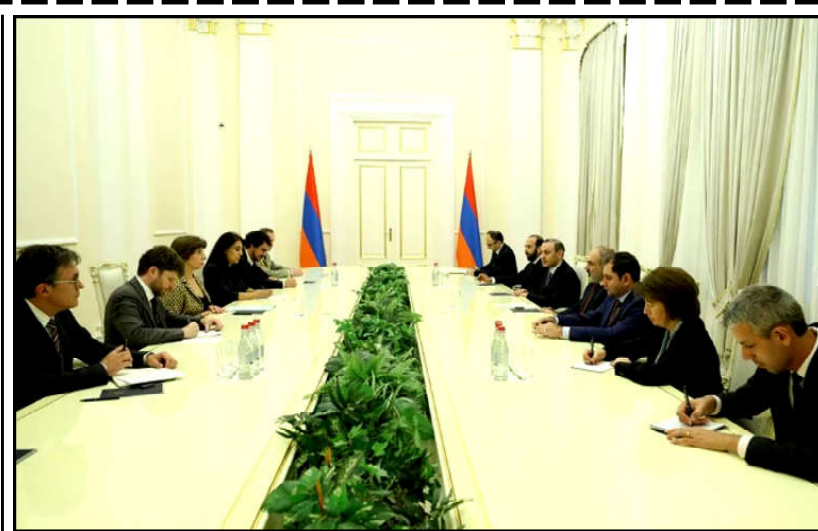
## Indian flood toll up to 77 as waters recede

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: At least 77 people are confirmed dead in the floods that hit India's northeast, authorities said on Sunday, with destroyed roads and bridges leaving thousands more still cut off despite waters receding.

Violent torrents struck Sikkim state on Wednesday after a high-altitude glacial lake suddenly burst.  
Scientists warn that similar disasters will become an increasing danger across the Himalayas as global temperatures rise and ice melts, spurred by climate change.

"A total of 29 bodies have been retrieved from different parts of Sikkim," state relief commissioner Anilraj Rai told AFP by phone.  
In neighbouring West Bengal state, Jalpaiguri district police told AFP that another 48 bodies had been recovered. More than 100 people are still missing, according to official figures.

Water levels along the Teesta River "returned to normal" four days after the floods hit.



French Foreign and European Affairs Minister Catherine Colonna and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan attend a meeting in Yerevan, Armenia.

## Dozen injured, including baby, in Russian attack on Ukraine's Kherson, governor says

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: A dozen people were wounded, including a 27-year-old woman and her 9-month-old baby, in a Russian attack on the southern Ukrainian region of Kherson, its governor said on Sunday.

"The Kherson region experienced another terrible night," Governor Oleksandr Prokudin wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

The woman and the infant were hospitalised with moderate wounds, he said, adding that a 33-

year-old Red Cross medic was also wounded.  
Several houses and gas pipelines were damaged in the attack.

Over the past 24 hours, Russian forces carried out 59 attacks on Kherson, the region's administration said on Telegram, including 19 instances of shelling of Kherson city, the region's administrative centre.

Reuters could not independently verify the reports. There was no immediate comment

from Russia.  
Russia has frequently carried out air strikes and shelling on Ukraine since the start of its full-scale invasion in February 2022. Ukraine says its counter-offensive in the south and east is gradually making progress.

Both sides deny targeting civilians, but thousands of civilians in Ukraine have been killed in attacks that have hit residential areas as well as energy, defence, port, grain and other facilities.

## Disrupting Saudi-Israel ties may have motivated Hamas attack, Blinken says

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said part of the motivation for Hamas' latest attack on Israel could have been disrupting a potential normalizing of Israel-Saudi Arabia ties, adding Washington will announce new aid for Israel on Sunday.

Hamas fighters rampaged through Israeli towns as the country suffered its bloodiest day in decades on Saturday and subsequently battered

Palestinians with air strikes in Gaza on Sunday, with hundreds killed on both sides and spiralling violence threatening a major new Middle East war.

