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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, bombarded 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.



People inspect a building destroyed in Israeli strikes in Gaza City.



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

Israeli occupying forces should immediately stop violence, oppression: FM

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil 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 oppression, deeply saddened by the loss of innocent lives.

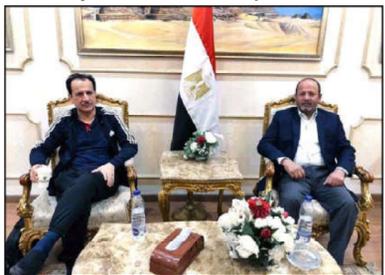
More than 300 Palestinians have been martyred after Israel launched retaliatory air strikes in the Gaza Strip following Hamas's operation "Al-Aqsa Storm" which saw 5,000 rockets being launched into Israel from Gaza, followed by gunmen infiltrating areas in the southern region of the country.

The foreign minister also expressed concern over the volatile situation and the loss of precious Palesti-

nian 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. According to the Palestinian health ministry, at least 370 Palestinians have been martyred, including 20 children, and nearly 2,000 wounded by Israeli air strikes in Gaza since Saturday.



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

13 billions money laundering discloses under the guise of solar panels

KARACHI (Online): Directorate of Post Clearance Audit FBR (Federal Board of Revenue) has exposed the money laundering of Rs.13billion in the name of solar panel import and over invoicing. According to media reports, the Directorate of Post Clearance Audit FBR Karachi has identified 6 more fake companies of solar panels during the customs clearance audit, and money worth 13 billion rupees has been transferred abroad under the guise of solar panels on behalf of these fake companies.

Sources said that out of these 6 fictitious companies, 3 are related to Karachi and the other 3 are related to Quetta, 6 fictitious companies include Messrs. SH Traders, Messrs. Sahar International, Messrs. Delta

Trading, Messrs. Smart Impex, Messrs. Ehsanullah Import Export and Asadullah Enterprises. After the customs clearance audit, it has been pointed out that the above 6 fictitious companies have submitted a total of 687 goods declarations to the customs department for the clearance of imported solar panels, out of which 443 goods declarations contain excess prices of imported solar panels. Over-invoicing was revealed and money laundering of 3 billion was done.

Sources said that the said 6 fictitious solar import companies showed the value of solar panels worth 9 billion rupees in the goods declaration at 13 billion, while 2 importers M/s Smart Impex, M/s Asadullah Enterprises sold solar panels worth 4 billion.

President urges world to play role for international peace

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."

Asif Zardari expresses solidarity with Palestinian

KARACHI (APP): Former President and President of the Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP), Asif Ali Zardari, has expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people.

In a message here on Sunday, he said that the sympathies of the people of Pakistan and prayers are with their Palestinian brethren.

He said that the Palestinian people have been facing oppression and brutality for a long time. He urged the international community and international mediators to raise their voices in support of the Palestinian cause.



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

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

HYDERABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi has emphasized the importance of training for teachers at domestically and internationally to promote quality education in the country. He highlighted the need for well-prepared educators to play an effective role in shaping a better future for children.

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 pro-

posed training opportunities for the school's teachers in Islamabad and pledged to provide 5,000 books of the National Book Foundation for the school.

Sindhi praised the outstanding performance of students during the Latif Night program, expressing his hope that such programs would continue in the future. He stressed the need for organizing programs that celebrate Sufi poets' contributions in schools and colleges across the country, as he added, it has been observed that such programs were gradually being marginalized from our priorities.

Regarding the status

Nawaz's return to end 'days of sadness', says Maryam at Lahore rally

PML-N leader says her father preferred 'suffering days of hardship' instead of remaining in power

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.

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 Oc-

tober 8, 2005, at 8:52 a.m., some 80000 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.

The deadly earthquake brought a wave of destruction to the Hazara division, particularly in Balakot and surrounding areas.

Caretaker Federal Minister Solangi says: Giving date of elections not mandate of caretaker regime

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 for all political parties in the upcoming elections, he added.

The minister stated that there was no ban on PTI as a political party.

Replying to a question, he said that the process of privatization was not initiated by caretaker government, previous parliament and its elected government decided to privatize various entities.

"We are bound to implement the decisions of the previous parliament and the previous government," Murtaza Solangi opined.

The minister stressed the need for reformation in the institutions.