"It wouldn't be a surprise that part of the motivation may have been to disrupt efforts to bring Saudi Arabia and Israel together, along with other countries that may be interested in normalizing relations with Israel," Blinken told CNN in an interview on Sunday.

## Palestinian Authority calls for emergency Arab League meeting

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: The Palestinian Authority submitted a memorandum on Sunday calling for an emergency Arab League meeting at the foreign ministerial level, according to Wafa, the Palestinian news agency. The request for the meeting comes in light of the "brutal and ongoing Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people, including the escalation of the storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque by thousands of settlers."

## Dr. Syed Faraz says: Economic growth, paperless governance assured with digital transformation

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: KPRMP Project Director met with the Caretaker Provincial Advisor Dr. Syed Sir Faraz Ali Shah at his office Civil Secretariat Peshawar.

Advisor to the Caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr. Syed Sir Faraz Ali Shah has said that the Corona epidemic has highlighted the need for a strong and organized digital infrastructure at the global level. Digital transformation is essential for faster connectivity, better efficiency and adapting to new challenges.

These views were expressed by the Caretaker Provincial Advisor for Mineral Development, Planning & Power Dr. Syed Sir Faraz Ali Shah in a meeting with Faisal

Shehzad project director of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Mobilization and Public Resource Management in Civil Secretariat Peshawar yesterday. Senior Manager EY Azeem Sani and Program Manager NETSOL Zahid Mushtaq were also present in the meeting.

On this occasion, the caretaker provincial adviser was given a detailed briefing about the steps taken, ongoing projects, challenges and suggestions for e-governance and digital transformation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Caretaker Advisor Dr. Syed Sir Faraz Ali Shah expressed interest in the subject of reforms and digitization of institutions and said that this will ensure faster service delivery.



KARACHI: Members of Azad Contractors Association hold a protest in favor of their demands outside press club in Provincial Capital.

## Another 143 dengue cases reported in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): The battle against dengue virus continues in Punjab as 143 new cases were reported on Sunday, according to the latest data from the Health Department. This year, a total of 5,469 dengue fever cases have been reported across 36 districts in Punjab.

Laure leads the unfortunate tally with a staggering 2,130 cases, closely followed by Rawalpindi with 1,561 cases, Multan with 620, Gujranwala with 268

and Faisalabad with 245 cases.

As many as 52 new dengue cases were reported in Lahore, 47 in Rawalpindi, 10 in Multan, 11 in Gujranwala, 10 in Faisalabad, Sheikhupura recorded 3 new dengue cases, 2 cases reported from Kasur, Gujrat, Chakwal, Okara, Bahawalpur and Rajanpur each confirmed one new dengue case during the same period.

## Afghanistan earthquakes kill 2,053, Taliban say, as death toll spikes

**Monitoring Desk**  
KABUL: Powerful earthquakes in Afghanistan have killed more than 2,000 people and injured more than 9,000, the Taliban administration said on Sunday, in the deadliest tremors in years in the quake-prone mountainous country.

Amid the confusion, the death toll from Saturday's quakes spiked from 500 reported on Sunday morning by a Red Crescent spokesperson and 16 from Saturday night.

The quakes hit 35 km (20 miles) northwest of the city of Herat, with one measuring 6.3 magnitude, the

US Geological Survey (USGS) said.

Mullah Janan Sayceeq, spokesman for the Ministry of Disasters, told Reuters that 2,053 people were dead, 9,240 injured and 1,329 houses damaged or destroyed.

More than 200 dead had been brought to different hospitals, a Herat health department official who identified himself as Dr Danish told Reuters, adding most of them were women and children.

Bodies had been "taken to several places — military bases, hospitals," Danish said.



People injured in the earthquake are being treated by doctors in Afghanistan.

## Azerbaijan's president says France will be to blame if new conflict starts with Armenia

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Azerbaijan's president scolded the European Union and warned that France's decision to send military aid to Armenia could trigger a new conflict in the South Caucasus after a lightening Azerbaijani military operation last month.

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev last week pulled out of an EU-brokered meeting with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan at which Brussels said it was standing by Armenia.

But Aliyev criticised the EU's approach - and particularly France's position - when European Council, Charles Michel, telephoned him, according to an Azerbaijani statement issued late on Saturday.

President Aliyev said "that due to the well-known position of France, Azerbaijan did not participate in the meeting in Granada," the Azerbaijani presidential office said.

"The head of state emphasized that the provision of weapons by France to Armenia was an approach that was not serving peace, but one intended to inflate a new conflict, and if any new conflict occurs in the region, France would be responsible for causing it."

France has agreed on future contracts with Armenia to supply it with military equipment to help ensure its defences, Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna said Oct. 3 during a visit to Yerevan.

## Around 150 families repatriated respectfully to homeland from Chaman border

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: Around 150 Afghan refugee families have so far been repatriated respectfully along with all necessary facilities to their homeland from the Pak-Afghan border, Chaman.

This was informed to a joint meeting of the high ups and representatives of the Frontier Corps, police, district administration and law enforcement agencies held with the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki in the chair in Chaman on Sunday.

The meeting was briefed about the implementation on the decisions of Apex committee and steps taken for expulsion

of the aliens.

It was informed that an effective monitoring mechanism has been formulated for continuous review of the repatriation process.

In this regard, a monitoring committee has been formed that comprises Deputy Commissioner and representatives of police and other law enforcement agencies.

It was told that the immigrants to be brought in Chaman following the action to be taken after the given date would be kept in the camps before their handing over to the respective country.

The basic facilities

have been provided at the camps, the number of which would be increased in view of the number of immigrants, it was further informed.

The meeting was also informed that the strength of police and levies is being increased owing to the arrival of large number of immigrants in Chaman.

In addition to this, it has been proposed to set up Afghan sub-consulate in Chaman.

Moreover, the meeting was informed that federal government is being approached for installation of the passport readable machine in the border town.



CHAMAN: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over a meeting regarding deportation of illegal immigrants

## Pak, China agreed to invite third parties' participation in CPEC: Ambassador Haque

BEIJING (APP): The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a game changer and very important for socio-economic development of Pakistan and now, both Pakistan and China have agreed to invite third parties to participate in this project, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said on Sunday. "This project has been a game changer and very important for socio-economic development of the country. Now, our two countries have agreed to invite third parties to participate in this project," he told CCTV in an interview.

"We are now working to extend it to Afghanistan,

the neighboring country of both China and Pakistan," he added.

Ambassador Haque said that China is a global leader in terms of many technologies like artificial intelligence, e-commerce, green technologies.

"So, it has been identified as one of the most important areas for the second phase, and we have established Joint Working Groups for cooperation," he added. He said that new corridors like China-Pakistan Digital Corridor, Green Corridor and Health Corridor have been launched to benefit on the emerging opportunities in the area science and technology and Information Technology (IT) fields.

## BISP starts disbursement of quarterly tranche of Benazir Kafaalat

ISLAMABAD (APP): The process of disbursement of the quarterly tranche (July-September) of Benazir Kafaalat cash assistance to beneficiaries across the country is continuing smoothly by the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) to provide relief to the beneficiaries.

The payment of Rs. 9000 per household will be disbursed among around nine million registered beneficiary families. The beneficiaries, in case of any complaint, can approach the nearest BISP Tehsil offices or call the toll-free helpline number 080026477 of the Benazir Income Support Program. The special control room has been activated in the BISP headquarters to address the complaints of the beneficiaries promptly.

However, the beneficiaries can also contact them on WhatsApp numbers including 0320-3263026 (Sindh), 0320-3263041 (Punjab), 0325-5365469 (Balochistan), 0325-5365469 (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit Baltistan.