KARACHI: Sindh Caretaker Minister for Law, Religious Affairs and Human Rights Omar Soomro addressing exhibition ceremony of Yahya Kemal, a portrait of a poet as the first Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan at Arts Council of Pakistan.

OIC voices concern at Israeli escalation in Palestinian territory

Monitoring Desk 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.

Italian airline hopes to start flights in Pak

KARACHI (INP): A private Italian airline Neos has expressed interest in operating flights between Pakistan and Italy, sources said.

According to sources, the Neos airline has contacted the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to operate direct flights between the two countries.

The airline will operate weekly flights to Lahore in the first phase and will expand its operations to other countries, say sources.

The Italian airline will launch operations immediately after getting permission from the Pakistan aviation authority.

Verdict on 'practice and procedure case' likely to come today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) verdict on the 'practice & procedure case' is likely to be issued today (Monday), while the arrangements for the third hearing of the case have been completed.

The hearing will be broadcasted live through the official TV and a bench has also been formed in this regard.

Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Syed Mazhar Ali Akbar, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, Justice

Mohammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A. Malik, Justice Athar Minullah, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed and Justice Musrat Hilali in the 15-member full court bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Isa

Chief Justice Qazi Faizisa has also said that verdict will be made after hearing three lawyers.

He has also asked for the lawyers for preparations. A full court bench headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Isa will hear the case.

Notices have also been issued by the Supreme Court to the parties.

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

DAYS REMAINING

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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 whose madrassahs 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 530, 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

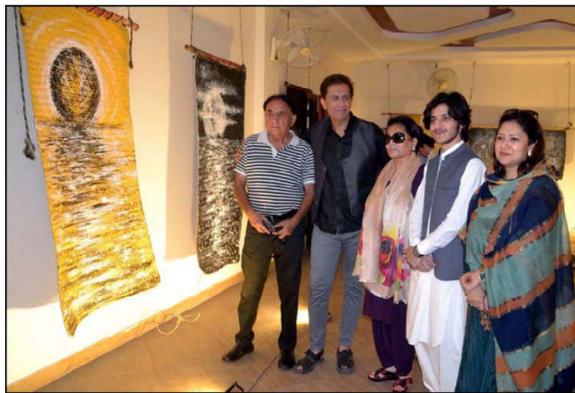
Line-I (ML-I) and doubling of track from Lahore to Peshawar (462.20 Km) are also being revamped, an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. The official noted that the length of the track was 1,726 kilometres and the department has planned to improve the speed up to 160 kilometres per hour in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



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 11th 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

Ullah Khan inspected several vehicles.

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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.



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

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 Zulfiqar, 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.

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 & Development and Energy & Power Dr. Syed Sir Faraz Ali Shah in a meeting with Faisal



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 cases have been reported across 36 districts in Punjab.
Lahore 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.

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.



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-

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



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.



Unionist supporters protest against amnesty of separatist leaders and activists involved in the failed independence drive at Passeig de Gracia in Barcelona, Spain.

US will always have Israel's back, says Biden

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: United States President Joe Biden said on Saturday the US will always have Israel's back and warned that no enemy of Israel should exploit the attacks.
Talking to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he offered "all appropriate means of support" to the government and people of Israel in their fight against Hamas.
"The United States unequivocally condemns this appalling assault against Israel by Hamas terrorists from Gaza, and I made clear to Prime Minister Netanyahu that we stand ready to offer all ap-

propriate means of support to the government and people of Israel," President Biden said in a statement issued after he spoke with Mr Netanyahu. "My administration's support for Israel's security is rock solid and unwavering. "Terrorism is never justified. Israel has a right to defend itself and its people," he said. "We are heartbroken by the lives that have been tragically cut short and hope for a swift recovery for all those who have been wounded." President Biden said, "My team and I are tracking this situation closely, and I will remain in close touch with Prime Minister Netanyahu."

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.

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

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."

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.

Responding to a question about the transportation projects, he said that Lahore Orange Metro Train was one of the first early harvest projects under the CPEC framework.

"It was built in the second largest city of Lahore, a city of over 10 million people. It has provided efficient and affordable and very modern transport services to the people of Lahore," he added.

Ambassador Haque said that the number of passengers on the Lahore Orange Metro Train has touched 100 million. In the last two years, it has provided the transport services to 100 million people.