## ICP initiates crackdown against professional beggars

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police have initiated a massive crackdown against professional beggars and their handlers in the city to curb this menace, a public relations officer said.

He said that, the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, ordered the all zonal DPO's to take action against professional beggars and their handlers in their respective areas adding that cases should be registered against them. He reiterated that the parents who send their children with these criminals will also face action according to the law, adding that criminals in the guise of begging were found involved in different criminal activities.

During the ongoing crackdown, the Islamabad Capital Police various police station teams arrested 49 professional baggers during last week and registered cases against them under the beggar act.

## Information technology education important for youth: Governor

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: The caretaker federal minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Dr. Umar Saif and federal Minister for Human Rights, Khalil George called on Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman, here today at Governor House Lahore.



A detailed discussion was held regarding the promotion and improvement of the IT sector during the meeting with Umair Saif, while Federal Minister for Human Rights, Khalil George briefed Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in detail about the work regarding minorities.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that it is very important to provide education of information technology to the youth. He said that Information Technology (IT) is shaping the future of the world, and expertise in IT is very important in today's modern world. He said that students can take advantage of numerous online earning opportunities by doing IT courses.

## Two missing children reunited with parents

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police Shalimar police station team safely reunited two missing children with their parents, a public relation officer said.

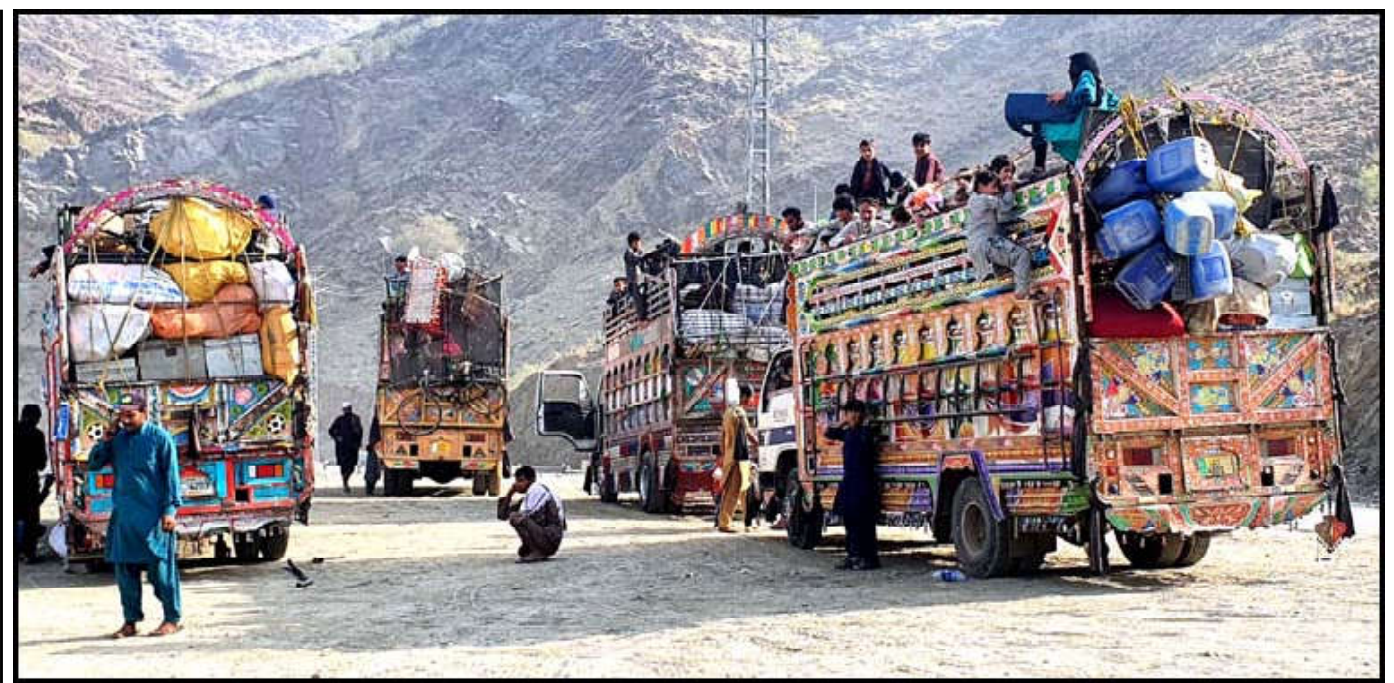
According to the details, a citizen submitted an application at Shalimar police station and stated that his son and daughter namely Ehtisham and Ani

Tahira had been missing and could not be traced despite hectic efforts by family members.

Upon receiving the application the police team started the investigation. The police team used technical and human resources and succeeded to trace the missing boy and girl and safely reunited them with their family.



ISLAMABAD: A view of demolished houses during Islamabad Police and Capital Development Authority (CDA) joint anti-encroachments operation of illegal Afghan Basti, in Federal Capital.



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.

## Aneeq aims to provide better facilities for Hajj pilgrims

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed expressed his commitment to continuously strive to provide top-notch travel facilities for Hajj pilgrims.

Speaking in a recent meeting with Caretaker Advisor to the Prime Minister on Aviation, Air Marshal @ Farhat Hussain Malik, he expressed hope that pilgrims would receive encouraging news regarding these efforts soon.

The minister emphasized the responsibility of ensuring travel amenities without compromising on quality. He underlined that their collective objective

was to enhance the services offered to pilgrims without increasing the cost of Hajj tickets.

In the meeting, Farhat said, "We have already initiated our work, and soon we will have good news for the pilgrims." He shared his dedication to the welfare of the pilgrims and their comfort during this sacred journey.

The meeting was attended by Aviation Secretary, Saif Anjum, Pakistan International Airlines Chairman, Managing Director and Ministry of Religious Affairs Additional Secretary, Syed Atta-ur-Rehman, among other officials from the Hajj wing.



HYDERABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister of Education, Madad Ali Sindh giving Book of Shah Latif poetry to student during Shah Latif day function on late Saturday night at Public school.

## Madad emphasizes domestic and int'l trainings for teachers to promote quality education

HYDERABAD (APP): Hyderabad here on Saturday night. The federal minister invited the students of the School for a one-week recreational visit to Islamabad. He also proposed training opportunities for the school's teachers in Islamabad and pledged to provide 5,000 books of the National Book Foundation for the school.

Sindh praised the outstanding performance of students during the Latif Night program, expressing his hope that such programs would continue in the future.

He made these remarks while addressing as special guest at the "Latif Night" program held at Public School

Hyderabad here on Saturday night. The federal minister invited the students of the School for a one-week recreational visit to Islamabad. He also proposed training opportunities for the school's teachers in Islamabad and pledged to provide 5,000 books of the National Book Foundation for the school.

Sindh praised the outstanding performance of students during the Latif Night program, expressing his hope that such programs would continue in the future.

Mushaal says:

## World powers play imperative role towards long-standing IIOJK, Palestine dispute

ISLAMABAD (APP): Advisor to the Prime Minister on Human Rights, Mushaal Mullick on Sunday urged the world powers to play their imperative role towards the long-standing Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Palestine dispute.

Speaking at the annual event of Darbar Mohra Sharif, Mushaal Malik stated that the ongoing crisis in Palestine, particularly the tensions with Israel, re-

flected the same adversities Kashmir faces under Indian subjugation. Mushaal Malik pointed out that the Indian government is involved in promoting extremism and terrorism in occupied Kashmir. Israel is similarly involved in serious human rights violations in Palestine. Just like in occupied Kashmir, Muslims in Palestine are subjected to harsh treatment, mosques are being desecrated and violence is being inflicted upon the innocent people.