He said the major focus was on the energy sector because at that time, Pakistan was facing acute shortages of energy and long hours of load-shedding, and added, the new projects have put in almost 8,000 megawatts of new energy into Pakistan's system helping the not only the needs of the common man, but also the industrial needs.

About Gwadar port project, he said it is going to serve many of the Central Asian countries which are landlocked countries. "So, we provide very easy quick and very shortest route to the Arabian Sea."

He expressed the confidence that the advantages which are occurring from CPEC will not only help Pakistan, but also the regional countries.

While highlighting bilateral relationship between the two countries, he said, "In Pakistan, we consider China is our best friend and in China, I know, Pakistanis are known as 'Battie', the iron brothers, an expression which is only reserved for Pakistan. It's very heart-warming."

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MUZAFFRABAD: Prime Minister of AJK Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq addressing a ceremony to mark the 18th anniversary of the devastating 2005 earthquake, in the city. Events were held across the country on the 18th anniversary of the October 8 earthquake that killed tens of thousands of people in 2005.

Pakistan faces unpredictable events caused by climatic condition: Chairman NDMA

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik HI(M) has said that Pakistan is facing changing climatic condition and frequent recurrence of unpredictable and extreme events.

In his message on "National Resilience Day", he said that we commemorate the occasion with a mission and commitment to advance national preparedness by improving and increasing the nation's resilience to natural and human induced threats.

Lt Gen Inam Haider said that to meet disasters caused by climatic challenges, NDMA was proactively working at reducing the vulnerability to disasters, and also providing coping mechanisms and framework for effective disaster management. The disaster management system in Pakistan has traveled a long way in the recent time with formulation of National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and National

natural and human induced threats.

Lt Gen Inam Haider said that to meet disasters caused by climatic challenges, NDMA was proactively working at reducing the vulnerability to disasters, and also providing coping mechanisms and framework for effective disaster management. The disaster management system in Pakistan has traveled a long way in the recent time with formulation of National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and National

Disaster Management Plan but still we have to go very far by implementing these policies and plan in their true letter and spirit, he added.

He said, "We have also made considerable progress in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in development processes, which will no doubt lead to greater national resilience against potential disasters. Our expedition for resilience is consistent and we need to make our utmost efforts to realize the ideals."



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.

NTDC, DISCOs' negligence: 141 billion rupees line and transmission losses burdens consumers

ISLAMABAD (Online): The negligence and incompetence of NTDC and DISCOs, the burden of line losses and transmission losses of more than 141 billion rupees has also been put on the consumers, have incurred losses in excess of the prescribed limit.

According to the audit documents, various DISCOs and NTDCs have suffered losses in excess of the prescribed limit of line and transmission losses from NEPRA, which have been more than 141 billion 76 crore rupees during the financial year 2021/22. PESCO has been leading in terms of losses of more than Rs.53.5 billion.

According to the documents, Lahore Electric Supply Corporation's line and transmission losses are more than 22 billion 85 crore rupees. HESCO has the losses more than 13 billion 5 crore rupees, and SEPCO line and 24 billion 78 crore rupees, FESCO's line and transmission losses are 16 billion 82 crore rupees, NTDC's line and transmission losses are 5 billion 71 crore rupees, LESCO's line and transmission losses are 16 billion 6 crore rupees, TESCO's line and transmission losses are more than 83 crore rupees. While GEPCO's transmission and line losses have been more than 67 crore rupees.

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Police sub-inspector gunned down in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A 53-year-old sub-inspector, Amir Ali, was killed in firing by unknown armed suspects near Superhighway Chakar Hotel in the area of Superhighway Industrial Area police station on Sunday morning.

According to media reports, the sub-inspector was riding a motorcycle and returning home after attending the grave of his grandson and reciting Fatiha at the cemetery when he was attacked. He was shot multiple times and died on the spot. His 9mm pistol was also missing.

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Fake drug inspector looting pharmacist held

KARACHI (INP): The police arrested a fraudster imposing drug inspector and looting pharmacist in Korangi Town Karachi on Sunday.

According to details, the police on complaint of a pharmacist of Awami Colony, launched the operation.

The accused visited a medical store at Korangi No. 4 Kallu Chowk, introduced him as Rafiullah Qureshi, drug inspector Korangi and asked the pharmacist to produce the license and to pay registration fee.