## CDA planning to initiate residential scheme for overseas Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is planning to launch a new state-of-the-art residential scheme only for overseas Pakistanis at Mauza Kuri in the federal capital. "The new scheme, sprawled across 14,000 kanal of land along Kuri Road, adjacent to Park Road, will be reserved exclusively for overseas Pakistanis," an official in the CDA told APP on Sunday.

The official said that the plots within the scheme would be marketed and sold to overseas Pakistanis in US dollars, contributing to the country's

foreign exchange reserves.

He said that in the initial phase, the CDA has given the go-ahead to the relevant authorities for the appointment of a design consultant as per the decision made during a meeting chaired by CDA Chairman, Captain @ Anwar ul Haque.

The official said the designated consultant would be responsible for overseeing the scheme's execution and conducting various essential studies, including those related to environmental impact, traffic management, and hydrology.

## PAF'S 14 nation multinational air exercise INDUS SHIELD-2023 kicks off at ace

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a magnificent display of international camaraderie and airpower, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) on Sunday proudly inaugurated

organization of the mega exercise, which would augment the existing partnership between the key allies in addition to bolstering interoperability

from 14 esteemed Air Forces including Turkiye, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE, Egypt, Oman, Bahrain, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Morocco, Uzbekistan,



its 14 Nation Multinational Air Exercise, Indus Shield-2023, at an operational air base of Pakistan Air Force.

Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force regarding the crucial role played by PAF in advancing technology, modernizing its capabilities and employing contemporary combat tactics to effectively address shared challenges of aerial defence. Air Vice Marshal Tariq Mehmooh Ghazi highlighted that the exercise would prove to be a step forward, to promote warm and brotherly relations amongst the leading air powers of the region.

He commended the efforts of the Air Power Center of Excellence on the

amongst the participating Air Forces. He also added that the planning and execution of Exercise Indus Shield-23 underscores the vision of the esteemed,

Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force regarding the crucial role played by PAF in advancing technology, modernizing its capabilities and employing contemporary combat tactics to effectively address shared challenges of aerial defence. Air Vice Marshal Tariq Mehmooh Ghazi highlighted that the exercise would prove to be a step forward, to promote warm and brotherly relations amongst the leading air powers of the region.

Exercise Indus Shield-2023 will witness participa-

China, and Hungary.

The exercise not only offers a unique opportunity for participating air forces to bring their unparalleled skills and operational capabilities to the spotlight, but will also deepen mutual understanding between the participating contingents to promote interoperability.

This mega exercise is a signature of excellence and professionalism which validates PAF's aerial prowess in the region. In addition, the exercise offers an invaluable learning experience of aerial warfare employment tactics to the air and ground crew through simulation of real-time war scenarios and varied combat missions.

## NDMA to dispatch relief items to quake-hit Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Disaster Management Authority has arranged relief items including food, medicines, tents and blankets as well as Search and Rescue



Teams to be dispatched on immediate basis to quake-hit Herat Afghanistan.

This was briefed at a special session of the National Emergency Operations Centre held in Islamabad today with Chairman NDMA Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik in the chair.

The meeting reviewed the situation and humanitarian assistance package to Afghanistan in the wake of devastating quake in the country.

The Chairman stressed for swift relief assistance for Kabul that should be sent through fastest means available utilizing air and land routes to Afghanistan. He also requested for facilitation and coordination by all the government departments and agencies involved in the process.

## Campaign for registration of house servants & tenants data in full swing

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Following the special orders of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police "Knock the Door" campaign for the registration of employees and tenants is in full swing, a public relations officer said.

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

to inquire about the problems faced by the citizens.

In this regard, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Islamabad has registered a data of 147 house servants of 450 houses from Sumbal Police Station jurisdiction.

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

involved in any kind of suspicious activity.

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



ISLAMABAD: A view of campaign for registration of house servants and tenants data in full swing.