Over suspicion, the medical store owner called the police which reached the scene and held the fraudster.

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Police recovers hostage from Dadu's katcha area

NAWABSHAH (INP): The police in an operation in katcha area of Dadu recovered a hostage kidnapped 53 days ago, police reported on Sunday.

SSP Shaheed Benazirabad Hyder Raza said that the police recovered a youth, Soomar Larik, in an operation in katcha area of Dadu district, who was kidnapped by bandits 53 days ago from Mashaikh, an area near Qazi Ahmed.

Recovered hostage Soomar Larik is son of a Patwari, a lower rank official of revenue department.

After recent decision of the government to launch a law enforcement operation in katcha areas, the incidents of lawlessness being frequently reported.

In a rocket explosion in katcha area of Kandhkot district recently nine people were killed including four children.

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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.

ISLAMABAD (Online): The economic team headed by caretaker finance minister Shamshad Akhtar left for Morocco today (Sunday). The caretaker Finance Minister and State Bank Governor departed from Karachi while the Finance Secretary left for Morocco from Islamabad. According to sources in the Ministry of Finance, the economic team will participate in the annual meetings of the World Bank and the IMF. Finance Secretary, Governor State Bank is accompanied by the caretaker Finance Minister.

Economic team led by finance minister leaves to Morocco

ISLAMABAD (Online): The economic team headed by caretaker finance minister Shamshad Akhtar left for Morocco today (Sunday). The caretaker Finance Minister and State Bank Governor departed from Karachi while the Finance Secretary left for Morocco from Islamabad. According to sources in the Ministry of Finance, the economic team will participate in the annual meetings of the World Bank and the IMF. Finance Secretary, Governor State Bank is accompanied by the caretaker Finance Minister.

Ashrafi says Pak-Afghan improved relations crucial for regional peace, stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Sunday emphasized that the relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan must be strengthened, and no one should be allowed to undermine the pursuit of peace between the two neighbouring countries.

Talking to media, accompanying prominent religious leaders, he stressed the need for improved relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan and the importance of maintaining peace in the region.

Ashrafi clarified Pakistan's stance on Afghan nationals residing within its borders, stating, "There is not a single illegal student or teacher in any of the seminaries in Pakistan. If the police have any information, they should consult

the concerned seminary and its administration."

He underscored the distinction between Afghan refugees and illegal migrants and expressed Pakistan's commitment to ensuring that Afghan nationals living legally in Pakistan face no issues.

Addressing the issue of terrorism, he stressed that both countries should cooperate in preventing individuals from either side from engaging in acts of terrorism in the neighbouring country.

He called for a direct channel of communication between the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan to address concerns and resolve issues.

Ashrafi highlighted the sacrifices made by Pakistan for the cause of peace in the region, including hosting almost four million Afghan refugees.



KARACHI: Members of National Trade Union Federation (NTUF) are holding protest demonstration against the escalating prices of petrol, electricity, and inflation, at Abdullah Goth near Razaqabad Bin Qasim in Karachi.

UN, OIC urged to craft meaningful strategy for settlement of Palestine issue

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) called upon the United Nations and the OIC to realize the gravity of the situation and should immediately hammer out a meaningful and result-oriented strategy to find out lasting and perpetual solution to the Palestinian issue, insisting that enduring peace in the region lies only in a two-state solution.

Reacting to the fierce armed clashes between Palestine and Israel and the escalating tension in the region, PTI spokesperson demanded that the international nations should protect the basic and fundamental rights of the people of Palestine and make the oppressor and illegitimate state of Israel bound by international law and ethics.

He emphasized that the key countries of the

Muslim Ummah, including the OIC, should take special measures on war-footing basis to ensure a permanent and durable solution to the Palestinian issue.

PTI spokesperson made it clear that the people of Palestine have full right to get their own land and independent state, adding that the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital was inevitable for the regional security and stability.

He recalled that PTI Chairman Imran Khan's principled stance on the Palestine issue was the key for the perpetual solution to the conflict and the lasting peace in the region, who has consistently maintained his stance that oppression, occupation, and peace cannot go hand in hand.

PDM parties doing drama over election date: Pervez Khattak

ISLAMABAD (INP): Terming the recent trade of verbal blows and apparently escalating feud among component parties of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and key partner of the former government over the poll timing a "drama", Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan said on Sunday that the former ruling alliance is "misleading" the nation.

Addressing a ceremony held on Sunday to mark the formal induction of Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid's

(PML-Q) Allama Muhammad Shoaib and his colleagues into the newly-formed party, Khattak — once the close aide of PTI Chairman Imran Khan — said: "The PDM empowered the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) [to fix a date for the general elections in the country] but now they are doing a drama." A day earlier, PDM President and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said the country was sinking into a quagmire, while some political parties were busy campaigning for the elections.



HYDERABAD: Dengue patients are under treatment at Bhitai Hospital as dengue fever is spreading at an alarming proportion in Latifabad.

Extortion cases on rise in Karachi again

KARACHI (INP): Extortion cases have increased in Karachi, with 91 cases reported in the first nine months of 2023. The extortion network is believed to be operating from Iran, Dubai, and Afghanistan.

SSP Junaid Sheikh of the Specialized Investigation Unit (SIU) has stated that the extortionists have changed their methods, and are now using strong and organized gangs based abroad. These gangs have formed 5 to 7 groups with the help of local boys.

The boys in the extortion network first gather information about potential targets, including

businessmen, small and big traders, shopkeepers, and builders. They then send extortion slips with bullets to their targets, and make threatening calls from abroad.

According to SIU records, 44 of the 91 extortion cases reported in 2023 have been channeled in the courts. Eleven cases have been classified as "A class," meaning that the evidence is insufficient. Two cases have been classified as "B class," meaning that they are minor. Ten cases have been classified as "C class," meaning that they were entered on misunderstanding.



KARACHI: Leader of Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem-Ur-Rehman addressing during protest rally in favor of Palestine attack on Israel, outside Governor House in Provincial Capital.

Saudi FM calls on US, EU counterparts to deescalate Israel-Palestine conflict

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan has engaged in discussions regarding the recent escalation between Israel and Palestine with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell.

Saudi media reported that Prince Faisal has also had telephone conversations with his counterparts in Egypt, Qatar, and Jordan.

The death toll from Saturday's massive attack by Hamas on Israel has risen to 600 while over 1,000 have been injured with Palestinian gunmen escaping with dozens of hostages including military personnel, Israeli media claimed on Sunday.

The health ministry of the Palestinian authority said at least 370 Palestinians have been martyred, including 200 children, and nearly 2,000 wounded by Israeli air strikes in Gaza on both sides.

News Desk

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan has engaged in discussions regarding the recent escalation between Israel and Palestine with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell.

Saudi media reported that Prince Faisal has also had telephone conversations with his counterparts in Egypt, Qatar, and Jordan.

The death toll from Saturday's massive attack by Hamas on Israel has risen to 600 while over 1,000 have been injured with Palestinian gunmen escaping with dozens of hostages including military personnel, Israeli media claimed on Sunday.

The health ministry of the Palestinian authority said at least 370 Palestinians have been martyred, including 200 children, and nearly 2,000 wounded by Israeli air strikes in Gaza on both sides.

Karachi witnesses sharp increase in street crimes

KARACHI (INP): Street crimes, robberies, and murders continued in Karachi in the month of September, despite the appointment of a new IG Sindh and Karachi Police Chief.

According to the data of the Citizens-Police Liaison Committee (CPLC), citizens were deprived of 207 vehicles, 5,399 motorcycles, and 2,464 mobile phones in street crimes during the month. 62 people were also killed in the city during the same period.

The CPLC report also revealed that the number of motorcycles stolen in September was the highest in the last 30 days.

Tragic Bus Accident on Mirpurkhas Hyderabad Road

MIRPURKHAS (APP): A three-year-old girl lost her life, and 30 other passengers, including men, women, and children, sustained injuries in a road accident at the Mirpurkhas-Hyderabad road bypass on Sunday morning.

According to rescue officials, the incident occurred when a bus carrying pilgrims returning from the revered Dargah Saman Sarkar overturned on the Mirpurkhas-Hyderabad road bypass. The injured individuals were swiftly attended to by the dedicated personnel of Rescue 1122 and subsequently shifted to the Civil Hospital for medical care.



HYDERABAD: PST and JEST passed candidates are holding protest demonstration for appointment letters, at Hyderabad press club.